October is Respect Life Month. To start the month, members of the Teens for Life group and other students attended the annual Life Chain.
For more, see pages 4 and 5.

Volume 18 • Issue I • October 10, 2017

Scotus Central Catholic http://issuu.com/scotusjournalism Columbus, Nebraska 68601

Faith leads Ericson to Scotus

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

As if there weren't enough cornfields in Nebraska, there can now be one more found in Scotus' art room.

The art department of Scotus has a new art teacher, Clyde Ericson, who grew up in Osceola, NE.

"I didn't know that [my job] could be 20 minutes from home," he stated.

President Jeff Ohnoutka requested an interview with Ericson last spring.

"I was ready for a job. The interview felt very natural. I feel like this job chose me and then I chose it," he said.

Before coming to Scotus, Ericson attended Concordia University. The decision of attending Concordia or UNL was a tough choice for Ericson.

"I was very attracted to the big campus life and diversity that I thought UNL offered," Ericson said. "However, the opportunity to play college basketball and the Christian environment of Concordia proved to be my main priority."

Ericson's summer before Scotus was eventful. He went on mission trips to Haiti and Akiachak, Alaska; Ericson helped with the Scotus basketball camp along with watching over detasselers. He also spent a lot of the time in his new art room, getting it prepared for the school year.

Most of the students were introduced to Ericson on the first day of school.

"The first day was pretty laid-back and fun," he stated," We had circle time where we talked about our favorite colors, and why we had that preference."

Also on the first day, Ericson and his students set up goals, standards, and rules for the art room. He wanted him and his students to create and own the environment.

"I enjoy going to the park and drawing with my students. I'm content with how the corn plant drawings turned out as a group. Making dinosaurs with the junior high has also been a fun challenge," he said.

Art isn't all there is to know about Ericson.

"I was the comic artist for the *Sower* newspaper at Concordia. I was also a sports writer for the *Sower*," he said. "[I like] spreading the Gospel of the freedom we have through Jesus. I also have a passion for basketball, but I would put that in a different category."

Ericson has multiple goals for this school year.

"I look forward to seeing my students grow as artists and myself grow as a teacher," he added. "I would like to do some things with art club and build off of what was already done by Ms. Dannelly."

He concluded, "Thanks to all the staff and students who have made me feel welcome. You make this a great place to 'work.'"

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

The new art teacher, Clyde Ericson, peeks out behind his students' corn drawings. The first projects students made were corn drawings and dinosaurs, and they can be found displayed in his room and the gallery near the North doors.

Hagel honored through STEAM lab

Emily Carstens/Yearbook Staff

Chuck Hagel proudly displays his St. Bonaventure High School hat while speaking to the students and faculty during an assembly on Friday, September 22nd. He spoke to the school during the day and again that night at the Hagel dinner.

By Faith Przymus
Staff Reporter

Chuck Hagel graduated from Scotus in the 1964 graduating class, leaving quite the legacy as he is one of Scotus' most prominent graduates. Hagel served in the Vietnam War, was a United States Senator for Nebraska (1997-2009), and was the 24th United States Secretary of Defense (2013-2015).

Hagel visited Scotus on September 22nd. An assembly was held that day so that the students and faculty would have a chance to listen to Hagel speak and ask questions. A dinner, with Hagel as the guest speaker, was held that night to honor Hagel and to help fundraise for the school's upcoming STEAM Lab.

President Jeff Ohnoutka played a major role in setting up this opportunity for the school.

"I think it's outstanding that you have someone who was a Secretary of Defense, you have a U.S. Senator who graduated from Scotus, who wants to take the time to make sure that Scotus students have the best possible education that they can have. To have someone with his name supporting our school is extremely valuable," Ohnoutka said.

Through fundraising and the support of Hagel, the school has already raised a substantial amount of money for purchasing technology for the STEAM Lab. STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

"Our plan is to incorporate the technology into specific curriculums areas by the start of the next school year. If a student is taking anatomy and physiology, they then may be able to use the virtual reality glasses in there to watch dissection. They may be able to use the graphic design software in their art classes, and the drone technology and green screen with video editing may be used in modern technology. Our lab would be an area where we could possibly do some engineering, maker space, and robotics," Ohnoutka said. "This will be located on third floor where Father Capadano's class is, and where Mrs. Koranda's class used to be. We will renovate that area, and my hope is that we would create an elective class where people could be innovative and solve

See **HAGEL**, Page 2

Additions increase character and variety

By Abe Perault
Staff Reporter

It is a new school year and that means new students, new technology, and new renovations.

Over the summer, the halls of Scotus have become more vibrant with the application of new paint and stair graphics. The Scotus family has also grown with the addition of new students from all over Nebraska and even around the world!

Junior Jaden Hollman transferred to Scotus this year from Lakeview.

"I loved how everyone welcomed me in and helped me get around school," Hollman said.

Hanna Doane is also a new member of the junior class.

"It's difficult listening to the teachers because they talk too fast," Doane said.

Doane, who is from Vietnam, is the only new foreign exchange student at Scotus this year.

"My favorite part of Scotus is the milk at lunch," she added.

Along with the 70 new 7th graders, the Scotus family has gained 4 new juniors, 1 sophomore, 1 freshman, and 1 eighth grader.

The sophomore class also gained a new classmate, Jayden Heng, who transferred from Norfolk Catholic this year.

"There is a lot more school spirit, which I like," Heng said.

With the additions to all the classes here at school, there have also been some new additions to the school. The new school year brought some change to the school walls. Now instead of the 'relaxed khaki' walls, the school has decided to spice things up a little bit with

See **ADDITIONS**, Page 2

Abe Perault/Rock Bottom Staff

Seventh grader Alex Settje walks down the North door stairs on his way to his next class. The stairs are decaled with The 10 Commandments and The Beatitudes. The decals were donated by Travis and Tammy Weber.

Hagel

ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Representative from UNO, Dr. Neal Grandgenett, shows off new STEAM lab technology during the Chuck Hagel dinner that was helf Friday, September 22nd. Other technology that was displayed was a rocket launcher and prosthetis hand.

problems."

The University of Nebraska Omaha has partnered with the school to assist with the STEAM Lab.

"UNO is going to help us incorporate the technology into our curriculum, they are going to help us with professional development for teachers, and they are also going to help us get college credit for our students," Ohnoutka explained.

The new STEAM Lab will not only give the students access to technology they will be using in college, but it will also help students decide on future career paths.

"I think that students really like to do hands on things, and I just look forward to students learning new things, finding that education can really be exciting and innovative and a creative way for them to express themselves. I think it is really important for us to do that, and I think it is really important for us to helps students figure out possible career paths as they go forward, by some of the things that we would have here at school," Ohnoutka said.

The school benefitted tremendously from the help of Hagel, leaving many optimistic about the future of the STEAM Lab, and what it will provide for the students.

Ohnoutka concluded, "Allowing the students to be creative and innovative, and finding ways to solve problems using critical thinking skills are things that we need to get better at as a school. I think the use of technology will help us create an even more well rounded student."

ADDITIONS

kelly green accents around the school.

"The paint in the hallways looks amazing! It gives a splash of fun to the hallways," junior Caleb Kosch commented.

Along with the new paint came the faith-filled stair decals. Now as someone makes a trek to the 4th floor or walks in for an activity, they will have a friendly reminder that Scotus is a Catholic school when they see the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes.

Seventh grader Nicholas Zoucha said, "I think they really tell about what kind of school we are."

The idea for the stair decals came from Tammy Weber.

"I saw Norfolk Catholic did the 10 Commandments in red at the elementary school," Weber explained, "I was immediately touched by them and they caught my eye."

The most notable change to school, and quite a surprise, was the new lunches.

"I like the new food we are getting to try! I've eaten the lunches here for 12 years, and this is the first time we have actually changed the menu," junior Emily Stutzman explained.

After receiving the torch passed by Cathy Hoops, Holli Bettenhausen has taken some new initiative in spicing up the school lunches. So far this year, chicken alfredo and meatball subs have been the new additions, and to everyone's surprise, the cheese has made a return!

Another noteworthy new item in school is the substantial amount of Lenovos, student laptops, the school has purchased this year. 216 new Lenovos were bought and will be added to the surplus the school has already to create ten sets for the classrooms. More new technology will be added to school with the S.T.E.A.M. lab on third floor thanks to the generosity of Chuck Hagel and all the people who attended the dinner to support this project. With the S.T.E.A.M. lab, Scotus students will be able to further their studies with the help of technology.

On the larger scale, the new parking lot should be done soon, so the students should be able to park there by the end of October. Installing the drainage system and marking parking stall are the final touches.

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Angie Rusher

Editor:
Matt Strecker

Staff Writers:
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You are you now

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

At a start of the week, everything can be slow and tiring; you'll be sitting in class, not quite paying attention to your first period teacher, thinking about what is going on inside your head. Your brain can wander to that one time you made a mistake or someone calling you out by a nasty name; brains like to pull up and dwell on things that already happened.

The past of someone can be a scary topic for some to talk about or some people will completely engulf themselves into their past, making their future dark.

The past does not define who you are, and the past does not define what your future can be.

When a boy gets stuck in his head, and lost in the past, his mind will usually turn into a mess of negativity. The thoughts will cloud his mind, causing his whole day to be foggy. His mind will trek to what happened this last weekend; his mother yelling at him for not being good and never being good enough. Another person could have had been bullied when she was younger, which only reminds her that she is weak and that she can never be a strong, independent woman. With these kinds of thoughts inside of their heads, people will stay in their heads to keep it from happening ever again in their lives.

> ***"Look toward the future; everything is bright and promising."***
>
> ***~Kaylie Rocha***

People should live in the now; what they have done in the past is now behind them and is going to be covered by the great achievements they are going to do today. The boy who gets yelled at by his mother that he will never be good enough, is standing strong and tall for himself and peers. He is now a proud member of his school's student council. The girl who was told that she is weak and will never be independent, leads her own volunteer group to help her local nursing home.

Look toward the future; everything is bright and promising. Everything is what you make of it, and what you want to happen. This world is in your hands, and you have the power to do everything and anything. You are the change that this world needs. Don't wait to do that goal of becoming the top student in your class, to be attending the best college, or going after the job you are passionate about. Time will fly; make everything you do worth it.

Nothing determines what is in the now and what the outcome can be. The past is just a glimpse, the present and the future is where your head should be.

Making today matter

By Faith Przymus
Staff Reporter

You wake up late. You pour cereal and there is no milk. You forgot to study for your chemistry test.

Whatever the reason, you decide before the day even starts that it is going to be a bad day. More often than not, your bad attitude is then followed by a bad day, because you already told yourself and accepted that it would be.

Too often throughout the school day, I overhear mumbles of students dreading the day: "I just don't want to be here.", "Can today be over already?" It is normal for us all to feel like this at times, but I feel as if I observe this "today sucks" attitude too frequently in the halls and classrooms. We tell ourselves that tomorrow will be better, so we just drag on throughout the day.

The truth is, we can't count on tomorrow being better; we can't control our tomorrow, and that is why the most important day you will ever experience is today. Yesterday is unchangeable and tomorrow is unpredictable, but we do have control over our today.

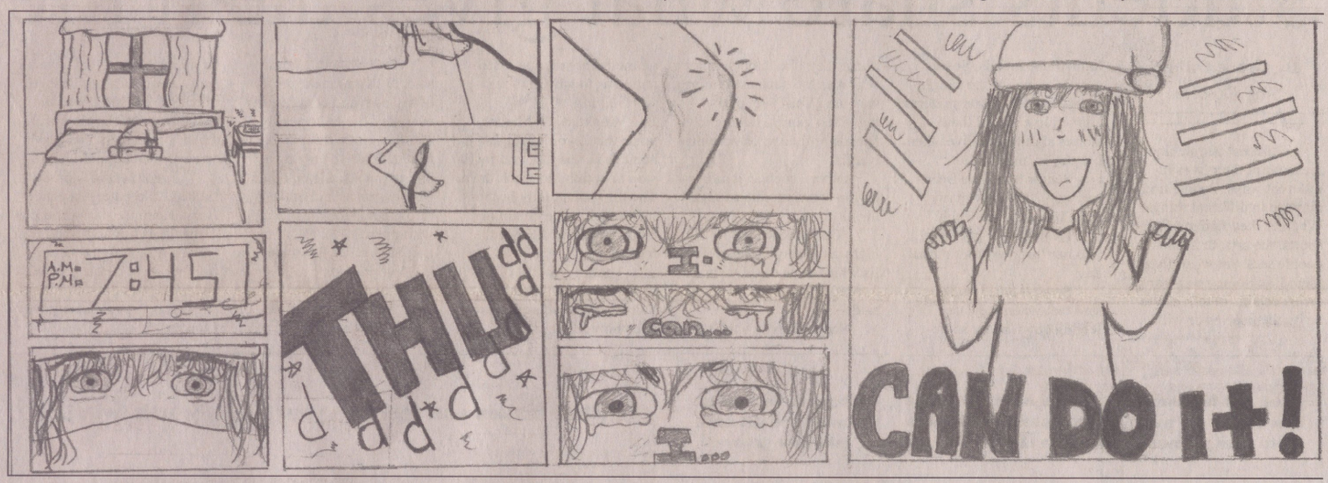
> ***"The truth is, we can't count on tomorrow being better, we can't control our tomorrow, and that is why the most important day you will experiencce is today."***
>
> ***~Faith Przymus***

I believe that today matters, and even more so, that every day of high school matters. I know this sounds extreme, but how empowering is it to know that you can make *today* your best day. If you make every day your *best* day, think about how remarkable your life could become!

We all have the desire, in some sense, to change, grow, and succeed. We all envision what our future or goals look like, but we rarely actually start working towards those goals. For example, when I was younger, I used to imagine what my life would be like at eighteen. Now, I envision what my life will look like at 25.

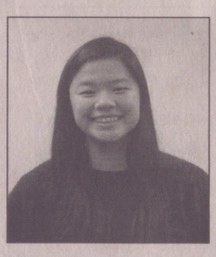
It is exciting to look forward to the future, but when we get too caught up in this perfect future we have in our heads, we forget to enjoy where we are right now. So stop dreading today and telling yourself that tomorrow will be better, or that your life 5 years from now will be better.

I encourage you all to make *today* matter. Instead of imagining where you want to be in the future, use today as an opportunity to grow into the person you see yourself becoming. Start creating the work ethic you desire, start making friendships that will last, start developing helpful habits. Don't let your shortage of milk ruin your day; today doesn't suck. Today is the first day of the rest of your life, make it count.



Kaylie Rocha/ Rock Bottom Staff

Feeding off of failure



By Maggie Feehan
Staff Reporter

6:00 p.m. You just got done with those awful line sprints coach had you do- twice as many as usual. You've been waiting all day for practice to be over to see if you earned the varsity jersey you've worked so hard for. The time is finally here. As the coach tells everyone to take a seat on the floor, you await to hear your name called to receive your jersey. The first name is read. Then another...another...and another. Next thing you know, all the names have been called, and you're sitting there wondering what else, anything else, you could have done to avoid the feeling you are experiencing now.

You failed. Accepting this can be one of the worst feelings ever, whether it be on a math test, a musical audition, or a sport's tryout. The majority of people will do anything in their power to avoid feeling inferior to others. Everyone, including me, has experienced some type of failure in his/her life.

Failure is part of life, but I'm here to say: it's OK to fail.

> ***"Fearing failure can often lead to missing out on some of the most memorable and self-discovering experiences of your life!"***
>
> ***~Maggie Feehan***

Fearing failure can often lead to missing out on some of the most memorable and self-discovering experiences of your life! It's okay not being the best at everything you do. The important thing is doing what you enjoy. For example, my freshman year I auditioned for the school musical. I knew I wasn't going to be that great of an actor, but I wanted to experience theater in high school. For my audition, I had to sing a solo and act out a scene from the play. I was far from the best. I ended up with a much smaller, chorus role. I had so much fun being a part of the production that year. I knew I wasn't going to be the best, but I wasn't afraid of trying. I would never give up the memories and people I connected with that year because of my decision to give it a shot.

Failure can also be used to fuel your motivation. Never forget what it felt like to fail at something you really wanted. Then work and work and work some more until you get what you want. My sophomore soccer season, I was asked if I could play goalie for that year because our starting goalie was out with a torn ACL. The first few practices were awful; I could barely dive to save any balls. A week passed, and I started improving. Finally, I was to the point where you could say I was a decent goalie. Yes, it started off rough, but I kept working to get better for my team. My goalie coach and teammates were so great that year, and I was able to do something that I had never done before in high school.

Everyone needs to take some risks in life. Go and explore what life has to offer you. Don't limit yourself to just one thing as in "I'm just sporty," "I'm just musical," or "I'm just good in math." Go out for that sport you think is interesting, but you aren't sure if you'll be good at. Volunteer to sing the solo that deep down you know you really want. Take the game winning shot. Don't be afraid to fail. Everybody does. Throughout life, you will fail many times. But failure makes you stronger and helps you discover so much more about yourself!

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Teens stand up for life

By Caitlin Steiner
Staff Reporter

October is Respect Life month for Catholic churches across the nation. Teens for Life group at Scotus will be partaking in activities to help celebrate.

Religious education director for Saint Bonaventure parish, Cheryl Rambour said, "It's amazing to me that most kids don't even know about abortion; they don't know that it's legal, they don't know what it actually is, and that it actually kills a baby."

Rambour was previously the Teens for Life sponsor at Scotus before taking the position for the parish office. Under the direction of Rambour, the Teens for Life students participated in Silent No More, helped speak at area Right to Life events, and protested outside of abortion clinics.

"Once a year we'd make kind of a field trip out of it," Rambour stated. "We'd go to the abortion clinic, an emergency pregnancy center, to KVSS, or to a cathedral and be back by 3:30."

Along with protesting at abortion clinics, Rambour took her students down to Lincoln to protest outside of the courthouse to speak out against the voting on stem cell research.

Rambour said, "[My favorite part was] educating [the students] and then seeing them become passionate about it and to see that they carry it with them."

After Rambour transferred from teaching at Scotus to working at Saint Bonaventure, Scotus was without a Teens for Life sponsor. This year, Scotus teacher Angie Rusher took on the position.

"Belinda and Cheryl had been looking for a sponsor at school for a couple of years," Rusher explained. "My responsibilities were changing to allow time for another activity. With Janae being a freshman and my girls being older, I thought this was a good time. I have been active off and on over the years in the Right to Life group in Columbus, and I love the experiences the students can get at a younger age through Teens for Life and the March."

Scotus students are currently partaking in a 40 Days for Life rosary. This event started on September 27th and will continue through November 5th.

"It is a national event; one person says a rosary each day for 40 days for the end of abortion," Rusher added.

One of the biggest events Scotus Teens for Life participates in is the March for Life in Washington D.C. This year's march trip will take place from January 16th to 21st, with the students marching in front of the capital on January 19th.

Campus Ministry's Teens for Life representative Caleb Kosch said, "The best part of the March for Life is getting to the top of the hill and seeing what feels like a sea of hundreds of thousands of people behind you united under a strong cause!"

ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Sophomores Molly Carstens, Debanhi Adame-Hernandez, and Tim Ehlers stand along Highway 30 at this year's Life Chain on October 1st. Forty-eight Scotus students attended this year's Life Chain.

Students share what gives them life

By Grace Odbert
Staff Reporter

Different people find meaning in their lives in different ways. People find purpose in different things. Whether they find meaning in sports, the arts, or acedemics, people seek out what gives them life. Some people are thrill seekers, others like to be by themselves or with family and friends. Some people strive for the simple things in life. Scotus students chimed in and told their stories about what gives them life day in and day out.

Senior Mckenna Spenceri said, "I play with my dog; he makes me laugh."

He helps her get back into her 'groove' after a bad day.

Several other students said that when they are feeling down about something, they like to do simpler activities too such as running, watching YouTube, playing video games, talking to friends or family, or watching Netflix.

Others, such as junior Logan Johnson, like to seek thrill.

"Going down the highway on my motorcycle [is what keeps me alive and excited about life,]" Johnson said.

Senior Trevor Vaught has an incredibly unique explanation as to why his life is worth living.

Vaught said, "I have goals that I would like to achieve in this life, and I will stop at nothing to reach them. The thing that really pushes me though is the dream of having a great career in the military."

Vaught isn't the only one who walks the Scotus hallways with something to keep him going.

Senior Kendra Wiese said, "I live to make a life of my own and continue in everyday life to hopefully one-day graduate college and have a family of my own. I live to put a smile on other people's faces and make it through this thing called life with them."

Senior Kaylie Rocha said her favorite music relieves her from negativity.

"I usually turn on one of my favorite albums and turn it up all the way and have a jam session. I sing, I dance, I bounce around my room till the end of the album. By then, I'm usually in a good mood," Rocha said.

Junior Mattie Johnson added, "No hate, just peace man. Keep the peace and positive vibes flowing, and never give a reason for someone to get down. Leave people with the strength to lift them up and help them in any way you can."

When you feel upset how do you get back into your groove?

"Listen to blaring music and pretend I am in a movie."

-Jake Novicki, senior

Do you have any advice for a person to live life to the fullest?

"Live for the little moments and find the joy in the simplest things!"

-Chloe Odbert, sophomore

When you feel upset, how do you get back into your groove?

"I like to build drones and cars."

-Jamison Kozak, eighth grader

What makes you feel like your life is worth living?

"Cheer truly makes me feel alive. The stomach butterflies I feel right before we perform make me feel so excited."

-Kate Smith, sophomore

"Honestly, I live for the future. I'm so excited to go to college and get married and have kids."

-Kelli Williams, senior

"God and my family because they both have shown me that nothing is impossible and to keep trying no matter what obstacles I face in life."

-Jaden Hollman, junior

Finding God in your loneliness

By Abe Perault
Staff Reporter

It is Friday night, and you are chilling at your house rereading the *Twilight* series for the fifth time, and you decide to check your phone. Low and behold you have no notifications. After checking your feed for thirty minutes you come to find out there is a party going on, and you weren't invited. Suddenly it hits you! "I am alone."

Alone! At every turn in society there is a pressure to always be in the presence of someone, yet I look around and all I see is so many lonely people. Lonely students walk the halls at school. Old people are living by themselves because they have lost their spouse. Normal people are lonely all over the world. Even popular people are lonely! But, is that a bad thing?

Loneliness can be looked at as a sad or depressing topic, but it does not always have to be; being lonely can be a great thing! Everyone at some point in his or her life will be alone and that matters, but what matters even more is what you do with that loneliness.

It's one thing to complain, worry, or get frustrated about being alone, but it's another to decide that you are not going to let it affect you. The first thing about loneliness that needs to be understood is that you will not always be alone. We live in a world where everything needs to be immediate and quick. Patience is a virtue that not very many of us practice. It is in the times of loneliness where we should use that loneliness to discern who we are. Knowing who you are is more important than being by yourself.

Over the years, I have heard many wise men repeat the same saying over and over again: "What you do when you are alone says a lot about the type of person you are." Most people let that fly over their heads, but that quote speaks so much truth. Who are you when you are alone? Do you sing at the top of your lungs and dance around? Maybe you like to read books. Heck, you might be one of the special breed who likes to work out! But not all are like that. Maybe you are depressed or sad? Regardless of what you are feeling, you always have a chance to still be you. You can still be the person who loves and embraces people. You can still be someone who knows happiness. You can still live life!

> *"It is in times of loneliness where we should use that loneliness to discern who we are."*
>
> *~Abe Perault*

Many people could agree that man should not be alone. Even the Bible says that. I mentioned that I have seen many old people who are lonely. I actually see many of those old folks at Mass. The reason I bring that back up is because you are never alone. There's this guy who many of us put on the back shelf until we need something, He is there. This man could be the cure you need. His name is God. God is with you no matter what situation you are in. Even when you don't want Him; He is there. So, the next time you think that you are alone, remember God is with you. You are not alone. Trust in Him and have patience. When the time is right, He will deliver.

So, I challenge you to embrace your loneliness. Maybe you'll discover you are an artist, or your love for classic rock. Whatever it is, let it drive you to discover the beauty of yourself and the power of being alone.

Awareness spreads through entertainment

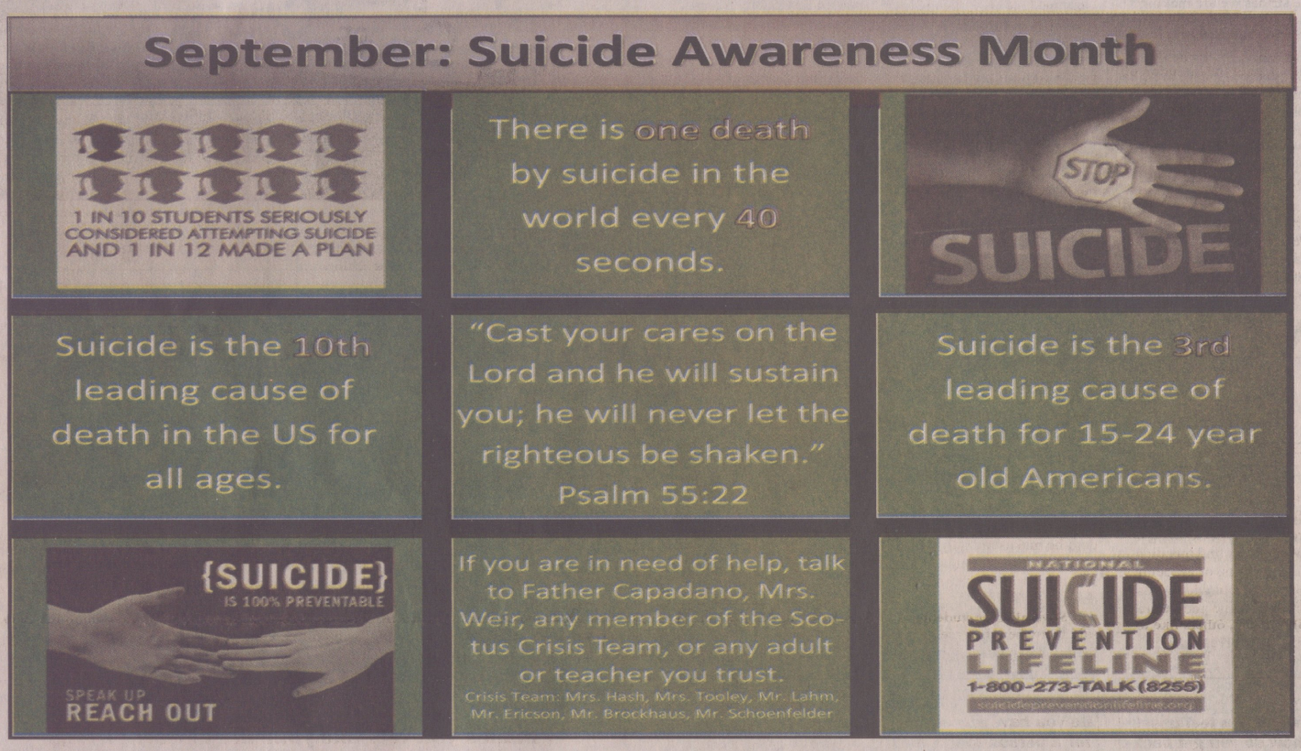
By Alaina Wallick
Staff Reporter

For a typical high school student, the average day can hold an above-average amount of stress, exhaustion, and drama. This can lead to an even greater feeling of anxiety or depression that according to the website *Teen Mental Health* affects almost 20% of the adolescent population. This means that in every classroom there is at least a handful of people being affected by at least one type of mental illness. With this staggering number in mind, it is not hard to believe that many books, television shows, movies, and songs are beginning to reflect what many teenagers are going through.

Recently, music artists have begun to tap into the growing issue of depression and suicide to connect with members of their audience. In Logic's song "1-800-273-8255" on his new album *Everybody*, Logic connects to the loneliness and isolation many teenagers feel while going through high school. Despite the theme's severity, Logic's message ultimately becomes one of hope in spite of the challenges a person may be going through. Singer Alessia Cara, who is featured in Logic's song, also broke down barriers with her song "Scars to Your Beautiful." She addresses the pressures many women feel to fit into their idea of "beautiful." These songs are just a few of many examples of artists taking to the radios to speak up on the issues plaguing society today.

In addition to today's music, television shows and movies are now beginning to depict the struggles many teenagers face on a day to day basis. The Netflix show *Thirteen Reasons Why*, based on the Jay Asher book by the same name, was released this spring and has stirred up a variety of mixed reviews from critics, teens, and parents alike. The show follows a teenage boy named Clay, who receives audiotapes from a girl, Hannah Baker, who had recently killed herself. The tapes are Hannah Baker's recounting of the "thirteen reasons" she decided to take her life. The show received an abundance of criticism because of the severe and gruesome scenes that were placed in show, including scenes depicting sexual assault, self-harm, and drug abuse. However, others say that these same scenes show the harsh reality all too many kids have to go through. No matter the opinion one may hold about the show, it is obvious that it brings up issues that affect teenagers in one way or another. Other shows and movies that carry messages similar to *Thirteen Reasons Why* include *To the Bone*, *Don't Call Me Crazy*, and *Cyberbully*. It should be noted that these television shows and movies cover sensitive topics and are for mature audiences. Even though shows such as *Thirteen Reasons Why* are fictional, the issues that the show covers are affecting real people every day.

There is no question that today's media is saturated with topics concerning mental health issues. However, the true question is whether or not they are helping. One can find good arguments on both sides, but ultimately, this decision is up to the viewer. The main focus behind each of these television shows, songs, and movies is to spread awareness and educate people in an area that otherwise may have been left unexplored. If nothing else, having access to resources that cover these sensitive topics can remind those going through these experiences that they are not alone, and in this world of stress, drama, and exhaustion, that may be the only thing a person needs to feel.



Journalism's quotes to live by

To continue with our theme of life, the entire newspaper staff has each picked his or her favorite motivational quote to share with Scotus that helps them get through the day, or to share what gives them life.

"On particularly rough days when I'm sure I can't possibly endure, I like to remind myself that my track record for getting through bad days so far is 100%, and that's pretty good." I love this quote because when you are in the middle of a conflict or a hard time, it is easy to become consumed by it, especially late at night when you are tired. Sometimes you have to decide to give something another day, and 'this too shall pass.'
~Mrs. Rusher

"I am the one thing in life I can control." I like this quote because it helps me to put things that I cannot control into perspective and realize that if I want something to get done, I have to do it myself.
~Jenna Salerno

"Where God guides He provides." This is my favorite saying because I find it comforting to be reminded that God is always taking care of me.
~Faith Przymus

"We love because he first loved us." This quote helps me realize that everything I am blessed with is from God. He loves us all no matter and always has our backs when other people might not.
~Grace Odbert

"One day your life will flash before your eyes; make sure it's worth watching" -*The Bucket List*. This is my favorite quote because it makes me want to live life to the fullest and never take a day I get for granted.
~Jadyn Larsen

"When God closes a door, somewhere, he opens a window." I really like this quote because it gives me a sense of hope. I am one of those people who believe that things happen for a reason. God always has a plan for us. Sometimes he has to close a door for us to see how much greater is in store.
~Maggie Feehan

"The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now." It's never too late to change and do stuff. I was planning to learn how to play piano when I was thirteen. The teacher said I was too old to do this. I did take class for a couple months until I was too busy to go. I still regret that I don't have any advantage in music. I wish everybody could do the stuff they want to. It's never too late to do what you want to do.
~ Flora He

"Wake up determined to go to bed satisfied." -Dwayne Johnson. I personally like this quote because in everything I do I want to do it to the best of my ability. If I know I couldn't have done a certain task any better, then I can safely go to bed satisfied with the day.
~Jacob Morse

"A day without sunshine is like, you know, night." -Steve Martin. I enjoy this quote because I believe that humor plays a large role in living a happy life. Without laughter, life seems rather bland.
~Matt Strecker

"Life goes on." While as cliché as this may sound, it is this overused phrase that helps me remain calm when others may freak out at little things. When driving and another car forgets to use their blinker or someone annoys me, I just need to step back and take a deep breath and remember that someone else is having a worse days than me and that life goes on.
~ Caitlin Steiner

"Everyone wants sunshine, nobody wants pain, but you can't have a rainbow without a little rain." This is a quote that I have always enjoyed because it helps to remind me that some of my best days always come right after some of my worst. It just always reminds me to keep going.
~Alaina Wallick

"We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures; we are the sum of the Father's love for us and our real capacity to become the image of his Son." - Saint Pope John Paul II. I think that so many of us worry about being perfect, especially in life, but in all truthfulness, we are all failures. But even in our failures and mistakes, we are loved and that is all that matters. Because when we realize we are loved, that is when we can begin to love others and fully begin our journey to be saints in Heaven!
~ Abe Perault

"You have been criticizing yourself for years, and it hasn't worked. Try approving of yourself and see what happens." Ever since I found this quote, I fell in love with it; I always criticize who I am and never give myself props for being who I am today. Today, I approve of who I am, and today you should, too.
~Kaylie Rocha

Shamrocks struggle to start season

By Matt Strecker
Editor

The 2017 Scotus Shamrock football team struggled to get in a winning groove to begin the season as they dropped their first four games of the season to Wayne, Bishop Neumann, Pierce, and Aquinas.

"The biggest mark of a team that I look for is, 'are we getting better?'" head football coach Tyler Linder said. "I've seen growth and improvement every single week. I'm not happy with being 0-4, but I am happy with the strides we are making each week."

The young Shamrocks find many new faces from last year's 6-4 team to fill the holes in the starting lineup that the 2017 graduating class left. Among these players are sophomores Evan Hand and Dalton Borchers, and juniors Abe Perault and Caden Pelan.

"It was pretty scary starting in our first game against Wayne because I have never played on the offensive line before," Hand said. "But, it gets easier every week and I am really enjoying it."

Along with fresh, young faces, the Shamrocks also have several new upperclassman making an impact on the turf. Seniors Colson Kosch and Nathan Donoghue made their way into the starting lineup this year; however, Donoghue suffered a knee injury in the home opener which will sideline him for the remainder of the season.

"It hurts knowing that I will never suit up with my friends and hit the field ever again," Donoghue said. "It has given me a new outlook on life to appreciate all of the little things that I took for granted."

The Shamrocks kicked off the season on August 25th at Pawnee Park against the Wayne Blue Devils. After a four quarter battle, the Shamrocks were handed their first loss 43-33.

"Despite losing, we still kept our heads up and had great practices to get ready for Neumann," sophomore quarterback Tyler Palmer said. "Our team chemistry stayed intact as well."

On September 1st, the Shamrocks attempted to bounce back from their defeat in week one against the 2016 C1 state runner-up Bishop Neumann Cavaliers. In a strong defensive showing, the Cavaliers came out on top 21-3.

"Defensively, we played a very stout game only giving up 14 points to a very talented team; the other seven coming on a special teams score," Linder said. "I told our guys, 'that's one of the best teams you're going to see all year,' and we need to use that as a springboard going forward."

The Shamrocks then lost their next two games to Pierce and the number one ranked David City Aquinas Monarchs. The Monarchs kicked a field goal with 18 seconds left in the game to defeat the Shamrocks 17-16 on homecoming night.

"It's a rivalry game that goes back far before you and me, so it's always a great atmosphere," Linder said. "The stands were full and it was homecoming week which is always a little bit more emotional. It sometimes worries me as a coach because there are a lot of distractions, but our guys were focused and it was a great environment."

Abbie Zoucha/ Yearbook Staff

Sophomore lineman Evan Hand (50) blocks for sophomoe running back Eric Mustard (41) as he carries the ball against Aquinas. The Shamrocks fell to the top ranked Monarchs 17-16 in the final seconds of the game.

On Thursday, September 21, the Shamrocks put their first mark in the win column with a 52-7 thrashing of GICC. The Shamrock defense returned to its aggressive ways with three interceptions by Palmer, Kosch, and senior linebacker Kyle Kobza. Kosch and Palmer returned theirs for touchdowns.

"We practiced thoroughly what they did all week," Kobza said. "We were well prepared for their offense."

The Shamrocks then returned to the all too familiar losing feeling after a loss to cross-town rival Lakeview Vikings. The Shamrocks fell the the Vikings 42-41 by a two-point conversion in overtime.

The Shamrocks traveld to Ord to battle the Chanticleers on October 6th and will return home to face off against Boone Central Neumann Grove on October 13th.

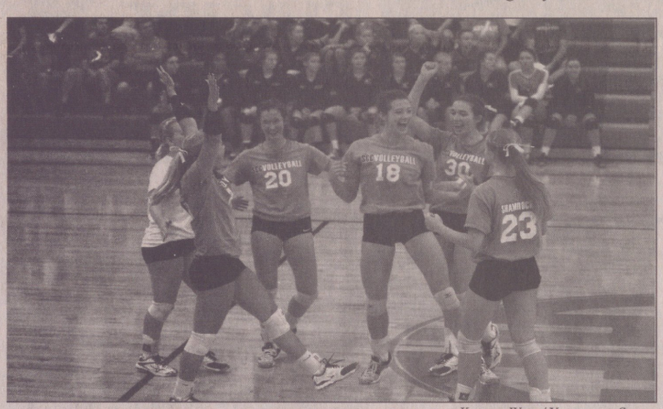
Volleyball improves with big wins

By Flora He
Staff Reporter

As one of the core activities of the fall, the volleyball team has started off slowly, but they have shown progress with big wins.

"We started out as a new team with lots of the gals who are playing, either had not started in the past, or are now playing in a different position," head coach Janet Tooley said, "There is a lot of unknowns, but I knew this group would work very hard, and up to this point, I think we've been doing ok and we've been showing weekly improvement, that's all you can ask a team for."

This is the first year Janet Tooley came back after coaching for years.



Kendra Wiese/ Yearbook Staff

The varsity girls cheer after defeating Stanton in the Shamrock invite. The Shamrocks current record is 13-6.

"Coach Tooley brings a lot of positivity and understanding," junior Courtney Kosch said. "She is completely honest with us, which helps us get better."

The first game this year was on August 31st with the Shamrocks facing off against Omaha Concordia High School. Scotus lost 1-3, but the girls turned around and did well in the first game at the Shamrock Invite. Scotus won the game 2-1, but lost the next two matches against Columbus Lakeview and Hartington Cedar Catholic.

"After the Concordia game, we realized that we had great team chemistry and our mental toughness is one of our biggest improvements because we can come back after being down by a lot of points," senior Madison Kerkman said.

Next the team travelled to Omaha Bryan on September 8th to 9th. The team did well winning the tournament against Class A Schools: Omaha Bryan, Bellevue East, Omaha North, Omaha Northwest and Omaha Burke.

Scotus went on to play David City Aquinas on September 12th. The girls defeated Aquinas 3-0.

Junior Bailey Lehr said, "[Our biggest improvement was coming and working together," she said. "We started being more relentless and having each other's backs."

On September 14th, the girls beat their rival Grand Island Central Catholic in a five-set match. GICC was an exciting win since they were ranked 2nd in the state at that time.

"GICC was probably the most challenging because they were a good team, and we had to win the last two sets to win the game after losing two sets to them already," senior Shania Borchers said.

Senior Jadyn Larsen, who is a back row specialist added, "Winning against GICC is the most memorable moment in the games so far because they were undefeated and had never even lost a set in this season before."

On September 21st, the team played Lincoln Christian and lost 1-3, but came back and avenged their previous loss to Lakeview by sweeping them in straight sets.

The next tournament was the Columbus Classic on September 30th; Scotus won the initial 2 games against Norfolk Catholic and Lakeview, but lost 0-2 to Kearney Catholic.

"We play a lot better when there is a huge student section and everyone is cheering!" senior Madison said.

On October 3rd, Shamrocks travelled to Bishop Neumann. After a hard fought game, Shamrocks lost with the final score 1-3.

In the Centennial Conference Tournament on October 5th, they avenged their previous loss to Neumann.

Junior Abbie Zoucha concluded, "I can't wait to see how far we go as a team and hopefully end up in the state tournament."

Softball players keep their heads high

By Jacob Morse
Staff Reporter

Though the 2017 Columbus High School softball season didn't go as they had planned, the team still had some positive things to take home.

The Discoverers team was packed full of Scotus student athletes. Several of these athletes were young and introduced to a new role on the field. Sophomore Kate Smith was among this group, filling out the role of starting catcher this season.

"This season I was able to improve my catching. Being the only catcher is a lot of pressure, but I needed to be the best I could be to help out the team," Smith said.

Another young player filling in big shoes was the team's primary pitcher, sophomore Katie Stachura.

"With such an inexperienced team, I feel like if we keep working hard we will have a lot of success," Stachura stated.

Part of this growth took place right at the start of the season. The team started off their season with 4 losses in a row, but were able to turn that around winning the next 4 games in a row.

Senior Marika Spencer said, "We have shown the most improvement in figuring out how to work together and how to play as a unit."

The team struggled toward the middle of the season, however, suffering a 10-game losing streak. They were able to turn that bad streak around with a win at Lincoln Southeast on September 21st.

Through their journey there were certain goals a few members set for themselves personally. One of these goals came from junior Rylie Olson. She set her hopes high for at least one great game at the plate.

Olson said, "I wanted to have a perfect batting average for a single game, and even though we got run ruled during that game, I had achieved that going 2 for 2."

Olson wasn't the only one with strength in the batter's box. Marika Spencer distinguished herself at the very top of the record books at Columbus High School. She set the season home run record this year by powering 8 balls over the fence. During the 2017 season, Spencer also exceeded the most home runs for a career at Columbus High with 20.

"The past few years I have tried to get the season home run record, and finally this year I was able to break it. Now any more I hit will be icing on the cake," Spencer added.

This season will be packed with many memories for the Scotus softball players. As for the most memorable game of the year, they all unanimously talked about the second time they had played the third ranked team in the state.

Olson added, "The second time we played Millard West, we came back from getting run ruled the first time against them, to beating them 7-3."

The girls finished their regular season 12 and 24.

The Discoverers will play their first round of districts on October 6.

Jacob Morse/Rock Bottom Staff

Sophomore Katie Stachura hurls a pitch against Lincoln High on September 7th. CHS went on to win this game 8 to 0.

Cross-country competes well through injury

By Grace Odbert
Staff Reporter

Returning state medalists, boys' (third place) and girls' (champions) cross-country teams came back this fall ready to run. The team got the opportunity to get a head start this year since fall sports' teams for volleyball and cross-country started their season a week earlier than previous NSAA established seasons. Head coach Merlin Lahm doesn't think that extra week has been beneficial to the team as a whole, however.

Lahm said, "Right now, we've got several people that aren't ready to run for whatever reason. It might be that I didn't do a very good job of what we did in that first week; it may have nothing to do with the first week, but I would say it has not been beneficial to us at this point."

Several girls on the team have experienced injuries including Brea Lassek, Samantha Tonniges, Faith Pryzymus, and Olivia Fehringer.

Freshman Olivia Fehringer said, "I have hit a couple of bumps along the way, but I am determined for those moments to make me stronger."

The girls won their first four meets of the season, runner-up at the next two, and third at The UNK Invite by only 2 points, even with missing varsity team members due to injury.

Senior Faith Przymus said, "We have been working hard, and I am looking forward to when all the girls are healthy and can compete to their full potential."

Sophomore Brea Lassek is a returning runner for the Shamrocks. Lassek has been injured since the second meet of the season.

Lassek said, "Ultimately, the goal is to all be healthy and at our peak around districts and state."

Coach Lahm is still confident in both the boys' and girls' teams despite injuries.

Lahm said, "I would say that we are a very talented girls team; we just need to get everybody ready to go. The boys' team is a little too spread out from 1 to 4, and that's what we're working on right now. We have a couple runners on the team that are state quality, and we need to just close the gap between 1 and 4 for the boys' team as a whole."

Junior runner Elliott Thomazin demonstrated his skill this season by placing somewhere between 1st and 3rd place at every meet up to the Boone Central Individual Meet.

"My favorite part about cross country is watching everyone improve as the season goes by," Thomazin said. "Once we get into the final stretch of the season, people have dropped their times by up to two minutes, and I just really like to see the self confidence that comes from that success."

While running 3.1 miles up, over, and around hills, a positive attitude and encouragement is necessary for the team.

Junior Kelsey Faust said, "Cross-country is all about being mentally tough. You have to have a positive mindset going into every practice and every meet if you want to be successful."

The girls' team has had an impressive season, placing in the top 3 teams at every meet so far, and the boys' team has finished in the top 3 teams in half of their competitions up to this point. As the season comes to an end, practices will start to change from the beginning of season.

"Our long runs are done, and our mileage will reduce," Lahm said. "Pretty soon we will be down to seven boys and seven girls. After the Aquinas meet, the junior high runners will be done, so that's a difference."

The boys' and girls' varsity teams placed first at the Aquinas meet. The girls' and boys' teams compete at districts in O'Neil this Thursday to qualify for the state meet in Kearney on October 20th.

NATALIE BRUTTY/MEDIA STAFF

Freshman Olivia Fehringer and junior Kelsey Faust lead the girls' varsity team at the start of the Lakeview-Schuyler triangular at Letjelusche Home course. The girls team won the meet.

Girls' golf qualifies for Kearney

By Maggie Feehan
Staff Reporter

The Scotus girls' golf team is wrapping up their season how any team would want to- heading to the state tournament. The final meets leading up to the tournament have been met with excitement.

"I was nervous but as a team we all played our best. We worked hard during the season and it all payed off," senior Kaitlyn Enderlin said.

The girls' golf team had high hopes for this year as a team and individually. Senior Emily Carstens knew they had something special.

"Since we have the same team minus Emerson [Belitz], I had pretty high expectations for our team this season because we all really care," Carstens said.

Senior Kendra Wiese is in her second year on the golf team.

"My goal is to shoot in the 90's or at least break 100," Wiese said.

The varsity girls' golf team kicked off their season on August 25th at the Norfolk Catholic Dual placing 1st as a team. Senior Kaitlyn Enderlin was a top medalist at the meet. The Shamrocks also came out on top in their second meet playing in the Lakeview/Fullerton Triangular on August 29th in which Kaitlyn Enderlin placed 2nd. The girls placed 3rd at the GICC Invite at Indian Creek, the Lakeview Invite at Quail Run, and the Aurora Invite at Poco Creek.

"I think the team improved the most at the Aurora Invite at Poco Creek Golf Course," junior Hallie Parker said.

The Shamrocks traveled to the Aurora Invite at Poco Creek Golf Course on September 9th and the varsity team broke their seasonal goal of 400 with an 18 hole score of 395.

Senior Alaina Wallick scored a 9 hole score of 54 at the Grand Island meet on August 31st.

"The Grand Island meet was one of my best of the season. I was put with a great group of girls, and I was able to shoot a personal best," Wallick said.

Sophomore Jaycee Ternus added, "The JV really improved at the GICC meet."

The Shamrocks placed 2nd at the Blair Invite, 1st in the Boone Central/Lakeview Triangular, 2nd at the Boone Central Invite, and 1st at the Fullerton Invite.

"We give our all and I feel like that is what has made our team successful," sophomore Mackenzie Enderlin said.

Although the girls want to do their very best at the meets, junior Hannah Allen expressed that there is more to gain than just low scores on the Scotus girls' golf team.

"I like winning and hanging out with the team. We are all really good friends," Allen said.

Scotus hosted the Centennial Conference Tournament at Quail Run on September 23rd. The team finished in 2nd place - 3 strokes behind the champion, Lincoln Christian. Makenzie Enderlin earned a top 10 medal for the Shamrocks.

"I am very excited to spend my first year at State with all the seniors. They make everything full of laughter and include me like I'm their family," Enderlin expressed.

Coach Tanya Niedbalski thinks the girls can accomplish great things at State.

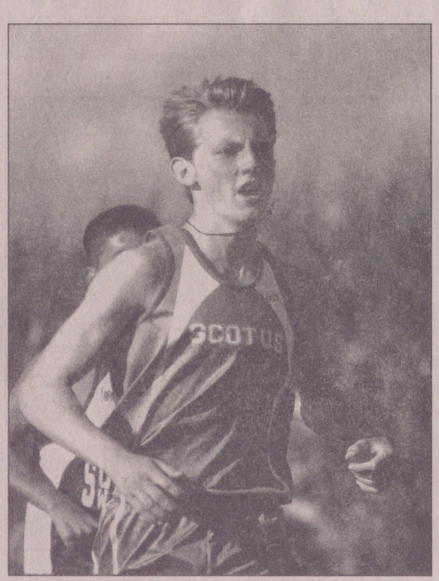
"We have had multiple medalists at almost every meet this year which is great to see. The girls know the high expectations we have within the Scotus girls' golf program and are working hard to continue the tradition of representing Scotus at the Girls Golf Championship," concluded Niedbalski.

The state tournament will take place on Oct. 9th and 10th at Lake Maloney Golf Course in North Platte.

JENNA SALERNO/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

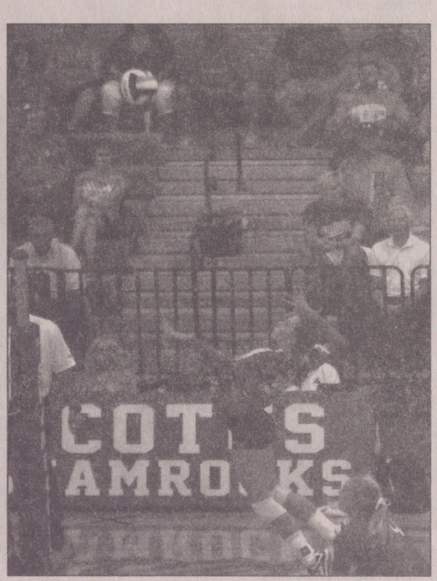
Freshman Michaela Kresha chips the ball onto the green during the conference tournament at Quail Run Golf Course. As a team, the Shamrocks placed 2nd at the meet.

A few more scenes from fall sports 2017



NATALIE BRUTTY/MEDIA STAFF

Junior Elliott Thomazin leads the pack at the Lakeview -Schuyler Triangular at Letjelusche Home Course. Elliott placed first.



ALLISON STARZEC/MEDIA STAFF

Senior Elley Beaver prepares to spike the ball. Scotus volleyball played Aquinas high school, resulting in a win for the shamrocks.

CALEN HINZE/MEDIA STAFF

Sophomore Tyler Palmer runs over a Grand Island Central Catholic defender. Scotus won the game 52-7.

Rowdy Dowdies prepare to support

By Jadyn Larsen
Staff Reporter

"We got spirit. Yes we do. We got spirt. How bout you!" The Rowdy Dowdies then point to the opposing team only to be hit with a faint response. "We Got Spirit" is the famous cheer that the Rowdy Dowdies never seem to lose.

The Rowdy Dowdies show up at football games, cross country meets, basketball games, and volleyball games. Even though only 364 students attend Scotus, there always seems to be a full student section at each and every event.

"[My hopes for the Rowdy Dowdies this year is] to beat the opponent's student sections in cheering," senior Trevor Kaslon said, "and to receive the sportsmanship award if we make it to state."

The student section of Scotus has won many sportsmanship awards at state events. Everyone from 7th grade to 12th grade can participate and be a part of the Scotus student section. The upperclassmen lead, and the underclassman join in.

Eighth Grader Regan Sucha said, "The seniors [show the best leadership in the student section] because even if we are losing they are still having fun."

Sophomore Julia Pichler was more specific.

"[The best leaders are] Morgan Rinkol and Brock Kracman because they helped me learn the cheers at my first volleyball game," Pichler said.

The senior class of 2018 came up with the 10 commandments of the student section this year to keep the student section in order. The commandments list rules for the Rowdies Dowdies to follow when they are cheering at a game.

Senior Brandon Huynh said, "We as seniors thought that there had to be rules set in order to have the best student section ever. So that's where the 10 commandments came in."

While the Shamrock student section shows up at many different events, the student section is most famous for cheering at volleyball and basketball games.

Huynh said, "Volleyball [is my favorite sport to cheer at] right now because the white board is really fun to use, and I love to support my girls. But, I still can't wait to cheer for basketball."

Eighth grader Cole Hottovy took a different approach.

"[My favorite sport to cheer at is] basketball because Trevor Kaslon dunks a lot, and then it gets crazy!" Hottovy said.

Being in the student section is a way to participate and show support for the school. While in the student section students can cheer, yell, and point at people to make them 'shake their booties.'

Faith Przymus/Rock Bottom Staff

Seniors Logan Mueller, Carson Hottovy, and Trevor Kaslon lead the student section in a cheer. There was a full student section attending the first volleyball game to cheer on Scotus vs. Concordia.

Senior Morgan Rinkol said, "[My favorite part about being a Rowdy Dowdy] is getting to be a part of the game and cheer on the Rocks!"

The Rowdy Dowdies will be taking on the student section of Fremont Bergan during the home volleyball game on Thursday, October 12th.

Scotus shows superior marching

Angie Rusher/Journalsim Advisor

Junior Isaac McPhillips plays his tuba in the Columbus Days parade. This year marchers will be participating in three parades.

By Caitlin Steiner
Staff Reporter

Apart from supporting the school at pep rallies and football games, the cheerleaders, flags, and band can be found coming together out on the streets for their own event, parades.

This year the Scotus marchers will have taken part in three different parades, the Columbus Days parade, Norfolk parade, and Grand Island parade.

Band Director Kristen Cox said, "[When selecting the music each year] we have been following the theme for Columbus Days."

The Columbus days parade took place on Sunday, August 20th with a theme of Wild West.

Freshman flute player Cassie Kouma said, "I like the Columbus Days parade the best because it is our home town, so we see familiar faces and get to perform for our friends and family."

This year the senior high band performed "Cheyenne" by Michael Story.

Sophomore cheerleader Kate Smith stated, "My most memorable parade moment was when I was a banner holder, and Mrs. Cox stopped the whole parade so I could tie my shoe so we wouldn't get docked points."

During the Norfolk parade Cox takes not only senior high marchers, but a junior high band as well.

8th grade clarinet player Grace Mustard said, "My least favorite part of being in parades is having combined band. I understand we need practice, but it takes away our study hall."

The Norfolk parade took place on September 30th and, Grand Island parade on October 7th.

Junior drum major, Elliott Thomazin, commented, "My favorite part of being in parades is watching people smile as we pass. Knowing that we were just a highlight of someone's day makes all the work we put in worth it."

From a hot August parade to some chilly rainy parades in October, marchers must be prepared for all forms of weather. Along with weather differences, each parade presents a new route of travel with the Norfolk parade only containing right hand turns.

"[I like the] Harvest of Harmony [parade] in Grand Island because we get to go underneath a really cool overpass," senior saxophone player Alex Preister commented. "When the drumline plays, its really loud and sounds cool."

Senior high students practice in the mornings before the school day.

"My least favorite part of parades is the early morning marching because I am neither a morning person nor someone who likes to walk," senior flag member Alaina Wallick commented.

Cox has been leading students in parades for 25 years.

"[Parades] are part of our culture," Cox concluded. "It's something for our students to experience and appreciate."

The band placed second at the Norfolk parade and received a Superior rating.

Students retreat with their classes

By Alaina Wallick
Staff Reporter

Marshmallows, quarters, and 'mail call' may not sound like they go together, but for Scotus' high school students, it means it is retreat season.

Every high school class this fall has had the chance to take a day off from school and spend the day with their peers.

Senior Trevor Vaught chose to spend his retreat day exploring the different areas around the retreat center, including the woods and lake.

"[Retreats] are a time to get to know your classmates better and grow closer as a class, even if we don't realize it," Vaught explained.

The senior class this year was able to go to Timberlake Retreat Center in Marquette, Nebraska. After beginning their day with Mass, they spent their time at Timberlake playing volleyball, canoeing, and swimming. Those who were looking for more adventurous activities were given the opportunity to explore the obstacles in an area in Timberlake simply known as the "quad." The obstacles range from being able to climb the rock wall, scale a twenty-foot-tall telephone pole, or walk across the high ropes.

"I thought the best moment was seeing Logan [Mueller] climb up the telephone pole confidently," senior Nathan Donoghue commented, "but then seeing his scared face at the top."

The freshmen, sophomore, and junior classes were able to go to St. Stanislaus church and parish center in Duncan, Nebraska. They spent their day relaxing and playing various 'ice breaker' games to get to know the people in their class better. They also had the opportunity of attending Adoration and spending some time in silence to go over their day and have some quiet prayer time.

"My favorite part of the retreat was Adoration, to sit alone in my mind and heart with Jesus," junior Tara Kamrath recalled.

Students are not the only ones who were able to take the day off. Besides Father Capadano attending the retreats, each class was given the opportunity to vote for two teachers who were able to join them on their retreats. For example, math teacher Julie Blaser and social science teacher Pat Brockhaus joined the senior for the day.

"It's fun. It's a fun day where you can kind of just get away, and you can have Mass, and you can do faith things, but it's like having a full day of recess," Brockhaus said. "You don't have to worry about work and activities and practices. You get to be with each other."

As retreat season comes to a close, students are left with new memories with old friends and, possibly, people in their class whom they had not had the chance to speak with in a normal school day.

Senior Alyssa Morton advised, "It's important and beneficial to the students [to go on retreats] regardless of how dumb you think it is, you get to spend time with your whole class. Once you're seniors, you'll understand! Enjoy it while you can!"

Alaina Wallick/Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Natalie Brutty launches off the blob at Timberlake Retreat Center. Brutty along with the rest of her senior class spent their retreat day in Marquette, NE at Timberlake Retreat Center.

Spirits rise during homecoming

By Jenna Salerno
Staff Reporter

Homecoming week is always full of crazy outfits and dressy clothes, and this year's homecoming week did not disappoint. This year, the theme was Traveling Around the World.

During the week of Sept. 11th through 16th, cowboys, twins, and hippies could be found roaming the halls. The themes for the week included Wild West Monday, Pajama Tuesday, Twin Wednesday, Decade Thursday, and, as always, Spirit Day on Friday.

"I was totally tubular on decade day," sophomore Brea Lassek said about the outfits during homecoming week, "but Mr. Coulter was 'quacktastic' in his words on pajama day, so I don't know who [was best dressed]."

Junior Konner Kudron's favorite theme was pajama day.

"I wore rainbow cat pants and a NASA sweatshirt," Kudron said.

This year, many people dressed up for the themes each day, but people did not like some of the themes as much as others.

Sophomore Dalton Borchers, said, "[My least favorite theme was] Spirit Day because it's like a Team Scotus Day, so it's not as fun."

Other students disagreed with Borchers, including junior Rebekah Hergott.

"The worst theme was western," Hergott said, "Why? One word… Flannel."

After the week of crazy attire, Friday led to a nice change with a homecoming pep rally at the end of the day. Both the flag team and cheerleaders performed in the pep rally, followed by a game with the homecoming candidates. The candidates were paired off and performed in a lip sync battle in front of the student body.

"Colson and I did not win the game at the pep rally," senior Faith Przymus said, "but it was really funny to watch the dances that the other candidates came up with."

Seniors Nathan Donoghue and Tessa Bridger won the game.

"It was fun to be a part of, yes, but I had an unfair advantage because I had props with my crutches," Donoghue said.

On Friday night, the Scotus football team played against the Aquinas Monarchs. After a hard-fought game, the final score of the game was 16-17, with a loss for the Shamrocks. After the game, homecoming coronation started, and after having all of the high school students vote, seniors Nathan Donoghue and Faith Przymus won homecoming king and queen.

Donoghue said, "[Being a homecoming candidate was] delicious; I'm glad to be able to represent my class."

On Saturday, the student body traded in their cowboy hats and tie dye shirts for formal attire for the dance that night. Both girls and guys could be seen in formal attire, wearing anything from rompers to floor-length gowns.

"The best parts about the dresses this year was the diversity. Everyone looked confident and unique," Lassek said.

The dance lasted from 8 to 11:30 p.m. At the end of the night, there was a raffle for gift cards for any students who had stayed for the entirety of the dance. As always, people have mixed feelings about school dances, but this year, the overall attitude of the dance was positive.

"I think homecoming is as fun as you make it," Hergott said. "If you stop caring if you look stupid dancing and just focus on having a good time, it can be really fun!"

Przymus concluded, "Homecoming this year was the best dance I've been to at Scotus; everyone was dancing and that made it a really great night."

Abe Perault/Rock Bottom Staff

Freshmen Tanley Miller, Kamryn Chohon, and Kaira Dallman dance the night away. The dance lasted from 7-11:30 Saturday night.

Emma Brandt/Yearbook Staff

Seniors Nathan Donoghue and Faith Przymus won homecoming king and queen. The entire high school student body voted in the elections.

Abe Perault/Rock Bottom Staff

Seniors Grace Wickham, Maddie Neville, Elley Beaver, Marika Spencer, and Shania Borchers dance under the bubble machine at the dance. The night was filled with music and bubbles.

Abbie Zoucha/Yearbook Staff

Scotus cheerleaders perform at half-time of the homecoming game. The Scotus flags also performed that night.

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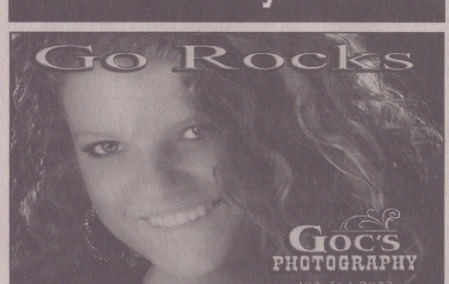
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Throwback to *The Terminal*

By Matt Strecker
Editor

Spending an entire day in a shopping mall sure sounds like a lot of fun. But how about a week? Or maybe even months? Tom Hanks had to do such a thing at the JFK Airport in New York thirteen years ago in the Steven Spielberg hit, *The Terminal*.

Based on the life of Iranian refugee Mehran Karimi Nasseri, *The Terminal* follows the story of Victor Navorski, portrayed by Hanks, who is in a bit of a predicament. Visiting from his homeland of Krakozhia, Navorski doesn't have the necessary paperwork to enter the United States, but the Department of Homeland Security won't allow him to go home due to a Civil War attacking the countries government. So, Navorski is forced to stay in the JFK Airport for months, not allowed to enter America or go home.

I am well aware that this movie is more than a decade old and has actors that have appeared in far more popular or recognized movies. However, I believe that Hanks single-handedly makes this movie a timeless classic that I recommend to viewers of all ages.

Before seeing this movie, I was a little concerned about how Tom Hanks would portray Navorski with a thick Bulgarian accent, but my concerns were immediately put to rest when he opened his mouth to speak his first line. Hanks fantastically imitates an Eastern European tourist who feels completely lost in America and seems to be confused with how the country works. Not to mention his character speaks about six words of English. Hanks finds a way to make an awful situation have a bright, and even comedic, side. When the Department of Homeland Security explains his situation to him at the beginning of the movie, Hanks responds with directions to his hotel and tells them to "keep the change." Classic.

When faced with such a strange and awful situation like this, Navorski doesn't get frustrated or do anything illegal like leave the airport without his papers. He gets creative. From returning luggage carts to get quarters to buy Burger King, to shaving and showering in the bathroom sink, and even making a bed out of two benches (that he may or may not have broken to fit his body), Navorski finds a way to survive and even thrive in the confines of the JFK Airport. I was a big fan of how Spielberg implemented the panic that can be found in an airport on a daily basis when people miss their flights, can't find their luggage, and other sorts of mishaps.

There weren't too many aspects of this movie that bothered me, but there was one detail about the movie that I cannot get over. Early in the movie, fed up with the lack of communication, Navorski decides to try to learn English by buying a Bulgarian and English version of the same magazine and comparing the two. It's an interesting and clever idea, but it could not be pulled off in one night as it was in the movie. Navorski woke up the next morning speaking near fluent English with a strong accent. I stick to my belief that the English language is difficult to learn and what happened in this movie is not realistic. Nice try Steven Spielberg, not today.

So, why are you reading a review telling you to watch a movie that came out thirteen years ago? The movie didn't win any big awards, it isn't the funniest movie ever, nor is it a very popular movie. However, it does have one of the best male actors of the generation in Tom Hanks, great supporting characters, funny and heart-warming moments, and is all-around a fantastic movie well worth your time.

www.civilianglobal.com

Victor Navorski, played by Tom Hanks(Left), mops the floor for the janito to make money to buy food in the movie *The Terminal*. Navorski found several different ways to make money over his months in JFK Airport.

Before I Fall won't let you down

By Flora He
Staff Reporter

"Maybe you can afford to wait. Maybe for you there's a tomorrow. Maybe for you there's one thousand tomorrows, or three thousand, or ten, so much time you can bathe in it, roll around in it, so much time you can waste it. But for some of us there's only today. And the truth is, you never really know." This is one of my favorite quotes from the novel *Before I Fall* by Lauren Oliver.

Before I fall is a story about death and rebirth, awakening, and salvation. The novel starts with Samantha waking up on her favorite day, Cupid's Day. It should be another perfect day in her life, but it ends up being her last. She wakes up the next morning and relives the previous day over, eventually seven times. She untangles all the mysteries surrounding her death and the time loop as she relives the same day over and over again.

In my point of view, *Before I Fall* is a book worth reading for every high school student, because you can deeply relate yourself to this story.

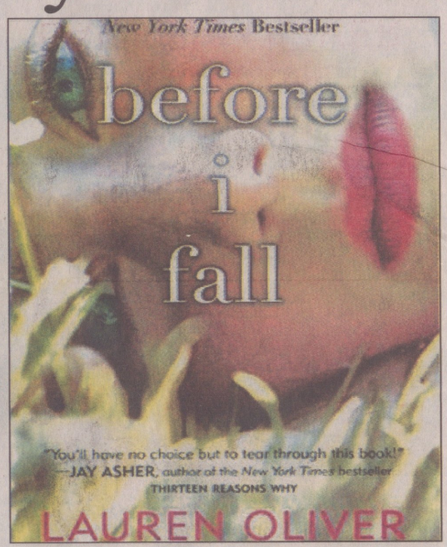
"It's never too late." This statement shows up quite a few times in the novel, and it's also the theme. It's never too late to do the right stuff. I personally like this statement, because I feel like there are countless chances in front of us, and sometimes you make mistakes, but it's never too late to make a change to fix it. Samantha changed everything even though there was only one day left in her life. She did the right thing in her last day. It's never too late for a second chance, give yourself a chance to embrace to opportunity to change. I firmly believe that Samantha left without regret, because before her fall, she did all she could do to fix the problems.

> ***"Maybe you can afford to wait. Maybe for you there's a tomorrow. Maybe for you there's one thousand tomorrows, or three thousand, or ten, so much time you can bathe in it, roll around in it, so much time you can waste it. But for some of us there's only today. And the truth is, you never really know."***
> **~Samantha Kingston**

The important thing we could learn from this novel is to cherish the things that you have and don't take them for granted. Lots of people never know what they have until it's gone. I hope everyone cherishes the good surrounding you and don't take it for granted. I could really relate myself into this. Sometimes I complain the school lunch is bad, but meanwhile lots of people don't even have enough food to eat. Don't take it for granted. Sometimes the stuff you don't like might be somebody's favorite.

Although the story starts slowly in the beginning, every detail leads to the end. As long as you keep reading, you will love this story, and wonder how things go.

Before I Fall is a novel that I could bond my feeling with, and it's connected with high school things that might happen to everyone. It really touched me by how much Samantha changed. Like any of us, Samantha will do wrong stuff and regret it. Her mental state changes from unbelievable to confuse, to mad, then to understanding and growth. If you are trying to find a book to read, *Before I Fall* will definitely be a good choice.



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***Before I Fall* is written by New York Time Bestseller Lauren Oliver. The story is about a girl Samantha who relives the end of her life seven times.**

A Day in the Life

This year the Scotus journalism staff is writing about important events through the eyes of Scotus students and faculty. The journal entries this issue were written by Jadyn Larsen.

August 15, 2017: First Day of School

Teachers

Okay… relax. You have everything prepared for this quarter and the first day of school. I need to try really hard not to think about my own kids because right now I have to focus in on my students and making this year a year for them to remember. Jimmy is dropping the kids off at daycare so I can make it to work early. Every year when I wake up on this day, I can't help it but want another week or two of summer vacation. Just two more weeks with my kids is all I need. I also can't help it but get nervous about the upcoming class. I just need to relax and put effort in on having a good year.

7th Grade

I can't believe I am officially a student at Scotus. I have 7th grade orientation this morning, and I am so excited to see everyone who will be in my class. I am also a little bit nervous. Will I make a lot of new friends? Will the upper classman talk to me and think I'm cool? I really hope they do. Also, how am I supposed to make it to my locker and next class in under four minutes? I might just have to run to my classes.

8th Grade

Another year in junior high. Can I just fast forward this year and be a freshman? Who even cares about the lock-in anymore, I want to go to homecoming and winter formal. I'm excited to see all my classmates again, but I just really don't want to go back to school. I had such a good summer. My parents let me stay out later and I was at my friends' houses almost every other day. The good thing about 8th grade is that I'm not in 7th grade, and, therefore, I am not the youngest in the school. So at least I can say I have one thing going for me this year!

9th Grade

Finally! I am a freshman!!! I have be waiting for this day since I entered the halls of Scotus. Homecoming, football, high school… dating!! I've had my eyes on Susie since she sat in front of me in 5th grade. I am going to ask her to be my date to homecoming. All my boys tease me about chickening out, but I promise I am going to do it. Susie Q will be my homecoming date. I already have planned an extravagant way to ask her so she can't say no. Freshman year is going to be great, I can already feel it.

10th Grade

Okay… here I come 10th grade. Sophomore year is going to be different than freshman year. I am going to make it different. I am going to socialize with upper classman instead of just my class. I am going to speak up in class. Most importantly, I am going to get one of the lead roles in One Act. Now that I'm not a freshman, I feel like the sponsor will look at me more closely and take my audition more seriously. Since me and Bob broke up, I won't have anyone distracting me from getting a lead role. All of the upper classmen auditioning better watch out!

11th Grade

Today is the day I start another year in that prison I call a school. Not to mention that all of the seniors told me junior year is by far the hardest academically. I'm actually really nervous about chemistry because good grades are really important to me, and I don't want to mess my almost perfect GPA up. The only thing I am really looking forward to this year is being closer to the top of the seniority chain and playing varsity in volleyball and basketball. I know I'm not going to get a spot just because I am a junior, but I worked hard over the summer, and I feel like I have a better shot. I just hope I have a good junior year.

12th Grade

Senior year is finally here! For a while I thought it was never going to come. All I can think about is graduating and college. I know I'm supposed to take in every moment like it is my last, but I seriously cannot wait to get out of this school and town. I am just going to have to make this last year here count. I'm going to make memories with my friends that will last forever because who knows when I will see them again. It is sad though to think about all the lasts I am going to experience. Last time playing the sport I love the most. Last homecoming dance. Last time cheering in the student section. They are all here, and they will all soon be over. It is going to be a sad moment when I actually have to say goodbye.

Members of the Scotus family share their talents and interests on the **Features Page (4 and 5).**

Rock Bottom

Volume 18 • Issue II • November 14, 2017
Scotus Central Catholic http://issuu.com/scotusjournalism Columbus, Nebraska 68601

Campus Ministry evangelizes as saints

By Caitlin Steiner
Staff Reporter

Juggling balls? Missing eyes? A guitar? These three characteristics were seen portrayed by the campus ministry leadership team on Halloween. In honor of All Saints' Day, members of the campus ministry leadership team dressed up as saints during the school day.

Father Capadano, the sponsor for campus ministry, explained, "The goal was to remind the student body that the purpose of Halloween is the celebration of all the saints. It's All Hallows Eve, the day before All Saints' Day."

The campus ministry leadership team is made up of twelve members. Of these twelve, six dressed up as saints.

"I think that everyone is technically a member of campus ministry. The campus ministry leadership team has representatives to help determine what we should and shouldn't do as an organization," Father said. "I look at the campus ministry leadership team as the parish council, and everyone in the school is a part of the parish."

Senior Emily Carstens dressed as Saint Lucy. Saint Lucy is the patron saint of blindness.

"Saint Lucy is a martyr, and we were aiming to all dress up as martyrs," Carstens said. "I chose her because I really wanted to make it look like I was crying blood. Saint Lucy had her eyes plucked out."

The group meets once a month, but they will have more meetings if needed as Advent and Lent approach.

Freshman Emily Ferguson dressed as Saint Maria Goretti, patron saint of youth, purity, and victims of rape.

"I wanted to dress up as a saint people had heard of but maybe didn't know much about," Ferguson stated.

Junior Elliott Thomazin dressed up as Saint John Bosco. Saint Bosco is the patron saint of apprentices, editors and publishers, schoolchildren, magicians, and juvenile delinquents.

"I chose Saint Bosco because he used magic in his ministry. He would teach the gospel to children by keeping them engaged with juggling, magic, and puzzles," Thomazin said.

Freshman Clarissa Kosch dressed up as Saint Cecilia, patron saint of musicians.

"[Students] thought I looked weird, but I realized that these martyrs went through way more than me." Kosch said. "I could get through one day."

The campus ministry leadership team has representatives from each grade level. Members also stand as representatives for the shepherd's program, teens for life, lectors, and EMHC's.

"The campus ministry leadership team is suppose to come with ideas to help plan and run activities that minister to the campus as a whole," Father concluded, "To find ways to encourage our students to live their faith everyday here."

On November 8th, the entire school joined together to celebrate Blessed John Duns Scotus' feast day with an all school Mass and ice cream sandwiches at lunch.

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Freshman Clarissa Kosch, juniors Elliott Thomazin, Abe Perault, Isaac Ostdiek, and senior Emily Carstens dressed up as saints on October 31st. Members of the campus ministry leadership team dressed up on All Hallows Eve (Halloween) as a reminder that the saints are the reason for the celebration.

Rocks dominate Mock Trial again

By Faith Przymus
Staff Reporter

Imagine practicing all season with the possibility of only competing once. In mock trial, this is an unfortunate possibility for all of the teams that compete; if a team loses its first match in the regional competition, their season is over. For this reason, mock trial isn't as well-known as other activities.

"Mock [trial] is kind of a hidden gem when it comes to activities since there aren't regular competitions. It is one of my favorite things I am involved in at Scotus," sophomore attorney Brea Lassek said.

On November 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, the Scotus mock trial teams competed in courtrooms throughout Nebraska for the regional mock trial competition.

Freshman attorney Maddie Blaser said, "My team's goal for the regional competition was to compete to the best of our ability no matter what the outcome was."

The Scotus freshmen and sophomore teams faced each other in the first round of regional competition in Schuyler on Thursday, November 2nd. The sophomore team ended the freshmen's season and moved on to compete against Lakeview on November 3rd in the Platte County courthouse.

"I think our season went really well; we all worked hard on our parts. Even though we lost, I think it is to our advantage because we now know what to expect next year," freshman witness Olivia Fehringer said.

The Scotus junior team competed against Lakeview on November 2nd in David City. After a close battle, the court ruled that the Scotus juniors won the case, but that Lakeview won the trial and would continue on in the regional competition. Lakeview's season ended the following day, November 3rd, after competing against the Scotus sophomore team.

Junior witness Patrick Herchenbach said, "Our team worked extremely hard to prepare for our match against Lakeview. Both teams competed very well, and the judges said the scoring was very close. It was slightly disappointing to work so hard only for one competition, but we always have next year."

The Scotus senior team competed on November 3rd in Wahoo against Howells/Dodge. The Scotus seniors won and went on to compete

See **MOCK**, Page 2

Kelly Koranda/Mock Trial Sponsor

Senior attorney Alaina Wallick questions senior witness Trey Dallman while competing against Central City in the semi-finals on November 4th. The seniors won the trial and advanced to the district final for the fourth year in a row.

Precautions prepare students and staff

By Maggie Feehan
Staff Reporter

In every school across America, the occasional unexpected fire alarms will sound throughout the building. Students immediately take a deep sigh, drop their pencils, and casually walk out the door laughing with their friends. Although this routine is monotonous, it proved to be useful when the fire alarms triggered unexpectedly during class this October.

"My job as an administrator is to make sure we have a safe environment. I take that very seriously. It is important to develop a routine so that in a crisis, the practice helps with the chaos," Scotus president Jeff Ohnoutka said.

The Nebraska Department of Education has provided the school with information concerning fire, tornado, and intruder drills. The nationally known professional, Dr. John Dudley, trains the faculty. Dudley has helped school districts across the nation prepare for and respond to school tragedies.

"[The drills] have been great. Students realize it's something we need to do and take it seriously," Ohnoutka said.

The Scotus Crisis Team is ahead of the curve. The team has met to discuss safety for over 25 years. The team consists of Mrs. Hash, Mrs. Tooley, Mr. Lahm, Mr. Ericson, Mr. Brockhaus, and Mr. Schoenfelder. The Crisis Team protocol is posted on the school website. Mrs. Tooley is the chairperson of the Crisis Team.

"Our goal is to simply take care of any situation in the school that might cause a threat to students, faculty or staff," Tooley said.

Unfortunately, there is an average of one shooting each day throughout America. Scotus prepares students and faculty for events like these during intruder drills.

"In most cases, the individuals carrying out these acts of violence are trying to cause as much damage as possible," Tooley said, "The main thing is to get out of sight."

Because of this, the Crisis Team has discussed whether to have drills during lunchtime and passing periods. It is very hard to execute because the practicality of it prevents it from happening. Protocol has recently been changed by adding the option to flee the building. This makes drills during lunch or passing periods difficult because in that situation, many students would realistically flee.

"We agree with that philosophy because if we can get people out of the building, that's great, but we also want to make sure students are trained in knowing that we need to be accountable for every person in the building," Tooley said.

If a teacher chooses to leave his/her room, they are obligated to take all of their students with them. Students must contact their parents and the police department if they chose to flee.

This October, the fire alarms in the school were set off during some

See **PRECAUTIONS**, Page 2

PRECAUTIONS

maintenance, leading to confusion and even some fear.

"We learned we didn't quite use the correct language over the intercom, and that's what caused the confusion," Tooley explained. "That's why you want to practice these things because if things do go wrong in that situation, you can change it and hopefully it will go right in a real crisis situation."

Ohnoutka hopes that in a situation like this, Scotus would be well prepared.

"I think we are prepared the best that we can be, but in a chaotic situation it becomes about survival and things get crazy," Ohnoutka said.

Tooley remembered what Dr. Dudley had told her during training.

"Your goal here is that if you have a good action plan, you can decrease as many fatalities as you can," Dudley said.

Tooley concluded, "Even though you want to save everyone, this is the real deal. If someone enters your school with a gun, the odds are you are most likely going to have some fatalities. By having a good plan, you are going to save more people."

ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

English and Speech instructor Melanie Mimick holds up a green sign after taking a head count during a fire drill. All students and staff must be acounted for before they can return to the building.

MOCK

on November 4th in Seward. The seniors took down Central City and advanced to their fourth consecutive appearance in the district final. They will face the Scotus sophomores in the district final, which will be held on November 16th.

"The past few years our team has made it to the district finals, and it is nice to know that for our last year we kept that tradition," attorney Jenna Salerno said.

The mock trial case switches between a criminal case and a civil case each year. This year's case is a civil case which resulted in mixed feelings among mock trial team members.

"I enjoy this case a lot! It's definitely interesting with a lot of different layers to it," sophomore attorney Lauren Ostdiek said.

Senior attorney Alaina Wallick didn't necessarily agree with Ostdiek.

"This year's case definitely has not been my favorite, but there were some aspects of the case that have been fun to work with," Wallick said.

Mock trial team members have no say in the case they are given to work with, but they do have a say when it comes to what role they play. This allows those who participate in mock trial to have the freedom to explore different roles in a court room atmosphere.

"I'm an attorney- I love it. I chose to be an attorney because that is what I plan to do in college and in my future career," Salerno said.

Each team needs three attorneys, and there are six character roles for those who play a witness to choose from.

Sophomore Liza Zaruba said, "I am a witness, which I love! I love acting and being dramatic, so this is definitely the role for me!"

Although the possibility of practicing to only compete once seems unfortunate, mock trial team members still encourage other students to join mock trial.

"Definitely break out of the 'Scotus Athletics' stereotype and try something new. Mock trial grows friendships and character. [I] highly recommend it," senior witness Natalie Brutty said.

The district final, which will be held in Columbus between the Scotus seniors and sophomores, will determine what team advances to the state competition. The winning team will go on to compete in La Vista on December 4th and 5th for the mock trial state competition.

ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Advisor:
Angie Rusher

Editor:
Matt Strecker

Staff Writers:
Maggie Feehan
Flora He
Jadyn Larsen
Jacob Morse
Grace Odbert
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Unnecessary creation of controvesy

By Grace Odbert
Staff Reporter

The fact that the piercing unfamiliar sound of a fire alarm, that isn't a drill, is the most out-of-the-ordinary thing that has happened to our school in the past month, makes everything seem quiet... a little too quiet.

Growing up in a small school changes the way that we go about our daily lives. The fire alarm going off was in some sense a 'big-deal' for Scotus because not a lot of 'out of the blue things' happen here. We can go to our small, parochial school in the mornings and feel safe from anything too drastic. The question then becomes, "Are we safe from the little things?" Since Scotus is a small school, it seems like everybody knows everybody, and keeping a secret is difficult. Going about your week without even a little drama seems nearly impossible. You get caught passing a note in ninth period Government, and next thing you know, everyone knows about it before you even get to practice after school. Word spreads around here like wildfire and sometimes we try to pretend like we have things pretty bad; when in all reality, we have it pretty good.

> ***"The bigger picture isn't today, it isn't this week, it isn't this year, it's life."***
>
> ***~Grace Odbert***

Of course, the majority of your class or school knowing a lot of things, maybe things you don't want them to know, can cause controversy. But, are we the ones creating the controversy? It seems to me the drama that happens in the halls of Scotus is often blown out of proportion. Something so small can happen within a class, or on the weekend, but everyone talking about it and spreading the gossip makes it a huge deal. What else are we going to talk about at lunch? When we take a look at our lives, a little drama between friends is not the end of the world.

People fight, and sometimes don't get along, and that is perfectly okay. But, when the whole class starts budging in and making it their own drama, it can become controversial. Controversy between a class can be a good thing sometimes. Sometimes it brings everyone closer together, but often times it tears classmates apart too. This is why we need to be careful that we don't create unnecessary problems just for a little excitement during the week.

Avoidable drama should be dodged at all costs, and people need to try harder to put the little thing that may have happened to them into the overall focus of their world to see what actually matters at the end of all of it. The bigger picture isn't today, it isn't this week, it isn't this year, it's life.

Unfortunately, controversy and responding to controversy can shape a person's personality. Essentially, who we are is a part of how we respond to certain situations. There is no escaping the one person in your class that might just push your buttons every day at school, or the one teacher who you just don't seem to get through to. But, that's part of life. Overreacting to something little won't help you grow as a person. Try harder to rise above the little annoyances and focus on the information that actually matters in the larger perspective of life. The people you surround yourself with can either help you or hinder you when it comes to responding to what life throws at you.

Social life in high school will change the people we are destined to be, so surround yourself with the social life that makes you feel comfortable. You shouldn't have to have drama wrapped around your neck every day at school. Get away from it and escape the controversy for the sake of the bigger picture. Don't let the drama that always seems to seep its way into your life take over and absorb your whole day, month, week, or year. Let something like a simple, accidental fire alarm be exciting! Don't try to fill the silence that our small, parochial school hallways are bounded by with unnecessary controversy; let it be a good thing, and realize how very good we have it after all.

Stop scrooging spirit

By Caitlin Steiner
Staff Reporter

Red and greens lights all over, "Merry Christmas" spelled out across the roof, and countless blow ups in the yard, front and back. I'm betting you know which house I'm talking about; the crazy Christmas house off 33rd Avenue. Some may see this as a bit overboard, but for me, seeing this is a highlight of my Christmas season. While I may not be this extravagant with my Christmas decorations, I do think this holiday deserves more celebration than others. I say bring on the music, bring on the gifts, bring on the decorations, and bring on Christmas.

When told to keep Christmas in December, my immediate response is usually a good laugh. My Christmas starts with the 100-day countdown. With the rest of the world looking down on this early start, I find it better for everyone to ease into this holiday. I start early with the Christmas music and then move onto the tree and then the house lights.

Christmas provides a whole multitude of music. Whether you're feeling pumped up or just relaxing, Christmas music has you covered. With so many songs dedicated to one holiday, it's hard to listen to them all in just one month; however, by starting early, you are reassured you'll find time to listen to all of your favorites. A lot of people can get annoyed with the same old same old Christmas carols played every year, but there is so much more beyond "Jingle Bells", "Deck the halls", and a little fa la la la la. For instance, one of my favorite Christmas songs is "The Three Kings and I (What Really Happened)" by Trans-Siberian Orchestra. This song provides a new twist on a common Christmas story.

> ***"By the time Christmas rolls around, you won't be pushing through shopping lines to get last minute deals because you'll already have all your shopping done. Another benefit of shopping early is you have more time to think of a meaningful gift."***
>
> ***~Caitlin Steiner***

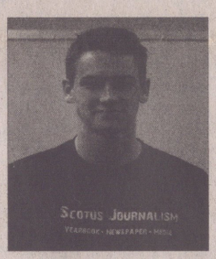
With the holiday season being such a busy time of the year, it's hard to find time to put up Christmas decorations. If you're anything like my family, then it takes a good chunk of a day to get everything out. From putting lights up on the house to decorating the tree(s), you have to be fully dedicated to a day of decorating. With all this effort going into the decorating process, you want it to be seen by others. If you wait until the first week of December to set up, they are only out for a week or two before its time to put them back away.

Just like a little kid counting down the days until their birthday, making sure everyone knows that they are 5 ½ not just 5, I too like to start counting down until the biggest birthday of the year, Jesus. As a Catholic this is the second biggest holiday of our year, only to follow Easter. With a birthday this big, it deserves a little more time than just one day. Christmas parties will be going all through December.

If you haven't gotten a reason to start early, how about this one: you can save a lot of money. If you start shopping for decorations and presents early, you can keep a lookout for good sales at stores. By the time Christmas rolls around, you won't be pushing through shopping lines to get last minute deals because you'll already have all your shopping done. Another benefit of shopping early, is you have more time to think of a meaningful gift. The holiday season tends to bring about a lot of stress as time runs out to get everything done. When you start early, you allow yourself time to think of a great gift your recipient will appreciate.

Although not everyone loves Christmas the way I do, no one wants to be around a scrooge during the holiday season. Whether you choose to start your celebrations early or wait until the last minute, it's important to do whatever you enjoy. As for me, I will continue to sing Christmas songs beginning in October, and even if Jacob Morse continues to be a scrooge, I'm not letting anything get in the way of my Christmas spirit.

Christmas can wait



By Jacob Morse
Staff Reporter

The date is October 12. Mrs. Rusher asks for any song ideas to play while the journalism team is working; without flinching, senior Caitlin Steiner requests to play Christmas music.

Do you blow the decorating of a holiday completely out of proportion? Are you the kind of person who anticipates a certain holiday, months in advance? As the holidays getting closer this becomes problematic.

I believe that people should try to stay in the moment and celebrate the holiday as it gets closer to the date. People start the celebration of holidays far too early than they were designed to be honored. This is an issue because it turns the holiday into a competition, and brings Jesus out of the picture.

Call me Mr. Scrooge, but I find the way that some people treat Christmas ridiculous. Don't get me wrong, I can appreciate people that are passionate about certain activities. I understand that every individual finds interest in their own way. I too enjoy all of the moments, memories, food, and even the decorations that occur during these months. It only starts to bother me when people spend hours upon hours setting up decorations or making sure that their Christmas lights look better than their neighbors. These people turn the holidays into a competition and take away the entire meaning of Christmas. There comes a time where it is just too much and all of the themes that surround Christmas start to get saturated and completely out of hand. Take the house off of 33rd avenue for example. Yes, all of his lights and decor are very elaborate, and it is obvious that he puts a lot of effort into what he does, but it is too much. He turns his house into a distraction that brings the life out of what Christmas is all about. This is exactly what I am talking about when I say that decorations can get out of hand.

> ***"When people are anticipating all of the music, decorations, and presents that surround the day, it drowns out Jesus. I understand we can use the music to help worship, and help us remember Jesus, but Jesus wasn't born in October."***
>
> ***~Jacob Morse***

People preparing for Christmas so early, getting the "Christmas jitters", and listening to Christmas music in October fits perfectly into my point. A better time to start getting ready would be sometime close to the start of Advent. Christians are supposed to use those four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas. Four weeks would give people plenty of time, in my opinion, to be able to prepare themselves for this holiday. Instead when people celebrate Christmas so early, it glorifies all of the themes surrounding the day rather than glorifying God as it was intended. When people are anticipating all of the music, decorations, and presents that surround the day, it drowns out Jesus. I understand that we can use the music to worship and help us remember Jesus, but Jesus wasn't born in October.

Christmas is a wonderful holiday that can bring people closer together, but it is a holiday that is intended to commemorate God sending his only son for us. When people celebrate Christmas to the extreme, it brings Him out of the picture.

Kaylie Rocha/ Rock Bottom Staff

Hergott continues passion for cinema

By Matt Strecker
Editor

Movies and cinema have evolved drastically over the ages. From silent movies to films where the sound feels like the characters are right next to you, the evolution of the movie industry is blatant and unmistakable. One student at Scotus found a way to show his appreciation for this evolution and all stages of cinema.

Senior movie enthusiast Josh Hergott is the proud owner of a substantially large movie collection that includes titles from all types of genres. In total, Hergott owns 468 different movies and two complete television series.

"I currently own 101 Blu-Rays, 158 DVDs, and the entire first season of *True Detective*," Hergott said.

When it comes to people owning large collections of assorted items, they may remember that one item that started it all. Hergott remembers just what made him start his obsession.

"There are a couple different things I can remember," Hergott said. "The first movies I can recall watching were the original *Star Wars* movies, but the first movie I ever bought for myself was *Whiplash*, on Blu-Ray. There's something genuinely exciting to me about adding to my collection, but I'm not quite sure what it is."

Hergott's favorite genre, though he enjoys them all, is drama. He enjoys the works of directors like Christopher Nolan and Michael Curtis; guys that can really get him on the edge of his seat. When it comes to actors, he's glued to movies like *Seven*, *The Usual Suspect*, and *American Beauty* for the acting abilities of Kevin Spacey.

"No one will ever be as great as my man, Kevin Spacey," Hergott said. "Oh my goodness this guy can act. He can be villainous, comedic, deadpan, and emotional. I just love me some Kevin Spacey."

Hergott originally planned to take his passion for movies and turn it into his career, even going as far as sitting in on film classes on college visits. However, he began to see things a little differently just recently.

"For the longest time, I planned on being a director," Hergott said. "It was only just recently that I realized that I felt like I wanted to be an English teacher. But one thing's for sure, my collection will never stop growing. And who knows? Maybe someday I'll direct a school play, or get to teach a film study class. There are loads of hidden possibilities."

Hergott's passion for movies led him to a temporary job writing movie reviews that appeared in the *Columbus Telegram*. Although his reviews cannot be found in the *Telegram* any longer, Hergott continues to see new movies as they come out in hopes of finding one worthy of making his collection.

"Being able to write for the *Telegram* was such an exciting opportunity," Hergott said. "I was able to create something that was my own.

Matt Strecker/Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Josh Hergott poses with his movie collection. His collection consists of over 450 titles.

All of the positive encouragement I got after every article was a huge blessing, even if people didn't always agree with what I was saying."

When it comes to having a strange addiction, there are a seemingly endless number of items to collect. Video games, movies, books, the list goes on. However, Hergott puts his movies above all these other possibilities.

"I have a great time playing video games, and I don't necessarily mind reading either," Hergott said. "But I'm terrible at video games, so more often than not, they stress me out. And when it comes to books, I just have the worst time focusing on them. Movies, however, are effortless for me. I love putting in a good movie, sitting back, and letting myself be completely enveloped by the world the director is presenting me with. They just amaze me."

Gaspers reveals his talents and collections

By Maggie Feehan
Staff Reporter

Swords...old pennies… and inventions. No, this isn't the Smithsonian Museum. It's Jared Gaspers' house. Although you may have heard of Scotus senior, Jared Gaspers, there is much more than meets the eye. Gaspers has a collection of a variety of items and even dedicates time to train for the popular TV show, *American Ninja Warrior*.

Gaspers has been fascinated with *American Ninja Warrior* ever since he was thirteen years old.

"I turned on the show one day and thought it looked really cool and challenging. The more I watched, the more I thought, I can do this," Gaspers said.

Gapers has been training for the past few years in his basement weight room with his dad.

"[I also train] in trees, which are nature's *Ninja Warrior* training set ups," Gaspers added.

The 5 foot 7 inch senior weighs in at 115 pounds at which he claims is all muscle except the minimal 7% body fat.

"I enjoy being the underdog. People look at me with doubt in their eyes when I walk up to the [pull-up] bar. It's always amusing the way their jaws drop when they realize I'm doing more chin-ups than the football players can," Gaspers said.

Gaspers can do 28 chin-ups in a row and one chin-up with 60 pounds on his back. Gaspers tries to fit in two big lifts per week and more casual exercises on other days.

"The hardest obstacle is not having confidence in yourself. The moment you begin to doubt your capabilities, you will fail. The best way to get over this fear is by doing the things you dread over and over again until you get into a positive mind set," Gaspers explained.

Gaspers is also quite the inventor. In the past, he has made a 3-D printer and a CNC engraver. He is currently working on a project called a ball shooter.

"I plan on studying mechanical engineering at UNL. I want to create robots and design inventions to help innovate society," Gaspers said.

Training and inventing are only the beginning. Gaspers also has a large collection of weaponry. He has always been interested in medieval war movies like *Gladiator*, *300*, and *Lord of the Rings*.

Gaspers owns nineteen swords- mostly katanas and medieval based swords, at least thirty knives and daggers, one cross bow, one mini-crossbow, two compound bows, one labrys, one brass knuckle, and two nun chucks.

> ***"That zombie apocalypse is right around the corner, and knives don't run out of ammo."***
>
> ***~Jared Gaspers***

"If all else fails," Gaspers added, "[I have a] grenade."

Gaspers bought his decommissioned grenade at a gun show, where he buys most of his pieces, for twelve dollars.

"I've always had a fascination for dragons and a lot of my weapons are dragon themed," Gaspers said.

Gaspers would one day like to possess enough weapons to open a museum, but for the meantime, Gaspers keeps his collections on the walls of his room.

"That zombie apocalypse is right around the corner, and knives don't run out of ammo," Gaspers concluded.

That's not all Gasper's has up his sleeve. He also has a penny collection dating all the way back to 1944. Gaspers also claims he has almost every super hero movie there is, anything from *Dead Pool* to *The Dark Knight*.

"I like super hero movies because they're full of action scenes and inspirational justice figures," Gaspers explained.

The future of Gaspers' collections and competitions are unclear. If Gaspers decides to try out for *American Ninja Warrior*, he must wait until he's twenty-one. So in the next few years, watch out for Jared Gaspers, *American Ninja Warrior*, possibly coming in 2020!

Maggie Feehan/Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Jared Gaspers displays his 3-D printer and his goblet that he made with it. Gaspers has also built cases, clocks, and cup holders with his 3-D printer.

Ostdiek's puzzling obsession

By Abe Perault
Staff Reporter

The halls of Scotus are full of talented students with many different abilities and hobbies, ranging from musicians, athletes, and collectors, all the way to a magician. But there are also many talents that most people do not know about. One hidden talent most people do not get to see is 7th grader Evan Ostdiek's ability with the Rubik's cube. This past summer he competed against other people who have also been perfecting their trait. He even participated at nationals in Fort Wayne, Illinois, but this talent of his was not gained over night.

"I was looking through YouTube, and I saw a video of the current world record, which is 4.73 seconds. Then I borrowed my brother's Rubik's cube. It took me twelve hours, but I finally solved it," Ostdiek explained.

This past year Ostdiek has been improving his skills with the Rubik's cube, and this summer he competed in five competitions across the Midwest including two in Omaha and one in Des Moines. Before he could travel to the competitions though, he practiced.

"I practice when there is an upcoming event," Ostdiek said, "and I usually practice two to five hours."

The competitions use a relatively simple process. The competitors hand off their cubes to the scrabblers who mix up the cubes using computer generated scrabbles. From there, the cubes and score sheets are handed off to the runners who give them to the judges. After that, the competitors get fifteen seconds to observe their cubes and start, or else they get a two second penalty, then they are off to the races to complete their cube. Four more times this process is repeated for a total of five chances to solve.

"My best is twenty fourth out of sixty people, but that is good for only doing this for a year," Ostdiek said.

Ostdiek usually competes against around one hundred other competitors, but even in the heat of competition, he finds the atmosphere strangely relaxing.

"Competitions aren't too competitive. It is like hanging out with your friend playing a game."

Ostdiek usually enters in four events, which include different sizes of the puzzles, but he can actually solve eighteen different Rubik's cubes, His favorite of which is the six by six.

"My fastest time in three by three single solve is eleven seconds. For an average it is seventeen,"Ostdiek explained, "My future goal is to be under ten seconds."

Evan still plans on competing, but because the main Nebraska organizer of these competitions is going to college in Minnesota, he'll most likely have to wait until the summer to compete again.

Abe Perault/Rock Bottom Staff

Seventh grader Evan Ostdiek sits behind a wall of Rubik's cubes. Ostdiek can solve eighteen different types of cubes and competed at nationals in Fort Wayne, Illinois.

Zanardi's salsa, taking on the market since 2006

By Jadyn Larsen
Staff Reporter

It is a snack served at almost every football party. On special occasions, Spanish classes partake in eating this delicious snack. It also happens to be the first food item served when eating at a Mexican restaurant. It is the famous chips and salsa, and Scotus just happens to have an English teacher who makes and sells her very own salsa.

English teacher Becki Zanardi makes and sells Moody Girl Salsa. Zanardi has been selling her salsa since 2006 after all of her friends kept telling her to just go for it.

"If you would have told me twenty years ago 'you're going to market this,' I would have said 'you're crazy' because it just really wasn't on our radar. It was almost a 'why not?'" Zanardi said.

After deciding to go through with it and sell her salsa, Zanardi didn't know where to begin. It just so happens that the University of Nebraska has a food entrepreneur program that Zanardi and her husband attended to learn the whole picture of the food business.

"My husband owns his own business that has nothing to do with food, and I'm a teacher, and not a business teacher!" Zanardi said.

Although Zanardi started selling her salsa in 2006, she had been making her famous salsa for almost ten years before that. Zanardi had been making and critiquing her salsa since 1995.

"When we were first married, we rented a house in Lincoln, and it had this huge back yard. So we thought 'well let's plant a garden,' and we grew tons of tomatoes and peppers. My mom told me a recipe in this cookbook we had was really good for salsa," Zanardi said. "Darren loves salsa, so I made it, and it was good, but I kept changing ingredients and found what we considered was the perfect recipe."

The manufacturing company where Moody Girl Salsa is made, packaged, and distributed is in Shenandoah, Iowa. It is known as Triple K Manufacturing, and it is the same company that does sauces for Skeeter Barns and Whiskey Creek.

Zanardi commented, "We had three options for marketing. If I wanted to make it at home, we would've had to have a commercial kitchen, but that's quite an ordeal to change your kitchen to a commercial kitchen. We could rent a kitchen, or we could hire a co-packer, someone who makes different products, to make it for us. We decided that [hiring a co-packer] was the best way to do this."

The name Moody Girl Salsa is quite an attention getter. The salsa can be spotted, here in Columbus, at both Supersaver and Hy-Vee.

"I'm the middle child, and when I was younger I was a terrible pouter, terribly moody. So as we were trying to come up with names that just kept popping up so we thought 'what the heck.' Sometimes the name gets more attention than the salsa itself!" Zanardi said.

There is also an interesting hidden fact about the label on the jar. The label contains a young girl with brown hair in double braids in the back.

Zanardi mentioned, "The label is a combination of my daughter and my niece!"

When it comes to sales and selling food, there is a lot of ins and outs. The old saying "you have to spend money to make money" is definitely true.

"There are so many hidden costs, so I can't really give you a number for [what I make]. Jars cost this much; labels cost this much. The co-packer acquires the jars and acquires all the raw materials, they charge me so much per jar. But then I have label expenses, plus other things. I have to have a two-million dollar product liability insurance. It is making money, but I can't really give you a real clear picture of what that is." Zanardi said, "Not enough for me to quit teaching!"

Jadyn Larsen/Rock Bottom Staff

English Teacher Becki Zanardi holds her Moody Girl Salsa. Zanardi has been selling her salsa in stores since 2006.

Carstens' hard work builds her talent

By Flora He
Staff Reporter

Flags, band, golf, dance, and speech; Emily Carstens is involved in quite few school activities. However, over all those activities, she is widely praised for her extraordinary drawing ability.

Carstens is gifted in art, but she doesn't take pride in it. Instead, she puts a lot effort in her favorite activity to make it even better.

"I figured out that I knew how to draw after I kept practicing. I draw every day and for hours on end. So I don't mean to be prideful in anyway whatsoever. It'd be the same for anything else; the only way you'll get better and truly use the gifts you've been given to the best of your ability is through the time and effort you put into something," Carstens said.

Aside from art class at school, Carstens has not taken any specific art classes.

"I have not taken any drawing specific classes to improve photorealistic technique," Carstens said. "I'm self-taught, but to learn new techniques, I enjoy watching other people draw, so I'll watch speed drawings to get a different perspective."

Carstens found her drawing talent in elementary school, and she started developing her art.

"In elementary school, I would stay after school to finish my art projects because I spent so long on them. Ever since I was little we had art supplies around the house so art was something that I've grown up with," Carstens said. "In fourth grade, I drew Taylor Swift convinced that I was going to make it look exactly like the picture. It didn't, but after I finished, I strived to become better. I thought it would be so cool to recreate the photo down to the very finest detail."

Recently, Carstens finished a project idea from principle Jeff Ohnoutka and Fr. Capadano. It's going to be hung outside of the chapel in November. It is a painting of Blessed John Dun Scotus, and she has been working on it for over a month. In the picture, Blessed John Dun Scotus holds Mary's statue, which is symbolic of the Immaculate Conception.

"I'm excited, but I'm always nervous showing things that I create, especially something that is going to be in the chapel," Carstens said.

As a senior, Carstens is facing the tough problem about a future career decision right now.

"I don't know if I want to do art in college for sure," Carstens said, "I'm considering it, but music is something else I enjoy, so it's a matter of which career path I decide to take."

Carstens puts a lot time in her projects, the longest projects she has done took her five hours, but she thinks it's totally worth it. She also does lots of portraits for her classmates.

"When I draw people that I know, it's usually just a picture I come across and think, 'Dang. That would be pretty cool to draw,'" Carstens said.

Flora He/Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Emily Carstens sits on her bed with several of her photorealism projects. Carstens has done portraits of celebrities, as well as her classmates.

Carstens does many types of art, but her favorite is photorealism.

"My favorite kind of art technique is photorealism (or hyperrealism). Drawing is my favorite, but I usually focus on portraits," Carstens said. "My favorite drawings include the ones I've done of Martin Freeman, Taylor Swift, Natalie Brutty, and Elliott Thomazin."

With her busy schedule, Carstens still squeezes in some down time.

Carstens concluded, "I like hanging out with myself, and when I do, I spend that free time listening to music, reading, and playing Mario-Kart if not working on a specific project. But I also love spending time with people who matter a lot to me and make me happy."

Hobbies shape Capadano's life

Kaylie Rocha/Rock Bottom Staff

Father Capadano smiles as he hugs his fish tank in his office at school. Father put a fish tank in his office to attract students to come and talk to him.

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

Hobbies shape Capadano's life

Imagine an everyday priest; now imagine Father Capadano. He is one priest that is not an everyday priest; he'll hide behind walls to scare students in the hall, and throw a woven frisbee at a student in class.

Father Capadano has been the priest at Scotus for four years, and being here four years, he has a lot more to him than meets the eyes.

In his office, there is a soft purple glow whenever Father is not in there, and sometimes people will wonder what it is. They'll come in later to find out that there is a fish tank in his office. Father planned this.

"The first reason why I even put the fish tank in my office when I first got to Scotus was one, to give the office life, and, two, to draw people in. So, like, we can chat and stuff," Father said.

Capadano was given a fish tank by a fellow priest, Father Forget; it was a twenty-nine-gallon tank. He first placed fresh water fish and plants but then after a few months, he decided to put salt water fish and plants. It has been his focus since.

"Whenever I have found [a hobby], I go all in, and then I find a specific thing that I like the most," he said.

Father wanted to have a pet while living at Saint Bon's, however, not a pet with four legs, hairy and needs attention twenty-four seven.

"I have pets that aren't pets. I have all these fish; it's not the standard pet you have to hold and love. I do love the fish tanks in general, but I have no favorite fish. If they die, they die," he concluded.

Another hobby that Father has enjoyed, since he was a teenager, is strumming his guitar.

"I started to take lessons when I was sixteen. The main reason why I started taking lessons was that there wasn't much going for me other than being funny to get girls interested. I always liked music, I had a decent singing voice, and I had natural rhythm. I thought guitar would be it," Capadano said.

Capadano, at times, can be caught with the seniors at Scotus singing a few songs to them; however, there is one song that he really enjoys playing and singing.

"My favorite song that I learned to play on the guitar is 'Man in the Mirror'. I play the James Morrison acoustic version in a different key than the original," Father added.

As if Father could not get any more interesting; he has a secret obsession that is a necessity in his life, old school shaving.

"It is called wet shaving. It's where you use a brush, a puck of shaving soap, and you make the lather with the soap and brush, use hot water and put it on your face. You use straight razor or double edge razor. It allows me to get a close shave without completely destroying my neck," Capadano stated.

Even with all these unique obsessions, Father has one main priority in life.

"I would add that my number one addiction is still Jesus. It isn't as tangible as these things are, but my number one addiction is Jesus, and that's why I'm a priest in the first place," he said.

Capadano has an addictive personality; this means that he is more likely to get attracted to trying new ideas and picking up the ideas to add flavor to his life. His parents even noticed this about him.

"My parents when I went to seminary looked at me becoming a priest as, 'This is just one of his things. He'll get over it.' It's like one of my little addictions and that I will get over it. That never happened," he concluded.

Father became a priest because he decided to give a try at a new idea, or the idea calling at him.

"You can never exhaust God. There is no exhausting him," he said, " I have never exhausted what I can know about God, love God, and receive love from God. It started as one of my addictions; my parents weren't wrong. It turned into something good."

Volleyball season comes to an end at districts

By Jadyn Larsen
Staff Reporter

After countless kills, digs, and cheers, the Shamrock volleyball season has come to a rest. Scotus went 17-11 this year to finish off their season.

After finishing 2nd at conference, the Shamrocks dropped two games to both Kearney Catholic and Fremont Bergan. After going through this slump, the Shamrocks pulled out two wins in a triangular against #5 Lincoln Lutheran and Hastings St. Cecilia.

Junior outside hitter Courtney Kosch said, "We all played a part [in keeping the team in order and ready to compete] by pushing each other and reassuring each other that we are all in this together, and we are good enough to win."

The Shamrocks then lost to Class B returning state champs Skutt Catholic before heading into districts. In the district tournament, the Shamrocks played David City Aquinas in the first round winning in three sets. The Shamrocks then lost to #4 North Bend (who went on to state) ending their season.

Senior libero Kayla Hall said, "I'll miss everything [about volleyball season] but most of all I'll miss the fun practices we had when we would play 2 vs 2 tournaments or "midgets" vs. "giants." The memories we made this season is something I'll cherish forever."

The fall to North Bend in the second round of districts also put an end to Janet Tooley's first season as head coach. Even though the season didn't end the way they anticipated, the volleyball girls had many positive things to say about Coach Tooley.

"I think Coach Tooley did a really good job of keeping us all in order. She knew our individual strengths and knew what we needed from her," Hall said.

Senior outside hitter Elley Beaver appreciated Coach Tooley and her helpful critiquing during practices and games.

"Coach Tooley always wanted us to do our best. She also told us what we needed to correct and told us what needed to happen for us to make it to state," Beaver stated. "We didn't go as far as we wanted, but it was still a fun journey."

The Shamrocks played 28 games this season. They would sometimes play up to three games in one day.

Senior Grace Wickham said, "My favorite game we played was Lincoln Lutheran. Beating them was nice; our block did great and got positive touches to help dig their power hitter."

There were many accomplishments made by the Shamrocks this season. The Shamrocks had two big upsets this season showing the talent of the team. They beat #2 GICC and #5 Lincoln Lutheran, both were ranked higher than Scotus.

"I think our biggest accomplishment was growing together as a team. Obviously not every one of us were best friends, but we managed to put our differences aside in order to be the best team we could be," Hall said.

The volleyball season is over, and while the underclassmen will return next year, this was the end for the six seniors who all stepped foot on the court this season.

Beaver said, "I will miss my team the most. I felt like we had great chemistry as a whole and always worked to the best of our ability."

Allison Starzec/ Media Staff

The volleyball girls celebrate their victory over Wahoo Neumann on October 10th at Scotus. The Shamrocks then went on to place 2nd at Conference.

Shamrocks send seniors out with win

By Matt Strecker
Editor

After a season full of uncharted territory for the Scotus Central Catholic football team, the Shamrocks found a way to end the year full of smiles.

The Shamrocks began the final stretch of the season by traveling to Ord with a .500 record in district play, and the district title still up for grabs. However, the game would be delayed 45 minutes due to inclement weather. After near an hour of pouring rain and frigid temperatures, what has been referred to as the "Mud Bowl 2017", kicked off.

"My favorite part of the season was the 'Mud Bowl' against Ord," junior fullback Zack Beiermann said. "Everytime you tackled or would get tackled, you'd slide five extra yards."

After 48 minutes of slipping and sliding in puddles of mud and grass, the Shamrocks walked away with a 14-10 win and a winning record in district play.

The following week, the Shamrocks looked to take control of the district with a matchup against *Telegram* Super Senior Dylan Gentrup and the Boone Central Neumann Grove Cardinals. The Cardinals came to town with their undefeated record and handed the Shamrocks their second district loss 36-19 and kicked the Shamrocks out of playoff contention.

"After we lost to Boone, I didn't really know what to do," senior lineman Wren Allen said. "I knew I only had one game left of my high school career, and I wanted to finish on a high note. I was pretty upset after Boone, but I was proud of how the team battled."

As if the theme for the 2017 season, the Shamrocks again found themselves in a position that the program hadn't seen in years, playing a game in which the outcome didn't matter. Due to losses to Lakeview and Boone Central, the Shamrocks would not make the playoffs.

"I wanted to end the season with a win," senior linebacker Kyle Kobza said. "My old goals may have been ruined, but I could still focus on the last game of the season."

Faced with their last game of the season, the team had only their seniors in mind when thinking of motivation for the final game of the season against the Adam's Central Patriots.

"We all seemed really upbeat before kickoff even though we weren't going to the playoffs," sophomore quarterback Tyler Palmer said. "We all wanted to end the season on a high note and send our seniors out with a win."

After the final four quarter battle of the 2017 season, the Shamrocks walked off of Pawnee Park's Memorial Field for the last time with a win. The Shamrocks pounded the ball at the Patriots defense for a 41-21 victory. Senior fullback Matt Strecker led the Shamrocks on the ground with 159 yards and 3 touchdowns on 14 totes. Junior quarterback Caden Pelan, making his first start at quarterback since the second week of the season due to the injury of Palmer, threw two touchdown passes and also caught two interceptions for the Shamrock defense.

"I was able to see the ball really well," Pelan said. "I made my reads from the safety position and it put me in a good position to make plays on defense."

The Shamrocks finished the 2017 season with a record of 3-6 without a playoff berth. Although the season was full of trips through uncharted territory, the 2017 seniors were able to take their final bow to the tune of the crowd chanting "thank you seniors" with big smiles.

"I am stepping away from the game I love with pride and a smile on my face," senior lineman Jake Novicki said. "I am happy to say I left it all out on the field."

Emily Stutzman / Yearbook Staff

The Shamrock football team breaks their huddle for the last time after a 41-21 win over Adams Central. The 2018 seniors end their varsity career with an overall record of 21-11

Cross country finishes at Kearney

By Flora He
Staff Reporter

Scotus finished the 2016-2017 cross country season strong with a showing at the state meet. All season, the team trained hard to earn their place and grow in their endurance.

The girls' cross country team qualified for state this year while only two boys made it to state individually, junior Elliott Thomazin and freshman Michael Gasper.

"I was really excited. The opportunity to run at the state meet is really special," junior Elliott Thomazin said.

The girls wrapped up this season with 4th place at the state meet, and before that on Thursday, October 12, the girls' team placed 2nd place in district meet.

On Friday, October 20, the cross country team travelled to University of Nebraska-Kearney for the state meet.

"Qualifying for state is always an amazing feeling! The state meet is our goal at the beginning of each season, so qualifying this year made all our hard work pay off," junior Kelsey Faust said.

This is the first year that Gasper participated on the cross country team with upper classmates, and he did well.

"After I crossed that finish line in 12th place, (top 15 at districts go to state), I felt a sense of pure relief. I knew that I could do it, and, after a minute, I started to celebrate and really take in what just happened," freshman Michael Gasper said.

Grace Odbert was the only senior that competed at state. It was also the first year that Odbert tried out for cross country, and she made it to state.

"This season went really well for me; I think because it was my first year, and I was really nervous to try something new," Odbert said. "In the end, it worked out really well for me and I am happy I chose to try cross country out."

Despite injuries, obstacles, and all the ups and downs in this season, the cross country team made a lot of memories overall.

"The moment that stands out most to me is the memories I made with my team while we were having fun on the bus and just being together for the last time as a team," Odbert said.

Thomazin has qualified for state three years in a row and finished the season with 11th place at the state meet last year.

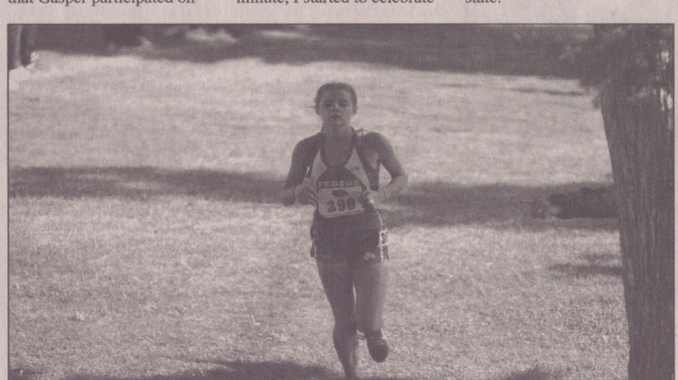
"After my performance at state, I set some high goals for next year. All of our boys varsity is returning, so the first goal is to qualify our team for state," Thomazin said. "We have real potential, and I think we can do very well next year. Individually, I want to have a very strong season filled with personal records,"

Sophomore Brea Lassek was one of the top runners from last year's championship and suffered from injuries this year.

"My goal is to recover and come back strong. I know as a team we can better our place at state next year," Lassek said.

Sophomore Liza Zaruba was one of three freshman from the championship last year.

"I cannot think of any club, sport, or activity that has better people or support in it. It is truly a family environment, and because of the brutality of the sport, that is needed. This team has truly the most supportive and encouraging people I have ever met," Zaruba concluded.



Grace Wickham / Yearbook Staff

Junior Kelsey Faust runs at the University of Nebraska-Kearney on Friday October 21st for state. She placed 10th overall, and the team placed 4th.

Junior high students debut as Shamrocks

By Jacob Morse
Staff Reporter

Whether it be on the course, field, or court, the junior high fall sports season has come to a close.

The fall season provided several opportunities for the seventh and eighth graders to have fun and be a part of the Scotus sports family.

Junior high students were given the opportunity to participate in, volleyball, football, or cross country.

Twenty-three of the seventh grade girls choose to show off their skills playing volleyball. One of which was seventh grader Claire Rickert.

"I decided to play volleyball because it helped me stay active, and I love the game," Rickert said.

Seventh grade volleyball had enough players to make two different teams. The seventh grade B team finished their season with a record of 7-2. The A team also had a winning season, going 6-5 during the 2017 season.

The eighth-grade girls were also able to represent Scotus volleyball. Eighth grader Halle Langan was excited to be a part of the team, finding enjoyment playing the game.

"My favorite part about volleyball was playing with my friends and getting up early in the morning for 6 a.m. practices," Langan said.

The 8th grade A team powered their way to an 8-4 record, while the B team ended off with a record of 7-3.

Several junior high boys opted to challenge their skills by competing in football. Just like the girls, it was the first time that the seventh graders were able to compete wearing a Scotus uniform.

"It made me feel proud to be able to represent Scotus," seventh grader Jack Faust said.

The seventh-grade football team finished off their season with a 1-4 record.

The grade above them was able to play football this fall season too. Eighth grader Nolan Fleming shared a love for the game along with his teammates.

"I was able to have a good time playing with my friends, and I was able to hit other people," Fleming said.

The eighth-grade team was able to end the season 3-2.

Cross country was the final choice the junior high kids were able to participate in. The girls and boys were both able to compete in seven different meets throughout the course of the year.

"My favorite memory was during our last meet when Cole Hottovy and I both got top 10 out of 90 people," eighth grader Adam Quinn said.

The girls and boys both made the most of their seasons, bringing home a lot of individual and team medals. The junior high girls, as a team, received three first place medals, came in second place twice, and got third place only once this season.

The junior high boys also made an impact during the cross-country season, taking home one first place medal, three second place, and received third and fourth once.

Maggie Feehan/Rock Bottom Staff

Eighth grader Liz Adamy runs her way to a fifth place medal at the junior high Scotus Invite. The junior high girls finished 2nd overall at their home course.

Maggie Feehan/Rock Bottom Staff

Eighth grade cross country runner Adam Quinn takes fifth place at the junior high Scotus Invite on September 14th. The boys took home 3rd place.

Junior high bands together for parade

By Abe Perault
Staff Reporter

The junior high band brought music to people's ears on September 30th at the Norfolk Parade. Separate from the high school band members, 71 junior high band members participated as their own band for the second year in row.

"It was a great experience because it shows us what it is like to actually perform in front of a real audience and to compete to win," eighth grade trombonist Chris Adame said.

The seventh and eighth graders were led by high school drum majors Matt Strecker and Elliott Thomazin. Marching was new to most of the band, but that did not lessen their spirits at all.

"At first, it was really challenging for all of us to keep in step and stay in lines while playing the song, but after we practiced and practiced and practiced, we got the hang of it," eighth grade trumpet player Gwen Stachura said.

Every other day, half of the junior high band practices during sixth period, and many of the members dedicated some of their extra time to perfect themselves.

"I had to give up some study halls for extra practice, but it was worth it in the end," flutist Allie Baumert commented.

Even though the junior high didn't place, the members had nothing but good things to say about the event.

"My favorite thing about band is knowing the fact that each person in the band has their own unique part to play, and you are developing a talent," trumpet player Camille Cox said.

The junior high band consists of 6 flutes, 7 clarinets, 13 saxophones, 5 trombones, 10 drummers, 4 baritones, 13 drums, and 18 trumpets.

"Band is honestly one of my favorite classes. Some days can be really stressful, and just overall terrible, but when I go to band, it's like don't have to worry about anything else," Stachura said.

There was a general consensus between the members on what the best part of band and that was Mrs. Cox.

"I like having Mrs. Cox as our teacher. She is always pushing us to do our best, finding harder songs for us because she knows we can play it without making any mistakes," baritone player Jamison Kush said.

Mrs. Cox has been the band instructor at Scotus for 24 years as well as teaching fifth and sixth graders. She had nothing but good things to say about her junior high students.

"Ever since they were in fifth grade, I knew they were ready for the next level, [illegible] could move and play [illegible] then," Cox explained. "I've been planning this for three years."

The junior high band will continue practicing, and they can be seen next when they perform at the Scotus Band Christmas Concert this December.

Photo Courtesy Kristen Cox

The junior high drumline marches in the Norfolk parade. This is the second year in a row they have participated in the parade.

Photo Courtesy Kristen Cox

Junior high band members march down the streets of Norfolk during the Norfolk parade. The high school band followed them in the procession.

How do you feel about the school year so far?

"At first, I was afraid that I would not be able to get to my classes on time. I am more comfortable about it now."

-Alex Fergusen, seventh grader

Who is your favorite upper classman?

"Maggie Feehan is my favorite upper classman because she was my shephard and is very nice to me."

-Shay Smith, seventh grader

Are you going to play a winter sport?

"Yes, I am going to be playing basketball. I am really excited because I love the coaches and my team."

-Chloe Walker, eighth grader

What is the best part about Scotus?

"We have really good teachers. They also have the sheperd program to help us out."

-Ally Wemhoff, seventh grader

"Being able to play Scotus sports and the food!"

-Libbie Brezenski, seventh grader

"My favorite part about Scotus is how independent we get to be."

-Emma Lindhorst, seventh grader

Business leaders guide juniors

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

On the third floor of Scotus, students could be seen doing different activities to learn the importance of teamwork in the workforce. They were also variety of professionals who came in to talk about what kind of work they did and answered any questions the juniors had. On second floor, they would be typing away at their resumes that they had to prepare for interview day. As the interview day approached, the people who were interviewing them were from their community.

Every year, the juniors of Scotus get the opportunity to be interviewed by professionals from the community.

On October 31, the juniors were required to wear dressy clothes to school to be interviewed in Memorial Hall during their history class.

Hallie Parker, a junior at Scotus, was one of the many juniors who were interviewed.

"It was nerve-racking at first, but after meeting my interviewer, I learned that they just wanted to have a conversation," Parker said.

Interviewers would look at their interviewee to make sure they were wearing professional clothes and that their attitude was good.

Most juniors, including Patrick Herchenbach, were anxious about their practice interview.

"I was really nervous for the interviews, but my first interview went really well so that put me at ease," Herchenbach said. "It was a great opportunity."

Every student was interviewed by two different community members to be given the chance to see what kind of questions professionals would ask in a real interview.

"They asked me what my greatest accomplishment was. I was really thinking about saying surviving this long through Chemistry without crying," Braden Labenz said.

During the interview, the community members were allowed to ask questions that were not given to the juniors.

Julia Pichler happened to be one of the few students to receive such an unusual question.

"My interviewer asked me, 'If you were a kitchen utensil, which one would you be?' Pichler responded, "I said 'Uhh, a spatula? Because they're used for so many different things and also, very useful. It definitely caught me off guard."

Even though the students were asked surprising questions, they also took some advice from their interviewers and learned a few new tricks.

Elliott Thomazin was one of the students who learned something new.

"I learned that interviewers love to hear stories," Thomazin said. "Don't just give them a list of your activities, talk to them how'd you talk to anyone else and be relaxed."

Rebekah Hergott was also another student to learn something about herself.

Hergott concluded, "When you have the chance to dress up like a professional in a professional setting, [it] makes you feel empowered."

CAITLIN STEINER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior Callan Fuchser shakes hands with a community member at Business in Education Day on October 31. All the juniors in Scotus were given the opportunity to be interviewed, critiqued on their resumes, and given tips on improving their interviews.

HOSA helps students find their calling

By Jenna Salerno
Staff Reporter

Throughout the world, medical professions are vital to society. Whether it be doctors, nurses, therapists, or pharmacists, every part of the medical field requires sacrifice of both time and compassion for patients.

There is always a need for more medical service workers, but how do people know that they are meant to be a part of that life-saving community? Students at Scotus are given the opportunity to be a part of HOSA (Health Occupational Services of America), a high school leadership group that opens the eyes of students considering the health field. Members of HOSA are given the chance to go to different conventions that help show the many careers that a person can work towards in the medical field.

"[I joined HOSA because] I am planning on going into the health field after college, so this helps find new [...]" senior Morgan Rinkol said.

Rinkol is not the only student at Scotus wanting to go into the medical field. Many students also have an interest and have been using HOSA to determine what they want to go into.

"After high school I am planning on a career in the health field. I want to explore the field more," senior Brock Kracman said.

On Tuesday, September 26th, a group of eight seniors and HOSA president, Mira Liebig, traveled to Southeast Community College-Lincoln to attend a leadership convention. Entrepreneur and social media strategist AJ Adams started the day by speaking to the HOSA members, encouraging them to help others and explaining how his choices as a young adult lead to his current success. Throughout the day, they went through different courses that helped encourage them to be leaders and help their community.

"The leadership conference was great because there was a guest speaker who talked about how you can do anything you set your mind to," senior Grace Odbert commented.

On Thursday, October 26th, all members of the HOSA program visited two different campuses of CHI (Catholic Health Initiatives) Hospital. Over the course of that day, students branched off into five different groups. The students were able to sign up for different programs that piqued their interest.

Senior Allison Starzec said, "[The HOSA convention] was great! It was a good way to increase your knowledge, see all the different opportunities that there are in the health field, and interact and meet new people."

Some of the courses offered were NICU, surgery, pharmacy, respiratory therapy, tours of the hospitals, and biotechnologies. Most of the students were fascinated by their sessions as they were filled with not only informative speakers, but also activities that helped delve into what every day careers in that profession would be like.

"Surgery was my favorite session," Kracman said, "because I am thinking about [going into] surgery, and it was very interesting."

Throughout the year, HOSA members will also prepare for and take tests over different branches of the medical field in the hopes of qualifying to HOSA Nationals in Dallas, Texas. Members will choose different topics, such as surgery, pharmacy, nursing, or other health services, and study for these online tests. This is a way for seniors or underclassmen to decide what part of the medical field they want to make into a career.

"If you have any interest in going into the health field, I would encourage you to join [HOSA]," Starzec said. "It's a great opportunity for you to see and experience [health services] that you don't see on a daily basis."

GRACE ODBERT/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

All Scotus HOSA members visited CHI (Catholic Health Initiative) hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. While there, students learned about their possible careers in the medical field by staff members of the hospital.

McPhillips sings his way to Lincoln

By Alaina Wallick
Staff Reporter

Music can often be seen as a universal topic. From dance, to singing, to playing an instrument, most everyone has a connection to it in one way or another.

This November, musicians from all over Nebraska have used their connection to music to take part in the All State Music Concert to showcase their various vocal and instrumental talents. This year, junior Isaac McPhillips was selected to attend All State Music. He was the only student selected from Scotus to participate at All-State choir. However, this is not McPhillips' first time at All State Music as he went last year as a sophomore.

"I went [to All State music] last year," McPhillips recalled, "and it was one of the best experiences of my life."

However, the competition to receive a spot at All State is incredibly competitive. Out of the thousands of students who send in auditions each year, only four to five hundred are selected.

"I scheduled weekly practices with Ms. Salyard, so I was pretty well prepared for the audition," McPhillips stated.

This is music director Laura Salyard's third year as vocal music teacher at Scotus. Students interested in auditioning for All State were able to practice with Ms. Salyard throughout the summer. Once school started, they could [illegible] before or after school as during study hall.

"Much of the music that is done at All State couldn't be done here [at Scotus] mostly because of numbers. [...]most of the time we don't have enough people in high school choir to sing eight-part harmonies," Salyard admitted. "It's a chance for them to do a level of music that is a little bit above what we can do here in the classroom."

[...] as the only musician selected from Scotus to participate in All State Music, McPhillips expects to receive more than just extra experience from his trip to Lincoln.

"I just hope to have fun [...]ing in such a huge and [...]d choir. I did last year," McPhillips stated.

McPhillips will leave for All State on Wednesday, November 15, and will stay [...]oln until Saturday, [...] from Upper Nebraska in the All State Music Concert on Friday, November 17.

CAITLIN STEINER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Freshman Noah Korth and juniors Patrick Herchenbach and Isaac McPhillips prepare for their Christmas concert in Shamrocks Singers class. McPhillips will be attending his second All State Music Concert this weekend.

Getting to know God through Godparents

By Grace Odbert
Staff Reporter

Anxious, excited, busy, rushed, fun, relaxing, and peaceful all describe Scotus students' feelings on Wednesday nights as they scurry home after school or practice and get ready for Godparents. Godparents has been a tradition in Columbus for more than twenty years, and this year, the program is getting run a little differently. The Godparent coordinators, Lynn Heinrich and Sarah Doernemen, are in charge of the program this year.

"I want Godparents to keep improving, growing, and thriving, but as the old saying goes, 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it.' We are so blessed here in Columbus to have our parishes so willing to put time and resources behind our youth ministry projects like Godparents," Heinrich said.

Heinrich doubles as a godparent 'mom' as well. Senior Natalie Brutty is in Heinrich's group.

"Lynn is a great role-model; she leads by example. We know we can all go to her for advice," Brutty said. "I can't think of a better person to run the Godparents program."

Students from all three surrounding schools: Columbus High, Lakeview, and Scotus, are invited to be a part of the program. Scotus freshman Emily Ferguson is in her first year as a Godparents participant. One of her favorite parts about Godparents is journaling at the end.

"Sometimes it is easier to talk to God and share your feelings by writing instead of saying it out loud. I also love when my godparents write back. They give really good advice," Ferguson said.

Students in Godparents have been journaling since the start. Senior Colson Kosch has been a member of Godparents since his freshman year.

Kosch said, "I am always excited for Wednesday nights because I can take a break from my busy week and get closer to God. I also enjoy the candy and other treats, so that is a plus."

The ultimate goal of Godparents is to get to know God and have fun interactive experiences doing it.

"Godparents is different [than religion class] because it focuses more on the material that applies to us as teenagers. Godparents has impacted my faith-life greatly because it's a fun way to learn about your faith and practice it more than just at Mass," sophomore Lauren Ostdiek said.

On Wednesday nights, groups typically start with an ice-breaker game that ties into the lesson. Once some of the groups played tug-of-war to resemble the 'resistance' they feel in their lives. Other times the games are more personal like the hot-seat game, which is just to help group members bond and get closer. The Godparent host couples stay involved and make the teens feel comfortable.

"The Melligers are very faithful people. They have such a deep love and understanding for God and are really fun too," Ferguson said. "They also teach Theology of the Body, so I would definitely come to them if I needed advice."

Kosch feels similarly to Ferguson about his Godparent host couple. He is in Heather and Drew Glasshoffe's group.

"I think they have shared a lot with us and can relate to the same struggles we go through," Kosch said.

Godparents has affected many teens who are involved. Junior Colby Gilson believes the program has impacted his faith.

Gilson said, "It has brought me closer to God and made me want to learn more about God."

Freshman Olivia Klug has also felt the effect of Godparents in her life.

"It has helped me see what I need to improve and or change in my relationship with God," said Klug.

This year the curriculum for Godparents has been updated, adoration and social events have been added, an additional scavenger hunt will take place, and a speaker from Steubenville will come and speak in November for the program.

PHOTO COURTESY MEGAN FALTYS

A freshmen Godparent group gathers around a table to play a dice game together. These freshmen are all a part of godparents Megan and Marcus Faltys' group.

PHOTO COURTESY GRACE ODBERT

A senior group of Godparent teens, who have been together since freshmen year, pose with their items on a scavenger hunt. They are holding items that start with S-E-A-N to spell out Sean before Sean Forrest comes to speak to the school on Novermber 29th.

PHOTO COURTESY NICOLE WAGNER

A freshmen Godparent group poses in a SuperSaver aisle for their scavenger hunt last week. This is their first year in Godparents, and their godparents are Brad and Nicole Wangler.

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Fun never gets old

By Alaina Wallick
Staff Reporter

Growing up is terrifying. The increasing amount of responsibilities that come with growing up is a daunting mountain everyone believes that they have to climb. However, what many people do not realize is that growing up is more of an option than a requirement. This does not mean that a person can decide to never go to school or just live at home all of his or her life. On the contrary, never growing up means you never lose your creativity or your desire for fun. From watching cartoons, to dressing up for Halloween, to celebrating Christmas traditions with your family, there is no shortage of ways to embrace your inner 10-year-old self and invite some more fun into your life.

Few activities in life are more satisfying than curling up in a warm blanket on a Saturday morning with a bowl of cereal and watching cartoons. I can remember in elementary school always being 'sick' and spending the whole morning watching re-runs of *Tom and Jerry* or *Looney Tunes*. Who says that this has to stop when we get to high school? I am *not* saying that it is okay to skip school to watch cartoons, but it might not be a bad idea to spend some of your Saturday mornings with Bugs Bunny and a bowl of Captain Crunch.

The time for witches and black cats may be over, but it is still worth noting that Halloween is a fantastic time to let your imagination run wild and get some free candy out of it, as well. Halloween may seem like a 'kids only' holiday, yet some of the best Halloween costumes I have seen have come from people who were in their teens. They deserve some candy and good times just as much as the toddlers in pumpkin costumes do. A word of warning, though: the older you are the more amazing your costume has to be. Sorry seniors, the days of cat ears and whiskers are probably not going to cut it, but since Halloween is about eleven months away, there is plenty of time to come up with an incredibly unique costume! The great news is that there is a holiday coming up with even more opportunities for childish fun.

> ***"Growing up is a strong suggestion, not a requirement. So, grab some crayons and let yourself color outside of the lines because life is short, and everyone needs some time for a little fun."***
>
> **~Alaina Wallick**

Christmas is a time to kick back and relax with your family. It is also a time where children spend their days writing letters to Santa Claus, decorating the Christmas tree, and baking Christmas cookies. These are all activities that teenagers and adults alike should be able to participate in, not just supervise. Last I checked, there are no age limits or height restrictions to having a little holiday joy. Feel free to eat that cookie shaped like Rudolph and tell Santa all about those new shoes you want that are just to die for. After all, it is your holiday season, too.

While it may be frowned upon to be a teenager - or adult - who still acts like they are in elementary school, that does not mean there is anything wrong with it. Trick or treating is not only reserved for those under five feet tall, and neither is spending Saturday mornings with Daffy Duck. Baking Christmas cookies at the age of seventeen should not be looked down on either. Growing up is a strong suggestion, not a requirement. So, grab some crayons and let yourself color outside of the lines because life is short, and everyone needs some time for a little fun.

Opportunities to Act like a Kid

November

Downtown Stroll
Where: Frankfurt, Square
Columbus, NE
When: Nov. 16 at 5 p.m.

A Charlie Brown Christmas
Where: Orpheum Theater, Omaha NE
When: Nov. 18 at 1 p.m. & 4 p.m.

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade
Where: Shown on ABC and NBC
When: Nov. 23 at 8 a.m.

December

Coloring Puzzle Club
Where: Columbus Public Library
Columbus, NE
When: Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.

Freeform's 25 Days of Christmas
Where: Freeform Network
When: Dec. 1-Dec. 25

Christmas at Union Station
Where: Durham Museum, Omaha, NE
When: Dec. 9 at 9 a.m.

Businesses thrive on lack of family affection

By Jenna Salerno
Staff Reporter

Thanksgiving and Christmas. The two most important holidays over the next few months. Days filled with laughter and love, food and family, joy and generosity. But, on one day over the next few months, all affection, selflessness, and laughter goes out the window. Black Friday. This day of shopping and deals cancels out any jubilation that family holidays bring. While I personally have always loved shopping and can never turn down Black Friday deals, there has always been one thing that keeps me from fully promoting Black Friday shopping to others. The pre-Black Friday deals that start on Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving has always been a day for family. Businesses would close Wednesday night, allowing families to spend time together for the entire day. Schools would let students have a Thanksgiving break to spend time with their families. Extended families would all come together and eat food, gossip, and watch some good football. But in recent years, Thanksgiving has been more about the competitive shopping Black Friday promotes rather than the loving family time it should be.

Personally, I believe that businesses should not be able to stay open on Thanksgiving for the sole purpose of making money on Black Friday deals. If the business is vital to a town, like a gas station or a hospital, I totally understand. But most stores only stay open for the money. Not only is this taking away time from the employees who have to work all day instead of spending time with their families, it also encourages everyday people to skip out on family Thanksgivings to go shopping instead.

> ***"But in recent years, Thanksgiving has been more about the competitive shopping Black Friday promotes rather than the loving family time it should be. "***
>
> **~Jenna Salerno**

In our society, families are spending more and more time apart. Most do not even eat meals together anymore because of children in sports or other extracurricular activities. Siblings only talk through text messages and parents have to call their children to find out where they are because they haven't talked to them in two days. We have grown so far apart that when we are given time from our jobs or schools to spend with our families, we instead find some way to be apart, whether it be shopping or watching Netflix on our phones. By having deals available on Thanksgiving, adds just one more excuse to not spend quality time with our families.

Over the years, the amount of money that consumers spend on Thanksgiving has grown and grown. This year, predictions for Thanksgiving sales are already available. According to Bestblackfriday.com, Thanksgiving sales are expected to go up from $1.93 billion in 2016 to $2.05 billion for 2017, an increase of about 6.22%.

This year, some businesses are going against the norm and staying closed on Thanksgiving. Some of these businesses include Cabela's, Home Depot, Sam's Club, and Hobby Lobby, along with many more. By choosing to stay closed, this benefits both employees and patrons, encouraging them to spend more time with family and friends. Businesses remaining open, including Best Buy and Target, are only encouraging others to avoid all of the best parts of Thanksgiving.

Businesses should not be allowed to stay open on Thanksgiving. Because of our 'no money, no power' society, we have all accepted working on holidays as the norm. This needs to change. People need to realize that family time is more important than making money, no matter how much the profit is.

A Day In the Life

The journal entries this issue were written by Faith Przymus.

A Rowdy Dowdy

7th grade

"Are you going to the game tonight?" "Are you going to the game tonight?" "Are you going to the game tonight?" This question soars through the seventh grade hall as anticipation for the game increases. I just need to make sure I have someone to sit by: "Hey sit by me at the game tonight!!" I do actually try and cheer, but everyone towers over me, and I just can't see the game! Hopefully Brandon Huynh and Trevor Kaslon don't come back here. I get really nervous when they cheer by us. I can't wait until I can sit in the front.

8th grade

To be honest, I only go to the games to socialize. Also, I do enjoy being able to stand in front of a class and not having to be crushed into a wall the entire game. I've gotta remember to ask my mom for money though, so I can buy food from the concessions. I sometimes get distracted by the food and all of my friends and forget to actually watch the game. Whenever the seniors yell at us to cheer, I usually just ignore them because it's not like I actually came to the game to cheer lol.

Freshmen

I can't wait to see Tommy tonight at the game; I might even try to stand next to him. Then, if we do trucking, we will even be able to lock arms!! Oh yeah, I need to text Susie and see what she's wearing tonight. If she is wearing leggings then I will wear leggings too. And I need to remind her that we aren't sitting by Karen tonight because she was just being so annoying today. She even asked Tommy if she could borrow his pencil! So yeah, we're not sitting by her at the game.

Sophomore

"Haha, dude, I have the funniest outfit for tonight's theme." "Haha, dude, same, could you give me a ride though?" It really doesn't matter what time I get there, I just squeeze in wherever I can fit. Only about half of my class comes to the game, but nobody really notices until we do the "How do you feel?" cheer. We are small but mighty, I guess, because those of us who actually show up always cheer really loudly.

Junior

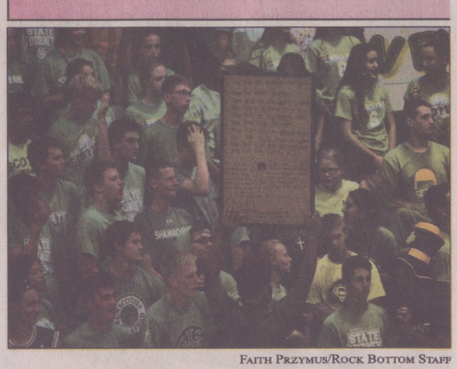
I typically leave half way through every game to drive around and get food, and the good thing about being a junior is that I'm an upperclassman now, so I know I can get a good spot when I come back. Unless we're playing Neumann, then I'm not leaving. I'm gonna get there first and not move for anyone. I guess I'll move back for a senior, but not without a fight because hey, I got here first.

Senior

Going to the game isn't a question anymore, it's a priority. It would probably be smarter to stay home and work on my homework, but I will worry about that tomorrow. Standing in the front and enforcing the Ten Commandments is a lot more fun than looking over my government notes anyway. And plus, I have something really funny to wear. I usually yell at the underclassman to stand up and cheer because that is what a student section does! And I always have to tell the juniors to move back; I don't care if they got here first, because, seniority.

Teachers

Please don't ask me to shake my booty. If they do ask, there's no way I'm doing it the first time. If they are persistent and ask like three times, then maybe. Actually, I think the best idea is to just sit here and pretend like I don't hear them if they call my name, or better, yet I could just hold my kid up in the air so I don't have to go through it alone.



FAITH PRZYMUS/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Brandon Huynh holds up the whiteboard at the Concordia game on Oct. 1st. The whiteboard displays the "Ten Commandments" and the upcoming cheer for the students to take part in.

Merry Christmas from the Scotus Journalism Staff!

Volume 18 • Issue IV • December 19, 2017

Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic http://issuu.com/scotusjournalism Columbus, Nebraska 68601

Forrest shares testimony of faith

By Caitlin Steiner
Staff Reporter

From Buddhism to Hinduism to Atheism, Sean Forrest found truth in the Catholic Faith and now travels and shares his story.

On Wednesday, November 29th, the Steubenville speaker spoke to Scotus teens about how Catholicism changed his life.

Scotus art teacher, Clyde Ericson, commented, "Sean Forrest seems to have a way of capturing his listener's attention with his humor and by talking about things that concern all of us with regard to our faith. He confronted some questions that some believers might be afraid to ask."

Forrest gave a talk in the afternoon at a Scotus assembly, and then a second talk that evening for other community members and the godparents program at Saint Isidore's Church. For some students, their questions were answered during these two talks.

Freshman Cassie Kouma said, "When Sean talked at Scotus, he spoke about different religions. He said that the Catholic faith is the most fulfilling, but most religions bring people closer to God in some way. This stuck out to me because I had been wondering if only people with a certain faith can get to heaven."

Twenty to thirty students stayed after school for an hour and talked with Forrest in the health classroom. One of these students was senior Emily Carstens.

"What stuck out to me the most was when he said, 'if the devil can't make you sin, he'll make you busy,'" Carstens said. "I've been reflecting on that a lot in a way that if I don't have time, I'll try and make time, because when you die, it won't matter how much time you spent on school and extracurricular activities."

Godparent program coordinator Lynn Heinrich and **Steubenville coordinator** Sarah Doerneman were the organizers in bringing Forrest to Columbus.

"[It] started with an email to see if he even comes to small towns to do talks; he was available in November and willing to come! Lynn checked the school calendar and emailed his agent, Vicky, back and forth until we nailed down a date. Advertising, getting another school to have him the night before to split costs, and making sure we had the equipment he needed, were all things that happened from August to November," Doerneman explained. "We utilized Youth Ministry funds that come from all three Catholic parishes and were planning to ask for free will donations the night of the event. We didn't want to sell tickets because we really wanted parents to see it as a 'gift' to them and didn't want anyone not able to come due to cost."

Junior Abe Perault would like to see more speakers brought in.

"They bring a lot of new information to the table for us. Plus, one of these speakers could totally turn someone's life around. A speaker like Sean could even start someone's life of becoming a saint," Perault said.

Heinrich and Doerneman would like to fulfill this request but must consider their budget.

"Powerful talks, along with the Holy Spirit, can be game changers in people's faith. They can change hearts," Doerneman concluded. "Lynn and I will continue to work hard on doing events that can inspire and ignite the Catholic community in Columbus, in particular our teens. We have such a great Catholic community, we need to continue to build up our community on solid ground which is Jesus...not things of sand."

ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Speaker Sean Forrest tells stories of his faith at a school assembly on November 29th. Forrest also spoke with students after the assembly and gave a second talk that evening at Saint Isidore's Church.

Mock Trial makes Scotus history

By Faith Przymus
Staff Reporter

Scotus walls are lined with large photos of state championship sports' teams and shiny gold trophies. An additional trophy was added early this month for the history-making senior mock trial's runner-up performance. Scotus sent two teams to the district finals; the sophomore team and the senior team. The seniors then advanced to the state mock trial tournament and placed 2nd.

Senior attorney Alaina Wallick said, "It was a shock. Up until that point, we knew we would be thrilled to make top five, and hearing that we were advancing to the finals with a 3-0 record was beyond exciting to hear. I could not have been more proud of us."

The senior team won their first round at state on December 4th, and they advanced to the finals. The two-day tournament of state competitors continued on to the 5th of December for the senior team. Although the team advanced to finals, the most intense part for senior Faith Przymus was not in the final mock trial.

"I think the most intense point in the competition for us at state was our third round before finals. We all felt as if we potentially won our last two rounds, so we knew that if we competed to the best of our ability during our third round, that we could make it to the finals, and we did! But, it was very nerve-racking," Przymus said. "After losing consecutively in the district finals [to the class of 2017 seniors], our team's goal was to finally make it to state. Every member of our team worked extremely hard to achieve this goal. Once we got to state, we knew that making it to state wasn't enough anymore, we knew we wanted to compete to the best of our abilities."

Senior Caitlin Steiner, who played the role of the plaintiff, Jessie Kimball, felt differently about the climax of the competitions.

"I think hearing names called for finals was the most intense moment," Steiner said. "After our first three rounds, we knew they had all been close, but we weren't sure if we won."

Wallick was an attorney for the team since freshman year.

See **MOCK**, Page 2

PHOTO COURTESY JENNA SALRENO

Seniors Matthew Bichlmeier, Brock Kracman, Jenna Salerno, Caitlin Steiner, Trey Dallman, Judge John Gerrard, Coach Kelly Koranda, Coach Tonia Soukup, Alaina Wallick, Faith Przymus, Natalie Brutty, and Coach Bre Anderson pose with their second place trophy after the state tournament. They competed in the finals against Creighton Prep.

Sadie Hawkins swings back to Scotus

By Alaina Wallick
Staff Reporter

What is a dance without the fancy dresses and uncomfortable shoes? Scotus students who attended Sadie Hawkins were able to discover what an informal dance was like.

This year, student council hosted the Sadie Hawkins dance for the first time in five years. The dance was held on Saturday, December 9th from 8 to 11 p.m.

"We used to have it on a Friday night after the basketball game, and then that Saturday there would either be speech or wrestling or ACT tests," student council sponsor Joan Lahm explained. "So, we decided this year we would go ahead and move it to a Saturday because there weren't any home basketball games where nothing was going on the next morning."

The Sadie Hawkins dance proved to be much different than the ones Scotus normally hosts. It was much more casual than the dances that Scotus students have grown accustomed to. Students were allowed to 'come as they are.' This means that the student body got to ditch the itchy dresses and hot suits that normally go along with school dances. Instead, students were able to wear anything from jeans to athletic shorts, as long as they followed dress down day rules.

"It's different because we are also raising money for charity," Lahm added. "Two dollars or two food items, and the food items will go to Simon House."

Another change was that Sadie Hawkins was held in the Memorial Hall gymnasium rather than the cafeteria. There was also no DJ present. Instead, student council members used the speakers in the gym to play music off of their phones. Most of the music that was played came from requests from the student body. Many Scotus students were surprised at the casual atmosphere of the dance and enjoyed the more 'relaxed' feel.

"I like the dressing up aspect of formal dances, but casual dress is so much more comfortable to dance in," senior Emily Carstens admitted.

Despite the laid-back tone, Sadie Hawkins still had the typical conga lines, dance circles, and awkward slow dances of Homecoming and Winter Formal. Students were also able to make great memories with their peers and teachers just like any other dance.

"I was really surprised when Mr. Ericson started

See **SADIE**, Page 2

SADIE

dancing. It was easily the highlight of Sadie Hawkins," sophomore Kate Smith said.

Sadie Hawkins proved to be a great way for the student body to raise money for a good cause as well as have a fun time while doing it. With its recent comeback, students hope that Sadie Hawkins will find a permanent position in the school dance lineup for years to come.

Senior student council Vice President Grace Odbert concluded, "Student council worked really hard to make Sadie Hawkins happen. It is what the students wanted, so we got it for them! I think the people there had a lot of fun, so I hope that Sadie's becomes part of the 'norm' at Scotus like it used to be."

ALAINA WALLICK/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Juniors Abe Perault and Caleb Kosch, senior Emily Carstens, sophomore Lauren Ostdiek, junior Isaac Ostdiek, and freshman Simon Pichler attempt to start a kickline at the Sadie Hawkins dance. Sadie Hawkins was held by student council on Saturday, December 9, from 8 to 11 pm.

MOCK

"My favorite part about being a lawyer is being able to come up with different theories for each side of the case."

The team was randomly assigned the defense side of the case for their first competition at state, and the plaintiff side of the case for their next four rounds. Steiner played two witness roles for the team.

"I play Terry Diamond for defense, and Jesse Kimball on plaintiff. I personally prefer Jesse because she is a bigger, more important role, and her cross-examination questions make me think on my feet, whereas Terry's character is more of a jerk who doesn't provide much evidence [for the case]," Steiner said.

Another witness for the case was senior Matthew Bichlmeier.

"I like thinking of excuses and explaining myself for the cross-examination questions," Bichlmeier said.

The team had a lot of fun in-between their performances as a team for a final. Senior attorney Jenna Salerno loved spending time with her team at state.

Salerno said, "My favorite part of state mock trial was being with my team. I love working hard with them and singing Christmas music together!"

Since it is the team's senior year, this was their final performance after being a team since freshmen year.

Steiner said, "Faith has had the best pep talks. Out of them all though, sophomore year was the best. Before district finals, Faith compared us and our opponents [class of 2017's junior year team] to the Revolutionary War. She said we were the young American colonies, and the juniors were Great Britain; we were younger and smaller, but we were still going to win that war [trial]!"

Przymus has a few words of wisdom for the younger, returning here at Scotus did not qualify for state.

"Ultimately at state mock trial, the teams are far more competitive and prepared than the teams in our district. With that being said, I think the best advice I could give is to not be intimidated by any of the teams," Przymus said. "It is scary versing a team at state who practices mock trial every day in the classroom, but it is very important to look past this and be confident because if you lose first round, there is really no way to recover from the loser's bracket."

The 2017 senior mock trial team, has made Scotus history by replacing the previous best finish of 5th place at state to a 2nd place finish.

ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Advisor:
Angie Rusher

Editor:
Matt Strecker

Staff Writers:
Maggie Feehan
Flora He
Jadyn Larsen
Jacob Morse
Grace Odbert
Abe Perault
Faith Pyzymus
Kaylie Rocha
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Final exams, you can do it!

By Alaina Wallick
Staff Reporter

As final exams draw near, the pressure students feel can be a little overwhelming. We are all scrambling to find the notes that have been at the bottom of our lockers since first quarter or to study the Quizlets that have been ignored until about a week ago. Yet, no matter how much we study, no matter how much we prepare, there is still the constant feeling of "Did I study enough?" or "Will this be on the test?" This nagging continues right up until we walk into the gymnasium or the cafeteria where we will spend the next hour. As scary as this sounds, I'm here to tell you to take a deep breath and relax because it is going to be okay. You have the next twenty-four hours to prepare yourself for your finals, and I am going to help you because how you prepare for a test the night before, the morning of, and while taking the test, are all three important factors in how your grades will turn out.

The first thing you have to do is calm down because studying while you are stressed is almost just as bad as not studying at all. While you are studying for science, your brain is already thinking about all of the studying you still have to do for math and English. So, grab some chocolate and start taking some deep breaths because you are going to be in for a long night of cramming. While you are doing that, crack open a textbook, and let us get started. You are going to want to start with the subjects you like the least and work your way from there. I know that sounds like an awful plan, but more than likely you hate that certain subject because it is the one you are the worst at. So yeah, open your math notebook because I know you have been avoiding it. Now, repetition is going to be your best friend at this point. Use flashcards, Quizlets, or Powerpoints to review for each class. Take about half an hour per subject and keep rotating through until you feel like you are going to ace that final. Once you feel like you are as prepared as you are going to get, eat some supper and get to bed because the next two days are going to be incredibly exhausting.

Alright, so you have made it to the morning of finals. You made sure that you got up *on time* and remembered to eat something that could be considered breakfast because the last thing you need to be worrying about during your math test is where you are going to eat lunch. You should also make sure to double check that you have everything you need for the tests (calculator, pencils, pens, scratch paper). Doing some last-minute reviewing will not hurt anything either. The final step is to walk up to those gym (or cafeteria) doors and get ready to rock these finals.

When it comes to actually taking your finals, it is always important to pace yourself. For the most part, you are given plenty of time to take your test and study for the next one. It is always a good idea to work on the questions you know the answers to before starting on the ones you struggle with because if you start on the ones you do not know the answer to, you will waste time as well as become frustrated, which makes it even more difficult to focus. Just remember to come back to those questions because you may have recalled the answer, or it may have even been located somewhere else on the test! Also remember to not beat yourself up if you cannot remember one vocabulary word or how to solve one equation because the worst thing you can do is become discouraged. The last thing you need to do is confidently turn that last test in and enjoy your Christmas vacation!

Finals are obviously stressful, and if we are being honest, no one really likes taking them. Unfortunately, they are unavoidable, so the best thing you can do is prepare yourself for them and make them as easy for you as possible. Do not forget that sometimes tests will not go as planned. There will be times where the grades you get will not reflect how much you have learned that year or how intelligent you are, and for some people, tests like this are more difficult than normal ones. Just remember that your test grades do not define you. So, take one more deep breath because you got this!

Kaylie Rocha/ Rock Bottom Staff

Pessimism is positive

By Flora He
Staff Reporter

Is the glass half full, or is the glass missing half of its water? The theory of water in the glass tells us the difference between an optimist and a pessimist. Missing or full, two completely different concepts, however, used most commonly as a comparison, the glass is neither half empty nor half full but relates to different people's personalities.

People always think that pessimism is a negative thing; moreover, it sets people back by having a negative attitude. Because pessimism always considers worst-case scenarios, it may cause mental issue by being negative all the time. However, I think pessimism is a better way of thinking.

Pessimism, the glass being half empty, is a positive thing. It makes you work harder to fill the glass and to put something into the void. Being a pessimist is not about thinking negatively. Pessimism allows us to prepare for the worst, hope for the best, and anything in between is a nice surprise. Preparing for the worst is always a precious thing because it allows you to have a plan B. For example, the valuable side of being a pessimist can also apply when choosing a college to attend. It is important to look for colleges interesting to you; however, we have to make sure that you don't aim for a college outside of what is actually attainable. Choosing a school that you could actually go to is to being pessimistic, but also being realistic.

A pessimist knows how to lower the expectation so they won't get hurt. Lowering expectations is a wisdom developed over time. When individuals go above and beyond expectations, they could achieve happiness or greatness and won't be as down when they miss their standard. People generally stereotype pessimism as a bad spirit and think it could cause mental damage by being down on things. However, being a pessimist protects people from getting hurt. Think about it, if you already knew there is a bad thing that's going to happen; you wouldn't feel nearly as mad when it actually occurred.

Being a pessimist also prevents failing by being overly optimistic. Pessimism gives you a more comprehensive understanding of the elements of failing. Being optimistic blinds us from seeing the truth. To be a pessimist makes you decisive, realistic, and prepared. Pessimism also helps people put their feet on the ground. Pessimism prevents individuals from fantasizing and helps them put themselves into hard work. For example, people may tell you that the school government test is easy, and an optimist will not prepare because they think they can do well and have no problem while taking the test, but a pessimist might study harder for this easy test, because they assume it may be harder than it is since they have a lack of self-esteem. A pessimist is best described as modest or prepared because they always think of the worst-case scenario. Upon hearing the test is easy, an optimist quits studying; a pessimist's approach of over preparation is better suited.

To be a pessimist is braver than to be an optimist. Knowing the possibility of the worst outcome makes you stronger and wiser because pessimism builds up the ability of enduring failure and makes you embrace the suffering from failing easier, thus, making pessimists more likely to accept reality.

Overall, I think the common misconceptions of pessimism being a bad thing are unfounded, and the benefits of being a pessimist far outweigh the detriments. In summary, when thinking of the glass missing half its water instead of half full could actually bring us mental and physical benefits.

Respect the service around you

By Matt Strecker
Editor

Colin Kaepernick hasn't taken a snap at quarterback in an NFL game since 2016 and was recently named GQ Magazine's "Citizen of the Year".

Kaepernick, who is now better known for starting controversy than his skills on the field, is blamed for the origin of the infamous kneeling during the national anthem epidemic. Kaepernick first began kneeling during the anthem on August 14th and 20th of 2016 during NFL pre-season games to protest the police brutality and unfair treatment that had accumulated around that time, mainly toward African Americans.

On August 26th, a photo of Kaepernick was put on the internet, and in the following days, the quarterback explained his purpose. He stated that he will continue to stick with the people being oppressed and when the flag "represents what it is supposed to represent," he would stand again. From the first second that I read this reasoning, I was sick to my stomach. The amount of disrespect and lack of reasoning that go into this protest that is supposed to help our country is ridiculous. This protest has separated the nation more than it has united it.

It is extremely unfortunate that the thoughtless actions of a washed up quarterback had to create waves as this issue did. Last year, only players on the Washington Redskin's team were the culprits for kneeling during the anthem. This season, however, multiple teams have been seen with every member on a knee as the song was being played. Some teams even go as far to stay in the locker room during the national anthem, only to be followed by a roar of "boos" from the tens of thousands in attendance. All of the Pittsburgh Steelers athletes stayed in the locker room during the anthem for a regular season matchup, all but one. Starting left tackle Alejandro Villanueva, who served two tours in Afghanistan as an Army Ranger, stood at the edge of the tunnel leading to the locker room. Being an athlete, I don't care what the reason for protest is, I am going to stand next to my teammate and thank him for his service to our country by singing the anthem with him. You'd think that a team would have enough love and respect for their teammates to stand by them, especially when one of them actually served the country. Absolutely despicable.

So, why does an athlete who created so much controversy and began a revolt against respect for our country win the title of "Citizen of the Year"? Honestly, I have no idea. The guy holds one spot in the argument for the worst recently active quarterback in the NFL (if the Cleveland Browns won't even call you, we have a problem), his little stunt last year cost him his job, as he was dropped from the team, and then he chooses to "remain silent" because apparently the flag doesn't stand for what he thinks it should. If we really want to give this guy a title, how about we go with "coward of the year." There is a right and wrong way to speak out about unfair treatment, and staying silent is the wrong way.

What does this mean for common people who aren't successful athletes? It's simple. Whenever you get a chance to honor our country with the pledge of allegiance or the national anthem, take advantage of it. Take these things seriously because they are serious. It's the closest thing we have to looking our fallen soldiers who have died for our freedom in the eye and saying, "thank you." But, with the few opportunities we have to respect the flag, we have to find other ways to spread love and respect to those who serve us, like not being rude to the lunch staff for following rules set by the federal government, or shaking the hands of the chain gang at varsity football games for several decades of dedicated service. There are a countless number of people serving us every day that deserve our thanks, because they do more than we may think. Don't let their service go unnoticed or unappreciated.

Traits: curse or blessing for students

By Abe Perault
Staff Reporter

From the beginning of time when God created Adam and Eve, He created the first family. From Adam and Eve came Seth, and from Seth came Enoch, and from Enoch came Kenan. Now skip a thousand generations to today and now Joe McPhillips exists. And from Joe came Isaac McPhillips... and his amazing afro.

Because of your family tree, you look the way they do. For some that may be a curse, but for others, it may be a blessing. For senior Kayla Hall, she feels she has been cursed.

"My mom is responsible for the fact that I have no eyebrows, and I hate it. I waste so much time filling them in every morning, and believe me, you don't want to see them not filled in," Hall said.

Mr. Brockhaus, on the other hand, happened to be gifted the best gift of all: his amazing hair.

"I have the 'Brockhaus Wave' from my father, and all three of our kids inherited it to some extent," Brockhaus commented.

Then there are people like junior Zack Beiermann, blessed and cursed at the same time.

"I think my parents gave me the softest feet in Nebraska. I think my feet skin hasn't changed since I was a baby," Beiermann explained, "So that means blister city."

Senior Brock Kracman and freshman Laura Bettenhausen have been passed down some traits that can make some situations uncomfortable.

"I have been mistaken for my mom on the phone since I was nine years old," Kracman said.

"All the girls on my mom's side get extremely clammy and sweaty hands. It makes the sign of peace at Mass really awkward," Bettenhausen said.

Many people might not get a weird body trait or feature from their family, but they might pick up a habit or personality from them. Whether it's obsessive sweating or the way they walk, some people just do weird things.

"I love to clean when I'm stressed," sophomore Collin Dreher explained. "I get that from my mom."

Sophomore Lauren Ostdiek is one of five children, so she gets many habits from her family, but some of those traits are not external but internal.

"One of the things I get from my family is my competitiveness. Whether it be a board game, ping pong, or backyard volleyball, I have to win," Ostdiek said.

Eight grader Gwen Stachura and her sophomore sister, Katie, even share the same habit.

"Ever since I was little, when I was focusing really hard, I would always put my tongue out of my mouth, as if it would help me concentrate," Gwen said.

Some may look at these as flaws, blessings, or maybe just quirky things they do, but in all reality, it's the thing that makes people who they are. These traits are gifts, and no matter what your embarrassing body feature or weird familial habit is, just remember it can't be any worse than the person who gave it to you.

ABE PERAULT/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Sophomore Katie Stachura and her eighth grade sister Gwen pose with their tongues out. They were among many of those in school with weird familial traits.

Relationship pet peeves that BREAK it, not make it

"If a girl has the same name as my sister, I would not be able to date her. It's just weird." — Elliott Thomazin

"I have never dated anyone, so I can't say, but, HMU @ 402-910-**** ;)" — Madison Wittwer

"When boys think they are so cool, but they're actually dumb." — Haley Leise

"Once, when we were still dating, my now-husband and I were at a friend's house who had a yippy little dog, and my husband told me, 'Indoor dogs are a deal-breaker!' I was really mad at first because I grew up with an inside dog, but it worked itself out, as our dog now is too big to be inside and prefers being outside anyhow, and my husband is okay with her coming in the basement... compromise. :)" — Mrs. Koranda

"Do they like video games? If so, we're good; if not, see you in the school halls." — Tara Kamrath

"Honestly, a deal breaker for any relationship is if my dog doesn't like them. This is due to the fact that my dog is a loveable, energetic, lab that assumes he is a lap dog and can't take a hint on when he's annoying you." — Katelyn Bayer

"I'll date anyone as long as they pay." — Bryce VanCannon, Aaron Gamka

"I hate when my girlfriend thinks that she's a redneck on days that she wears boots and jeans." — Aaron Monse

"When [girls] always play with their hair (ex. putting it in a ponytail)." — Noah Eberman

"When guys know they are wrong, but continue to argue." — Rylie Olson

"Loud eaters who burp and make obnoxious noises while eating, or loud gum chewers. It's SO irritating to hear chomping. Were you raised in a ditch????" — Adelynn Newman

"A guy who constantly 'one-ups' everything you say. For example, 'I went to bed at 1 last night,' 'Well I went to bed at like 4, and it was SO awesome.'" — Natalie Buttry

"When she doesn't tell you that she is breaking up with you, but she tells your best friend. :)" — Kadi Wiese

When the guy asks the girl if she wants food and the girl says 'nah.' The guy orders some food for himself, and the girl then reaches her hand over and starts taking the guy's food. So cliché, yet so true." — Maddie Trouille

"If the guy eats less than me."

GRACE ODBERT/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Habits swarm Scotus students

By Maggie Feehan
Staff Reporter

Trying to break the nail biting habit? Always catching yourself buying unnecessary things? Whether you notice it yourself or your friends and family nag you about it, many people can say they have a habit that is very specific to them. Some people like their habits while others despise their tendencies and strive to overcome them.

For seventh grader Shay Smith, it starts with her everyday school routine.

"I think I can carry everything in my book bag, but when I try to stuff everything in it, I can't because there's not enough space. Every day I think I can do it over and over," Smith said.

Habitual tendencies can become so apparent that other people start to notice as well.

"I enjoy having long fingernails and find it uncomfortable to trim them. The only time I trim them is when my parents threaten to trim them and constantly bother me about it because they think it scares girls. However, most of my friends who are girls are supportive about them," eighth grader Ben Policky said.

It's not only students who have expressed their unique quirks. Teachers have also explained their weird habits.

"When I'm in deep thought or frustrated, I give a deep sigh and raspberry my lips. I don't even realize I do it unless my husband laughs at me!" Health and PE teacher Janet Tooley said.

Everyone loves adorable pets. Families may have one or two in their house, but for junior Hannah Allen, she likes to take buying pets to a whole new level.

"I tend to buy animals I don't need. It's a problem, but I can't do anything about it after I buy the animal," Allen said. Allen has 12 pets that include 5 dogs, 5 guinea pigs, a rabbit, and a hedgehog.

There are too many habits to list that students have at Scotus. Freshman Ashtyn Preister braids her hair constantly when she's nervous or bored, freshman Riley Luebe always has to have his calculator cleared, and seventh grader Alyssa Taylor can make dolphin noises like no other.

Some habits manifest physically and others emotionally, like obsessing about things being just right.

"I like to do things in even numbers. For example, the T.V. volume has to be an even number," explained sophomore Allie Mielak.

Some students say they enjoy having a clean room, but for junior Kelsey Faust, it's something more unusual.

"People always find this really weird, but I love going to the dentist. I get so excited every six months when I get to go and get my teeth cleaned!" Faust said.

Some habits are weird, some are downright funny, and some things you just can't help.

"I have a habit of randomly bursting into different accents. My favorite one being my Irish one," sophomore Max Middendorf explained.

Sometimes people will do whatever they can to concentrate. Senior Duke Lin's habit might be just the difference between an A or B on his next math test.

"I like to pick my lips. They are dehydrated and bleeding a lot of the time. I like it because it helps me think better," senior Duke Lin said.

Everyone has their unique habits. Whether yours is always biting on your pens or messing with your hair, know that you're probably not the only one. Even if you have people look at you like you're crazy when you slurp your chicken noodle soup through a straw like eighth grader Grace Mustard, know that these habits make you who you are.

MAGGIE FEEHAN/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior Hannah Allen stands holding her pet guinea pig and her hedgehog in her house. Allen has five dogs, five guinea pigs, one rabbit, and one hedgehog.

Driving leads to weird experiences

JENNA SALERNO/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

The new Scotus parking lot is always full during the school day. There is plenty of room for trying to enter and exit, a great way to avoid road rage.

By Jenna Salerno
Staff Reporter

In Columbus, the main form of transportation is driving. Driving comes with many risks, but they are risks all people are willing to make to get where they need to go every day. When people make bad decisions while driving, others may have a pretty common reaction to this decision, and that is road rage.

Road rage is something everyone will experience at some point in their lives. Whether it be a parent, a friend, or yourself, all Scotus students are surrounded by road rage—and the causers of road rage—every day. This particular form of anger can be created by many different scenarios. Whether it be road rage or driving disasters, everyone has had terrible driving experiences.

For Mr. Lahm, some things that upset him while driving are everyday habits that everyone is supposed to use, but choose not to.

"My pet peeves are drivers who don't use their blinker and drivers who don't turn into the first available lane," Lahm said.

Another cause of road rage can be slow drivers, and for seventh grader Libbie Brezenski, this is her biggest driving pet peeve.

"[I get road rage] ALL THE TIME. Once I was in a car behind a 'grandpa' who was going 15 mph on 33rd Avenue, and no matter which way we had to go, he went also. So, finally, he is turning off into a residential road, and we finally realized that he was my great-grandpa," Brezenski said.

Mrs. Rusher does not have any road rage, but she has her own methods for dealing with bad drivers.

"I don't really have road rage, but when I'm approaching other cars who might be considering a bad decision like pulling out in front of me, I point at them and say, 'Don't do it.' Amazingly, they usually don't," Rusher said.

Junior Blaney Dreifurst has also had experience with road rage, but not against anyone else.

"I am too worried that people are road raging at me to get mad at anyone," she said.

For other Scotus students, they have experienced more trouble while driving than anything. Some have had strange visitors in their cars. For senior Nathen Donoghue, his visitors were mice.

"I was driving to the movies when a baby mouse revealed itself on the floor of the passenger seat. I left it alone, but when I came back, it found a friend. To this day, I do not know what happened to the mama mouse," Donoghue said.

Seventh graders Lily Dohmen and Faith Weber have both experienced every person's winter travel nightmare.

Dohmen said, "My worst driving experience is when our car could not get up a hill, so we got stuck in 26 inches of snow for two days, but luckily we found a hotel for my whole family and I."

"One time on the way home from a football game, our car swerved into the ditch because of ice, and we were stranded for almost three hours," Weber said.

Emily Miksch has also had her fair share of bad driving experiences.

"During my first week of driving after I turned sixteen, I was coming home from school going about 30 mph. Being really tired, I wasn't very alert. I saw this cat running on the grass about a block ahead of me and I thought, 'Awe, I love cats. It's so cute.' As I approached the cat, I realized it was running into the road," Miksch said. "I freaked out! I know I'm not supposed to swerve for animals, so I hit it straight on. I was so sad! I looked in my back mirror and saw it limping off the road. I was very depressed the rest of the night."

One of the worst experiences a person can have while driving is to be in an accident. For Mr. Schueth, a previous accident left him with a complicated mess regarding his driving.

"I was in St. Paul, MN on a Sunday while working for Briar Cliff College and a car full of young adults ran a red light and hit my car. They fled the scene, leaving their car (full of beer) in the intersection—apparently it had been stolen. I filed an accident report with the police, and they confirmed my innocence in the matter. Somehow things got messed up in the state's computer system and a month later I received a letter at Briar Cliff from the State of Minnesota stating that, 'my driving privileges in the state of Minnesota have been revoked.' The Briar Cliff attorney straightened out the matter for me—but I always remember that strange message in a letter from Minnesota," Schueth said.

We all have our terrible driving experiences, and whether these are our fault or caused by others, they will always be a memory to remind us to always drive safe and be cautious of other bad drivers.

The Best and Worst of Foods

Connor Wiehn, 10: "I love dinner rolls because they are soft and warm."

Dominic McPhillips, 8 : "I put honey on my mashed potatoes. This is the best thing because it combines sweet and savory."

Nick Ehlers, 9: "When I was little I loved to dip my cheese Sun Chips into my applesauce. I liked it because I loved cheese and apples."

Eduardo Torres, 11: "I hate Mexican soups like menudo or posole. I don't know why I hate them, I mean I'm Mexican. I should like all Mexican food."

Maysa Kuhl, 7: "I hate peanut butter because I grew up with a sibling that has a peanut allergy, so I am just starting to try it."

Braden Labenz, 11: "I hate ice. Water isn't supposed to be crunchy."

Ruby Martinez, 8: "I hate hotdogs because if you know what they are made from, it is nasty."

Evan Hand, 10: "The food I love is a mix of turkey and meatloaf or turkey loaf. When I eat turkey loaf, I feel as if I just entered heaven."

Emily Ferguson, 9: "One food I cannot stand is chocolate. I have never liked chocolate; however, I do like brownies, oreos, chocolate chip cookies, and muffins."

Berlin Kluever, 8: "I hate hot chocolate, but for the most part I just won't drink anything hot."

Cassie Kouma, 9: "I hate all sauces. This includes everything from chocolate syrup on ice-cream to ranch to spaghetti sauce. I have no idea why I don't like sauce."

Colby Gilson,11 : "I love eating pickles and then drinking the pickle juice when I'm done."

Jase Christensen, 7: "I hate fish because it gives me the creeps knowing that the fish was swimming in water that billions of other animals have touched."

FLORA HE/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Pet peeves found in the hallways of Scotus

By Jadyn Larsen
Staff Reporter

Every weekday morning students and faculty enter the main doors of Scotus. Students talk to other classmates. Teachers set up the lesson plans of the day. Lockers are opened and closed. Homework is being finished. Chatter continues to rise and fill the hallways of Scotus. However, some of these activities can drive others crazy. Whether it is being bumped in the hallway, or someone slamming their locker too loud. It could be in a classroom, in the cafeteria, or in the long hallways of Scotus. Whatever, or wherever, it is, it can be someone's biggest school pet peeve.

Annoyance of others occurs mainly in the study hall room when students are trying to get work done.

Sophomore Cole Demuth said, "My biggest pet peeve in school is when people dump out water in study halls on the ground just so they can squeak their feet the entire period to annoy people."

While one person in study hall is squeaking their feet, another group of people are chatting in the corner.

"I hate when students use their study halls as a social hour to flirt with one another. Some of us are trying to get some actual work done, but all we hear are the high-pitched giggles and constant chatter between kids flirting," sophomore Liza Zaruba stated.

A place where students seem to be bothered by the tiniest of things happens in the classroom.

Seventh grader Jack Faust said, "I hate when a teacher erases the board but leaves a small dot or something. It makes me want to go up to the board in the middle of class and erase it myself."

The hallways of Scotus happen to be where most students' pet peeves take place. The pet peeves range all the way from school attire to walking to the next class.

Freshmen Anna Ehlers said, "I can't stand when someone is wearing long socks and the right and left aren't the same length. If someone is wearing them, and they scrunch them up, at least make them look the same."

While Ehlers is bothered by uneven socks, eighth grader Luke Przymus is bothered by the simple act of getting to the next class.

Przymus said, "A pet peeve I have in school is when people full on sprint to class. I understand speed walking or maybe even jogging, but it gets on my nerves when people sprint like it's a 100 meter dash in the hallway."

JADYN LARSEN/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Freshmen crowd the hallways on second floor during snack break. Students complain about the hallways being too crowded.

Along with students, teachers also have pet peeves that can drive them up the wall. It might be a student talking when they aren't supposed to or a student getting up to go to the bathroom right in the middle of a lecture.

Science teacher Bridget McPhillips said, "I get annoyed when students point out tiny mistakes in my PowerPoints."

So next time you are thinking about tapping your pencil on the desk, or chewing gum in class, remind yourself that the simple action could be making another curl up on the inside.

Girls basketball optimistic about season goals

By Faith Przymus
Staff Reporter

Last year the girls' basketball team made it to the state tournament for the first time since 2009. After losing only one senior, the team looks to advance to the state tournament for the second year in a row.

Senior Grace Odbert said, "We are hungry for state again, and we want to go as far as we can this year, but that all starts game by game."

The girls began their season on November 30th in Hastings against St. Cecilia. With a final score of 43-42, the girls started their season off just shy of a win. The girls' team bounced back on December 5th by easily defeating West Point GACC for their first win of the season.

"We had a big win over GACC. We were able to beat their nine year winning streak against us, so that was great to be a part of," senior Maggie Feehan said.

The girls' basketball team this year consists of seven seniors, which has helped bring a lot of experience to the team.

"The coaches call us a 'veteran team' because we have seven seniors, and each and every person, especially the seniors, have great potential to be awesome leaders for the team in different parts of the game," Odbert said.

Along with the abundance of experience the team returns, the girls' basketball team feels as if they excel in the team chemistry area.

Senior Shania Borchers said, "We all have fun together whether it is at practice, a game, or just on the bus."

Although experience and team chemistry are an imperative part of a successful team, the girls have also been working to prepare themselves for the season in other areas.

"We have really been focusing on taking care of the ball. We have all been working to improve our mental game as well. The mental game is just as important as the physical aspect," Feehan said.

With the season already in full swing, team members are mentally preparing for upcoming season games. Senior Kendra Wiese said the team will be tested in January while playing Neumann and Lincoln Christian.

"I am looking forward to those games because they are at home this year, and I am excited to see how much we have grown from the beginning of the season," Wiese said.

Last year the girls' basketball team fell first round in the state basketball tournament to Lincoln Christian, who then went on to take the state championship title. The girls are striving to improve every day in order to change that outcome this year.

Senior Grace Wickham said, "We are putting in extra work, staying after practice, and pushing each other to work our hardest. Hopefully we can make it back to the state tournament this year and make it further than last year."

Jadyn Larsen/Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Shania Borchers protects the ball from the Bluejays on December 5th. The Shamrocks defeated GACC with a final score of 64-39.

The girls' team defeated GICC on December 8th and Omaha Concordia on December 12th, increasing their winning streak and making positive strides toward their goal of the state tournament.

The girls' basketball team faced Pierce on December 15th and Crete on December 16th.

Shamrocks pin down start of season

By Matt Strecker
Editor

The 2017-2018 wrestling season is underway, and the Scotus Shamrocks hit the mats hard to begin the year.

After a coaching change from the previous season, head coach DJ Brandenburg has led the Shamrocks to a 4-7 record as a team in duals and strong records as individual wrestlers.

"So far it has gone very well with the new coach," senior 195-pound wrestler Wren Allen said. "Our practices are still just as hard, but I feel like we are getting better at technique because we are actually spending time on it."

The wrestling season officially began on December 1st with memorable matches all over the gym at the Lakeview Invite at Lakeview High School. The team took fourth place, but the day was highlighted with big matchups including Allen defeating the number three ranked wrestler in the 195 pound weight class in class C. Senior Calen Hinze also pinned his opponent in his first match in two years.

"I wrestled in my first match since sophomore year, and I got a pin," the 132-pound senior said.

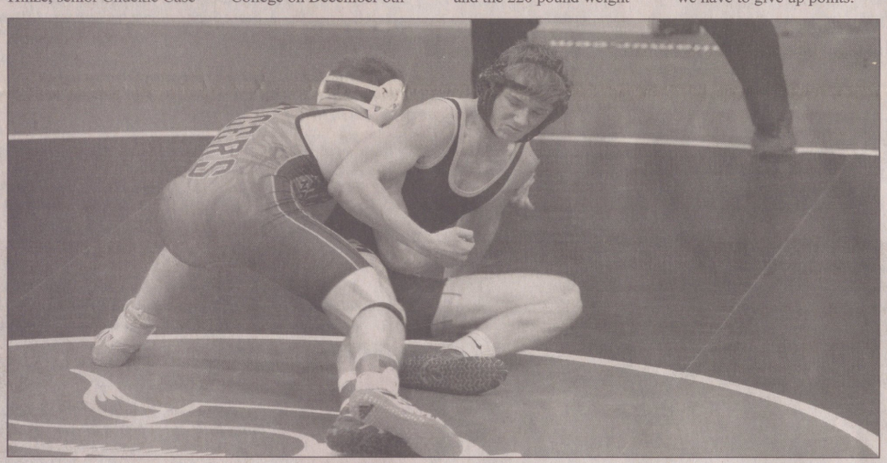
The Shamrocks hosted their first duel of the year on December 4th hosting Mount Michael. The Shamrocks walked away in dominating fashion winning five of the last six weight classes. The Shamrocks won the duel 42-26 with five pins by Allen, Hinze, senior Chuckie Case (152), sophomore Evan Hand (170), and senior Landon Sokol (285).

"I competed very well in our first home dual, pinning my opponent in 35 seconds," Sokol said. "Since the first tournament, my season has been going very well. I am currently 9-4."

The Shamrocks traveled to Central Community College on December 8th and 9th to compete in the Nebraska Duals and walked away from the weekend of matchups with a 3-7 record. The Shamrocks defeated Blue Valley West out of Missouri, Shelby, and O'Neil, but fell to Elkhorn South, Millard South, Twin River, Norfolk, Tekemah Herman, Gothenburg, and Columbus High.

Other than the 106 pound and the 220 pound weight class, the Shamrocks had an athlete entered in every weight class. Sophomore Nick Taylor had a successful weekend achieving a 7-3 record along with Allen and Sokol.

"Competing against bigger schools is always tough because they usually have a full team," Taylor said. "We are missing a few weights so we have to give up points."



Kayla Hall/Yearbook Staff

Senior Chuckie Case attempts to break free during a match at Lakeview on December 1st. The Shamrocks placed 4th at the invite.

Big matchups ended in close matches and some important victories for the Shamrocks during the invite. Allen defeated the number six ranked wrestler in Class A from Norfolk, then lost to the number three ranked wrestler in Class A 3-1. Sokol knocked off the number six heavy-weight wrestler in Class A, then fell to the number five ranked wrestler in Class A.

"I let two matches slip away at the Nebraska Duals, but I learned something from both of them, and that's what's important," Sokol said. "To some people wrestling schools can be intimidating, but to me it's just like wrestling anyone else."

The Shamrocks hosted their final home dual of the season and senior night on December 14th against powerhouse Aquinas. The Monarchs boast three number one ranked wrestlers on their squad and took home a victory 52-26. Hinze, Sokol, Allen, and junior Colby Gilson finished their final home duel with victories.

The Shamrocks competed at Logan View on Saturday, December 16th, and will travel to Adams Central on December 30th.

Shamrocks work to build experience

By Maggie Feehan
Staff Reporter

It's that time of year again. Basketball season is here, and the Scotus boys' basketball team is working hard toward another trip to the state tournament.

This year is head coach Tyler Swanson's second year coaching the basketball team. Swanson expects good things from his team this year.

"Early on, our weaknesses will be inexperience and depth. We are trying to build our team to get the guys who haven't played as much more minutes, so they are able to play against some good teams toward the end of the year," Swanson said.

Although the Shamrocks lost multiple seniors last year, each of the players still have a lot to give to the team.

"One of our strengths this year is going to be getting to the rim. We have a lot of guys who can drive. Our defense is really good too. Also, Trevor [Kaslon] is a strength. He is one of the top players in C1," Swanson said.

With the majority of the team coming in with little varsity experience, leadership from Kaslon is extremely important this year.

"The team's strengths include our shooting, ability to learn, and how hard everyone works. I can individually bring leadership to the team this year," Kaslon said.

The boys hope that as the season progresses, they are able to inch their way closer and closer to their goals.

"My individual goal is to work hard as a player, so I can play more games. Our goal as a team is to make it to the state tournament," senior Carson Hottovy said.

Grace Odbert / Rock Bottom Staff

Junior Caden Pelan drives to the lane at Omaha Concordia on Decmeber 12th. The Shamrocks have a lot of players who can get to the rim and finish this year.

The boys' basketball team kicked off their season against the number one ranked team in Class C-2 Hasting St. Cecilia. The boys were able to keep up with the Blue Hawks during the first half, holding it to a four point game with St. Cecilia leading 30-26. Hastings brought the heat the second half resulting in a 40-53 defeat.

"We played really well both offensively and defensively in the first half, then we lost all our intensity in the second half. We learned that if we play like we did in the first half and don't take our foot off the gas, we are a tough team to beat," senior Matt Strecker said.

With a tough schedule, the boys hope to beat their biggest rivals.

"I think the two straight weeks we go to Wahoo are the biggest because Wahoo Public is a top three ranked team, and Bishop Neumann is always really good, so it should be fun," sophomore Tyler Palmer said.

On December 5, the Shamrocks dominated the home court outscoring Guardian Angels Central Catholic 74-43.

"We really came out firing against GACC and played very well as a team. We played great defense which led into our offense and helped us get some easy points in transition," senior Colson Kosch said.

The boys played their third game at home against Grand Island Central Catholic on December 8th. The Shamrocks finished the game with a tough loss against the Crusaders 47-61.

On December 12th, the boys traveled to Omaha Concordia. The Shamrocks put up a tough match but were not able to pull out the win ending the game 48-57.

The boys just came off two weekend games against Pierce and Crete. The boys will be traveling to St. Paul on December 22nd for their next game.

Athletes dodge for charity

By Jacob Morse
Staff Reporter

Balls flying, whistles blowing, people fending for their lives. This was the atmosphere during the annual Scotus dodgeball tournament on November 19th.

The Scotus student council held the second annual dodgeball event to raise money for charity. Twelve different teams, comprised of six to eight players from grades seven through twelve, battled it out in Memorial Hall to earn school bragging rights. Senior Colson Kosch was the main instigator, making this idea come to life.

"It was a great event for the school. Students can get away and have a fun day of dodgeball, while the school makes a nice profit. We raised almost three-hundred and fifty dollars this year for charity during the one day. It was a great way to have fun while making a difference in the community," Kosch said.

The tournament had a double-elimination style, with each match having three different rounds. The team to win two out of the three rounds would win the match, advancing to their next game. The loser would have a chance to make a run in the loser's bracket and face the undefeated.

Seventh grader Brennen Jelinek spoke about his first time playing.

"I wanted to play in the tournament because it looked like a fun, friendly competition. I am glad that I played because it was fun to play against all of the upper-classmen," Jelinek said.

In the past two years there have been a great amount of people who have participated in the tournament. One of the players that has participated in the tournament the last two years was senior Wren Allen.

"I wanted to play in the dodgeball tournament this year because it is such a great game, and the sport is a passion of mine. I also had a lot of fun playing last year," Allen said.

Another player that wanted to settle unfinished business from 2016 was senior Matt Strecker from "Bien Partido".

"I was the captain of the 'Spicy Bois' last year, and we took 3rd place losing only to the eventual champions and runners-up. Winning this year meant a lot to our program and to me as an individual," he said.

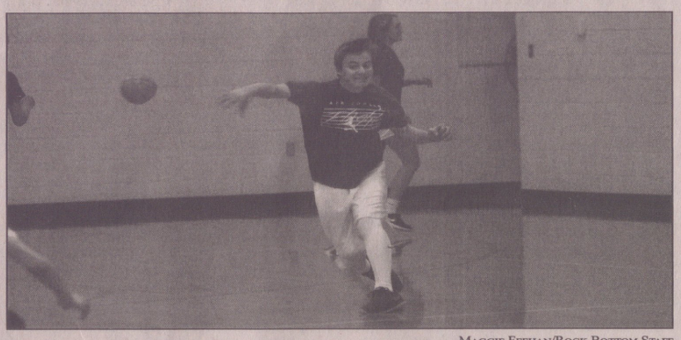
Strecker's team was, in fact, the champions of the tournament this year. "Bien Partido" went undefeated cruising through the tournament without losing a single match. Another member of the team, senior Logan Mueller, spoke about the team's success.

"I really enjoyed the tournament this year. I give a major shout out to everyone who attempted to compete against us," Mueller said.

The only negative response to the event was that it took a long time to finish. With all of the people who participated, there was no way to cut time for each match that had to take place. Because of this, the event lasted a few hours. Junior Caleb Kosch made a suggestion on the matter.

"The tournament was run very smoothly and efficiently, but it was a little slow. It would have been better to have used both gyms at the same time," Kosch said.

Overall the tournament, yet again, had a positive impact on the Scotus students as well as the community. The money raised during the dodgeball tournament, as well as the Sadie Hawkins dance, will be given to a special charity as a Christmas gift towards the end of the month.



Maggie Feehan/Rock Bottom Staff

Sophomore Drew Vuncannon hurls a ball at an opponent during the Scotus dodgeball tournament. The event raised over three-hundred and fifty dollars for charity.

Swimmers work to improve times

By Jenna Salerno
Staff Reporter

Every November, Scotus students decide to break the norm and trade in their winter coats for swim suits, making a splash in this cold, winter weather. This year there are ten swimmers from Scotus joining the Columbus swim team. There are three freshmen, one sophomore, three juniors, and three seniors from Scotus.

Scotus senior Chase Andresen is one of the three seniors swimming from Scotus this year. He also happens to be the swim captain for the boys' team.

"I am looking forward to state to see if we can go down and get a medal or two," Andresen said.

On November 30th, the Columbus swimmers competed against the Fremont swim team. This meet resulted in a win for both the boys' and girls' teams. The Columbus swimmers beat the Fremont team by 82 points. Many athletes finished with personal bests at this meet.

"I broke my 50 freestyle record," senior Thiago Pereira said.

In swim, there are many different events that swimmers can do throughout the swim season. Some are tougher than others, whereas others are very competitive, resulting in different people doing different events throughout the season.

For junior Julia Salerno, the faster races are her favorites.

Salerno said, "The 50 free [is my favorite] because it is the easiest and the shortest."

Fellow swimmer Callan Fuchser thought along the same lines as Salerno.

"I personally enjoy the 50 free because you go down and back and then you can get out," Fuchser said.

On December 2nd, the varsity swimmers attended the Hastings Invitational, a meet where they competed against six other teams from around the state. These teams included Norfolk, Kearney, North Platte, Hastings, Scottsbluff, and McCook. Columbus finished in 6th place at this meet with a total of 110 points.

"We're all working on decreasing our times and that's what we did at Hastings," senior Trey Dallman said.

A few weeks into the swim season marks the beginning of every swimmer's worst nightmare, two-a-days. The start of two-a-days is the worst part of swim for Fuchser.

"The actual getting up is terrible, but once you get going, it's not too bad," Fuchser said.

Once the swimmers start two-a-days, they continue these practices throughout the season, only stopping before state.

Swim meets normally have a large crowd, especially when the meets are relays. The freshmen swimmers are looking forward to one thing in particular this season.

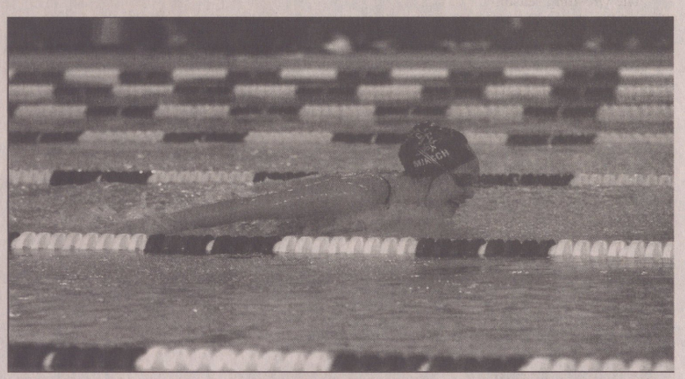
"I am looking forward to going to all of the meets and making new friends," freshman McKenna Mausbach said.

On December 9th, the Columbus swimmers hosted the Columbus Relays. They finished in 4th place with a total of 68 points. Many swimmers achieved personal bests of the 2017 season during the relays.

Andresen concluded, "I think everyone should come to at least one meet just to experience it and support us because swimmers are people too."

Jenna Salerno/Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Trey Dallman competes in the breaststroke at the Columbus Relays on December 9th. The team finished in fourth place with a total of 68 points.



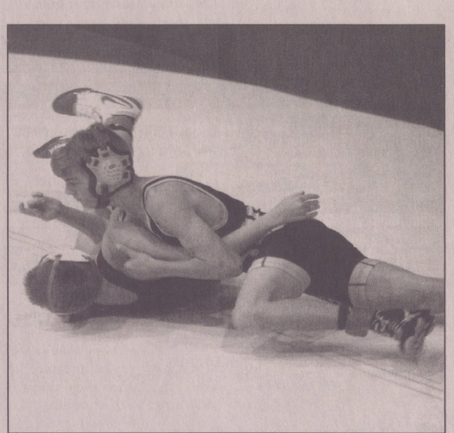
Jenna Salerno/Rock Bottom Staff

Sophomore Emily Miksch performs the butterfly at the Columbus Relays on December 9th. Miksch is one of the six girls from Scotus on the swim team.

A few more scenes from winter sports 2017

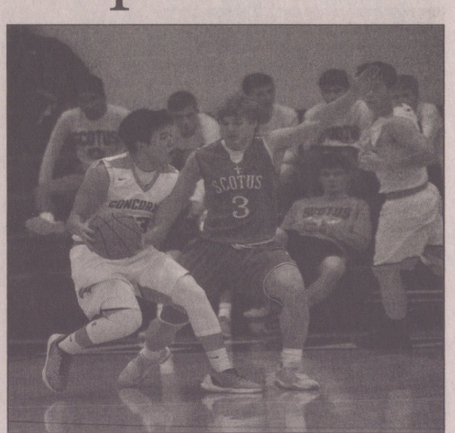
Abbie Zoucha/Yearbook Staff

Senior Maggie Feehan powers her way to the rim against an Omaha Concordia defender. The varsity girls have a 3-3 record on the year thus far.



Kayla Hall/Yearbook Staff

Freshman Jake Heesacker takes down an opponent at the Lakeview invite. Scotus took fourth place during the invite as a team.



Grace Odbert/Rock Bottom Staff

Sophomore Eric Mustard defends a guard at Omaha Concordia. The boys will play St. Paul on December 22nd on the road.

One Act earns runner-up at districts

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

"*Freak!*", "Huh?", "*Freak!*", "What?", "*Freak !*", are the voices that can be heard in the introduction of the show *Freak* by Angela Hill.

Scotus' One Act performed *Freak* five different times and received runner up at districts at CCC.

English teacher Helen Schumacher was the director of the play production, and she was ecstatic about their ranking at districts.

"Going from last to runner-up in a single year is a major accomplishment. The team's dedication, hard work, and time really paid off," Schumacher said. "I'm excited to see what's in store for next year."

Freak is a short production about a girl who ended up killing herself and is thrown into a limbo between life and death. The play starts with Monique, the main character, explaining her life to the audience, telling them how ordinary everything seems until the point where she brings up that she gets called a freak every day at school.

Senior Alaina Wallick played the lead Monique.

"The interesting thing about my character is how open to interpretation she is," Wallick said. "I got to play around with how I wanted her to be portrayed, and I think I ended up with a character that is incredibly personable to the audience."

Back in August/September, Schumacher hosted an audition for the student body from 9th to 12th grade. As everyone entered, they signed up to be a part of the activity. Schumacher passed along the first play that she wanted to try to see if it would work. That play was *Freak*.

As everyone auditioned and tried out for the part they wanted, Schumacher felt confident with *Freak* and didn't even bother to pull out the other play.

"Suicide and bullying is a timely and heavy topic, one so many are afraid to address. Freak has a wide variety of characters, room for fun production elements and all of which allows for a large cast and crew," Schumacher said.

One Act's first performance was in Osceola on November 6th. They ranked 5th among their fellow competitors; everyone before them had been to State One Act in the last five years, giving Scotus One Act faith and a small victory.

Even though they have practiced many times, it still takes time to get into their character. Junior Mattie Johnson had an interesting way to get prepared before a show.

"Before I go on, I do this thing in my head and its weird, but I count in Spanish," she said. "[But when I start] performing, I love to let it out and portray my emotions."

Schumacher and her One Act members hosted their home performance on November 12; it was the second live performance they had given. Even though it was only a week between the two performances, their team had already added improvements to *Freak*.

Senior Caitlin Steiner played Bella, a girl who felt she wasn't pretty enough. She helped give advice to her team.

"Practices can be rough trying to get everyone to focus and work together, but when we need to, we work well together, and I think that is evident in our show," Steiner said. "Since the first performance, we have been constantly working to improve. Because of our improvements, the show we have today is a completely different, and better, show."

Their next performance was on November 14 at Humphrey Saint Francis; they did not receive rankings at this performance; they were given another chance to improve.

Senior Brandon Huynh played Max, the ring leader of the freak show.

"The more times we perform or practice, I feel like everyone got to learn more about their character to make us better," Huynh said.

One Act's next performance was at CCC on November 20. Even with tougher judges, *Freak* placed third out of seven plays that were shown.

"Conference is stacked with extremely consistent One Act power houses. It was an amazing accomplishment to finish so high in the ranks," Schumacher concluded. "We really surprised a lot of people."

On December 1, One Act gave their all and performed at districts; however, at this performance, they went over time. Their time was 31:08, thirty-eight seconds over. Despite that, the team placed second and received the runner up trophy.

Senior Jayden Larsen played Twyla the tattoo freak.

"I am really proud of my team this year because I feel like we brought more light on the arts at Scotus compared to what it has been in the past," Larsen said. "As someone who takes part in both sports and the arts programs, I like to see the arts get more recognition."

ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

All the freaks from 'Freak' surround senior Alaina Wallick, telling her how much they despise hope. The freaks believe that Monique let Hope out.

ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Senior Brandon Huynh plays Max, the ring leader of his freak show. Max is trying to get to know his new freak.

FLORA HE/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Jared Gaspers and senior Jadyn Larsen introduce themselves as Benny the Batboy and Twyla the Tattoo Freak to senior Alaina Wallick.

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Have a holly jolly Christmas

What church traditions does your family have?

"We all used to sing on Christmas Eve, so it was like a Heng choir."

-Jayden Heng, Sophomore

To you, what is the meaning of Christmas?

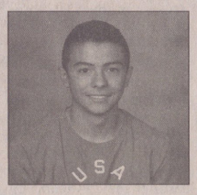
"The meaning of Christmas is to rejoice in God with our families. We enjoy and give to the people we love as a sign of friendship and peace."

-Calder Obal, Eighth grader

Is Christmas your favorite holiday?

"Yes and no, because the main reason I like Christmas is knowing your family will be together for once. You will enjoy knowing that Jesus was born on this day, and we are celebrating for him. Though the only thing I hate about Christmas is the freezing temperatures."

-Henry Hernandez, Sophomore



"I love Christmas! Hands down, favorite holiday. I have been counting down since before Halloween. Some might say it's annoying, I say it is true love."

-Rebekah Hergott, Junior

What is your favorite holiday tradition?

"We do a book exchange every Christmas."

-Daniela Valdez, Junior

What food traditions does your family have?

"Every Christmas Eve we get Godfather's taco pizza after 5:00pm childrens Mass. Taco pizza isn't a regular Christmas meal, but it is literally the best."

-Lizzie Parker, Freshman

Scotus celebrates customs of Christmas

By Faith Przymus
Staff Reporter

With the holidays just around the corner, students and teachers at Scotus are beginning to prepare for the exciting season of Christmas.

For most, the preparation and celebration for Christmas follows the same pattern year after year. When it comes to the holiday season, many see reoccurring traditions in their own lives in regards to food, decorations, and traveling during the Christmas season.

Food is important in almost any circumstance, but especially significant during the holidays. Junior Emma Brandt has a tradition of spending three weeks making Christmas goodies every year. Along with the tradition of spending an abundance of time making Christmas goodies, most families have a tradition of inviting the same people over for a Christmas meal each year. Usually, these guests are family members.

Sophomore Allie Mielak's family, on the other-hand, does not limit invitations to just family.

"On Christmas Eve we always have the priests and deacons over for dinner," Mielak said.

Decorating is also an imperative part of celebrating Christmas. In fact, Christmas would not be the same without a Christmas tree and stockings. Eighth grader Nathan Eisenmenger cannot hold back his excitement for the holidays when it comes to decorating. The day after Thanksgiving, Nathan wakes up at 6:00 A.M. to put up decorations for Christmas.

Sophomore Eric Mustard does not necessarily have the same motivation when it comes to Christmas decorations.

"It's not really a tradition, but we keep our tree up in our basement all year. We're too lazy to pack it up," Mustard said.

Some families at Scotus also have traditions of traveling far and wide for the holidays. Freshman Abaigeal Aydt will spend 20 plus hours traveling this Christmas season. She will spend the holiday in Illinois and South Carolina.

Seventh grader Taylor Neville, on the other hand, stays closer to home during the holiday.

"I go on a five minute drive to my grandma's house," Neville said.

Once the much anticipated day of Christmas finally arrives, many at Scotus have traditions as to how they spend their holiday. Seventh grader Ted Fehringer spends his Christmas very actively by skiing at Copper Mountain in Colorado for the holiday. Others at Scotus do not celebrate Christmas in the same active manner.

"We usually stay home and binge watch and binge eat [on Christmas]," sophomore Max Middendorf said.

However you decide to spend the holiday and whatever your food, decorations, or traveling traditions may be, do not get too caught up rocking around the Christmas tree or decking the halls that you forget to realize what the true meaning of Christmas is this holiday season.

Religion teacher Kelly Koranda said, "[Christmas is about] celebrating the gift of Christ in our lives-not just when he was born 2000 years ago, but also the fact that he continues to be present in our lives today, especially through the Church, our family, and our friends."

Matt Quinn/Media Staff

Choir Director Laura Salyard leads Shamrock Singer members at their Christmas concert on December 11th. Along with Shamrock Singers, the sixth, seventh, and eighth graders also sang Christmas songs.

Caitlin Steiner/Rock Bottom Staff

Media center specialist Cathy Podliska poses next to her book tree. Podliska also puts Christmas books on display for students to read during the holiday season.

Naughty

Brock Clarke; Sophomore- *"One Christmas me and my older siblings peeked at our christmas presents, rewrapped them, but fogot who's was who's."*

Brooke Lehr; 8th grade- *"Not going to lie, [my favorite part of Christmas] is definitely not going to school and the presents for sure."*

Drew VunCannon; Sophomore- *"When I was in first grade, I wanted a peak at Santa; I hid in between couch cushions that were right next to our tree. My parents couldn't find me and almost called the police."*

Paxton Lushce; 8th grade- *"My brother said he wanted 'new' underwear and by 'new' he meant clean, so I washed all his underwear, wrapped them, and gave them to him."*

Zach Schultz; 7th grade- *"[Christmas is my favorite holiday] because I get free stuff, and if I have it, then I hand it back for money."*

Jake Novicki; Senior- *"When I was younger, I was in charge of writing names on the presents, so I wrote my name on all of them because I wanted more presents."*

Nice

Nathan Schumacher; Junior- *"My family volunteers at the Matt Talbot homeless shelter in Lincoln and serves everyone a Christmas dinner."*

Matthew Bichlmeier; Senior- *"One time on a holiday skiing trip I was going too fast down a hill, and I was about to run into an old lady, so I turned into the trees to avoid hitting her, but I bounced off a tree and ended up hitting her anyway."*

Abee Hutchinson; 8th grade- *"About two or three years ago, my sister and I decided to make cupcakes and bring them to the police station on Christmas Eve. We've been doing it ever since"*

Maddie Neville; Senior- *"On Christmas day we work at the soup kitchen to feed the homeless."*

Janet Tooley- *"We usually try to do some sort of community project like adopt a family, the St. Bon's church giving tree, or this year my daughter and I did a tree and village display for the Christmas Tree Festival at the library."*

Gaven Brabec; 8th grade- *"My parents donate to the church or school instead of giving each other presents."*

Where the villain falls, heroes rise

By Abe Perault
Staff Reporter

To say that *Justice League* is a perfect movie would be a lie, but throughout the movie, I couldn't help but smile at the portrayal of the characters that I have loved since the early days of my life. Following the success of this summer's box office hit *Wonder Woman*, *Justice League* gives a great depiction of DC comic's beloved heroes, but ended up leaving me a little disappointed in the finished product.

Justice League picks up right after last year's *Batman v. Superman* with the aftermath of Superman's death. As the world is in mourning, we find our heroes going back to their lives of protecting their cities while undenounced to them, Steppenwolf, the movie's main villain, is planning to take over the world with the three mother boxes left on Earth.

This is where my main gripe with this movie begins. Not only are there pacing issues at the beginning of the first two acts, but we've seen this plot already before. Just as *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* used the same story as its predecessor *A New Hope*, *Justice League's* story is the exact same as 2012's *Marvel's the Avengers*. From the beginning of introducing the characters to the ending revolving around an alien invasion, they are almost exact copycats. Plus, the whole movie even revolves around a cube.

To the movie's defense though, I do have to add that in the middle of production director Zack Snyder had to step down due to his daughter tragically taking her own life. To fill in for Snyder, Warner Bros. chose Joss Whedon. Ironically, he was the director of DC's rival team-up movie *Marvel's the Avengers*.

Even with the rehashed story, *Justice League's* main problem comes with its villain. Steppenwolf is a one-dimensional villain that has only one motive, take over the world. Ultimately, he is a completely uncompelling and lackluster villain who stood no chance against the likes of Batman and company. What I don't understand is why DC wouldn't choose a more formidable opponent like big bads Darkseid or the Antimoniter. With a whole roster of great villains, it was just really disappointing to see one of the least known, most unformidable one of them all. As if this mess of a villain needed anything else wrong with him, Steppenwolf looks like a poorly animated cartoon slapped into a live action movie. Overall, the character of Steppenwolf was the only big downfall for me, and I just wish there would have been a villain that didn't lack such character depth.

Now you may be thinking, "Why should I see this movie?" I have one-word for you: characters! This movie does an incredible job with its characters' source material. Ben Affleck's Batman has gone from some big brute that is always angry to a more dynamic and epic character. Wonder Woman is the same lovable hero who stands for justice and the wellbeing of humanity. The newcomers to the team are the major standouts here. Ezra Miller's portrayal of the Flash gives the character a quirky and almost weird vibe that I enjoyed. Cyborg, who was played by Ray Fischer, had a bigger role in the story's plot which I was surprised by, but I wished they would have explored his back story a tad more because he is a notably interesting character. Finally, there is Aquaman. Played by Jason Mamoa, Aquaman, was my favorite of the newcomers. I expected him to be a brute who just cracks one liners, and I was surprised that he could be serious at some points in the film.

COLLIDER.COM

The Flash (Ezra Miller), Cyborg (Ray Fisher), Superman (Henry Cavill), Batman (Ben Affleck), Wonder Woman (Gal Gadof), and Aquaman (Jason Mamoa) are the main characters of *Justice League*. The movie was released on November 27, 2017.

There are other great aspects I liked about *Justice League*. All the action was great. I particularly enjoyed anytime Batman was in the middle of combat. Even though I was underwhelmed by the way Superman was brought back, the chaos that ensued was done better than I ever would have expected. Perhaps one of the best parts wasn't even in the movie, but after it. The end credit scenes were brilliant and were worth the wait after the movie to set up the sequel.

Overall, *Justice League* delivers on what it promised: a superhero team-up movie full of DC's most favored heroes. Though it lacks the story and villain I would have wished, it kept me entertained and overjoyed. I'd say that Justice League is worth the watch for any superhero fan, but for all who haven't seen the previous films, especially *Batman v Superman*, I'd recommend watching them first. But as for general entertainment value, Justice League is a fun flick that is highly enjoyable and worth a watch.

A Day in the Life

December 21, 2017: Semester Tests

Entries by Jacob Moris

7th Grade
I am so nervous for semester finals. This is my first time ever taking them, and I have so many questions. What am I supposed to expect? How hard are the questions going to be? How am I supposed to study for them? What is the schedule for the tests again? These tests effect so much of my semester grade. If I do poorly on them my parents are going to be so mad. Hopefully I don't fail.

Freshman
These tests are going to dictate what my final grade will be for the first semester. I'm currently freaking out because these grades will be on my transcript forever. What if I fail? What if these tests are significantly harder than the junior high tests? Stop. I can't think like that. I just need to stay calm and study the guides that my teachers gave. If I do that, I should do well. Also, I don't have to worry about taking a history test this time, so I can use this extra time for studying.

Sophomore
I am ready for these tests. The classes that I have had to take this year haven't been too difficult. Mrs. Lahm was nice giving us review time in Biology and practically giving our class the test with her study guide. I know all of the novels really well that we read in Mrs. Zanardi's class. I think the main challenge is going to be the Spanish final. There are so many vocabulary words and verb conjugations that I need to memorize. I know what I am doing. I just need to study everything as much as possible.

8th Grade
I'm pretty sure I got this. I am only freaking out a little bit, but I need to stay positive. I need to think about last year; they weren't all that bad. Also, I just learned that these tests only count for ten percent of my semester grade. I should use the equation Mrs. Blaser gave us to see how low of a score I can get while still passing. I probably shouldn't, this is still important to me. I'm going to study all night.

Junior
All I can think about is how difficult this chemistry test is going to be. It is the only test that I've been studying for. I am so lucky that Mrs. Dusel gave us such a good study guide, but it is so long! I have barely reviewed any of the other tests that I have to take. I shouldn't have procrastinated about my tests as much as I did this semester; it is just causing me more stress. I need to power through and get to studying even if I lose a little sleep over it.

Teacher
Wow. I am so ready for Christmas break. These kids are driving me crazy. I still haven't decided if I should make my students tests extremely hard yet. I could be evil making them do loads of write out questions and essays, but, ultimately, that would put more stress on me. I already have to grade all 100 of my students' tests. Not to mention, Mr. Ohnoutka wants all of these grades put into PowerSchool before I can go home. I might as well primarily put multiple choice and matching.

Senior
Alright, it's this time of year again. Can't this just be over with already? I already have so much on my mind. I have to think about where I want to go to college. What I want to do with my life after high school. I have to worry about all of these activities that I am participating in. Why not add finals into the mix? I am so ready to have a break. On the bright side, I don't have to take six different finals like I have had to do in the past. I should probably just look over my notes a few times and call it good.

Pacific Daydream wisps away audience

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

There's something you should probably know
I hate to be the man in your phone
With alligator shoes
Cause I really am in love with you,
"Get Right" by Weezer.

This section of lyrics really sticks with me, whether that it be because he said alligator shoes or because it's talking about being in love with someone, and I don't want to be the person that they hate.

The first time I actually took time to listen to Weezer was when I played the Weezer radio on Pandora two years ago; the more I heard of their songs and artists similar to them, the more I grew fond of them. I wanted to know more about what they were about and all the songs that they have ever released.

"Feels like Summer" is the top single in Weezer's new album, *Pacific Daydream*. As a teaser, the band released this song back in March of 2017. Since then, the fans have been on their feet and scrolling through web pages and YouTube to see if they were going to release any more songs. By August, they announced that their album would drop October 27.

Before *Pacific Daydream* was dropped, they released: "Mexican Fender," "Beach Boys," "Weekend Woman," and "Happy Hour."

When I first listened to Weezer, it was when I was younger. I never knew that I was listening to them until a familiar tune would play, and I would mindlessly sing along with them. I heard "Island in the Sun," and "Beverly Hills," without realizing that it was the band I was going to fall in love with.

Weezer was an alternative 90s band that started on February 14, 1992. This all-American Rock band has eleven studio albums, two compilation albums, one video album, six extended plays, and twenty-eight singles. They also have twenty-four music videos.

My first album that I bought was *Weezer(White Album)*; it came out on April 1, 2016. The minute it was in my hands, I put it into my CD player and listened to it for hours on end; I wanted to know this album like the back of my hand. This album had summer, good time vibes, which warmed my heart. One of my favorite songs on the track is "Jacked Up;" it reminds me of being in love and feeling on cloud nine.

The album that gave them fame and glory was *Weezer(Blue Album)*; this album includes their top singles, "Undone-The Sweater Song," and "Buddy Holly."

Weezer's other albums are: *Pinkerton, Weezer(Green Album), Maladroit, Make Believe, Weezer(Red Album), Raditude, Hurley, Everything Will Be Alright, Weezer(White Album)*, and *Pacific Daydream*.

In these studio albums, some of the top songs were: "El Scorcho," "Island in the Sun," "Keep Fishin'," "Beverly Hills," "Pork and Beans," "(If You're Wondering If I Want You To) I Want You To," "Memories," "Back to the Shack," "King of the World," and "Happy Hour."

From a fan to someone who may have not heard of Weezer; I would check out the top singles from their albums before grabbing a random album and listening to the first song that plays. It will help understand what that album could sound like and if it peaks your interest.

As Weezer became my first choice of music, I continued to listen to their other albums, finding that soothing tune and familiar voice that would put a smile on my face. If you have not heard of Weezer, I would suggest giving it a try – it is something new and a whole different experience.

HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/FILE:WEEZER-PACIFIC-DAYDREAM-ALBUM.JPG

Weezer released their new album *Pacific Daydream* in October 2017. This album features their top single "It Feels Like Summer," which also has an acoustic version.

Winter sports prepare for postseason play. See pages 6 & 7.

Rock Bottom

Volume 18 • Issue IV • February 6, 2018

Scotus Central Catholic http://issuu.com/scotusjournalism Columbus, Nebraska 68601

March for Life

KAYLA HALL/YEARBOOK STAFF

The Columbus March for Life group poses for a photo before the March. The forty students and ten chaperones joined at least 500 thousand others for the 45th annual March for Life. (above, left to right) Scotus Chaplain Father Capadano helps lead students in cheers during the March. Sophomores Tim Ehlers and Max Middendorf sit on the chartered bus for the trip. The ride from Columbus to Washington D.C. takes approximately 23 hours. Sophomores Max Middendorf, Kate Smith, and Chloe Odbert join hand with seniors Maddie Neville and Kelli Williams during Mass led by Archbishop Lucas in Saint Matthews Church.

Marchers make voices heard

By Caitlin Steiner
Staff Reporter

This year marked the 45th annual March for Life in Washington D.C. Forty students and ten chaperones from Columbus joined in with five hundred thousand others to march up to Capitol Hill to protest against abortion.

"I chose to go on the March because I feel that it is very important to speak out for the people who cannot speak out for themselves," freshman Maddie Blaser said. "I also think that people need to acknowledge that abortion is a problem, and we need to stop it."

The group left Columbus Tuesday night, January 16th, and returned Sunday morning, January 21st. During the pilgrimage, the group visited museums, national monuments, churches, rallies, and attended the March for Life.

Freshman Noah Korth said, "My Favorite [place to visit] has always been the Holocaust Museum. The horrible genocide of the Jews in WWII opened my eyes to how precious life is and how lucky we are to have freedom of religion in America."

The March itself took place on Friday, January 19th. President Donald Trump addressed the March from the White House which was projected on a screen at the event. This was the first time a president had ever acknowledged the March.

Freshman Lizzie Parker said, "When we were at Mass on Wednesday, Father [Capadano] said, 'We are David and they are Goliath.' I liked this because I was a little worried about what people would think of us when we were marching, but when he said that I understood that it doesn't matter how big we were or what people thought of us, as long as we could get our message across."

The National March for Life in Washington D.C. is the largest annual gathering of any group in Washington D.C. and the largest pro-life gathering in the world.

Junior Hannah Allen said, "After the March, I thought about how crazy it is that abortion still takes place. There were so many people there who were so loud and proud, and even though we do not get much media coverage, we made our voices heard. I thought about what I could do to promote life all the time."

In previous years the group had traveled to Washington with the Omaha Archdiocese. This year Columbus took its own bus apart from the group. New Scotus Teens for Life sponsor, Angie Rusher, attended her first March for Life this year along with leaders Belinda Keiter and Father Capadano.

"Belinda Keiter did all the leg work making this trip possible for our students. With Belinda's and Father's experiences with the March for Life, they could act as our guides," Rusher said. "We were able to have our own students on a single bus. This gave us much more flexibility in our planning and more intimacy as a group since we all know each other. It was great watching the upperclassmen step up as faith leaders for our younger students and to watch them all bond in faith and purpose. It was a wonderful trip."

Students and chaperones travel by bus for 23 hours on their pilgrimage. This pilgrimage is a time of

See **March**, Page 2

Fundraiser exceeds goal

By Flora He
Staff Reporter

This past year, Scotus had an extraordinary fundraising year and exceeded many goals. With the Chuck Hagel dinner and the success of the annual appeal, Scotus raised well over 400,000 dollars. This total did not include other events such as lotteries and the Gala. This year the Annual Appeal funds will be allocated to putting air conditioning in the main gym.

"This year the annual appeal goal was to raise money to put A/C in the Dowd Activity Center and weight room. These are two areas that get extremely warm and are heavily utilized." John Schueth, the development director said. "When people are uncomfortable, they aren't enjoying themselves, and we want people who are guests, if they come to an event, like a volleyball game or graduation ceremony, to be comfortable and to enjoy the experience."

Students get excited about having the A/C in the Dowd Activity Center and weight room because those two areas where students participate in the most aside from the classroom.

Freshman Clarissa Kosch said, "I think that would be extremely nice to put A/C in the gym because even if it's beautiful outside, it will still feel hot. The crowded room especially affects the band students who are in their heavy uniforms."

With the activities coming up, during graduation and also all the sports in the summertime, both in the gym and in the weight room are going to be much more comfortable for students with the A/C on.

The process of putting the A/C in the main gym is going to start on March, and hopefully could get done before graduation ceremony and summer activities.

"The A/C unit would make an amazing difference in how we perform during practice. Our performance improvement in practice will make games for basketball, volleyball, etc. better. As we all know 'Practice makes perfect', and if our practices aren't in game condition then how are we supposed to prepare for games," Freshman Abaigeal Aydt said.

Scotus always tries to focus on projects that will benefit students and enhance the campus experience for visitors.

"We always try to do something different with each fundraising activity goal. When we raise money for Scotus, we like to concen-

See **Fundraising**, Page 2

Week celebrates Catholic faith

By Jadyn Larsen
Staff Reporter

In many locations around the world, Catholics are being persecuted for their faith. The public school system in the United States has pulled God out of every discussion and subject. During Catholic Schools Week, Scotus and many other schools are rejoicing in the freedom to seek out God in a learning environment.

Father Capadano, School Chaplain and chair of the Catholicity committee, said, "At a Catholic school you can learn and practice your faith, whereas at public schools it is frowned upon to even be vocal at all about your faith. There are some places where you might hear of scripture studies or a bible club, but it's not the same as every single class being able to have a teacher discuss his/her faith and introduce people to Jesus."

One week out of every year has been set aside to celebrate Catholic schools. National Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration that celebrates all Catholic schools in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week.

Capadano mentioned, "During Catholic schools week we are celebrating the fact that we have the gift of a Catholic education. It's really that simple."

To celebrate Catholic Schools Week, the catholicity committee at Scotus set up many different activities for students to participate in.

"There is a pretty standard schedule that has been going on before I got here. We have a day where students can wear Catholic t-shirts and music plays in the hallways. Then we do adoration. Then we have Mass one day. The final day is the activity day and the activities mainly consist of movies, but from what I hear, there is a chance the seniors put together a volleyball tournament."

On Friday, February 2nd all students were given the opportunity to watch a movie, and the juniors and seniors could have participated in an

See **Catholic**, Page 2

ELLIE BOCK/MEDIA STAFF

Senior Jake Novicki reads a children's book to second graders as senior Maggie Feehan waits for her turn. Mrs. Zanardi's 8th period English class read to St. Bonaventure students to help celebrate Catholic Schools Week.

MARCH

prayer, sacrifice, and spending time with each other.

"[My favorite quote was] 'we don't win the battle by fighting what we hate, we win the battle by saving what we love," sophomore Kate Smith said. "This quote made me realize the true reason as to why I went on the March this year. I went, not because I hate the people who have had abortions or can give their babies away, but I went to save the lives I love most which is the lives of the most vulnerable."

The March is open to students in grades 9 through 12. Fundraisers are held throughout the year and donations are given by various members of the religious community to help make the trip more affordable.

"You will have more basketball games, more powerlifting practices, more time to rehearse your musical songs," sophomore Chloe Odbert concluded. "Go and stand up for those who can't. It will change your life, and it will have potential to save [or] alter the life of another person."

FUNDRAISING

trate on a project because people love to support projects. If we ask people to make a donation for an electricity bill, they say 'boring, not interested'. But if we say we would like to purchase a new bus for our students or put A/C in the Dowd Activity Center, or maybe a good example, the STEAM lab, people get excited because they know that's going to benefit our students and help our teachers be more effective in the classroom." Schueth said.

For school year of 2018-2019, Scotus has already started the next fundraising project, the annual Scotus Gala.

"This year for Gala, our special project is going to be some remodeling in the media center. We want the media center to be much more useful and comfortable. We need another conference room in there so that students who are working with a teacher in a conference can have privacy. Hopefully, it's going to be a space that students will want to use not just during the school day, but perhaps before and after school." Schueth said.

Scotus only exist from the donations and people who care about the school and willing to help.

Schueth concluded, "The important thing is, we have a lot of supporters. This year's appeal had over 625 donors, which is a huge show of support from people who got involved and said 'we want to help Scotus with the A/C project.' They supported our school with their hearts."

CATHOLIC

KAYLA HALL/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Kendra Wiese distributes the Eucharist to 8th grader Kyanne Casperson during Mass on Thursday, February 1 during the four school Mass held in Memorial Hall.

intramural volleyball tournament.

Senior Natalie Brutty organized the volleyball.

"I'm a big advocate for upperclassmen's freedom and privileges. With Scotus not having any intramurals, I couldn't think of a better time to start an activity that older kids could participate in, and what's better than volleyball? I hope future classes carry on this new Catholic Schools Week tradition" Brutty said.

The Catholicity committee is hoping students get many different things out of this week.

Member of the Catholicity committee Carmen Johnson said, "I hope that students get enthusiasm, excitement, and appreciation for their faith."

The committee is also hoping that students learn more about having a Catholic education.

"One of the things we asked all of the teachers to do is spend a period during the week discussing one way the church or a member of the church has benefited their field of study. For me, that is the most important thing we do this week, other than Mass. We are trying to show students Catholicism was instrumental in the development of all forms of study from science to religion," Capadano said.

The Catholicity committee is already planning new activities to help celebrate this week next year.

ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Advisor:
Angie Rusher

Editor:
Matt Strecker

Staff Writers:
Maggie Feehan
Flora He
Jadyn Larsen
Jacob Morse
Grace Odbert
Abe Perault
Faith Pyzymus
Kaylie Rocha
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The sun will rise tomorrow

By Jadyn Larsen
Staff Reporter

The buzzer goes off and you look at the scoreboard just to take in the final score. The scoreboard reads 45 to 56. While you have been down the entire second half and could've guessed with one minute left that your team was going to lose, it still hurts. Hurts to the point where tears are streaming down your face and you become frustrated with yourself and with your team. It feels like you did everything in your power to win, yet the scoreboard reads differently.

> ***"Competitive people make great leaders. They have a task in mind, and they set out to acheive it. They tend to perform to the best of their ability at their job or in school."***
>
> ***~Jadyn Larsen***

The famous quote "I hate losing more than I love to win" can be used to describe anyone who has a competitive nature. Whether right, wrong, good, or bad, everyone is competitive to some extent. Being competitive can be helpful. The drive to be the best can result in better grades, a better job, or a better performance in a certain activity. But when is the breaking point? When can someone be described as too competitive? There is a point where we have to let it go and move on.

A competitive attitude can usually be spotted at a young age. A child might feel the need to always be on the winning soccer-baseball team. If they aren't on the winning team, they will complain, quit, and maybe even throw a temper-tantrum. Maybe you can remember a kid like that, or maybe you were that child (and still are). Unfortunately, that child does not have an easy road ahead of them. There will be more downs than ups, because in the end there is usually only one winner and many losers.

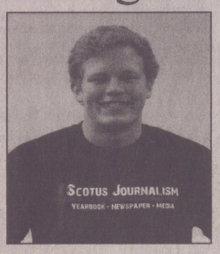
Being overly competitive can bring a lot of stress to your life. It may be hard to play simple board games for the fear of losing. I am at fault for being "too competitive." Whether I am playing board races in Spanish or competing in a sport, I have that overwhelming nag to win. Arguments have become impossible for me because even if every organ in my body stopped working, I would still manage to get the last word out. I firmly believe the only thing that ever results from arguing with overly competitive people is an unresolved answer and more stress. Don't believe me? Want to test my hypothesis? Walk into your next class and ask, "Is water wet?" and you will be able to point out every overly competitive person in the room in a matter of seconds.

Not only does stress result from being too competitive, but jealousy is also an outcome. For example, a classmate might get recognized for being an excellent student, and instead of applauding or greeting him or her with a "nice job", you find yourself thinking, "Well, if I just would've put in more time, I could've been just as good of a student, if not better." This attitude toward your peers can best be described as childish. In fact, I'm sure we can all recall a moment where someone won a simple game and you responded with the cliché phrase of "That's not fair!" Always comparing oneself toward others will only ever result in self-hate. Instead of being competitive toward peers, try being competitive toward yourself. Work to beat your personal best, not others.

While there are downfalls to being competitive, there are also many perks. Competitive people will make great leaders. They have a task in mind, and they set out to achieve it. They tend to perform to the best of their ability at their job or in school. People who are competitive want to be the best, and they will work hard in hopes to attain their greatest potential.

So next time you lose a game, a meet, or don't succeed in a small task and you feel like your whole life is over, remind yourself that it is not the end of the world and as the saying goes "the sun will rise again tomorrow!"

JPII: our call to greatness



By Abe Perault
Staff Reporter

If I went and asked people what person knew them best, I bet I would get a plethora of answers from parents, siblings, and friends all the way to teachers and dogs. I bet not one person could give me the answer I'd say. No one would expect I would say a pope. Not just any pope though. I'm talking about Pope John Paul II. Though I have never met him, nor was he alive by the time I was introduced to who he was, he is the one who knows me the best other than Jesus himself.

He doesn't just know me though, he knows you. He was so in communion with Jesus that he understood the human with surreal understanding. Take this quote for example:

"It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal."

This quote is exactly the reason why I say he knows us. Inside everyone there is a desire to be better, to be great, but then we hit that point where we settle for mediocrity. We want to settle to be minimalists. I find myself doing this all the time. I start wanting to settle to do the bare minimum of homework or studying or skipping a few squats and not pushing myself to do more, and I doubt you all are any different. There is a solution to this though. Instead of succumbing to this idea of settling for less when we know were meant for more, we need to maximize our efforts. We need to, as the speaker Mathew Kelly would say, become maximalists.

John Paul II knew how to do this better than anyone else. His own desire was to become a saint, and to do that, he had to be great. He did not achieve greatness by sitting around and complaining about his life: he took up his cross, humbly regarded others as more important than himself, and he loved others. In all actuality, he simply lived like Jesus. Now we as fallen human beings have a great example of greatness. By being maximalists when we choose to love people, putting their needs before ours, we will not only be improving and propelling ourselves toward greatness, but creating a better society around us.

How do we do this? How do we take the mediocre normal lives we are living and make them great? It's as simple as saying to God, "Your will be done." Pursuing virtue is not hard if you say yes. If you struggle with talking bad about others or waking up on the first alarm, say yes. It will change your life!

Now don't get me wrong, it is hard to become great. It is not easy to drop whatever you are doing to go and help someone in need, but it's what we are called to do. At some point we must ask ourselves the question, "Do I want to be mediocre?" If the answer is no, then keep striving to be great because that's what this world needs: great people willing to do good. That's what John Paul II did. Why else would he be called Saint John Paul the Great. It took one great man to change thousands of mediocre people into great people. Now he is a Saint. Keep striving for greatness; sainthood is possible!

> ***" It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal."***
>
> ***~Abe Perault***

The true secret to happiness

By Faith Przymus
Staff Reporter

This year is all about making ME happy. I'm focusing on MYSELF this year.

This me me me attitude has been at the center of social media with the New Year beginning. I have heard countless New Year's resolutions that include making ME better. Initially, this is a noble thought, but I believe true happiness does not derive from self-satisfaction or self-love because humans are rarely content with themselves. We all want to be more successful, more fit, or more financially stable. It is natural for humans to long to constantly improve themselves; therefore, happiness will never be reached by focusing on yourself.

> ***"He tells us in John 15:12, 'My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.' Going out of one's way to help others is one of the purest forms of love."***
>
> ***~Faith Przymus***

Have you ever wondered why it feels so good when little kids open the presents you, or someone else, gave them for Christmas, and they love them? Because God placed the desire to make others happy on our hearts, giving to others is what brings people true and everlasting happiness. This only makes sense because helping others was at the core of Jesus' mission.

He tells us in John 15:12, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." Going out of one's way to help others is one of the purest forms of love. This is why helping others and making others happy brings everyone pure joy. There have even been several scientific tests that back the notion that giving to others results in the greatest happiness amongst people.

A perfect example of this is Mother Teresa. Look up a picture of Mother Teresa, and I can assure you that you will not find a picture where she does not look happy. She dedicated her whole life to making others happy, and she then received eternal happiness in return. Although it may seem hard to relate to Mother Teresa, we can rest in the belief that even she longed for the same happiness that we all do. It should be inspiring to see her example of selflessness and to know that we can achieve similar happiness by helping others.

Although working to improve yourself is not necessarily a bad thing, when one puts all their energy into becoming skinnier, for example, thinking it will make them happier, the feeling of joy will fleet after another insecurity is found. Real and endless happiness will never be reached with this tactic because we are never totally satisfied with ourselves or what we have.

New Year's resolutions are intended to bring about happiness. Even if you have stopped your New Year's resolution after a month, or you didn't make one in the first place, we are all ultimately on the pursuit of happiness. I encourage you all to spend more time this new year helping others instead of yourselves. Happiness deriving from objects or yourself can so easily be lost, but the joy that comes from simply making someone smile will not fade away.

Whether you give someone a simple compliment, help someone pick up his or her books, or explain a problem to someone who is confused, there are so many little things we could all do to help those around us. We all hear Father ask us to pray for the person who needs our prayers the most during Church, but do we really think about it? No matter how detrimental you believe your last heart-break was, someone has it worse. That person could be sitting right next to you in class, and a simple act of kindness might be exactly what he or she needs to make it through the day. Do not underestimate how much helping someone, even in the smallest of ways, could effect that person's life.

There is a famous Chinese proverb that says, "If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a month, get married. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody else."

Kaylie Rocha/ Rock Bottom Staff

Fun Facts of February 14

History of Ash Wednesday:

Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. Ashes were used in ancient times to express grief.

Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting, is the first day of Lent in Western Christianity. It occurs 46 days (40 fasting days, if the six Sundays, which are not days of fast, are excluded) before Easter and can fall as early as February 4 or as late as March 10.

Resources:
www.holidayscalendar.com
fortune.com
www.sunherald.com
www.history.com
www.catholic.org

The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's palm Sunday Mass.

This year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day, which has not happened in decades. Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day will next cross paths on Wednesday, Feb, 14, 2024.

Other Valentine's Day Facts:

Over $4 billion will be spent on jewelry alone, with another $2 billion on flowers.

62% of adults say they celebrate the holiday.

A new survey from the National Retail Federation (NRF) projects U.S. consumers will spend a total of $18.2 billion on their valentines in 2017.

Historical events:

The Flag of the United States was formally recognized by a foreign naval vessel in 1778 at Valentine's day for the first time. French Admiral Toussaint-Guillaume Picquet de la Motte rendered a 9-gun salute to the USS Ranger.

President James Knox Polk became the first serving U.S President to have his photo taken. The picture was taken in New York City at Valentine's Day, 1849.

Oregon became the Union's 33rd United States' State February 14, 1859.

Other religion events:

Maha Shivaratri, also known as the Great Night of Shiva, is a Hindu festival which is celebrated annually on the 13th or 14th night of the new moon in the Hindu month of Phalgun and during Krishna Paksha — which is between March and February on the Gregorian calendar.

History of Valentine's Day:

One common story about St. Valentine is that in one point of his life, as the former Bishop of Terni, Narnia and Amelia, he was on house arrest with Judge Asterius. While discussing religion and faith with the Judge, Valentine pledged the validity of Jesus.

Saint Valentine, officially known as Saint Valentine of Rome, is a third-century Roman saint widely celebrated on February 14 and commonly associated with "courtly love."

Family pets take a share in the love

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

As Valentine's Day approaches this month, there are different varieties of love: it can be love for food, love for a special someone, and love for the animals in the home.

At Scotus, animal lovers are around, expressing their appreciation for their pets, what kind of new pets they have gotten, or the fond memories they have of them.

Junior Julia Pichler is an example of loving her pet dog with all of her heart.

"I love my pet almost as much as I love Subway," Pichler said. "I bought him a hoodie that says 'Adidog', and it has the adidas symbol but dog bones."

People can have variations of different animals that they can have as pets. The average household pets: cats and dogs. People can also have exotic pets such as reptilian creatures, bunnies, mice, birds, and horses.

Freshman Olivia Klug owns a household pet and exotic pets; her exotic pets are two horses and one horse has a quirky trait.

"My horse Shi is super big, and my horse Riley can be really quirky which I like," Klug said. "Riley sometimes get scared of really random things and one of my favorite memories with him is when he got scared when my friend tapped a plastic water bottle on his face even though he's seen water bottles before and has never been bothered by them."

> ***"My dog is named Gingi because it means red in Hebrew, and we're a family of redheads so it's fitting"***
>
> ***~Kate Smith***

Sophomore Kate Smith has an interesting twist to her pets' names.

"My dog is named Gingi because it means red in Hebrew, and we're a family of redheads so it's fitting," Smith said. "Also, my cat is named Sedrick because it's a character from *Harry Potter*, and it was *Harry Potter* weekend when we got him."

However, there are people at Scotus who do not own pets or do not even like the idea of having pets because they are too much work, or they are scared of them.

Junior Hallie Parker is an example.

"I'm pretty much afraid of all animals. Just ask my friends," Parker concluded.

Even with a small handful of people who are afraid or don't personally like animals, or have never been given a chance to own one, many pet owners find their pets interesting and have stories to tell.

Eighth grader Eden Broberg has a fond memory around Christmas time with one of her cats.

"One of my cats, Stella, once got into all of our Christmas stuff. She decided to climb our Christmas tree and ended up swinging from it by one claw," Broberg explained. "We didn't hear her for about five minutes, and she was just hanging from the tree."

People's love for animals is incredible. Pets can range from being family members to being just a furball in the house; however, they still need to be taken care of. Most animal lovers will say they love their pets just as they would love their own sibling or own child.

Freshman Simon Pichler has some final words about his dog, Gunner he shares with his sister.

"How can you measure [love] infinitely," he concluded.

PHOTO COURTESY JULIA PICHLER

Junior Julia Pichler and her brother freshman Simon pose for Christmas with their dog. Pichlers received their dog as a gift from their grandmother, so it holds a special place in their hearts.

What are your feelings toward Valentine's Day?

"I don't see the point in Valentine's Day. If you love someone so much, show them every day; we don't need a holiday for it."
-Jaden Hollmann 11

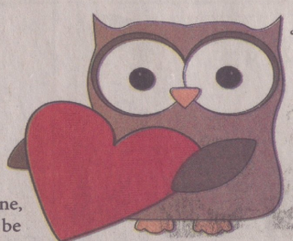
"I like it because you can watch cute movies and cry and eat a lot of chocolate, and no one can say anything about it because it's Valentine's Day."
-Mattie Johnson 11

"It's just a bunch of over dramatic fuss. All Valentine's Day does is make me jealous of all these cute/adorable couples showing off all these 'goals.' This day pretty much ends up with me on the couch eating a tub of ice cream calling myself fat watching Space Jam."
-Brandon Huynh 12

"I think it's a great opportunity to show your love for someone, but some people get way too stressed out. You don't need to be pressured into getting something if you don't want."
-Grace Mustard 8

"Valentine's Day is the perfect day to go all out for that special person in your life because they're expecting it. Why else would giant teddy bear sales spike during that time of year?"
-Elliott Thomazin 11

"It's a time when you have an open chance of telling someone you like them, but it is very easy for people to overreact to it."
-Keira Feehan 9



What would be the best gift to receive from a significant other?

"A lot of blue raspberry jolly ranchers."
-Austin O'Kane 10

"Their love and affection because that is all I need in my life."
-Nicholas Zoucha 7

"Flowers, because if they give you chocolate it seems like they are trying to make you fat."
-Lily Dohmen 7

"Paying off my future college debt would be nice."
-Adelynn Newman 12

"A note because it's short and sweet."
-Brennen Jelinek 7

"I would say a bouquet of roses and chocolate would be the best because both are sweet in their own way."
-Eden Broberg 8

'Going Greek' this Valentine's Day

By Alaina Wallick
Staff Reporter

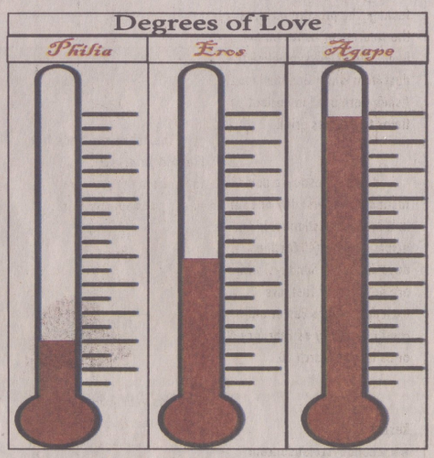
"What is love? Baby don't hurt me..." One hit wonder Haddaway seemed to have been asking the question everyone has pondered at one time or another. Love could definitely be considered as one of the more confusing aspects of life. Obviously, there are many ways to show someone that you 'love' them. Buying them chocolate or sending them a nice card are a few of the many ways to show a person you care about them, but there is only one way to truly say, "I love you," at least that is how it is in the English language. However, if you were to look at the way ancient Greeks expressed their love, it gets a little more complicated. There were varying degrees of love, and each one had a different meaning. The *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* mentions three different forms of love that the Greeks had used.

One of these types of love was known as 'philia.' Philia is most easily described as the love you have for your friends and family. It forms most commonly because two people have similar interests. This is why many people who are friends with each other participate in the same activities. It is the kind of love where you genuinely want the best for that person. An aspect of work is also required. You have to make some kind of an effort to truly 'philia' someone. Many of the relationships in junior high and high school normally begin as philia; however, some do extend past philia and into eros.

Eros could be considered as the next step in love. It is the physical attraction felt between two people. For a bunch of hormonal teenagers, eros seems to run rampant in high school. However, it should be pointed out that eros is not a strong enough type of love that can flourish on its own. While physical attraction can be an important part in a relationship, a love for a person's mind and soul, as well as his or her body, is necessary to maintain a good and healthy relationship. It does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that it is easy to love a person for the way they look, but to love them for how he or she thinks and feels shows a deeper understanding of love.

The ultimate form of love takes shape in agape. Agape is love that requires sacrifice. It is the love that most spouses strive for. Many people think that this is the type of love found in the pages of a Nicholas Sparks novel, but in reality, it is the love that Christ expressed for all of humanity when He died on the cross. Unlike philia, agape does not require anything in return; it does not need to be reciprocated to exist. Catholics take part in God's agape every time they receive the Eucharist. It is the most intense outpouring of unconditional love anyone can experience here on earth, yet it still cannot compare to the love they will receive in Heaven.

Love is something that everyone strives for, but it can also be incredibly confusing because, in all honesty, the word love is incredibly broad. For example, I love Taco Bell, and I also love my parents. Even though I used the same word in both of those statements, I know that the love I have for my parents is greater than all of the Doritos Locos Tacos money can buy. Does this mean that English speakers need to 'go Greek' when it comes to love? Probably not, but it does mean that we still have a lot to learn about love. So, next time you are jamming out to Haddaway's "What is Love?" take some time to really think what you mean when you say you 'love' something.



Self-esteem saves us from suffering

By Grace Odbert
Staff Reporter

According to an article published by *DoSomething.org*, 7/10 girls feel that they don't live up to society's expectations when it comes to looks, talents, performance in school, and relationships with friends and family. This statistic may throw you for a whirl, or it may not surprise you at all. Self-worth among teenagers decreases each year. Teens feel less in love with themselves more and more as our world changes. More deaths per year are related to suicide than homicides or even war. People are affected by the way they feel about themselves and they may not even notice that their self-esteem is the cause of those positive or negative effects.

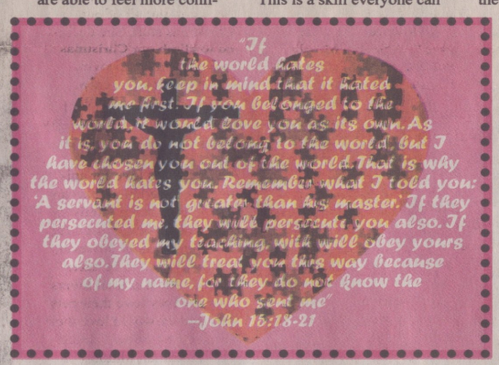
Among the world's population, 85% are affected by their low self-esteem. A person with low self-esteem is defined by *UC Davis Health* as feeling unworthy, incapable, and incompetent about themselves or their talents. For example, again, according to *DoSomething.org*, 70% of girls avoid daily activities such as showing up to school, just because they don't feel confident in how they look. These statistics take their toll on everybody. Every single person is rendered just by their self-esteem. If you feel poorly about yourself, the more difficult it will be to feel positively about others. Teenagers that feel their self-worth is minimal are more likely to slack in school. If a teenager feels good about their looks, talents, and capabilities, they are more likely to accel in school than a teen who feels lousy on the inside.

For girls, self-esteem is more or so related how beautiful they think they are. According to this sad statistic published by a *Self-Esteem Project*, only 2% of women think they are beautiful. For men, it isn't about beauty. While both genders seem to struggle with how they look, verses how the magazines tell them they should look, males are just as susceptible to low self-esteem as women. *Psychcentral.com* says that teenage boys need to channel themselves into something they love to keep the positive thoughts they have about themselves steady. Boys who feel they don't have anything specific to contribute to and are more worrisome about who they are often found hiding away in their bedroom or secluding themselves elsewhere. It seems that boys need almost some type of activity to draw their attention to so that they are able to feel more confident in themselves. *DoSomething.org* says that 38% of high school boys reported using protein supplements, and 6% have experimented with steroids. The media screams at high schoolers to look a certain way to feel good, but in all reality, how you feel about yourself doesn't have to depend only on your own opinion of you.

The number one wish of teens across the world is that they had better communication with their parents. This is a skill everyone can improve on. Talking to elders who have been through the emotional-rollercoaster of high school can help give you tips and tricks to being confident. Statistics also show that self-esteem is directly related to comments made from friends. If everyone speaks out of kindness, everyone will feel better about themselves. If you do hear ill words about you that would damper how confident you feel, you should do your best to brush it off and turn the other cheek. Accepting yourself for who you are is the first step to improving self-esteem.

Low self-esteem is the universal common denominator to all addictions according to *SelfEsteem-School.com*. Feeling down in the dumps actually makes people more likely participate in things they normally would not. These things can include violence, vandalization, drugs, drinking, bullying, binge eating or not eating at all and even self-harm. The same study also says that teenagers who attend Mass regularly are linked to having a higher self-esteem than teens who do not. Teenage females who have a good love of self are *three times* more likely to *avoid* premarital sex. Girls who do not feel pleased with themselves are *four times* more likely to engage in sexual activity with boys that they might not have before. On the contrary, teenage boys who consider themselves to have a high self-esteem are *two and a half times* more like to *have* sex in high school. A low self-esteem is harmful to a person in so many different ways.

Low self-esteem is in fact harmful, so finding a good one is necessary. There are steps to building confidence in your own self-worth. Step one is brushing off comments that don't matter, and after that is just being confident in who you are. Just remember that someone hates you for is the same something that someone else adores you for. Feel good about who you are, it is healthy and helpful to all that you do as a person.



Possible Valentine's Day Date Ideas

Go to the bowling alley

Study together

Go shopping

Find a hill to sled on

Play a board game

Bake a treat

Try ice skating

Visit a Museum

Watch people at a public place

Go stargazing

Start an art project

Watch a movie

Have dinner together

Take a walk

Visit the zoo

Jacob Morse/ Rock Bottom Staff

Girls look toward post-season

By Jacob Morse
Staff Reporter

After falling short in the 2017 state tournament, the Shamrocks are waiting with much anticipation to see if the ball will bounce in their direction at the end of this season.

So far, the Scotus girls have been right on pace to compete in the tournament in March with a 11-5 record. With senior leadership, they have shown improvement as a team compared to previous years, proving that they can compete in the Centennial Conference in C-1. Senior point guard Maggie Feehan spoke about her confidence in the team.

"I feel like we have grown as a team and built a lot of confidence throughout the season. We all know we can compete with any team," Feehan stated. "We have a lot of seniors on the team, and we all really want to make a run to state and have our last year a memorable one."

The majority of the games during this season have come down to the final moments for the Lady Shamrocks. Their most recent victory was at Bergan, where the girls were able to hold off the Knights in the final seconds of the game.

"We have stepped up in games like Neumann and Bergan by making really good plays at the end of games to help our team win," senior Grace Wickham said. "Bailey Lehr really stepped up at the end of the Bergan game by making both of her free throws with a tenth of a second of time left on the clock."

With success during the regular season, the Shamrocks are looking forward to playing basketball in the post-season. Since the girls have been able to win games, it has given them a lot of "power points". They become really important once the district tournament rolls around. If they fall short during this tournament, these points will be able to give them a wildcard opportunity.

"The season has gone well for us so far, being one of seven seniors on the team, I can't imagine any of us not being excited for post season basketball. Our team has all of the pieces for success and we are excited to see it all come together," Odbert said.

The girls have let five games slip through their fingers this season. Most of the losses have been by a very slim margin. Three of their five losses, (Hastings St. Cecilia, Pierce, and Bishop Neumann), have all been games where they fell short by 3 points or less.

"We have the talent and have shown what we can do. We have let a few games slip away from us, but if we can put everything together for 32 minutes, I am very excited to see where the season will end up," Senior Kendra Wiese concluded.

The Shamrocks will play their next game away at Columbus Lakeview on February 6th. After playing this game, they will have a week to prepare for sub-districts that will be held on the 12th, 13th, and 15th.

Jacob Morse / Rock Bottom Staff

Senior guard Grace Wickham looks to pass the ball in between two Bishop Neumann defenders. This season, Wickham surpassed the career three point record of fifty-two.

Wrestlers duel with illness

By Matt Strecker
Editor

A record with twice as many losses than wins refrains from telling the full story of the 2017-2018 Shamrock wrestling season. With a team record of 6-12, the young Shamrock team has few opportunities left to finish the season strong as a group with just the district meet left for some wrestlers.

"We just need to continue to work hard in practice and stay in shape," senior Wren Allen said. "The best way for me to finish strong would be to make it to state and possibly place."

The Shamrocks competed in the Centennial Conference wrestling tournament at Boys Town High School on January 20th with high hopes of winning the tournament. After a long day of exciting matches on all three mats, the Shamrocks walked away with just one conference champion in senior 132-pound Calen Hinze, who had been battling illness throughout the tournament.

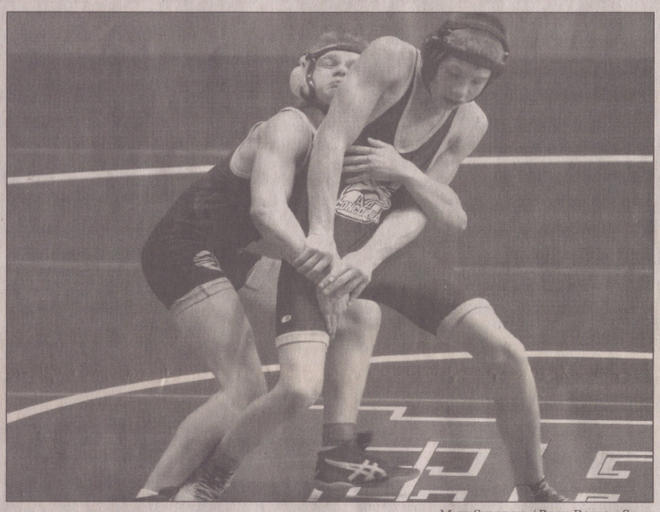
"My only goal is to make it to state," Hinze said. "I just have to keep putting in work in practice and wrestle as best I can."

Although the team only achieved a single conference champion, the Shamrocks are still confident in their abilities to wrestle well on big stages.

"This year I have gained confidence and am no longer nervous to wrestle the better opponents," Allen, a conference runner-up, said. "It has really helped me because I have had to wrestle several ranked opponents and have beaten a few of them."

The Shamrocks had little time to sulk in their defeat as they turned around and wrestled in the Boone Central/Lakeview triangular. Allen, who boasted a record of 25-6 at that point, was forced to sit out with an illness. The Shamrocks defeated the Cardinals in a tight battle 48-35 after getting ran over by Lakeview 66-15. Against Lakeview, freshman Jake Heesacker and juniors Daniel Tworek and Colby Gilson were the lone winners.

"I usually try to study the people that I have to go against and watch what they like to do," Heesacker said. "It prepares me for when I actually wrestle against them."



Matt Strecker / Rock Bottom Staff

Sophomore Brock Clarke attempts to take down his opponent from Concordia during the Centennial Conference wrestling meet. The conference meet was held at Boys Town High School.

In a tight battle against Boone Central/Neumann Grove, Hinze achieved a pin at the 132 weight class that clinched the victory for the Shamrocks.

"We never give up even though there may be a slim chance that we can beat more talented teams," Hinze said.

Still battling a handful of sicknesses, the Shamrocks traveled to the Neumann Invite missing four varsity wrestlers to influenza or injury. Even with these crutches, the Shamrocks battled to finish 3rd with 127.5 points. Five wrestlers made it to the top three in their weight classes with junior Jackson Neville as the lone champion at 138 pounds.

"I've been wrestling well because I'm beating people that are better than me because I am in better shape than them," Neville said.

Looking forward to districts and state on February 9th and 10th and the weekend of February 15th-17th, the Shamrocks understand that their record doesn't reflect the talent and effort that the team possesses.

"I think the team has done very well this year against big teams," Allen said. "It doesn't show on our team record, but we just have a lot of inexperience. I love the way most of the team always wrestles hard and competes no matter who we are wrestling against."

Boys turn around turnovers

By Grace Odbert
Staff Reporter

Although their win-loss record may be deceiving with five wins and twelve losses, the Scotus boys' basketball team has found recent success. Two of the boys' five wins were back to back. One of their most recent victories was against Bergan on January 19th, just one game before their triumph during the first round of conference against Neumann on January 23rd.

"Playing against Bergan was a lot of fun because we played well right off the bat, and we ended a losing streak against a good team with their own impressive record," senior starting post player Matt Strecker stated.

Just four days after tacking a 'W' onto their record at Bergan, the boys performed once again at Bishop Neumann's home court. Another away win settled into their record. Sophomore shooting guard Caden Pelan scored 22 points at Neumann.

"I really liked playing in the Neumann game because it was a high intensity game that challenged us to overcome some adversity," Pelan commented.

Even with the win against Neumann, the boys struggled with consistency. The boys scored 21 points in the first quarter, winning 21-11, but only 4 points second quarter. At half-time the score was 28-25 with Neumann on top. The boys pulled it together and found a way to win with a final score of 51-47.

Sophomore Eric Mustard, who is one of the first off the bench and specializes defensively, said, "I think the season is turning around. We just beat Neumann, and we've proved that we can compete with the top teams in the state; we just need to put it all together."

Strecker also feels the turn-around beginning after their two away wins.

"We just need to play intense every night and be the tougher team every night," Strecker said. "If we do that, everything will end up taking care of itself."

All-state player last year, Trevor Kaslon, has been an experienced leader for this year's team.

"We have the assets to be a top team in the state, we just haven't brought them together quite yet," senior guard Trevor Kaslon said.

Sophomore Tyler Palmer, one of the first guys off the bench each game, believes the team has built up their team chemistry.

"We are finally starting to figure out everyone's strengths and weaknesses and having more fun playing the sport so that's all we really have to do," Palmer said. "There are going to be games when we just don't have 'it,' but as long as we keep fighting through the adversity, we will be fine."

The boys haven't let the losses during this year's season put them down.

Senior point-guard Colson Kosch said, "My favorite part is how we stick together no matter what happens."

It isn't all fun and games on the court, however. The team strives to reach their ceiling, starting at practice.

"We have to come every day enthusiastic and willing to get better. It is a grind, but hopefully it will pay off in the end," Kaslon said. "We need to help our teammates do what they're good at to make a run in the post-season."

Grace Odbert / Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Trevor Kaslon takes a one-two lay-in to the hoop. This game was played at St. Paul where the Shamrocks fell to the Warriors with a final score of 60-52.

The Shamrocks lost to Lincoln Christian during the second round of the conference tournament. They headed back to Neumann for another head-to-head battle late last week. The boys played two games back-to-back on Friday and Saturday last week. Soon, post-season basketball will begin. Unfortunately, the Scotus boys' basketball team has no chance at a wildcard, so their ticket to state will have to be punched elsewhere.

"As a team, our goal is to be playing our best basketball at districts and sub-districts to find a way to get to state," Strecker said.

Sub-districts will start February 19th.

Lifters power through season to state

By Abe Perault
Staff Reporter

Scotus winter activities are in full swing, and their noises can be heard echoing throughout the halls. The dribbling of basketballs, the singing of Maddie Sueper and Mattie Johnson's voices, and Logan Zanardi's hilarious interpretations for the speech team are just a few examples. But there is one sound that can't be ignored, and that is the sound of classic rock and clanking metal coming from the weight room.

The Scotus powerlifting team, just like their weight room, is having a hard time being ignored by their competition. With the team having already competed at four meets, Beatrice and Omaha Central being the most recent, many of its members have been rising to new heights of excellence.

"Powerlifting has made lifting a lot more fun. It has changed me as a person as well because I now know what hours of dedication can really do for you," sophomore Cole Demuth said.

For the boys, senior Tyler Miksch has taken home the gold medal in the 148 pound weight class at every meet this year so far. He also broke three state records including two for squat and one for deadlift. Along with Miksch, senior Logan Mueller also placed first at the Beatrice meet and third at Omaha Central in the 181 pound weight class.

"My competition was fierce. At Beatrice, all the guys in the top five of my weight class were within fifteen pounds of each other, and Omaha South had some huge guys that were hard to beat," Mueller said.

Other noteworthy mentions are senior Alex Preister who placed second at Beatrice, freshman Brennan Frewing who pulled in a third place at Beatrice and a fourth at Omaha Central, junior Abe Perault placing fourth at both Beatrice and Omaha Central, sophomore Tim Ehlers placed fifth at Omaha Central, and finally sophomore Collin Dreher and junior Sam Blaser placing second and third respectively at Omaha Central.

"I really couldn't tell since it was my first meet, but I felt third place was really good," Frewing said.

The girls powerlifting team had a clean slate this year. With only one returning member, seven other girls joined the team.

"Our team is probably one of the most supportive teams out there. We all encourage each other to be the best we can be. It's amazing," freshman Anna Ehlers said.

Of the newcomers, junior Emma Brandt is the standout, placing second twice in the 132 pound weight class at both Beatrice and Omaha Central.

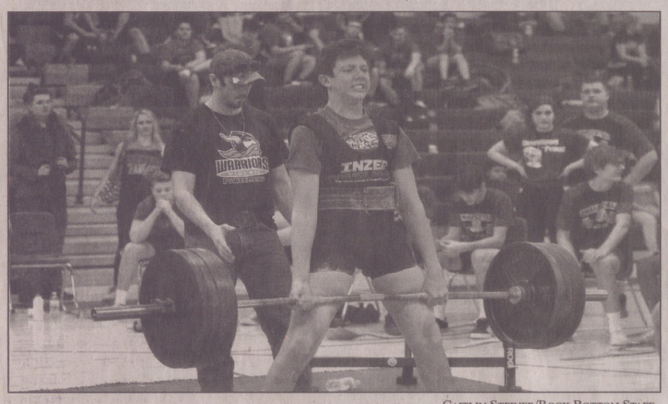
"It's like nothing I have been to before. When it's time to deadlift, everyone is yelling because that lift could make you win. It just makes you want everyone to do well," Brandt commented.

Along with Brandt, almost all the other girls placed. Freshmen Gillian Brandt, Michaela Kresha, Madison Wittwer, and Kaitlyn Bayer all placed fifth at Beatrice, and freshman Ashtyn Preister placed fourth. Plus at Omaha Central, Madison Wittwer also placed fifth.

This season for the Shamrocks has not been an easy one though. With last year's seniors Abbie Perault and Will Sonderman having graduated, and the boys losing four teammates to season ending injuries, some shoes had to be filled. Miksch being the senior leader of the team had nothing but positive things to say.

"Fortunately, we have had underclassmen step up and fill in our team's empty places. The entire team has gained incredible amounts of strength. It is great to see everyone grow stronger," Miksch concluded, "I am proud to be considered a leader of this great team."

The Shamrocks will finish their season at the state meet in Beatrice on March 3rd.



Caitlin Steiner/Rock Bottom Staff

Sophomore Levi Robertson deadlifts 405 pounds at the Omaha Central meet on January 27th. The powerlifting team will finish their season at the state meet in Beatrice on March 3rd.

Caitlin Steiner/Rock Bottom Staff

Junior Emma Brandt squats 205 pounds at the Omaha Central meet. She was one of the three girls that received a medal during the meet.

Swimmers dive-in to qualifying times

By Jenna Salerno
Staff Reporter

Columbus swimmers are slowly but surely dropping time as they continue the 2018 swim season. Starting off the year strong, many Scotus swimmers have qualified for state, while others still strive to drop those last few seconds to qualify.

"When the season first begins, you drop time like crazy, and it's the greatest feeling in the world. Then you get a couple months in, and you hit a funk where you can't drop time at all. It happens to everyone," junior Callan Fuchser said.

Not only have the swimmers been focusing on their individual times, but they also compete in relays, working together to drop time as a team, with the final goal of making it to state.

"I am looking forward to the state meet because I love swimming relays the most. You've worked all season for this two-minute moment on the biggest stage in Nebraska. Definitely a cool, memorable experience," Fuchser said.

Fuchser has qualified for state in two relays, the 200 free relay and the 200 medley relay, along with fellow Scotus swimmers junior Julia Salerno and sophomore Emily Miksch.

At this point in the season, the Scotus swimmers will be sending six people to state in a variety of both relays and personal events. One senior, Trey Dallman, is looking forward to his last high school state swim meet.

Dallman said, "I'm really looking forward to our state meet since there's a possibility we can medal [in our relay]."

Dallman is not the only one looking forward to the state meet.

Salerno said, "It is such a fun weekend because we don't have the stress of making it to finals so we can just have fun."

Other swimmers may not have qualified yet, but have significantly dropped their times this season. One of those is senior Thiago Pereira.

"I unexpectedly dropped two seconds off my 50 freestyle," Pereira said.

The state meet this year will take place on Friday, February 23rd and Saturday, February 24th, with preliminaries on Friday and finals on Saturday. They will compete at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in Lincoln. Senior Chase Andresen, the boys team captain and six event state qualifier, is looking forward to visiting Lincoln in February.

Jenna Salerno/Rock Bottom Staff

Junior Julia Salerno swims the freestyle stroke at the Columbus Aquatic Center. She will compete at state swim on February 28th in Lincoln, NE.

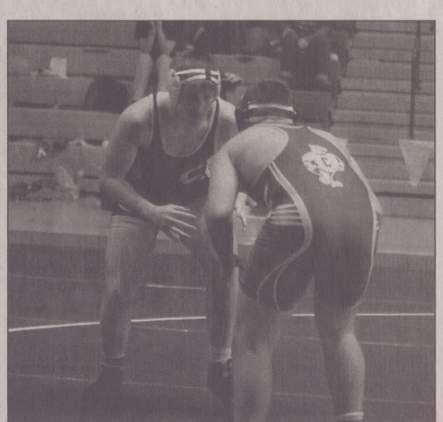
"State and conference are two meets that really have a different but exciting feel, they can really be a lot of fun, and it also a great opportunity to drop some time against great competition," Andresen said.

There are only two meets left in the season before state. They will be competing against Pius X tonight, February 6th at the Aquatic Center in Columbus and then in the GNAC meet in Kearney on February 10th.

A few more scenes from winter sports 2018

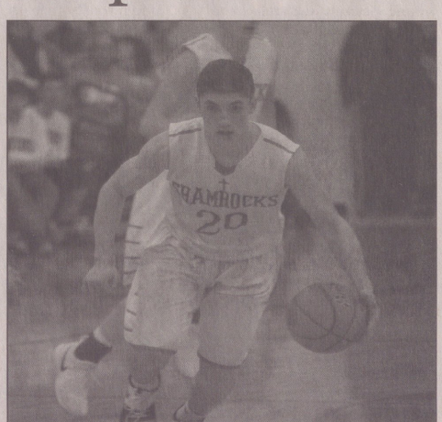
Jadyn Larsen/Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Madison Kerkman boxes out a North Bend opponent trying to get to the rim. The girls will play their next game on February 6th at Lakeview.



Matt Strecker/Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Wren Allen sizes up his competitor from Saint Cecilia at the conference tournament. Allen received 2nd place in this meet.



Ellie Bock/Media Staff

Senior guard Colson Kosch brings the ball up the court against Lincoln Christian. The boys will compete against Wahoo public on February 6th.

Girls spread the love of God

By Maggie Feehan
Staff Reporter

The first few years of high school can be overwhelming for everyone, especially for girls. To spread a little love and support, religion teacher Kelly Koranda coordinated an all-girls prayer group at Scotus consisting of any freshmen or sophomore girls who wish to participate.

"The love of friendship is really important. With the girls group, that's the love we are trying to help foster," Koranda explained.

During their gatherings, the girls discuss their faith and support each other through the sometimes difficult years of high school. The goal is to convene for a monthly breakfast and to take on service projects.

"This group is important because it gives girls an opportunity to practice their faith by doing projects and sharing God's good news with others," freshman Emily Ferguson said.

So far, the girls have created inspirational posters for the girls' bathrooms, watched movies at their Christmas party, and discussed their faith journeys. They are also planning to go to Mory's Haven to give a special surprise to its residents.

"I feel like a group like this helps girls from different classes and groups hang out in a supportive and fun environment. It's a place for us to share our faith journeys and support one another which is extremely important," sophomore Liza Zaruba said.

Many students participate in groups like the Godparents Program, Steubenville, and JC camp. Although these other groups and events give students a place to share their faith, Koranda feels as if her girls group is something unique.

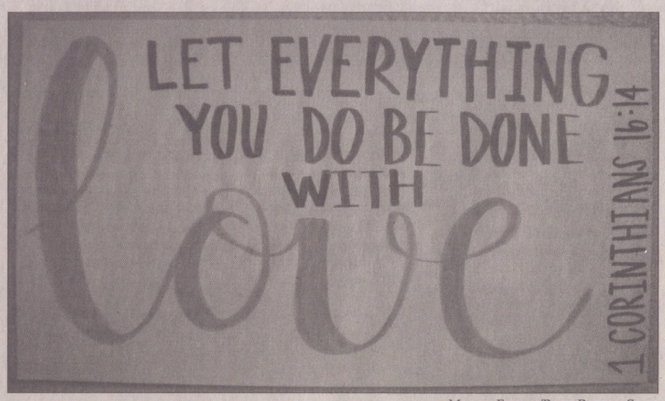
"It just kept coming up to me while I was praying. The faces of the freshmen and sophomore girls' faces kept showing up and I was like, okay God, what are you saying? I was realizing as far as faith sharing goes there are a lot of co-ed groups, but there is not a lot of opportunity to just show your faith with other girls," Koranda said.

Koranda attended an all-girls high school in which she learned the importance of having your girl friends to lean on.

"I love Mrs. Koranda and all the girls who participate. Everyone wants to be there and has a great attitude towards it. I am super excited to see how it grows," freshman Janae Rusher said.

Koranda also assists with campus ministry as one of father's helpers. "With campus ministry, I think it's an effort being able to love the student body, not just with our own love, but with the love of God," Koranda said.

The girls will assemble next in early March. All freshmen and sophomore girls are welcome and encouraged to attend!



MAGGIE FEEHAN/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Religion teacher Kelly Koranda and her girls' group hung inspirational posters with bible versus in the girls' bathrooms. The next meeting for the group will be in early March.

Speech team starts off strong

By Alaina Wallick
Staff Reporter

Public speaking is often described as one of the most dreaded activities in high school. Students who find themselves having to give a speech to their class seem to quickly develop sweaty palms, blushing cheeks, and dry mouths. However, for the Scotus speech team, almost every Saturday in January has been dedicated to this very activity. So far, the speech team has traveled to meets at the University of Nebraska Lincoln, Ashland-Greenwood, North Bend, and Logan View.

"Ashland-Greenwood has been my favorite meet," junior Patrick Herchenbach, who placed fourth at the Ashland-Greenwood meet in extemporaneous, stated, "I performed way better than I thought I would and actually placed well."

The speech team consists of six seniors, five juniors, six sophomores, and three freshmen. Their first meet was at UNL on December 16. The team then had about a month-long hiatus for Christmas to regroup and get ready for the upcoming meets in January and February.

"I'm looking forward to the Logan View because it's so nice and a little more laid back than most other meets," sophomore Debanhi Adame-Hernandez said.

After Christmas break, the team started right up again attending the Ashland-Greenwood meet on January 13th. The team ended up placing fourth out of seventeen teams with seven out of nine Scotus entries moving onto finals. The team then attended the North Bend meet. This was the first time Scotus had competed in North Bend where five out of five entries made it to finals. With so much success this early in the season, speech coach Melanie Mimick and assistant coach Becki Zanardi have high hopes for the speech team this year.

"Obviously, the end goal is always to get kids to state. I really would like to see our team place higher at meets than we have in the past," Mimick admitted. "If we can always land in the top half at big meets, that would be great, and I hope going into conference and districts we can really step things up."

Despite only being a few weeks into the speech season, team members already have their focus set on state, which will be held in March at the University of Kearney. Competitors who want to make it to the state meet must place within the top three in their event.

"[My goal for the season is] to make it to state and improve each and every meet," senior Bryan Littlefield said.

In addition to the nine scheduled meets, Mimick added in a speech workshop in Concordia on December 9th as well as a showcase for parents and other spectators on January 30th at Scotus.

"We don't have a home meet this year," Mimick explained, "so I thought having something that was a little more accessible to people would be better in terms of getting people to come out and see what we do on the speech team."

The speech team's season is far from over, and there is still a lot for them to do to get ready for districts and state. However, team members feel that speech has given them opportunities and friendships that make the sweaty palms and dry mouths worth it.

"It is tons of fun; we're basically a family," senior Logan Zanardi stated. "Speaking is a life skill and speech team will help you improve your speaking abilities and confidence."

HALLIE PARKER/MEDIA STAFF

Junior Isaac Ostdiek discusses the theories behind the dissappearances of the Roanoke coloinies during his informative speech at the Ashland-Greenwood meet. This is Ostdiek's second year on the speech team.

HALLIE PARKER/MEDIA STAFF

Senior Emily Carstens explains the perils of saying good-bye in her entertainment speech at the Ashland-Greenwood meet. Carstens received third place at this meet.

Scotus offers many opportunities

Scotus Central Catholic is known for its success in many activities. These range from sports, fine arts and to groups. Scotus offers 48 different activities which 13 sports and 6 co-op sports are shared with Columbus High School.

Activities director Merlin Lahm has a strong feeling about his student body juggling education and activities.

"I think we have found over the course of decades that some of our more successful students are some of the people who are in the most activities," Lahm said. "It's a good thing to be busy, it's a good thing to be active, and it's a good thing for a student to learn time management."

The student body participates in 90% of activities that are recognized as NSAA. If all activities are included, 93% are involved.

"You don't know what it's going to be like until you make the effort and give it that commitment. Go out on a limb and challenge yourself, and you are usually better for it," Lahm concluded.

Groups

Art Club
Campus Ministry
Chess Club
FBLA
Girls' Prayer Group
HOSA
NHS
S-Club
Shepherd Program
Student Council
Teens for Life
Quiz Bowl

Sports

Girls

Basketball
Cheerleading
Cross Country
Golf
Powerlifting
Soccer
Softball
Swimming
Tennis
Track and Field
Volleyball

Boys

Baseball
Basketball
Cross Country
Football
Golf
Powerlifting
Soccer
Swimming
Tennis
Track and Field
Wrestling

Fine Arts

Band
Flag Corps
Journalism
Mock Trial
Musical
One Act
Speech
Spring Play
Thespians
Vocal Music

SCOTUS OFFERS 48 SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

93% OF STUDENTS ARE INVOLVED IN AT LEAST ONE ACTIVITY

KAYLIE ROCHA/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Students rush into winter ball after break

By Faith Przymus
Staff Reporter

The high school students started the second semester off on a high-note by attending Winter Ball after only one day back to school on Saturday, January 7th.

Winter Ball is planned every year by the sophomore class officers and sponsor. They are in charge of finding a date that works, buying decorations, and setting up the dance. The sophomore class decided that the theme Winter Wonderland would be fitting for winter ball. Liza Zaruba, sophomore class officer, was in charge of getting many things ready for the dance.

"I went through a lot of work by organizing the crown bearers and the winners from last year to come. I also ordered the crowns, compiled all of the candidates' questionnaires into their entrance speeches, and did the backdrop and decorations," Zaruba said.

The date chosen this year resulted in some unfavorable emotions amongst high school students and those preparing for the dance.

Sophomore Lauren Ostdiek said, "I did not like that the dance was right away after break because it felt very rushed. I think it would have been better to have it later because then it gives us something to look forward to after school starts back up."

Math teacher Alison Timoney, sophomore class sponsor, agreed with Ostdiek that more time before the dance would have been beneficial.

"The only thing that was difficult was I wish we would have had more than one day before the dance to prepare," Timoney said.

What many are not aware of though is how difficult it is to find a date that works with the school's busy schedules.

Timoney said, "[Finding a date for the dance] was a combination of trying to figure out what day there were the fewest activities."

Despite the date of the dance, Winter Ball was still memorable and fun for many, especially for Matthew Bichlmeier and Alaina Wallick. These two were nominated as Winter Ball candidates, and they were then elected by the student body as Winter Ball King and Queen.

Senior Alaina Wallick said, "Winning Winter Ball Queen was definitely one of the highlights of the dance. Hearing everyone cheering after they announced my name was such an amazing feeling."

Coronation took place in Memorial Hall where the candidates walked across the gym in front of all those in high school. Afterwards all the students headed down to the cafeteria to kick the dance off. Students can come to the dance with or without a date. They can also bring dates from other schools. Sophomore class officer Kate Smith explained how it is completely normal to not have a date at Scotus dances.

"I think for other schools' dances you need a date, but not so much for Scotus dances. It is nice to have someone to take cute pictures and slow dance with, but I would rather scream lyrics in a circle with my girls," Smith said.

Many students enjoy dances at Scotus because it is an opportunity to have fun with their friends and dance to good music.

Junior Isaac Ostdiek said, "I liked how the last song that the D.J. played was "Determinate" from Lemonade Mouth.

Although having the dance right after returning from break was not liked by all, students still managed to have a great night.

Bichlmeier summed the night up by saying, "It was pretty cool, and the popcorn was good."

PHOTO COURTESY/JACQUIE SMITH

Senior Winter Ball candidates pose for a photo after coronation. Candidates were Shania Borchers, Trey Dallman, Maggie Feehan, Carson Hottovy, Grace Wickham, Queen Alaina Wallick, King Matthew Bichlmeier, Brock Kracman, Kelli Williams, Calen Hinze, Jadyn Larsen, and Logan Mueller.

MORGAN RINKOL/MEDIA STAFF

Sophomore Levi Robertson shows off his dance moves in front of a circle of students at Winter Ball. The dance has held in the cafeteria.

MORGAN RINKOL/MEDIA STAFF

Freshman Laura Bettenhausen joined in on the line dancing to kick the night off. The dance took place on Saturday, January 7th.

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Rewriting the modern musical

By Jenna Salerno
Staff Reporter

As a fan of all musical theatre, I entered my first showing of *The Greatest Showman* with the hopes of a great movie that would leave me happy, but not obsessed. But within the first five minutes of the movie, I knew this would not be just another movie. *The Greatest Showman* wowed me, rocketing past any expectations I had before seeing this movie and wedging itself in as my new favorite movie, leading me to see it another three times and still wanting more.

The Greatest Showman is inspired by the imagination of P.T. Barnum, a man who grew from being a homeless orphan to a worldwide success in his circus. The story follows his general lifeline, starting in his young childhood, and then moving on to show his slow growing success and all of the challenges included in finding that success. While following Barnum's life, we also see his growing romance with his future wife Charity Barnum, which then leads to his two children.

Throughout the movie, there are two themes the story revolves around, self-love and the meaning of family. With the many odd-looking people in the movie, they all learn they are worth the same as all other people, even if they do not look the same. The meaning of family is also prevalent in the show, as it is the main drive of Barnum's climb to success. There are also some issues with racism and the battle between upper class and lower class in the film, which truly add to the overall effect the movie leaves on its viewers.

The movie itself has everything that any fan of musical theatre expects in a show. It hits the nail on the head for both talented musicians and dancers, has an intriguing story line, and shows a great message for all ages without including anything inappropriate in an attempt to attract more viewers, which is uncommon in most of today's media.

The music included in this musical movie is part of the reason it has snatched a place in both mine and most viewers' hearts. The songs have great messages, including some that tell people to be proud of who they are or others that show that working hard will lead to success. The music is catchy and fits into the film well. Most of the movie is filled with music, which explains a great deal of the show. One of the reasons I adore the music so much is it tied so well into the story that when listening to the music alone, you can still picture the scene from the movie in your head.

> ***"Throughout the movie, there are two theme the story revolves around, self-love and the meaning of family. With the many odd-looking people in the movie, they all learn they are worth the same as all other people, even if they do not look the same."***
>
> ***~Jenna Salerno***

The dancing throughout the show is also breathtaking, as the choreography was beautifully done. Ashley Wallen choreographed all of the moves seen in the show, from the dancing horses to the partner duets. Each move was not only choreographed for the dancers, but for the cameras as well, allowing for the flying camera views throughout the movie. The acting in the movie is also incredible, helping a viewer to believe and feel the emotions the characters are going through.

Although I personally have loved this movie, there are a few let downs. Throughout the movie, there were a few scenes that do not make sense realistically, whether it be too much editing, or breaks in the flow of the movie, with characters outfits changing when they shouldn't have. Another downfall is that the storyline is not historically accurate, and although they never claimed it to be a biography of P.T. Barnum, it still leaves false beliefs about who the man really was in all viewers' minds.

Overall, this movie will be on my 'to recommend' list for all of my friends. The storyline, music, and acting in the movie will leave anyone speechless, lost in the wild imagination of P.T. Barnum's life and career. Whether you are a fan of musicals or not, it is worth a shot because even if you do not end up loving it, you will still have been treated with true artistic talent and hopefully a new view on some of the main issues found in the movie.

CINEMATERIAL.COM

The Greatest Showman **first came out on December 20th, 2017. One of the featured songs "This Is Me" received a Golden Globe for Best Original Song.**

P.T. Barnum: 'This is me'

By Matt Strecker
Editor

The Greatest Showman has raked in over $151 million in the box office in just under three weeks of release. Honestly, who can be surprised with a star-studded cast, a phenomenal soundtrack, and a unique, but seemingly predictable storyline. However, do audiences understand what they are actually watching? The true story of P.T. Barnum, founder of an American Museum in New York City and what would later become the Barnum and Bailey Circus, is a story that is not well known, and in this case, not portrayed well in The Greatest Showman.

Phineas Taylor Barnum, before the large top hat and the peanut shells came into his life, was a Connecticut legislature and small business owner in 1865 in Fairfield. As it is stated on Biography.com, he later became the mayor of Bridgeport, Connecticut where he founded a hospital in 1878 and was its first President. Most of Barnum's fame, however, took place long before his political career; when he was just 25 years old, he began his career as a showman. He became popular in show business for fooling people and becoming the "ringleader" of several hoaxes. One of the most famous oddities in Barnum's traveling circus was a man by the name of Charles Stratton, or "General Tom Thumb" (played by Sam Humphrey in the film), who boasted as the world's smallest man to walk alone. However, according to Encyclopedia Britannica, it turns out that Stratton was just a five year old boy who looked much older than five. With a larger group of "freaks" to go along with his tiny general, Barnum had a show.

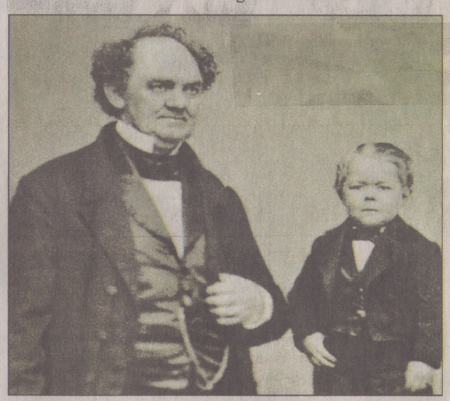
Thirsty for more fame and a larger audience, Barnum took a colossal risk in his next production. In 1850, the Swedish Nightingale, Jenny Lind, came to America for a "one night only" performance orchestrated by Barnum. Strange that a circus ringleader would be able to rope in Europe's most famous singer, bringing in an average of the modern equivalent of $21 million in a nine month period. However unlikely it may seem, she was an indescribable sensation, and it triggered an American tour that brought Barnum away from his circus. However, in real life, there was no Zac Efron to cover for him while he was gone, so the circus began to fail miserably.

A major issue between the truth and the movie begins when Jenny Lind begins to want more than just a manager out of Barnum. In the movie and in a 1980 Broadway version of the story, Lind makes several discrete advances toward Barnum, and he struggles with keeping his relationship strictly professional. According to VanityFair.com, this story of romance is all completely fictional. It was extremely important to Barnum and Lind that their relationship be solely based on the tour and not contain any romantic involvement. Barnum trusted his wife, Charity Barnum, to keep house and care for their three daughters as he wrote to them from the road. However, this became difficult for the couple, and Charity began to fight through intermediate chronic illnesses and the tragic death of their fourth daughter. The road life began to be too much for both Barnum and Lind and the remainder of the tour after nine months was canceled. Barnum returned to Connecticut and dedicated all of his attention to the American theatre and began the nation's first theatrical matinees instead of returning to a burned down museum building and continuing his circus "under the big top" with a stereotypically huge circus tent.

> ***"When he was just 25 years old, he began his career as a showman. He became popular in show business for fooling people and becoming the "ringleader" of several hoaxes."***
>
> ***~Matt Strecker***

Barnum was able to eventually rise back to power as a circus king in 1870 with the founding of "P. T. Barnum's Grand Traveling Museum, Menagerie, Caravan & Hippodrome", which was his large, extremely successful traveling circus that was eventually sold after his death in 1891 for $400,000 or $10.5 million in 2017 monetary value according to USAToday.com.

Even though The Greatest Showman may not be historically accurate and factually correct through and through, it was still a fantastic movie worth the price of admission. With an energetic and talented cast, toe-tapping songs, and a great semi-true backstory, you'll find yourself lost in the brilliance of the story of one of, if not the, greatest showman.



THOUGHTCO.COM

Phineas Taylor Barnum stands next to Charles Stratton, his "General Tom Thumb". Stratton was labeled "The worlds smallest mad to walk alone" and was one of Barnum's first acts in the early 1840s and played a major roll in the movie *The Greatest Showman*.

A Day in the Life

February 14, 2018: Valentine's Day

Written by Caitlin Steiner

7th Grade

Do we do anything special at Scotus for Valentine's Day? Every year we've gotten to make Valentine's Day boxes and hand out treats. Is it okay if I still give my friends treats? Maybe I will just bring some treats and leave them in my locker and only hand them out to a couple friends. I'll honestly kind of miss getting all that candy. My favorite was always the fun dips; I still can't decide what was better, the stick with the sugar or just the stick itself.

8th Grade

Honestly, I'm not too excited for Valentine's Day. This year it just kind of feels like another day of the week. I'm too old for Valentine's Day treats but not old enough to go on a date yet. Although I do have this crush on this one boy, but I don't think he likes me that much. It must be nice to have a boyfriend; I just want a guy to buy me flowers for no reason. I wonder what that would feel like.

9th Grade

Honestly, I'm not too excited for Valentine's Day. This year it just kind of feels like another day of the week. I'm too old for Valentine's Day treats but not old enough to go on a date yet. Although I do have this crush on this one boy, but I don't think he likes me that much. It must be nice to have a boyfriend; I just want a guy to buy me flowers for no reason. I wonder what that would feel like.

10th Grade

I don't know how much to spend on Mark's gift. I don't want to get a bad gift and have him get me something really nice and look like I don't care. But I also don't want to get him something really nice and spend more than he did and make his gift look bad. What if he thinks we aren't doing gifts? Maybe I'll have Emma talk to him for me.

11th Grade

Who's even dating right now? I feel like there are only a few people in our class in an actual relationship. I don't need a date to be happy. Being single is nice; I can just stay home and watch Netflix all day without having to worry about dressing up for a date. I'd much rather just stay in with a cozy blanket and binge watch my show all day. Thank goodness I don't have to go out and buy some cheesy 'I love you' card and some dumb present they won't even like.

12th Grade

I have no idea what to do for Valentine's Day; literally everything has already been done. Ugh. Why can't Columbus have something fun to do? I can't wait to get out of here and actually have new places to go to besides the movies. Half the time the movies don't even play anything good. The fanciest date you can really go on around here without leaving town is Applebee's. Honestly, I'm just excited for the left-over chocolate that will be on sale after Valentine's Day.

Teachers

Valentine's Day already? How are we already a month into the new semester? I feel like January flew by. Maybe I'll look up some Valentine's Day trivia for my students to win candy. I'm just thankful I'm not an elementary school teacher; they have to deal with children going crazy from the sugar. Plus, you know it's bound to happen that one kid doesn't get a candy they want, and it ends in tears. This is why I chose high school students; they know how to control themselves around candy a little better.

Scotus Central Catholic http://issuu.com/scotusjournalism Columbus, Nebraska 68601
Volume 18 • Issue V • March 6, 2018

Rock Bottom

Photo Courtesy Jacquie Smith

Rocks complete upset for state title

By Matt Strecker
Editor

A new yellow banner will hang in the Dowd Activity Center, as the Shamrocks are the Class C1 girls state basketball champions for the fifth time in program history.

The 2018 NSAA Girls State Basketball Championships kicked off championship Saturday with a nail biter. The Shamrocks defeated the Wahoo Bishop Neumann Cavaliers in the C1 championship game in dramatic fashion 40-37 in overtime.

"I used to watch the state finals on TV as a kid every year," senior Maggie Feehan said. "I always wanted to get here, so it really is a dream come true."

The Shamrocks paved their way to Saturday's game in dominating fashion as they rolled past fourth-seeded Wahoo High 49-32 and thrashed top-ranked Mitchell 43-26. Junior Bailey Lehr led the way against the Wahoo Warriors with 15 points, including 11 of 12 at the charity stripe. Feehan sparked the Shamrock offense as she scored 13 points in both contests.

"I have no words for it. It was just so amazing," Feehan said. "We all put in so much time and love each other so much. We worked really hard and to finally win it is phenomenal."

In a rematch of an earlier Centennial Conference tournament loss to the Cavaliers, the Shamrocks came out swinging in their final meeting. Senior Shania Borchers was fouled scoring the first points of the game, but missed the free throw only to be rebounded by Lehr. She then kicked the ball out to senior Grace Wickham, whose father was the head coach of the last girls state championship team. Wickham buried one of her two triples of the game from downtown.

"I knew we needed to hit shots to win because we knew they were going to pack it in inside," Wickham said.

The Shamrocks found themselves in a hole early, however, as they ended the first quarter trailing 10-7. Senior and University of Nebraska-Kearney commit Aspen Jansa scored 6 of the Cavalier's 10.

The Cavaliers would keep their foot on the gas pedal, outrebounding the Shamrocks 16-7 and went to the locker room up 22-15 at the half. Senior Kendra Wiese and Neumann's Alyssa Rezac traded triples before time expired.

"Throughout the season, our kids have been in different situations in games, and no matter what happens to them, they just keep playing," Scotus head coach Jarrod Ridder said. "We just have all these kids that rallied and made plays. They just kept playing."

The Shamrocks picked up the defensive intensity in the second half, holding the Cavaliers to just 4 points in the third quarter of play. They entered the fourth quarter

See **CHAMPS**, Page 2

Faith Przymus/Rock Bottom Staff

Religion teacher Kelly Koranda stands by the portrait she made of Mother Teresa. Koranda majored in art and religion in college, and will be teaching Theology and Art with art teacher Clyde Ericson.

Courses put the "A" in STEAM

By Faith Przymus
Staff Reporter

All students at Scotus are required to take religion classes and an art class. Starting next year, students will have the opportunity to expand the knowledge learned in these classes by taking new courses offered through the new STEAM curriculum.

Theology and Art will be a new class that is offered next year taught by religion teacher Kelly Koranda, who majored in both art and religion, and art teacher Clyde Ericson.

"[Theology and Art] will differ a lot in structure, in that it will be a mix of creating artwork and also learning more about the philosophical and theological concepts of beauty and art. Also, it is unique in that two teachers will be teaching it, and it is really propelled by more of a niche interest that we might not have time to talk about in a regular religion class, rather than covering a broader spectrum of content," Koranda said.

Students who take Theology and Art will be given the chance to write an icon, create an illuminated manuscript, and participate in a student-driven project at the end of the course. The class will give students the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and love for religion and art simultaneously.

"I personally get really excited when I see theological themes incorporated in different areas of culture, especially the arts. This could be through a secular song, a work of art, or a film. In theology class we learn a lot about different concepts of who God is, but to see them applied in different contexts can really strengthen our faith. It also will help students examine how they can use their talents as a way to evangelize," Koranda said.

Along with teaching Theology and Art, Ericson will also be teaching Graphic Design. After adding two new classes to his day, Ericson needed to make changes to the classes he is already teaching in order to fit them all in his schedule. Art IV will be moving in with Art III, but they will retain their own separate curriculums. This change allows students to take Graphic Design and thus engage in a different aspect of art.

"Graphic Design is more business oriented, and my hope is that the class will engage in projects that could be used for different functions in the school. There is more of an emphasis on design than a normal art class and less charcoal and paint," Ericson said.

Students who take Graphic Design will be able to make posters, photos, a business system, and a t-shirt. Ericson stated that technology that may be used throughout this course includes computer programs such as Illustrator, Photoshop, and InDesign. He also hopes to use cameras, scanners, and screen printing equipment.

"Graphic Design is largely about promoting something visually. The applicability of this skill is huge, ranging from being an entrepreneur and starting your own business to making t-shirts for your summer basketball team, maybe

See **ART**, Page 2

Technology the focus for STEAM

By Abe Perault
Staff Reporter

Scotus students heard some big news about the future of Scotus on Friday, February 2nd. They were told that in addition to the STEAM lab being opened next year, they would also be able to take five new courses.

Tyler Swanson, a technology and computer business teacher at Scotus, is going to head up most of the new technology courses. Instead of teaching just a period of modern technology, that course will now be split up into three new courses along with returning courses of personal finance I and II, and computer business apps. The three new courses will be Computer Science, CAD (Computer Aided Design), and Video Production.

"We wanted to get some more STEM type programs and wanted to get kids more involved in taking things. We can take modern tech and split it up, so we can have the video stuff and the CAD stuff. Now, if someone just wants to take one part of it, they can do that," Swanson said.

These new classes are opening doors of opportunity for students to explore their interests in new feels, and they could possibly find a new career choice.

"Maybe you didn't even know what was going on with CAD, but you can take that class, and it becomes an interest and then you go into that field," Swanson continued. "We just wanted to make sure that if you wanted to take a class, you could take it."

Students participating in these classes will have a variety of resources in their hands. The students in video production will have new high-quality cameras at their disposal, as well as green screens and Adobe software so they can edit their film work. Students participating in CAD will focus more on the designing structures and buildings with the use of programs like Sketchup. The kids in computer science will get a chance to study programing, or even create a video game while also learning about the ins and outs of the computers.

"We don't want to over use it, to the point where we're letting the technology do their job, but we

See **TECHNOLOGY**, Page 2

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Sophomore Jacey Clarey works on a project for Computer Business Apps. Computer business Apps will be contunie to be avalible to take along with CAD and Computer Science.

ART

professionalism are two major skills I would like students to take from this class to help them after high school," Ericson said.

The new courses of Theology and Art and Graphic Design that will be offered through the STEAM curriculum will provide an abundance of new opportunities and knowledge to students.

Koranda encourages students to consider adding these new courses to their schedules. "Take it! I think it is going to be a really fun class to teach, and I would have loved to have a class like this in high school. It will be something different from anything else the school has offered, and if you love art or love your faith, it could be a great class for you."

TECHNOLOGY

want to show the kids that as they get older, and when you have a job, you are going to use this stuff just like you use math every day," Swanson explained.

Scotus students are required to take a semester of a computer class. Instead of only being able to take Computer Business Apps, students can now substitute either CAD or Computer Science in its spot if preferred.

"My biggest thing was getting kids involved and seeing more of what is out there, not just taking science and math classes," Swanson said.

Scotus' president Jeff Ohnoutka took it one step further in saying that not only do these class build technical skills but life skills as well.

"To me, the STEAM Program is also about building soft skills, getting students to think like and entrepreneur, articulate their research, and develop a maker mentality. We need to prepare students to be able to collaborate with each other and work together to think critically, to be creative, and to be able to articulate to people what their message is," Ohnoutka concluded.

CHAMPS

down by only 3 points, 26-23.

Wiese picked up a steal and was fouled only to make both free throws and even the playing field at 28 a piece with 4:37 left in the contest. Then, with 18 seconds left and down by three, Lehr called her own number and knocked down a huge triple to send the game into extra time.

"As soon as it left my hand, I knew it was in," Lehr said. "I just knew I had to make the shot."

In overtime, Borchers fouled out of the contest, fouling Jansa who made a bucket and added a free throw to cut the Shamrock lead to one. Feehan, however, ended her standout weekend with two free throws of her own that put the Shamrocks up three with 8.8 seconds left. A last-second heave by Jansa came up short, and the net-cutting ceremony began.

"It's going to hit me probably tomorrow, but it's just so much emotion," Lehr concluded.

Feehan finished with 12 points, totaling 38 points for the weekend, and Lehr finished with 9 points and 11 rebounds. Jansa finished with 13 to lead Neumann. After knocking off the fourth, first and second-seeded teams in the tournament, the Shamrocks will hang a state basketball championship banner for the first time in 14 years.

Morgan Rinkol/Media Staff

An emotional senior Marika Spencer hugs teammate senior Maggie Feehan after cutting down the nets celebrating their state championship win on Saturday.

ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Advisor:
Angie Rusher

Editor:
Matt Strecker

Staff Writers:
Maggie Feehan
Flora He
Jadyn Larsen
Jacob Morse
Grace Odbert
Abe Perault
Faith Pyzymus
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RUNZA

Stand and help neighbors around you

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

A fellow student is getting bullied for the way his voice sounds, or another classmate falls on the ice. Did you help, or did you walk away, thinking they'll be fine?

Today, in our world, people will not stand up to do the right thing due to the fact of the bystander effect, or more commonly known as the bystander apathy. The bystander apathy is the belief of not assisting someone since there are multiple other people surrounding the victim who could help.

I believe that adults and even children won't help someone because of the bystander apathy.

Assumptions can be found throughout everyday life, whether these assumptions be about others on social media or people who are hurt, people assume they will ask for help. That is usually not the case. Assumptions don't get anyone anywhere, it usually ends up in hurt feelings and consequences. The next time you see someone in need of help, reach out a hand instead of making assumptions that someone around you will do it before it stays on your mind all day, and you wonder what happened to that person.

Stand out of that comfort zone. Take the responsibility of any situation, especially when someone is in need. Most times, these people are embarrassed that this problem is happening to them and do not know how to ask directly for help. For example, a 7th grader who is being bullied by another 7th grader. He might not want to say anything because he doesn't want to admit that a girl or even a boy who is stronger than him, is bullying him.

> ***"Stand out of that comfort zone. Take the responsibility of any situation, especially when someone is in need. Most times, these people are embarrassed about this happening to them and do not know how to ask directly for help."***
>
> ***~Kaylie Rocha***

The last step of this process of eliminating the bystander effect is implement the action. Determine the plan of being an assistant to a bad situation. The kid that is being bullied? Go up to the bully and ask what is happening, and if the action is an appropriate behavior. Report the bully to another adult, or if you are the adult, tell the bully's parent and let the consequences fall where they may. Don't let the action continue, stand up for the person and better yourself as a person.

There are going to be times where the bystander apathy might be okay. If the situation can endanger your life if you involve yourself, call the police; don't completely ignore what is happening. You can still be a savior to someone who is getting hurt or taken advantage of.

The next time someone needs assistance, take the initiative to help with the problem. Call someone. Help them up to their feet and see if you can get them back on their own two legs. Don't let the bystander apathy take over, be the help in the world that people need.

To post or not to post

By Jenna Salerno
Staff Reporter

Most high school students have been in the situation where they are the topic of discussion over something that they posted on a form of social media, whether it be Snapchat, Instagram, or Twitter. The infamous line of "Did you see what (insert name here) posted the other day?" can be heard in all hallways of Scotus.

People are always going to judge what you do, but I do not think that should stop you from posting what you want to on social media.

I am a fan of Snapchat stories. Not only do I like posting on mine, but I also enjoy viewing other people's stories as it keeps me up to date with all of my friends and family members whom I may not see every day. By having my friends in Omaha, New York, or even Germany on Snapchat, it makes me feel like we are still as close as we would be if they lived in Columbus. That is one of the greatest parts of social media. It allows everyone to be more accessible.

So if you are wondering "To post or not to post?" about a Snapchat or Instagram post, go for it because it is a great form of self-expression that allows the people who don't see you every day to stay involved in your life. Except for the people who post three minute videos of themselves driving listening to a song with the caption "This puts me in the feels (insert broken heart emoji here)." The answer to that question is a definite 'not to post'.

> ***"People are always going to judge what you do, but I do not think that should stop you from posting what you want to on social media."***
>
> ***~Jenna Salerno***

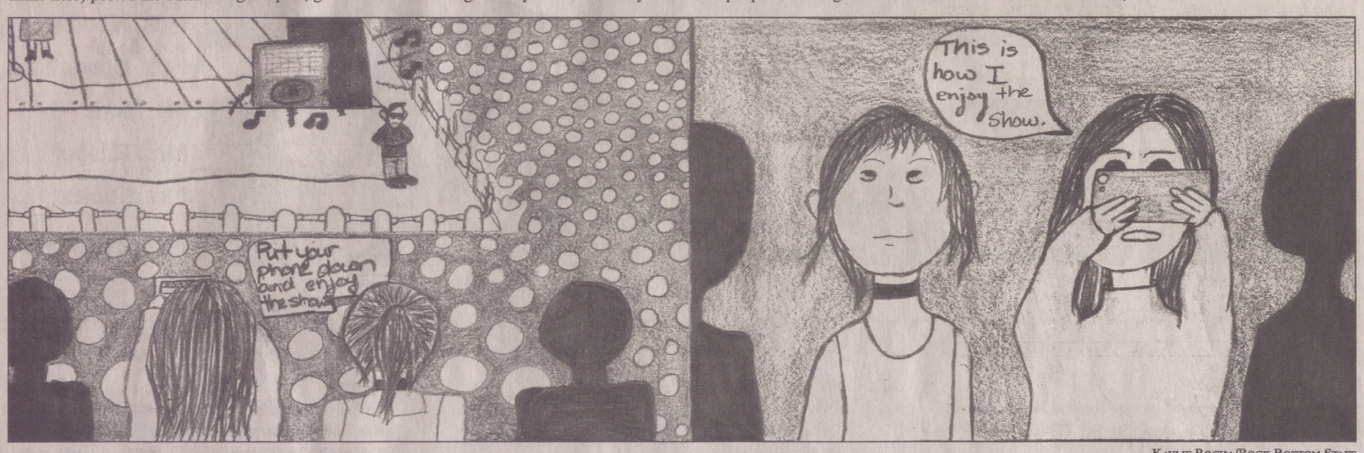
Not only is Snapchat a great way for teens to stay connected, but many adults use Snapchat to check up on their kids. Most people post more on their Snapchat story than they post on Instagram or Facebook. By following their kids on social media, Snapchat in particular, parents can get a new perspective on what their kids are doing.

Facebook and Instagram are also great ways for families to stay in touch. I have a big family, and we have our own group on Facebook to plan family gatherings, announce special occasions such as engagements or pregnancies, and even just to send updates of how people are doing in their everyday lives. Instagram is also beneficial because people post the good things that have happened to them and that allows friends and family to keep up with what is going on in others' lives.

By following family and friends on social media, this helps to eliminate some awkward conversations that could happen if you are not up to date. Accidently asking someone about their boyfriend only to hear them respond with, "Oh, we broke up… yesterday," can be one of the most uncomfortable situations to be in. Knowing about people getting married, breaking up, getting injured, or even hired/fired from a job can help avoid these awkward situations.

Social media does have some negatives. Harassment and stalking are some common issues with social media, along with inappropriate posts, but if people think beforehand and post appropriately, social media's positives far outweigh the negatives.

Do you have to limit what you post because of other people not wanting to see it or not caring about it? No, you don't because social media is a public forum meant for communication and a more public social life. If someone is not interested in what you are posting, they can either unfollow you or just choose not to look at it. These choices are always available on all forms of social media, right at the click of a button. So the next time someone complains about what YOU posted on Thursday night, remind them of the unfollow button and continue living your life in social media peace.



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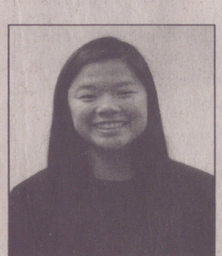
Searching for the best



By Maggie Feehan
Staff Reporter

The American novelist and film director Stephen Chbosky once wrote, "We accept the love we think we deserve." This is one of the most truthful statements out there; however, I find the amount of discipline it takes to demand the most out of our lives can sometimes be easier said than done.

From the beginning of time, humans were created with the desire to have human connection. Yet with this inclination, it is sometimes easy to settle for people who are not worth our valuable time. It's simple to lower our standards and make excuses for people preventing us from becoming our best selves. Ultimately, we think that lowering our standards will save us pain in the long run when, on the contrary, it leaves us feeling emptier than ever.

When we choose to settle for less than we deserve, we become the most significant collaborator in our own dissatisfaction. In this case, we are denying ourselves the love and relationships God has set up for us.

Some people do not deserve to be a part of your life simply because they are not helping you live a happy life and grow to your fullest potential. In reality, they are bringing you down and dimming the light you have to give to the world.

Despite these people we usually run into on our journey through life, we have the choice to decide whom we invest our time into. For instance, staying in a relationship with a boyfriend or girlfriend who isn't supporting your goals and loving you for you is settling for less. Choosing to be with that certain someone prevents you from finding the person you were . really meant to find. It causes you to interfere with your own true happiness. Maybe there is that one friend who never considers what you want or always insists on keeping you down, so they can feel better about themselves. Whatever it may be, now is the time to think about the people you really deserve in this life. When I look back, I realize that while I was letting certain people go, I was able to make better and happier relationships.

> ***"The fear of being lonely can sometimes prompt us to settle for less than we deserve. But if we speak up now and express what we want from life, the world is ready to give us just that."***
>
> ***~Maggie Feehan***

While some people are very particular when choosing friends, there is a point often overlooked by many. Too often we settle for the person staring right back at us in the mirror. This is not to say we need to constantly change ourselves to please the crowd. I'm saying that each of us should strive for greatness and work on ourselves every single day, not settling for average.

Ultimately, you are your biggest investment, and God has created you for a purpose. Choosing to live in comfort is dangerous because you don't grow and truly live when you're comfortable. After all, the more we fill our minds, the more places we can go, and the more people we can interact with. When I give just that little extra inch as opposed to settling for average, I feel more accomplished and truly see myself growing. This goes for everything including academics, sports, and, most importantly, my relationships.

The fear of being lonely can sometimes prompt us to settle for less than we deserve. But if we speak up now and express what we want from life, the world is ready to give us just that. Thus, we can truly accept the love we know we deserve. Everyone wants the best, and they can choose to receive it, as long as they don't settle for anything less.

Teachers tackle tasks outside of school

By Alaina Wallick
Staff Reporter

Most students know the awkwardness that follows seeing a teacher outside of the classroom. The uncomfortable half-wave and forced 'Hello!' from both parties only add to the unbearable situation. It seems that many students forget that their teachers have lives outside of school. What can be even more surprising is that many Scotus faculty members seem to have more active social lives than those of their students. From mountain climbing to baking, there is no doubt that members of the Scotus faculty keep themselves busy outside of school.

Student Activities Director Merlin Lahm enjoys taking risks. He has been rock climbing since 1988. He began rock climbing with Fr. Joe Miksch, and he even takes his cross-country team rock climbing.

"I like the outdoors, the mountains; it is exciting (sometimes), and summits are pretty spectacular," Lahm remarked.

Other teachers take part in activities a little closer to the ground.

"I have bowled in leagues in Columbus for years," Spanish teacher Gail Bomar stated. "We go to the state tournament every year and have been to the national tournament four times."

Some teachers prefer to bake or cook instead of bowl.

"I spend a lot of time in my kitchen," Podliska admitted. "I enjoy baking, and I do a large amount of canning each year. I have an old-fashioned 'fruit cellar' in my basement and on the shelves are various kinds of fruits, vegetables, sauces, jellies, meat, relish that I spend much time in the summer, fall, and even part of winter preserving."

Obviously, teachers need to find the time and balance to be able to fulfill their teaching duties as well as take part in activities or hobbies outside of Scotus.

"I prioritize my duties according to deadline and importance," science teacher Bridget McPhillips said, who takes part in a women's volleyball league in Schuyler as well as plays the guitar. "Once I get all the things done that need to be, I move onto my extra activities."

For many teachers, Scotus is not the first full-time job that they have had. Some have taught in schools in other cities and states or have had a job that is completely unrelated to teaching.

"My first teaching job was at Archbishop Bergan in Fremont where I taught PE, life science, and coached volleyball, basketball, and track," science teacher Joan Lahm stated.

In addition to teaching and coaching, Lahm worked at the Platte County Extension, and takes part in rock climbing with Mr. Lahm.

"Mr. Lahm made me climb six mountains and proposed on top of one in the Teton Mountain Range in Wyoming," Mrs. Lahm recalled.

Whether it is at a restaurant, grocery store, or basketball game, seeing a teacher outside of school tends to be an awkward experience. However, it is a good reminder for students that their teachers have lives away from Scotus.

Family and consumer science teacher Carmen Johnson, who judges at county fairs, summed it up, "It's always nice to see students that you know at the County Fair. I ask them what they plan to do next year."

Do you really know your teachers?

Mrs. Blaser
Mrs. Bomar
Mr. Brockhaus
Mr. Coulter
Mrs. Cox
Mrs. Dusel
Mr. Ericson
Mrs. Johnson
Mrs. Koranda
Mr. Lahm
Mr. Linder
Mr. McPhillips
Mrs. McPhillips
Ms. Mimick
Mrs. Moody
Mrs. Ohnoutka
Mr. Ridder
Mrs. Rusher
Mrs. Tooley
Mrs. Zanardi

Faith Przymus/Rock Bottom Staff

Two truths and a lie: Teacher Edition

Mr. Brockhaus
a) I was a member of my high school basket ball team that won the first Class C-1 boys state championship.
b) I grew up on a farm and had the joy and pleasure of milking cows and butchering chickens.
c) I took all the tests required to join the Air Force but decided on going to college instead.

Mrs. Blaser:
a) I played soccer in high school.
b) I played trumpet in high school band.
c) I played volleyball in college.

Mrs. Rusher:
a) I lived in 4 states before the age of 5.
b) I was Homecoming Queen at Scotus in 1994.
c) I was the editor of my college newspaper.

Ms. Mimick:
a) I can still wear youth sizes in shoes.
b) Before I came to Scotus, I almost took the store manager position at Supersaver.
c) My parents thought I was going to be a boy and were going to name me Patrick.

Mr. Ericson:
a) I've been on a glacier.
b) I once won a TV by making a half-court shot at a basketball game.
c) I have never been to an ocean.

Ms. Schumacher:
a) I love peanut butter.
b) I grew up in Hawaii.
c) I've never been to a Nebraska Husker game.

Ms. Timoney:
a) I had a massive underbite which forced me to be in either retainers or braces for 10 plus years.
b) I absolutely love half-days, and I wish that every day of school was a half-day.
c) I had my nose pierced in college.

Mrs. Zanardi:
a) I have been to Auschwitz.
b) I can leg press 600 pounds.
c) I have a metal bar in my leg.

Mrs. Koranda:
a) I once hiked an active volcano.
b) I lived with nuns for 3 months.
c) I only have 6 first cousins.

Mrs. Weir:
a) I was fingerprinted and spent the night in the Platte County Detention Center.
b) I sang on two (music) albums that were publicly sold and released.
c) I have four daughters.

Mr. Coulter:
a) I am ambidextrous (able to use both hands equally well).
b) I played football in college.
c) I ran track in high school.

Fr. Capadano:
a) I secretly judge everyone I meet.
b) I think people who use hand sanitizer get sick more often than people who do not.
c) My favorite substance to put in my mouth is coffee.

Mr. McPhillips:
a) I have never left the country.
b) I have 11 siblings.
c) I have attended 2 professional football games.

Answers to "Do you really know your teachers?" and "Two truths and a lie: Teacher Edition" can be found on page 10.

Fourth floor forms family

By Matt Strecker
Editor

Throughout the day, students may seem to disappear from school and none of their friends will know where they went. After the period ends, they meet back up only to find that the student had class on the "fourth floor".

The school's wing of classrooms near the gyms and the north doors is known as the fourth floor due to the classroom numbers being in the 400s. The floor is home to the art room, music and band, and the health room. Due to the limited number of unique classes, the floor is scarcely visited throughout the day. Usually the floor can be found home to the only four teachers who teach there: art teacher Clyde Ericson, vocal music teacher Laura Salyard, health teacher Janet Tooley, and band instructor Kristen Cox.

"I love being on the north end of the building," Cox said. "It's best for everyone if the band room is a good distance from the other classrooms for the obvious reason of our sound."

Unless a student is in music, health, or art, they will never go anywhere near the fourth floor. If teachers don't have any questions or concerns to consult the fourth floor teachers about, teachers usually don't venture down the trophy-filled hallway and up the stairs to the nearly uninhabited floor.

"Yes we do feel a bit secluded, but that is just fine with me," Ericson said. "We have nice people over here too, and we can play our music without distracting anyone. Plus, I can always go and see the action as I get my coffee in the morning if I want to."

Considering the only other teachers the fourth floor staff may see through the day is each other, they are a very close-knit group of individuals. Whether it's closing a door to drown out the sound of band instruments or laughing at a wave of "EWW"s at a health video, the teachers on the fourth floor work together in different ways every day.

"With my teaching schedule, I don't see many other teachers in the building," Cox said. "The 4th floor staff looks out for one another--it's an awesome place to be and more teachers and students should visit!"

Although the teacher may be separated from the rest of the faculty, they are not trapped in the confines of their classroom's walls. Many teachers have classes in different rooms and our fourth floor patrons are no different. Mrs. Cox travels to the three elementary schools to teach the 5th and 6th grade band classes. Mrs. Tooley has a study hall on third floor along with PE classes in the weight-room and gyms.

"Just being the health and PE teacher makes my day different than the other teachers who may teacher one or two subjects in the same classroom every day," Tooley said. "Some days I feel like I'm all over the place with different classes in possibly four different places. I love the versatility of it; certainly never boring."

The fourth floor is rarely visited by students who don't have classes in the area. However, there is plenty for students to see and hear on the small floor between Mr. Ericson's art student's creations, Mrs. Cox directing instrumental pieces, or Miss Salyard directing the Shamrock Singers in a classic vocal music arrangement.

"The 4th wing is its own place, and I appreciate the people who hang out over here and help keep it a peaceful and supportive place to work," Ericson concluded.

Matt Strecker/Rock Bottom Staff

Art teacher Clyde Ericson helps 8th grader Carson Czarnick with a project. The art room can be found on the school's hidden "fourth floor."

Mr. Ericson

What teacher is best dressed?

[Fr. Capadano] "Black is classy." -Emily Carstens 12

[Mrs. McPhillips] "Unlike a few teachers at our school, she is up to date on many of the latest fashions." -Clarissa Kosch 9

[Mr. Salyard] "The suit and tie is a game winner everyday." -Dalton Borchers 10

[Mr. Coulter] "Who doesn't love a short-sleeved jacket?" -Janae Rusher 9

"Father Capadano because he wears the same thing every day and rocks it." -Ava Kuhl 9

[Mrs. McPhillips] "Her lipstick goes with everything." -Samantha Johnston 7

Miss Mimick & Fr. Capadano

Which of the teachers would you want to be stuck on an island with?

[Mrs. Tooley] "So she can teach me how to tan like her!" -Emma Lindhorst 7

[Fr. Capadano] "So he could give me last rites and send me off in style to God!" -Caleb Kosch 11

[Mrs. Dusel] "I feel like she could get us off of there or at least keep us alive for a while because, well, Chem. Is. Try." -Julia Pichler 11

[Mr. Coulter] "He would be able to reach the bananas and coconuts in the trees, and I would make him swim for help." -Grace Mustard 8

[Mr. Brockhaus] "There is no way he would run out of things to talk about." -Joshua Hergott 12

Mr. Ericson

If you could take a teacher's position for a week, whose would you take?

[Mrs. Tooley] "So I could make people run for 10 minutes!!" -Julia Salerno 11

[Mrs. Dusel] "Her class seems fun, and I heard they do tons of experiments that include food!" -Katelyn Bayer 9

[Mr. Brockhaus] "I would like to see if I could yell as loud as him for 40 minutes." -Nathan King 9

[Mr. Ericson] "Having a first period plan period would help me mentally prepare myself to deal with humans all day, so that'd be nice." -Patrick Herchenbach 11

Father Capadano

Which teacher is most likely to be a superhero outside of school?

[Mr. Linder] "Not really a cape type of hero, more like the 'you're having a bad day and they make it better by just saying hello' type of hero." -Adelynn Newman 12

[Mrs. Rusher] "The flash." -Clarissa Kosch 9

"With all the chemicals that she handles every day, I'm pretty sure Mrs. Dusel is already a superhero." -Elliott Thomazin 11

[Mr. Coulter] "Nobody really knows what he truly does in his spare time... who knows, his red minivan could be holding his true powers!" -Rebecca Hergott 11

Mrs. Zanardi

Which teacher is the best "mom" to students at school?

RUNNER UP AWARDS:

Best dressed:
2nd- Mr. Salyard
3rd- Mrs. McPhillips

Desert island:
2nd- Mr. Ridder
3rd- Mrs. Lahm

Teacher's position:
2nd- Mrs. Johnson
3rd- Mr. Swanson

Superhero:
2nd- Mr. Coulter
3rd- Mr. Ridder

Best "mom":
2nd- Mrs. Johnson & Mrs. McPhillips
3rd- Mrs. Ohnoutka

Most intimidating:
2nd- Mr. Brockhaus
3rd- Ms. Dusel

Mr. Salyard

Which teacher is most intimidating?

Teachers and their spirit animals according to their students

"Mr. Lahm would be a zebra because he really likes zebra cakes even though they're terrible for him." -Brea Lassek 10

"Mr. Ericson would be an alpaca." -Sophie Palmer 8

"Ms. Salyard would be some type of song bird because of her beautiful voice." -Grace Mustard 8

"Mrs. Lahm would be a deer because she is kinda all over the place, but can also be calm and collected." -Ella Nahorny 7

"If Mrs. Johnson had a spirit animal it would be a lamb because she is very gentle." -Lily Dohmen 7

"Mrs. Bomar = teddy bear." -Kate Maguire 8

"Mr. Ericson would be a dinosaur!" -Luke Przymus 8

"Miss Mimick would be a sloth becuase i feel like she is really laid back and if they ever needed someone to voice a sloth in an animated movie, it would be her." -Maddie Blaser 9

"Mrs. Bomar would be a bear because she is happy and jolly and generally mostly relaxed." -Hannah Pflum 9

"[My favorite teacher is] a squid because she puts ink all over my papers." -Sebastian Duran 8

"Mr. Coulter would be a sunbear." -Rebecca Hergott 11

"Mr. Brockhaus would be a hedgehog because that is what his hair looks like." -Colson Kosch 12

"Monkey. Mr. Linder because he is smart, yet goofy." -Evan Ostdiek 9

Grace Odbert/Rock Bottom Staff

What is something a teacher says all the time?

Logan Bennett, 11 -"Hello, people." - **Mr Linder**

Stephanie Hoenk, 8 - **Father Capadano** always ALWAYS says, "Good talk."

Hallie Parker, 11 - "But wait, there's more!"- **Mr. Salyard**

Wren Allen, 12 - **Mr. Brockhaus** starts a lot of sentences with, "Not to be mean, but..."

Vijay Wemhoff, 8 - **Mrs. Blaser** - If you don't do the math problem right its "EL CHECKO." What's funny is that I dont think 'el checko' is a spanish term.

Caitlin Steiner/Rock Bottom Staff

What is the funniest thing a teacher has said or done?

Julia Pichler, 11 - ***Mr. Salyard** talking about density* "Now Mrs. Salyard may say I'm dense, but that is not the kind of dense we're talking about today."- Mr. Salyard, then made the *ba da tsss* noise, and he nodded at me and said, "Thank you."

Alyssa Hiemer, 7 - **Fr. Capadano** told me and my friend that he is going to keep his beard because he wants to actually comb something on his head every day.

Patrick Carreto-Cieloha, 7 - **Mr. Ridder** asked Siri how to cover a book.

Christina Oakley, 9 - **Mr. Swanson** says, "Pick a number between one and fifty," and only puts one hand behind his back.

What is a surprising fact you've learned about a teacher?

Abigail Stuart, 11 - **Mrs. Moody** did not like Spanish one bit in high school.

Carter Filipi, 7 - **Mr. Ericson** went to college with Ms. Timoney.

Christopher Adame-Hernandez, 8 - **Fr. Capadano** used to have hair.

Joel Schumacher, 9 - **Mr. Linder** was going to be a priest.

Olivia Klug, 9 - **Mrs. Blaser** used to ride horses.

Courtney Kosch, 11 - **Mr. Coulter** allegedly has a girlfriend.

Upset sends Scotus to state

By Jacob Morse
Staff Reporter

Everyone in the gym held their breath as they watched drama unfold in what could have been the last game for the Scotus Shamrocks girls' basketball team. The district tournament was full of excitement as it went from a moment of sheer heartbreak, to a moment of highest triumph.

The girls debuted the district tournament at Columbus High School when they played their sub-district game against David City Aquinas on February 13th. They started the tournament out with a bang, as they defeated Aquinas 42-31. Their defense was the key to the victory, holding the Knights to only eight points in the first half. Two days later, the Shamrocks played at CHS as they played in the second round against North Bend. They were able to pull off a nail-biting victory beating them 33-29.

"I am extremely proud of how we played in sub-districts. We fought hard until the end and had to fight through a lot of adversity against North Bend. The Aquinas game allowed us to get a nice win before having to compete against a solid team. It gave us a feel for the gym and gave us confidence going into the Lincoln Christian game," Senior Grace Wickham said.

Although winning these games is essential to go to state, they pale in comparison to the drama that unfolded in the district final game against the girls' nemesis, Lincoln Christian. Going into the final, the Crusaders handed the Shamrocks two out of their six regular season losses. However, with the previous wins under their belt, the Shamrocks had a lot of momentum.

"We wanted to wear out Dworak and not let her get to the rack off the bounce and make her shoot tough three's. We wanted to make other players beat us from the three-point line. We knew we had to rebound well and take care of the basketball," head coach Jarrod Ridder said.

Chloe Dworak, Creighton University basketball commit and Lincoln Christian's best player, had given Scotus the most trouble in their past losses to the Crusaders. During the final game, they were able to lock her down to ten points, forcing some of her teammates to try and score. After the first half, the Shamrocks found themselves down by only one point. The battle continued in the second half, and the score continued to swing back and forth in favor of either team. With the game coming down the wire in the fourth quarter, the real drama started to unfold. With two minutes left on the clock, senior Grace Odbert suffered a severe knee injury.

"When I hit the floor, I felt my leg shift, and I initially thought my ACL was torn. After lying there for a little while I thought that it might not be my ACL because my patella was pushed all the way up into my thigh. It was the worst pain that I had ever felt, but I am glad that I had all the people around helping me, and the prayers in and outside of the gym," Odbert said.

After a thirty-minute delay, it was difficult for either team to continue, but the show had to go on.

"The first thing that popped in my head when I saw her go down was 'we have to win, not just for the team, but for Grace.' It definitely fueled our team for sure; after saying some prayers and making a game plan, we were all eager to get back on the court to show everyone what we went there for, to win," senior Marika Spencer concluded.

After Odbert was carted off the floor, they rallied together, and with their backs against the wall they were able to beat their rival in an overtime victory with a score of 35-34. The Shamrocks were crowned as district champions and would be heading to state for the second year in a row.

"Winning against Lincoln Christian was the best feeling ever. We have been wanting to get a win against them for a very long time. Now that we have, it proves that we can play with anybody," senior Shania Borchers said.

The girls wrapped up their season this past weekend in Lincoln at the state tournament in search of the paramount of high school basketball, a state championship.

Allison Starzec/Media Staff

The Shamrocks raise their plaque after beating their rival, Lincoln Christian, in the district final game. The girls played in the state tournament this past weekend.

Wrestlers send two to Omaha

By Matt Strecker
Editor

The Shamrocks sent two wrestlers to the heavy attendance and bright lights of the CenturyLink Center in Omaha for the 2018 NSAA state wrestling championships and returned home with one medal.

Seniors Wren Allen (195) and Landon Sokol (285) finished their action filled careers of Scotus wrestling at state wrestling and both were able to start their weekend off with wins on Thursday. Allen went 2-0 to start his trip and moved on to the semi-final round on Friday.

"My first match was amazing," Allen said. "I got a pin in the second period. I was really nervous because of all the people there, but once I started wrestling, I got used to it."

Sokol won his first match of the tournament but lost the following matchup. This sent him into the second day consolation matches with a 1-1 record.

"Going into my first match, I was worried that I would go 0-2," Sokol said. "I was excited after my first win, but I immediately looked ahead to my first match against Nelson from Scottsbluff."

Allen had only one match on Friday in the semi-final round of the 195 pound weight class tournament. He found himself outmatched by the eventual champion in Wahoo's Sam Kolterman, who pinned Allen in the first period.

"The semi-finals is always the most packed of all the sessions so I was pretty nervous," Allen said. "I did not wrestle well and that is the one match of my season that I wish I could have back. CenturyLink was filled due to all four classes wrestling at once, so the atmosphere was crazy."

Sokol lost his first consolation match of the day which gave him a record of 1-2 at the tournament and effectively ended his career as a Shamrock wrestler. Sokol's rise through the program was one for the books as he went 8-25 his sophomore year to ending his career at state going into the tournament with a 20-9 record.

"I knew that the second day was put up or shut up," Sokol said. "Wrestling on the second day was much more nerve-wracking than the first. I knew that after I lost to Nelson that it was win or go home for my next match."

Allen lost both of his matches on Saturday, but making the semi-final round guarantees the wrestler a medal. Allen fell 4-2 to Cody Ybarra then lost to Gothenburg's Gugelman in the fifth-place match. Allen and Sokol combined for 15 team points good enough for 15th place behind crosstown rival Columbus Lakeview who gave a 40 point team effort for 14th place.

"I was sad after my last match because I knew I would never step on a mat as a competitor ever again," Allen said. "Fourteen years of wrestling had actually come to an end so stepping off the mat for the last time was really tough."

Photo Courtesy Dr. Kim Allen

Seniors Wren Allen and Landon Sokol are pictured with coaches DJ Brandenburg, Rex Robinson, and Steve Jenny. Allen won his weight class at districts and Sokol got second to punch their first tickets to state.

Shamrocks fall short at districts

By Maggie Feehan
Staff Reporter

The boys' basketball team was hoping for a ticket to the state tournament again this year, but unfortunately, the Aquinas Monarchs were fired up and ready to redeem their loss from the previous week. The subdistrict game held on February 20th resulted in a 42-25 defeat, stealing the Shamrocks' chance at the state tournament.

"I think we were tight, and our guys were afraid to shoot. You could tell they weren't playing with a very good flow," head coach Tyler Swanson said.

The Shamrocks played 8th ranked Wahoo High on February 6th after coming off back to back games on Friday and Saturday. The boys gave the Warriors a run for their money, but Wahoo secured the win 61-53. Turning it around, the boys came out on top with a win over their city rival, the Lakeview Vikings, finishing with a 50-44 win. Despite their slow start in the first half, the Shamrocks dominated in the 4th quarter, outscoring the Vikings 18-8.

"The Lakeview game was crazy because they were a different team than the team we beat by twenty in the Holiday Tournament. They played hard, their crowd got into it, and the game had a different feel than before," senior Matt Strecker said.

With a win under their belts, the Shamrocks brought the heat against Aquinas, fighting neck and neck throughout the game. The boys got the job done February 15th, locking in a huge win over the Monarchs with a final score of 42-40.

"We had success in the Aquinas game because of our tough defense and because we scored at a high rate when we got it inside. It was good for us to win a close game and finish it right," senior Colson Kosch said.

Senior Jacob Morse, who played his first season of basketball this year, said there's more than just basketball knowledge to take away from his experience this year.

"The main thing I learned from the season was resilience. I wasn't the type of player that was always on the floor on game days, but I had to stay mentally tough during practice and not think about my own personal time. It taught me to stay mentally tough and do what would help the team be able to compete during games," Morse explained.

Despite their losing record, the boys never shied away from a challenge, working their hardest every game.

"We were 1-6 and 3-11 at one point, but you wouldn't have been able to tell by how well we played most games. In the game against Wahoo [Public] we were only down by five with a chance to win, when most teams would have just walked into that game and lost by 30," Swanson said.

Senior Jake Novicki recalled his favorite highlight of the season.

"Beating Bishop Neumann in the conference tournament was great. It felt good to get a win over them after coming up short before," Novicki said.

Swanson was hoping for a run at the end of the season but is proud of the work his team put in this year.

"Senior leadership did a lot. They came in everyday, worked hard, and didn't let the younger guys quit. It didn't matter what the record was. They gave it all they had," Swanson said.

One of these seniors, Carson Hottovy, said his senior basketball season was full of fun memories and growing experiences.

"We learned that we have the guts to never give up on anything," Hottovy said.

The Shamrocks finished their season with an 8-15 record.

"Even when the season seemed lost, we came together and still had as much fun as we would have if we were undefeated," Novicki concluded.

Abbie Zoucha/Yearbook Staff

Senior Trevor Kaslon drives to the basket during the subdistrict game against Aquinas. The boys finished with an 8-15 record.

Cheerleaders overcome unexpected changes

By Alaina Wallick
Staff Reporter

Hard work is something that is required no matter what activity one takes part in at Scotus. However, unlike basketball, football, or volleyball, the Scotus cheerleaders have one day to showcase all the hard work and practice they have put in throughout the year.

The Nebraska State Cheer and Dance Championships took place on February 16 and 17 at the Heartland Events Center in Grand Island. On February 16, the Scotus cheerleaders performed their Game Day and Sideline routines.

"Performing is my favorite part [about State Cheer] because you finally get to perform the routine you've worked so hard on for so long," sophomore Kate Smith said. "Everyone's eyes only on you is an insane rush."

The cheerleaders began working on their routines in January and would have practices before school in the cafeteria and old gym as well as on the weekends.

"We had morning practices almost every day for about 4-5 weeks. We also sometimes practiced on the weekends and some late nights after all sporting events were finished," senior Grace Wickham stated.

Some cheerleaders also worked individually in areas in which they needed to improve.

"I practiced the routine on my own time and stretched to maintain my flexibility," sophomore Brea Lassek said.

The day of State Cheer, the cheerleaders met at Scotus to get ready and run through their routines. It was not until they arrived at the Heartland Events Center that they realized there was a new rule change that affected the Game Day portion of their performance.

"We had to add a short dance to our Game Day routine an hour before we performed, which was a little stressful," sophomore Haylee Cielocha admitted, "but it actually ended up looking really good."

Despite the challenges that occurred, all of the team's hard work paid off because they received third place in Game Day, as well as took home a trophy for second place in Sideline.

"I am so proud of all the girls on the team for putting in so much hard-work and effort," senior Faith Przymus stated. "All of the girls performed to the best of their abilities, and that is something that I am very proud of."

In addition to the trophy, the team took home memories of another successful season with all the laughs, tears, and hard work that came with it.

Senior Jenna Salerno said, "State Cheer was a memory that I will always cherish. The girls on the cheer squad are some of my favorite people, their positivity and hard work were amazing, and I'm so thankful for everything they did."

PHOTO COURTESY JACQUIE SMITH

The Scotus cheerleaders run out on to the mat to perform their Game Day routine. They received third place for this routine.

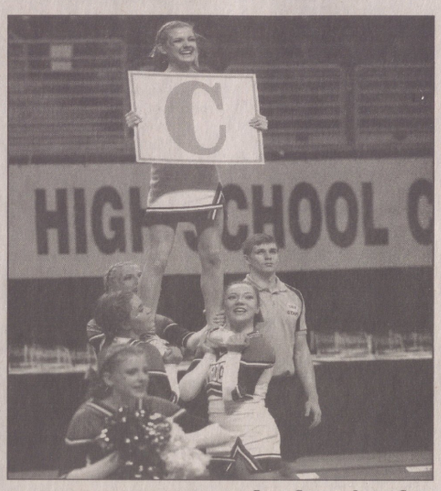


PHOTO COURTESY JACQUIE SMITH

Scotus cheerleaders hold up junior Kelsy Faust for a stunt during thier routine at state cheer. They had to change thier routine an hour before performing.

Seven compete at state swim

By Jenna Salerno
Staff Reporter

State swim is always an exciting weekend, but this year's meet was filled with many emotions, from ecstasy to disappointment. Out of the eighteen swimmers from Columbus High that went to state, seven of them were Scotus students, all of whom swam at least once throughout the meet.

In preparation for the state meet, the state qualifiers continued to practice, although they stopped having morning practices and had shorter easier practices. This is called 'tapering'.

"We did a lot less [workouts] than we normally do in an average practice," junior Konnor Kudron stated.

Another way that swimmers prepare for the state meet is by buying speed suits. These suits are specially made to help the swimmers swim faster because of their special fabric and tightness.

"Speeds suits are the best thing to help you go faster. They are so tight and take forever to get on, but it's worth it. The only problem is the prices. It's about $120-$500 for one suit, and you can only wear them once or twice," sophomore Emily Miksch said.

Other tricks the state swimmers have to drop time is both the boys and girls shave their legs and the girls also braid their hair. This has been a tradition for the Columbus swimmers for many years.

Salerno said, "I corn-row my head because it makes me more aero-dynamic and helps me glide through the water. We also shave our legs that have not been shaved all season."

The state qualifiers and their families met at Brookestone on Wednesday, February 21st, and they had a final good luck dinner. They also received state towels as gifts from all of the parents. "I really enjoyed the meal as usual, but it really just helped me get excited for state," senior Chase Andresen said.

On that Thursday, the swimmers had to leave school early for state because of incoming bad weather. They made it to the hotel that night and went to bed early so that they would all compete at their greatest ability the following day. Some swimmers have special rituals or habits that help them to prepare for the meet.

"My morning ritual this year included eating three sausage patties and two packs of muffins. Without a doubt [they were] the reason for my success," junior Callan Fuchser said.

For the state meet, the girls and boys are divided into two sections for the preliminaries on Friday. The girls' half started at 9am, and the Scotus girls competed in three different relays, the 200 medley relay, the 200 free relay, and the 400 free relay. None of the girls' events made it to finals, but they did all accomplished personal best times in all of their relays, including one relay that dropped nine seconds from their previous best time.

"Even though we didn't make it to the finals or medal this year, it only makes us want it even more next year," Salerno said.

Following the end of the girls' preliminaries, the boys' meet started at 2:30pm. The Scotus boys qualified to swim in three relays, the 200 medley, the 200 free relay, and the 400 free relay, and Andresen qualified to swim two personal events, the 50 free and 100 butterfly. The boys made it to finals in their first relay, the 200 medley relay. Unfortunately, Andresen scratched out of his first personal event, the 50 free, and was unable to compete for the rest of the meet that day. The other relay did not advance to the finals. Senior Trey Dallman unexpectedly had to swim on Friday.

"I wasn't planning on swimming at all, but due to complications, I ended up swimming the 200 free relay, and I am happy with our performance," Dallman said.

On Saturday, Kudron and Andresen both swam in the finals in the 200 medley relay. They placed 12th overall in this relay.

"I really liked coming back to finals with my relay and getting ready for what I knew would be my last race," Andresen said.

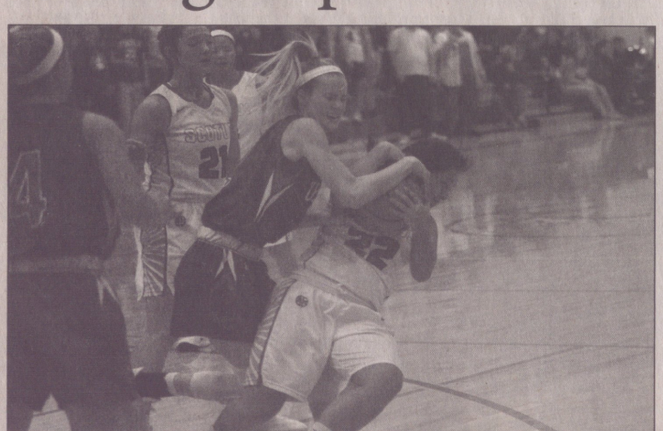
Overall, the Scotus swimmers were successful at state this year with all of them dropping times and getting personal bests in their relays.

Fuchser concluded, "The overall experience was exciting. The atmosphere makes you want to be better and continue to push yourself to new heights."

PHOTO COURTESY KRIS ANDRESEN

Scotus state qualifying swimmers, senior Chase Andresen, freshman Kaira Dallman, junior Konnor Kudron, junior Callan Fuscher, junior Julia Salerno, sophomore Emily Miksch, and senior Trey Dallman, pose at one of their final practices before state. All of the Scotus swimmers were able to compete in at least one event while at state.

Final glimpse of the 2018 basketball season



ALLISON STARZEC/MEDIA STAFF

Senior Kendra Wiese holds onto the ball as a Lincoln Christian player attempts to strip it from her. The Shamrocks were able to beat the Crusaders in the district final game, sending them to the state tournament.

ABBIE ZOUCHA/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior guard Colson Kosch looks to pass the ball through Aquinas' defense. The boys finished their season with a 8-15 record after their loss in their sub district game on February 21.

Sister Act surprises crowd

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

A spotlight flashes onto Deloris and her backup girls as they begin to sing "Take Me to Heaven" indicating the start of the production, *Sister Act*.

Scotus' musical left the audience in laughter, smiles, and awing at every scene that the cast showed on Friday and Saturday night, and Sunday afternoon in the Memorial Hall.

Director and music teacher Laura Salyard and One Act coach and English teacher Helen Shumacher organized four different showings throughout the weekend of February 16. Their first performance was to the grade schoolers, showing them all of Act One and a few scenes of Act Two, followed by a Question and Answer session. The next performance was on Friday night, where the cast and crew showed the community the whole musical.

Sister Act was a musical with a variety of female roles, the biggest being the nuns. One of the nuns was played by junior Julia Pichler, who also played a cop and a waitress.

"My favorite performance was the one we did for the grade schools. It was the best because it was a mess which was a huge contrast to the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday shows which were amazing," Pichler said. "We grew a lot and worked really hard this season; it was awesome!"

Deloris, played by junior Maddie Sueper, caught Curtis murdering one of his men, and had to go into hiding in a convent.

Curtis, played by junior Isaac McPhillips, spent the rest of the musical hunting her down.

"[What makes this musical different from past years was that] I was even more evil than usual," McPhillips added.

Sweaty Eddie, played by junior Patrick Herchenbach, brought Deloris to a church and left her with one tempered Mother Superior.

Mother Superior, played by junior Mattie Johnson, did not want Deloris in her convent.

"I struggled with staying serious when I had to be a savage. Leading up to it though, well anyone who knows, I cried every day of show week due to stress and nerves," Johnson said.

Throughout the whole play, everyone follows Deloris into her crazy turn of events. From running into Curtis' men at the bar to becoming the head choir leader, Deloris became a part of the sisters. She got the sisters into singing their hearts out to the Lord, bringing people to the pews of their church, and even catching interest of Pope Paul VI.

Pope Paul VI was played by science and math teacher and father of Laura Salyard Tom Salyard, who at the whole time during practice and the grade school performance, was a surprise guest.

"It started as a joke. I told him the kids would think it's funny if he was the Pope. He said, 'Well what would I have to do?' I told him, 'You know just wave, smile, and walk on stage, and sit in a chair.' He said he could probably do that. We laughed about it," Salyard explained. "He came to me a few weeks before the musical and said when he should show up to rehearsal and it was at that point, I was like 'Oooh! I better order you a costume!' It was something I was not necessarily planning on. He thought it would be fun and knew everyone involved would enjoy it. It was his chance to be involved with a musical."

This musical year was different from last year's musical, *Thoroughly Modernly Millie*; this year they had more freshman show interest in the production. Practices were easygoing for the coaches. They started with learning with music, then adding the choreography, and then heading onto the stage.

Senior Brandon Huynh, played T.J who was Curtis' nephew, joined the musical this year, and it was his first ever musical.

"[What makes this year different than last years was] I was in it (seriously no joke)," Huynh concluded.

Sister Act was one musical to remember and recall as this musical year comes to the end. From singing "Take me to Heaven," Deloris running around in the audience, and everyone coming together to sing and dance at the end of the performance, was a memory the cast and crew couldn't forget.

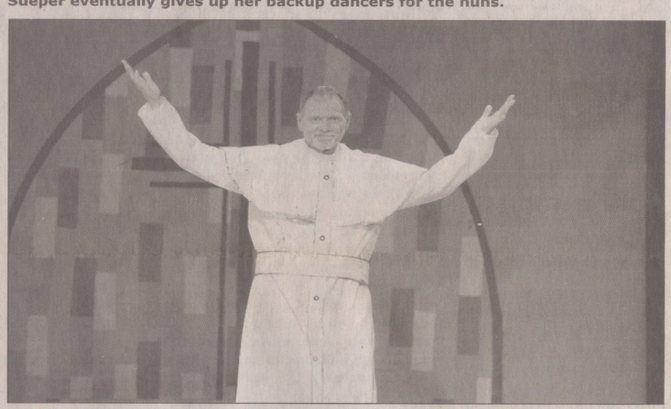
"Musical is so much a group experience. Every single person is important. For the most part, you are not going to be on that stage alone, and that's only a few people. If you just want to be a part of it, go for it," Salyard concluded. "If you are just wanting to be a part of it, you are not going to be alone, you are going to have someone beside you, having just as much fun."

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Freshman Janae Rusher, sophomore Liza Zaruba, sophomore Lauren Ostdiek and freshman Maddie Blaser dance with junior Maddie Sueper in the night club. Sueper eventually gives up her backup dancers for the nuns.

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Mother Superior (junior Mattie Johnson) talks to God about Deloris' behavior at church. This was Johnson's first lead in a musical at Scotus.

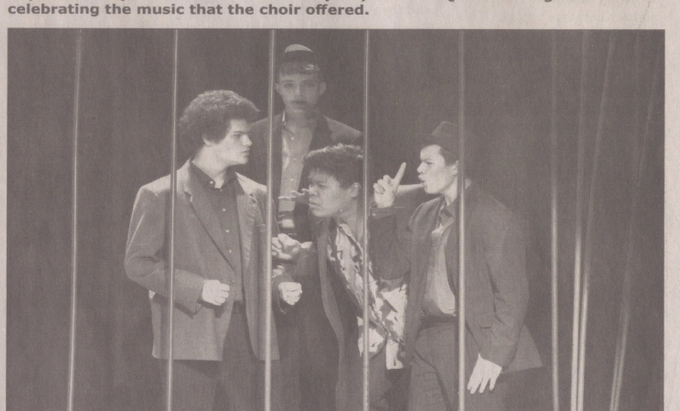


Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Pope Paul VI (science teacher Tom Salyard) visits to Queen of Angels church celebrating the music that the choir offered.

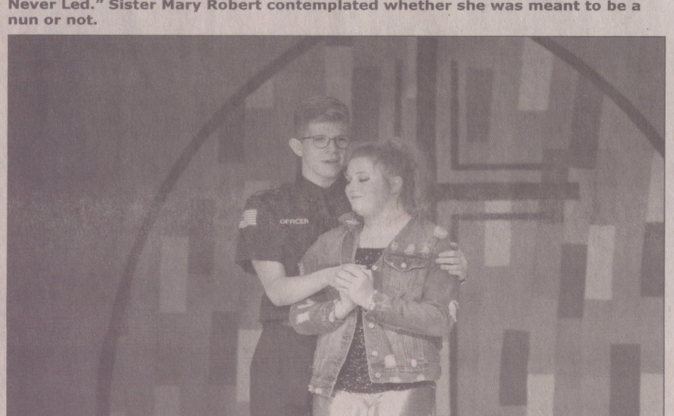
Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Sister Mary Lazarus (sophomore Lauren Ostdiek), Sister Mary Patrick (junior Jayden Heng) and Sister Mary Robert (senior Caitlin Steiner) sing, "The Life I Never Led." Sister Mary Robert contemplated whether she was meant to be a nun or not.



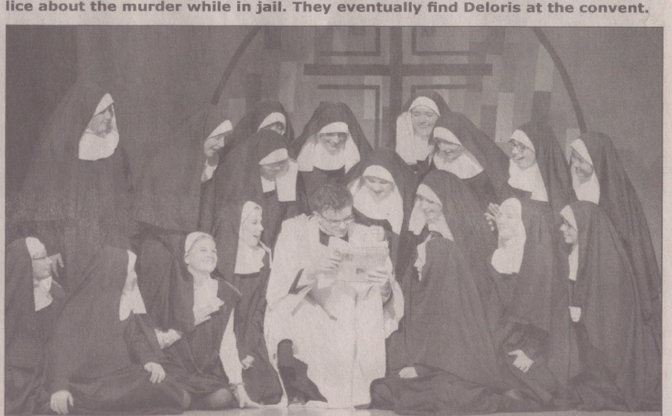
Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Curtis (junior Isaac McPhillips), Pablo (junior Isaac Ostdiek), TJ (senior Brandon Huynh) and Joey (freshman Noah Korth) try to figure out who told the police about the murder while in jail. They eventually find Deloris at the convent.



Emily Carstens/Yearbook Staff

Eddie (junior Patrick Herchenbach) comforts and confesses his love to Deloris (junior Maddie Sueper). Eddie eventually saves Deloris' life.



Thiago Pereira/Media Staff

Monsignor O'Hara (senior Matt Strecker) tells all the nuns the good news about their performance from the newspaper. This is Strecker's first musical ever.

Donors set new doubles record

By Grace Odbert
Staff Reporter

The annual Scotus NHS Blood Drive was a success as usual. Several students, teachers, and adults signed up to give blood in the gym on February 27, 2018. The blood drive being a success all starts with the staff. NHS sponsor Jane Dusel is the main coordinator of the Scotus drive.

"Well, it starts with education of donors, so Mrs. Lahm educates the sophomores and talks to them about it. Mrs. Lahm is a long-time donor herself. I talk to the juniors about it, and, this year, Mrs. Zanardi talked to the seniors about it to get as many students as we can," Dusel said. "This year I have about 45 adults from outside of the building to reach the goal that the Red Cross sets for us. All sorts of recruiting needed to be done before the drive."

Kendra Wiese/Yearbook Staff

Sophomore Samantha Tonniges talks with her nurse while giving blood. In total, 111 productive units were donated at the blood drive on February 27th.

Besides all the recruiting needed to make the drive a success, lots of time is put into scheduling all the donors to time slots that work best for everyone.

"The schedule is put together after we have enough donors signed up. Brock [Kracman] and I worked on that. Brock was helping me with the drive this year," Dusel said.

Scotus' National Honor Society is quite involved with the drive. It is one of NHS' largest community projects each year.

"The NHS members have to sign up for the drive to either bring sandwiches, work the drive, or to help before or after school. Every NHS member has to do something to help with the drive itself," Dusel said.

Lots of work goes into making the blood drive possible. This year, the only road-bump in the making of the Scotus drive possible was the success of the girls' basketball district championship, which is a positive problem to have for the school.

"The fact that the girls qualified for state took nine or ten donors out, which is a good problem to have, but I had a good response from everybody," Dusel continued. "I had 145 donors on the schedule as of last Friday [February 23rd], and Kyle, from the Red Cross, was concerned we had too many for the amount of Red Cross workers we had coming. Of course, that changed, not just because of basketball, but because some people were ill. Illness is normal at any blood drive, especially during a winter drive when people are dealing with colds and the flu," Dusel said.

The Red Cross had so many donors that gave doubles, that people who originally signed to give doubles didn't have to. Senior Jacob Morse, who gave last year, was a donor once again.

"A lot of people don't understand what it means to give 'doubles.' The true term for it is going 'power-red,' where the machine allows you to donate two units of red blood cells at one time, and then returns your plasma and platelets back to your body so you don't feel as drained," Morse explained.

Morse has donated blood before, but this was his first time going power-red.

"I am glad that I chose to do so because I was able to donate more and help more people out," Morse said.

Senior Elley Beaver gave blood for the first time this year.

"I had a good experience; I was very nervous at first but after I gave, it was very rewarding to know that I had saved a life," Beaver said.

The Red Cross goal for this drive was 121 productive units. We had 97 whole blood units and a record number of 14 double red donor units for a total of 111 productive units. Pretty impressive considering only 119 people attempted to donate. Thanks to our seniors, juniors, sophomores, staff, parents, friends and alumni for helping others through self-sacrifice and to all who helped in any way.

Quiz-bowl puts knowledge to the test

By Caitlin Steiner
Staff Reporter

The average student doesn't enjoy studying, but for a select few students, they turn their studying into a competition. Quiz-bowl is an activity open for both high school and junior high that has started up again at Scotus over the past two years.

Science teacher Joan Lahm helped restart the group. Lahm, along with math teacher Zach McPhillips and Spanish teacher Gail Bomar, oversee quiz-bowl at Scotus.

"Several years ago, there was a parent who wanted their child involved in quiz-bowl, and we didn't have a quiz-bowl team, so we started one for the high school," Lahm explained. "Last year somebody emailed the school and asked, 'Would you like to start a middle school quiz-bowl?' and we said yes, we've got a group of 7th graders who are interested."

Junior high teams consist of eight members per team allowed to attend the competition, five compete and three are alternates. The high school team is allowed for six to attend. The teams at Scotus have more members than this, so quiz-offs are held to see which members will compete.

"When we took some junior high kids over, we started talking to people at the junior high quiz-bowl, and they asked, 'Why weren't you at the senior bowl?'" Bomar said, "We didn't know anything about it, so we got ourselves on the mailing list."

The group competes at one ESU (Educational Service Unit) quiz-bowl a year. The high school competition is in Central City today. The junior high competition will be in Humprey on March 27th.

Eighth grader Gwen Stachura said, "The information that we're quizzed about is usually things you wouldn't know off the top of your head. Some of them can be based off politics or be based off flamingos. It is really a roll of the dice."

The group does not hold practices together to study their information. One practice is held a year to practice using the buzzer system and the flow of the competition.

Eighth grader Gavin Brabec said, "I prepare for the quiz-bowl by watching *Jeopardy*."

Like the ESU quiz-bowl, several members also competed for a radio quiz-bowl earlier in the year. At a radio quiz-bowl, a radio station will call in to the school and ask a question. Whichever school gets the most correct questions wins. This is a single elimination competition. The ESU quiz-bowl is a double elimination.

Eighth grader Kyanne Casperson explained, "[At the ESU quiz-bowl] there are separate rooms to go into, with two tables and five buzzers each. Its incredibly stressful and tensions are very high with each question asked."

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Science teacher Joan Lahm quizzes seventh graders Jack Faust, Bohden Jedlicka, Mason Roberts, and Ted Fehringer. The morning of February 21, 2018, Lahm hosted a quiz off to see which students will be competing at the March 27th meet.

Seventh grader Ted Fehringer added, "The teacher asks a question to two teams and the first to answer correctly within a certain time gets the point."

Scotus had not competed for several years due to timing of the competition and not enough student interest.

"I think [quiz-bowl] is important so our students are very well rounded, and we have some type of activity that is academic based," Lahm concluded. "It gives those students who like to compete academically that opportunity."

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Lessons learned from 2018 Winter Olympics

By Jadyn Larsen
Staff Reporter

The 2018 winter Olympics did not disappoint. Athlete Sean White got his redemption. Two seventeen year olds representing the United States joined Sean White at the top of the podium. The US Women's hockey team beat Canada for the gold in a shootout. All of these glorious wins made watching the Olympics that much more exciting.

Every athlete has a back story. The majority of Olympic athletes put their whole lives on hold to train and compete in their events. I learned five important lessons from watching these athletes in the 2018 Winter Olympics.

Lesson #1: Striving for success risks failure- The US Olympic skater to watch this year was Nathan Chen. Before coming into the Olympics, he was breaking skating records. He was the first figure skater to land five complete quadruple jumps in a single performance. However, Nathan Chen's first performance in the Olympics did not go as planned. Chen failed to land two of his quadruple jumps and lost his chance to medal. Nevertheless, that did not stop Chen from trying to give his best performance in his next event. He ended up contributing to bringing home a bronze medal in the figure skating team event. I learned from Chen to not let failure stop me from succeeding.

Lesson #2: Shoot for the gold- David Wise is an Olympic freestyle skier for the United States who brought back his second gold in the half-pipe event home to Nevada. In the half-pipe event, an athlete gets three runs, and the highest score is used to decide placement. In the 2018 Winter Olympics, David Wise started off with two bad runs. His combined score of the first two runs was a 23.40/100. With two low scores, Wise knew he had to "Go big or go home" with his last run. He decided to perform all of the hardest tricks that score the skiers the most points. He landed all of them perfectly and his score ended up being a 97.20/100, which put him in first. The lesson I took from Wise's performance is to always give it my all.

Lesson #3: Hard work will pay off- The United States has never won a medal in the event cross country skiing. This year that previous statement was put to rest by Kikkan Randall and Jessie Diggins. After Randall finished her lap and left the race in Diggins' hands, they were in first with reigning teams Sweden and Norway right behind them. Diggins fell behind during her lap, but ended up making a last push to put herself in first. They won by .19 of a second. Diggins had been training for that moment her entire life. She spent hours in the gym, running, lifting, and building endurance. All of her hard work payed off when she had just enough energy at the end to give it her all.

Lesson #4: Be passionate- Great Britain's figure skating team Penny Coomes and Nicholas Buckland showed much passion at this year's Olympic Games. While coming in 11th might not seem like a great accomplishment, it was more about showing their strength. Penny Coomes shattered her knee in 2015 Worlds. After having multiple surgeries, Coomes was told she would more than likely never skate again. Not only did Coomes skate again, but she competed in this year's Olympics, and she and her partner performed the same lift that caused her to shatter her knee at Worlds. It wasn't about what place the Britain skating team came in. It was about hard work, determination, and most importantly passion. "Find something you are passionate about and pursue it"- USA Olympic snowboarder Jamie Anderson.

Lesson #5: Family and friends will always stand by- It is hard to wrap my head around what winning an event in the Olympics would feel like. It is also hard to grasp what losing at that level would feel like. To come so far and to have it be stripped away from your hands at the end. It would hurt. But no matter if an athlete is standing at the top of the podium, or had just missed time trials by .002 of a second to get to the final round, family and friends were right by their side supporting and cheering. Kim Jong Jin, father of Olympic Gold medalist Chloe Kim, is no doubt her biggest fan. During her event, he was spotted holding signs, yelling loudly, and smiling. After Kim dominated the women's half pipe she was embraced by her dad as he cried tears of joy. Family and friends are always there to share in your dreams, success, and failure.

OLYMPIC.ORG

Jessica Diggins and Kikkan Randall of the United States Olympic team celebrate after winning gold in the cross country ladies team sprint. The 2018 Winter Olympics were held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea.

Winter Olympics; past to present

By Jacob Morse
Staff Reporter

With the 2018 winter Olympics at an end, it is important to take note that they haven't always been viewed in high definition. The games have come a long way to be what we know them as today.

According to History.com, the earliest records of the Olympic games can be traced all the way back to 776 BC in Ancient Greece. It all started when a cook named Coroebus won a 192-meter footrace. He became the first ever Olympic champion, without ever realizing it. Although this was the first recorded event of the Olympic games, it is believed, in legends, that their origin starts further back.

Many old tales depict the games as first being created by the son of Zeus, Hercules, and a human woman named Alcmene. Zeus was considered to be the perfect athlete out of all the gods, so together they began to host a trial every four years in Olympia to honor him.

The events during these first competitions were comprised of a few different categories: running, jumping, discus throw, boxing, wrestling, and pankration. Most of these events are similar to how they are today, with only a few different variations. One difference could be the length that they used to run. Instead of using meter like they do today, they based their running events by a stade (about 200 meters).

One interesting event that took place was pankration. It is a competition that would be close to a mixed martial arts match today. The Olympians would fight for the gold medal using a variety of wrestling and boxing moves with very limited rules. Every move was fair game except biting of poking at the other person's eyes.

Although a form of the games took place years ago, they weren't officially known as the "Olympics" until 1896 when they took place in Athens, Greece. Two-hundred-eighty male contestants comprised from thirteen different nations clashed while sixty thousand spectators watched. Twenty-eight years later these games had spread into an event that invited teams to play from all nations to compete in Paris, France. The summer games, as they would now be known as, kept a similar format every time after those first games in Paris and would be hosted by different countries every four years.

Due to this year's games hosting the winter events, it should be known that the winter sports used to be neglected. The first winter Olympic event didn't take place until 1924. These first wintery games took place **at Chamonix, France in the French Alps. Consisting of six different sports, the games had eighteen different events.**

These winter games have evolved into something much greater today. This year there are ninety-two different countries represented in the 2018 games in Pyeongchang, South Korea compared to the sixteen that showed up in 1924.

THEATLANTIC.COM

A man takes a turn in the downhill ski competition at the first winter Olympics in 1924. There were a total of 10,004 spectators recorded for these games in Chamonix, France.

A Day in the Life

Mid-Semester Grind

Written byAbe Perault

7th Grade

Okay, I think I've finally got the hang of this. I have four minutes to get to class, and I haven't even showered yet? Why does English class have to be on the complete other side of the school? If I'm late, I'll just tell Mrs. O that I dropped my pass. I'll have to come up with something better than that, no way she believes it. She's going to be even angrier when she finds out I didn't read the chapter for class last night.

8th Grade

I have no clue how to do this algebra assignment. Mrs. Blaser is a great teacher, but it just doesn't make sense. In other bad news, my girlfriend DM'd me last night saying that she wanted to break up. It had only been a week; are you kidding me? Now I can't even be seen in public. Hopefully I'll get over it by freshman year. I'd like to enjoy my time in high school.

Freshman

I am so excited that we finally have some options to pick for sports. Who cares about homework, I have a decision to make. Am I going out for soccer or track? Both have their positives, but I think I'm going to have to go with golf. Who am I kidding? Track would be way better than golf. Is golf even a sport? And I guess if track is not the sport for me, I'll try soccer next year. I hope that I can make varsity, Matt Strecker is super-fast.

Sophomore

I swear the teachers are plotting against us. Four tests in the same day! Are you kidding me? I wonder if they even realize that we have practices, or a life for that fact. Where I am even supposed to find the time to do all this? If I think this is bad, then I cannot even imagine what next year will be like. I don't even know if I'll be able to have a study hall. I'll cross that bridge when I come to it. For now, the only question is should I study for the Spanish or algebra test?

Junior

Eleven weeks till summer. Eleven weeks. Then I'll be free. Till then, I just have to get my homework done. Trust me, this week is loaded. Even Mrs. Dusel could agree that we have more assignments than there are atoms in a penny. I guess I'll just keep grinding because these Pre-Calc assignments aren't going to finish themselves. Does anyone even know what the cosecant of a thirty-degree angle is because I sure don't? On the bright side, we get to play Monopoly this week in Spanish. I can't wait for this weekend, so I can just relax. Scratch that, I have the ACT. Summer can't be any closer.

Senior

We're almost done! One more quarter to go. But wait, which college am I going to choose? What scholarships am I going to apply for? When am I going to apply? There is still so much to do. It's a plus that we don't have too much homework to do. This isn't exactly what I expected the end of senior year to be like. I'm just kind of sick of school and people.

Teachers

I am going to explode! I honestly wonder if my seniors care about school anymore. Haha just wait until college smacks them in the face. Then they'll see. I can't wait to see the looks on my sophomores' faces when I tell them that they have a quiz tomorrow. I should probably start writing that, or maybe they won't be having a quiz. Either way is fine by me. I could let them choose what day for the quiz, but they'd complain regardless because if it isn't fun, it's not worth doing.

Do you know your teachers? Key

1. Mrs. Mcphillips
2. Mrs. Cox
3. Mr. Brockhaus
4. Mrs. Koranda
5. Mr. Lahm
6. Mrs. Tooley
7. Ms. Mimick
8. Mrs. Zanardi
9. Mrs. Moody
10. Mrs. Ohnoutka
11. Mrs. Johnson
12. Mrs. Rusher
13. Mrs. Dusel
14. Mr. Coulter
15. Mrs. Bomar
16. Mr. Linder
17. Mr. McPhillips
18. Mr. Ericson
19. Mr. Ridder
20. Mrs. Blaser

2 Truths; 1 Lie Answer Key

Mr. Brockhaus: c
Mrs. Blaser: a
Mrs. Rusher: c
Ms. Mimick: b
Mr. Ericson: c
Mrs. Schumacher: a
Ms. Timoney: b
Mrs. Zanardi: a
Mrs. Koranda: c
Mrs. Weir: c
Mr. Coulter: c
Fr. Capadano: a
Mr. McPhillips: a

Seniors boys compete for the Mr. Shamrock Crown. **See Page 8**

Rock Bottom

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Volume 18 • Issue VI • April 3, 2018

Students give more this Lent

By Alaina Wallick
Staff Reporter

Lent is an opportunity for all Christians to deepen and enhance their relationship with Christ and find new appreciation for His sacrifice on the Cross. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the features of every Lent. Many people have begun to focus more on the fasting part of Lent by giving up chocolate or Instagram. While this is a good start, there a many other ways to grow closer to God during Lent, and Scotus offered a few of them this Lent.

Throughout the Lenten season, Scotus students and faculty were able to contribute something to each of these areas.

"We needed to do more [during Lent], so we are doing more," Scotus chaplain and campus ministry leader Fr. Matthew Capadano said.

Scotus students and faculty had the opportunity to fulfill the prayerful aspect of Lent by attending Adoration on Fridays during Lent.

"I decided to attend Adoration just so I could find time to pray more at school. My favorite part of Adoration is just being with God and sacrificing my time for Him," junior Caleb Kosch stated.

In addition to Adoration, students had the opportunity to fast from their school lunch each Friday during Lent. They could sign up outside of Fr. Capadano's office and then spend their lunch period in the chapel.

"Fasting this Lent wasn't too bad," junior Abe Perault admitted. "We were only fasting for one meal, which made it easier. For me, it was another way to enter into prayer and focus on what the point of Lent is."

This year Campus Ministry led a fund-raising campaign for Catholic Relief Services. Through Catholic Relief Services, the members of campus ministry were able to choose what they bought. Students and faculty could make donations throughout Lent. Enough money was collected to buy items such as a cow, a human trafficking survivor's kit, and a flock of chickens for needy families. This idea was brought up by campus ministry assistant Kelly Koranda.

"I took a Catholic social thought class in college and one of the professors was talking about Catholic Relief Services because so much of the money that's donated actually goes to the people," Koranda stated. "That's how I heard about it. We tend to focus on the fasting part of Lent and some on prayer, but we don't always think about getting out of ourselves and giving to others. I thought it would be a good thing to be part of our school during Lent."

The senior class participated in a 'live action' Stations of the Cross this Lent on March 28. They performed the Stations of the Cross in the new gymnasium in front of the whole school. Scotus seniors could play characters in the Stations, such as Jesus, Pilot, or Veronica. Others were able to be a part of the singing or tech crew. It is a powerful way to give a visual to Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

"The easiest way to have students engage in the Stations of the Cross with the situation that we are in is to bring them into a big room and pray the Stations together without asking them to move around. So, one way to do that is to have a live actions Stations where we have students create the scenes and then freeze as if we are looking at a Station itself," Capadano stated.

As another Lenten season has come to a close, campus ministries activities also end. campus ministry will be preparing for their next activities coming this fall.

ELLEY BEAVER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Colson Kosch, portraying Jesus in the Stations of the Cross, talks to the two thieves, played by seniors Jake Novicki and Logan Zanardi. Stations were held in the Dowd Activity Center before students and staff were released for Easter break.

Seniors sign to continue activities

By Jenna Salerno
Staff Reporter

Scotus seniors have had many tough decisions over the past few months. "Where am I going to school…? What am I going to major in…? Do I want to continue my activities in school…?"

This year there are many seniors who have already made the decision to sign with a college to participate in an activity. One of those seniors is Shania Borchers, who is going to further her education and play volleyball at Central Community College this fall.

"Signing with Central was exciting, and once I visited the school, it wasn't a hard decision," Borchers said. "When I met the players and coach, I was sure I wanted to go there."

Another Scotus senior continuing her sports career is Marika Spencer, the only Shamrock competing at a Division I college to participate in track and field at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. Spencer originally wanted to compete in softball in college but had a change of heart.

"Originally I planned on playing softball in college, but then I started to think on it more and believed I can get more out of track," Spencer said.

PHOTO COURTESY COLUMBUS NEWS TEAM

Seniors Maggie Feehan and Kendra Wiese sign to play soccer at the College of St. Mary. Wiese also plans to compete in golf next year.

Going from high school track and field to college athletics will lead to some difficulties for Spencer.

"The transformation is going to be hard because I will be throwing a completely different way than I am throwing now, but it will be fun because I'll be trying new things," Spencer said.

Other seniors heading off to compete in college athletics include seniors Kendra Wiese and Maggie Feehan, who are both planning to play soccer at the College of Saint Mary in Omaha. Wiese and Feehan both had no plans to continue to play in college.

"I originally had no desire to continue playing sports in college, but after learning about the benefits and how it will help the transition, I thought it would be best for me," Wiese said.

Feehan changed her mind after learning about some of the high points of playing sports in college.

"I told myself I was going to

See **SIGNINGS**, Page 2

New coaches fill big roles

By Jacob Morse
Staff Reporter

The 2018 Scotus spring sports season is now in full swing. With the new season underway, it is worth noting the new coaches who are debuting at Scotus this year.

There are two new head coaching jobs that have been filled for the Shamrocks, PJ Miller—varsity boys' soccer and Joe Schoenfelder—head boys' track. Also, there has been a change in coaching for Columbus High baseball. Jimmy Johnson has stepped up from the JV coach, which he has done for several years, to varsity this year. Fourteen different Scotus boys play baseball during the spring months.

Miller has been around the game, on and off the field, for an extended period of time. In recent years, he has been coaching soccer for Scotus. He was an assistant coach during the 2014-2016 championship seasons, and now has been promoted to the head soccer job.

"I have played this game since I was nine years old. I was a part of the very first high school team in Columbus when I played for CHS back in 1990. After high school I played at Central Community College. I coached many different youth teams from AYSO and in the Columbus soccer club since then. I am currently the coach of a U15 girls team with several SCC students on it in the summer," Miller said.

Miller's start as the head coach hasn't come without any struggles. Due to weather constraints, the team has had to spend the first week and a half of practice in a gym rather than out on the practice field. Miller is also facing a problem with limited numbers on the team.

"The biggest change from last year to this has got to be our numbers, there was 12 seniors last year and we had 29 kids on the team. This year we only have 22 boys, so it is making it difficult. I love this game; I have coached at many different levels and age groups throughout my time, and it has just been an enjoyable experience," Miller said.

Along with Miller, Schoenfelder is filling in a big role for Scotus sports. Schoenfelder is filling the shoes of Merlin Lahm, who is now the activities director at Scotus. He has been involved with track for most of his life and was an assistant coach last year helping with pole vault.

"I have been going to track meets since I was three and participated in most events when I was in

See **COACHES**, Page 2

SIGNINGS

be done with sports after high school, but then I got the call from the College of Saint Mary's coach. The offer was such a great opportunity, and I have always loved playing soccer; it was my first love as a kid," Feehan said.

Another Shamrock continuing his activities is senior Jacob Morse, who will be attending Concordia University to play baseball. This school was an easy decision for Morse regarding his chosen major.

"The main reasons why I chose to go with Concordia were mainly due to the school itself. I know that I am not going to be taking baseball any further than this level. For this reason, I wanted to be able to know that I am going to get a good education looking forward and be able to get a job. I also like how I can pursue my intended major of theology," Morse said.

Senior Matt Strecker also plans on furthering both his education and athletics at Morningside College in Sioux City; he will be playing football this fall and majoring in biology with a focus on exercise science and strength and conditioning.

"I decided to go to Morningside because the coaches and players showed me on my official visit how much of a family they are, and I know that it is the right place for me to simultaneously be a successful student and prosperous athlete," Strecker said.

Three Scotus seniors who are not choosing to continue a sport after high school are Emily Carstens, Bryan Littlefield, and Trevor Vaught. Carstens is going to participate in the band at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas.

Both Littlefield and Vought have enlisted to join the military after graduation. Joining the military was an easy decision for Vaught.

"[Joining the military] is what I have wanted to do since I was a kid; I also feel I am obligated to do what I can for those who did what they could for me," Vaught said.

For Littlefield, joining the military was a decision influenced by many different things.

"My love for America, the benefits that come with being in the military, and friends and family members who have served [influenced my decision]," Littlefield concluded.

COACHES

high school. We only had about 15 boys out, so we had the opportunity to try everything. I also have a coaching endorsement from my time at Wayne State College. I grew up around track and field my whole life; my dad has been a track coach for 39 years. It has always been something I have enjoyed being around," Schoenfelder said.

The boys have four returning state qualifiers, who are trying to set the mark for the rest of the athletes on the team.

"This year I hope we are able to send numerous athletes to state, and hopefully they return home with some hardware. I think we have a talented group of individuals to place us in the top three in each meet we participate in. I also hope everyone stays healthy; we don't have a lot of athletes out," Schoenfelder said.

Grace Odbert/Rock Bottom Staff

Head coach Joe Schoenfelder helps Gillian Brandt with her form in pole vault at the Scotus Invite on March 27th. In addition to head boys coach, he is also the pole vault coach for boys and girls.

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Staff Writers:
Maggie Feehan
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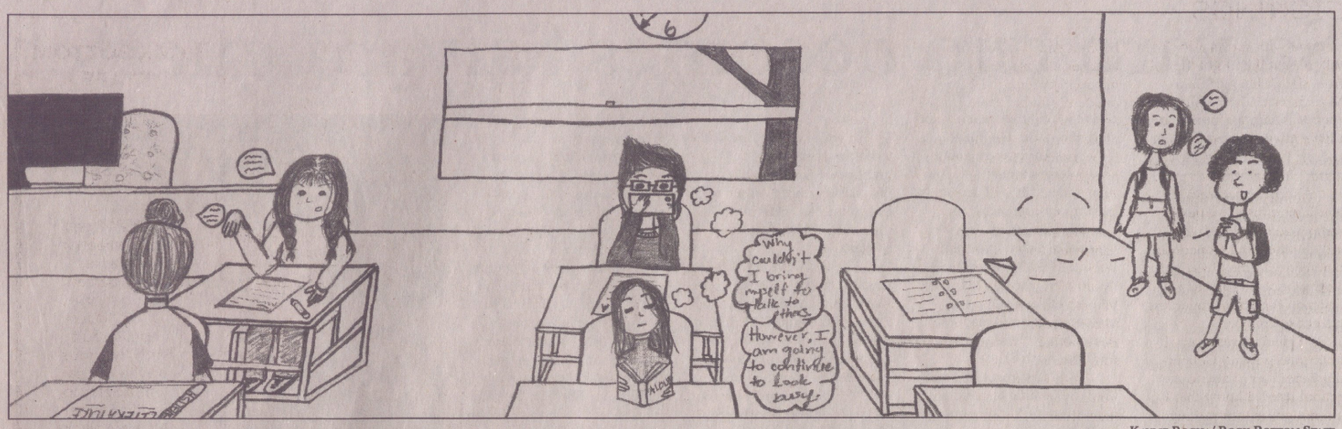


Kaylie Rocha/ Rock Bottom Staff

Choosing both

By Alaina Wallick
Staff Reporter

Scotus is known for its student involvement. Having over 93% of all Scotus students being involved in at least one activity is something of which to be incredibly proud. However, it can be easy for students to fall into a certain category. The two main groups seem to be the students in athletics and the ones in fine arts. Because of this, many Scotus students believe that they must choose one activity over another during that season. For example, many basketball players or swimmers are not seen in musical or on the speech team and vice versa. Despite the challenges that may arise, I believe that students can be part of both the athletics and fine arts programs at Scotus through communication and cooperation.

Communication is one of the most important factors in being in multiple activities in one season. If coaches from two extra curriculars are aware that they have a student who wants to be in both, schedules can be worked out between the two. The student is more than likely the person who has to bring this issue up with the coaches of both activities because how else would the coaches know? Obviously, the student cannot tell their basketball coach halfway through their season that they are interested in doing speech, but if a student were to explain this to their coach say a month or so before practices start that another activity has sparked their interest, it could be worked out. Once the student has spoken with their coaches, both parties are now in charge of making sure one activity is not getting more attention than the other.

Cooperation is the key to allowing students to participate in all of the activities that they enjoy, but it has to be give and take. One activity cannot completely over power the other and leave no time for the other. This is unfair for both the student and those in the other activity because most extra curriculars are a group effort. A One Act team cannot compete if half the cast is constantly at football practice. Similarly, the basketball team would be unable to win many games if speech practices dominate after school. If one activity's practices try to outweigh the other, the only thing that it is going to do is stress out the student. High school is about students trying new things and figuring out what makes them happy, and they cannot do this if they feel like they have to fit into one certain role. Coaches should not be allowed to tell a student that the activity that they are in charge of is more important than another. Obviously, a person cannot be part of basketball, musical, speech, and swim all in one season. If students are going to be participating in multiple activities, they need to contribute their best in all areas.

One reason for students choosing only one activity per season is because it is difficult to find time for it all. Many One Act practices take place right after school, and, normally, this is the same time for volleyball and football practices. The reason for these conflicts is no one's fault; it is just how it has always been. Obviously, students cannot be at both volleyball practice and One Act practice if they are at the same time. This is where the aspects of communication and cooperation come into effect. Since speech takes a more individualized approach in comparison to basketball, practice times for speech can be worked around the student's schedule more efficiently. However, it is unfair to assume that this is how it will always be for all of the fine arts programs. All activities deserve to be treated with respect and receive the time and attention needed to succeed. If One Act makes it to state, sorry but other practices might need to go on the back burner. If Scotus wants to continue its record of success, it is necessary that all activities and those participating in them are able to dedicate their time to becoming the best that they can be.

Scotus students are involved in a plethora of activities, but some feel tied down to only being able to do sports or only participating in fine arts. I believe that all students should have the right to finding the activities that make them happy. If a student finds that volleyball is the only extracurricular that they enjoy, then that should be what they focus on. However, if a student finds their happiness in volleyball and One Act, who should be able to tell them that they cannot do both? Students have the right to contribute their talents and gifts in as many ways as they see fit whether it is on the court, stage, field, or a little bit of each.

Being an outsider

By Flora He
Staff Reporter

I could conclude my two years of studying overseas into one word: solitude. Feeling alone constantly is like holding the darkest filthy secret, anxious and dreadfully wanting to shout it out, but well-aware nobody cares enough to listen. It is like after finishing a wonderful book, excited to share with people and realizing nobody is there to listen. First, they don't care about the story; second, they don't care about you. Being outside the circle that everybody is in feels like nobody ever understood you and nobody cared enough to. There are so many words in my mouth, but I cannot spit a word out; there are so many stories in my mind, but I don't even know where to start.

I know I am responsible for the situation I am in, and I am the one that needed to change. I know there are so many paths I could have taken, and I still have the chance to take them; however, my personality flaw won't allow me to take any action. I am choked by this different atmosphere and had the difficulty of accepting strange ideas that I cannot process through. I am not willing to change myself just to be in this circle. Instead, all I did was sit in the corner all alone and whining. Day by day though, I quit trying to get into the circle and accepted the situation I was in, and things turned around.

Wherever there is a shadow, there will be light. Being an outsider is not always a horrible thing as long as you willingly accept where you are. How to deal with loneliness and turn it into positive is one of the greatest lessons I have learned from this experience. It is simple, all you need to do is to fill up your time with wholesome activities, like read a book, watch TV shows and exercises. Loneliness turned into solitude; it is the change in the state of mind. I had time to read the book that I was longing to read. It flourished my knowledge and allowed me to carry my thoughts further on. I started to keep a diary. All of my thoughts I cannot tell people and don't have people to tell, I wrote down in my diary. After I spat all of my thoughts out, I felt released.

Being alone brought me lots of spare time and left me space to reflect on myself. It allowed me to look back and find out what I did could be improved, try to do better next time and be mature. I would rethink my decisions and wonder how have I gotten to this point and can I do better next time. Solitude taught me to understand and appreciate others' kindness. Nobody needs to have time for you and be there for you, thus, cherish the people who were there when you needed them and appreciate their kindness and care.

> ***"Loneliness is the barrenness of mind; solitude is the lack of people's company, but spiritually rich."***
> ***~Flora He***

Aside from dealing with my own negative feelings, I learned it is important to lower my expectations. Lower expectations and finding ways to be satisfied are the keys to being happy. External causes should not keep you away from happiness. The best realm of spirit is being a baby; enjoying every moment that you are living in.

Loneliness and solitude are two different things. Loneliness is the barrenness of mind, solitude is the lack of people's accompany, but spiritually rich. Loneliness leads you to complain, and solitude leads you to think. Looking back my life, I had lots of moments of weakness and regretted the decisions I have made. Regardless what I have been going through, I know if I could go back to the time I would make the exact choice I have made before. Because if I haven't been there, I would not know how it feels, and that is the only way to adjust myself to face those difficulties and find my way out.

Don't quit on what you love

By Grace Odbert
Staff Reporter

I know how easy it can be to feel like giving up. Sometimes the hot gym during a bad volleyball practice just seems like the breaking-point after a bad day, or no matter how hard you run at track practice, you just can't make the time Mrs. Tooley is hollering out at you. Sometimes the combined direction of four coaches at basketball becomes overwhelming, or your speech is struggling during your performance, or your facial expressions at cheer aren't on par, or you can't seem to find the rhythm while playing in the band, or you simply cannot get your math grade to bump up just one more point to a higher letter grade. No matter what it might be, we have all felt like quitting at some point. At some point in high school, it can all seem to feel like too much.

Throughout our years of life and growth, we learn that giving up, or not trying is the easy way out. Don't give up on what you love and what is important to you even though it is easier to quit sometimes. It seems like all the wise adults that are now mentors to us such as coaches, teachers, or parents, are always telling us, "Make sure you give it your best effort!" But several days out of the year, our response to that statement is "Today, I feel like quitting." But haven't we all? Isn't feeling like giving up normal? Of course it is every now and then.

If everyone felt like they had life under control all the time, what's the point of caring more about some things than others? Not caring is simply not the answer. I know it feels difficult to care sometimes, especially when everything is crashing down, or coming to an end. Senioritis for example, why care? 'It doesn't matter.' But in all reality, it does. It all matters more than we realize in that moment. Every effort we put forth has an effect. Giving positive effort as often as possible will yield positive results most often.

If you are wanting a positive outcome from something, you need to give positive efforts to achieve that. Slacking off at football won't make you the best quarterback, slacking in school will get you kicked off honor-rolls, and slacking in relationships will leave you with weak connections. If you go to practice with great work-ethic, school with a good attitude, and into relationships choosing to make it work, odds are, it will. Great effort is noticed by coaches, teachers, and peers. Eventually, choosing to not give up will pay off.

Giving everything your best effort is more important than we realize. Too often, what we are doing could be our last. We take things for granted so often. Even the simplest things slip away from our train of thought as a privilege; everything seems set it stone sometimes. It seems cliché to say, 'Live everyday like it is your last,' but really, that is what we need to do. You want to do everything with your best effort, just in case it is your very last, unexpectedly.

What if you decide to not care and then you pull your hamstring running at practice? Your season could be over. Or what if you go to kick a ball at soccer practice and sprain your ankle, then it puts you out for the rest of the season? It is so simple, yet so difficult. Giving up is easy; all you need to do is stop trying. Does anyone really want that though? Does a coach want a player who does not do the best they can; no. Does a director want an actor who only plays half the part; no. Does the choir leader or band instructor want someone who only sings/plays half the time, or half as loudly; no. Choosing to put forth our best effort is what we need to desire from ourselves and from others.

This really applies to anything. Giving your best effort as often as possible is not easy, but it is necessary because if it is your last, you want to know you left it all out there. You don't want to feel like 'I could have done more,' or 'I wish I wouldn't have taken all the conditioning at practice for granted.' If you do your best, everything will be okay, and all your efforts will pay you back in the end. However, slacking off never got anyone anywhere. I am encouraging you all to leave everything you have out there. On the court, in the choir, on stage, at practice, through school-work, in your speech, or whatever it is that you love. Don't give up on the things you love. What you love now might not be the same in ten years, so give it everything you can now before it's too late and things change.

Salyard trio becomes Salyard quartet

By Maggie Feehan
Staff Reporter

Coming next August, the sparkling new STEAM lab will be implemented at Scotus. With the plethora of new technological advances, a highly educated technician is needed to assist fellow IT person, Andy Bierman. After months of searching, president Jeff Ohnoutka has found the perfect fit for the job. Jeremiah Salyard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Salyard, has recently been hired to the position.

"I ran into Jeremiah at Hy-Vee one day, and we got to talking. He expressed to me his interest in finding a job in or near Columbus. It was a God-send," Ohnoutka said.

Jeremiah Salyard graduated from Scotus in 2013 and attended Wayne State College. He majored in Computer Programming and received top honors in his Software Design and IT management classes. He finished in the top three of his class at Wayne State. Salyard will be working with the STEAM lab and teaching the students and staff about the new machines.

"His knowledge about computers is amazing," Bierman added. "It will definitely be fun working with him."

With Jeremiah Salyard coming to Scotus, the halls will be filled with not three, but four Salyards. This will be Mr. Salyard's 31st year at Scotus. Salyard teaches Astronomy, Physics, and multiple math classes.

"My first reaction was, 'Will he be able to handle it here at Scotus?' Of course he does have my blood, so I'm sure he will surpass all expectations," Salyard said.

This will be Mrs. Salyard's 23rd year at Scotus. She teaches Keyboarding, Computer Applications, and Accounting.

"The majority of my family works here so what's one more? I think it will be fun, and I can keep an eye on both my kids," Mrs. Salyard said.

Ms. Salyard has been working at Scotus for 4 years. She teaches Vocal Music and is the director of Shamrock Singers. Salyard has helped with the past three musicals at Scotus.

"I really urged Jeremiah to come work here. It is a great place, and I just know his passion is in Computer Programming. He will love the new STEAM lab," Ms. Salyard said.

The STEAM lab will be used for graphic design software, drone technology, and green screen video editing. It would be an area where students could possibly do some engineering and robotics.

"I look forward to working with different software, especially robotics. I took a class once at Wayne where I tried to invent a robot to do my homework. Let's just say I'm still working on that one," Salyard said.

Salyard recently worked at the Columbus Community Hospital with Patient Information Systems. He was the head of the technology wing, yet felt a pull on his heart to teach.

"I think Scotus will be a great place for me. I have the opportunity to teach students about everything I've learned in my four years of college and beyond. Technology is a great way to learn and be creative. It is such a great field to be in," Salyard said.

Bierman and Salyard will be bringing a new invention to Scotus. With hours of work put in and much more to come in the summer, Bierman and Salyard are currently working on the upcoming Vision Pods. The pods will allow students to view different classrooms during study halls or before school. Instead of coming to school for a math review, students will be able to watch the review live in the comfort of their home through the Vision Pod.

"I brought this idea up to Mr. Ohnoutka, and he's all for it. I'm hoping this invention will give students the opportunity to listen in on classes, even if they aren't in the room," Salyard explained.

The Vision Pod might not be all Salyard has to bring to the table. Salyard will be joining the Scotus staff coming this fall.

"I think he will bring amazing, innovative ideas to Scotus, and I can't wait to have him on board," Ohnoutka concluded.

PHOTO COURTESY GOC'S PHOTOGRAPHY

Scotus will be bringing back a familiar face to the school. Jeremiah Salyard will be teaching and helping with the STEAM lab coming this fall.

Scotus co-op ends; Lakeview co-op begins

By Jadyn Larsen
Staff Reporter

Starting next year, the co-op between CHS and Scotus will officially be over. However, Scotus has decided to begin a new partnership with Lakeview. This co-op will create the same opportunities that the CHS and Scotus co-op created. Scotus athletes will still be able to participate in softball, tennis, swim, and baseball. The only difference is instead of competing at a class A level, athletes will be competing against other schools in class B.

TATE VUNCANNON/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior Tyler Palmer pitches the ball at a home game last season. The spring season of 2018 will be the last time Palmer plays baseball as a Discoverer.

The issue on the co-op between Scotus and CHS was discussed last year by parents and coaches around spring time. The school board at CHS has been debating whether or not to end the co-op for over a year now.

Scotus activities director Merlin Lahm said, "The subject of ending the co-op with CHS has been brought up in years before, but last year it was taken a bit more serious. I knew by the end of last spring season that the partnership wouldn't last much longer."

CHS decided to end the co-op agreement with Scotus because the Columbus public school board agreed that CHS had enough athletes going out for each sport.

Senior tennis player Natalie Brutty said, "Last year, the co-op between us and CHS was brought up a lot, but I never actually thought it would end. I'm just glad I got to play my last year for CHS."

Trying to find a solution, Lahm and Lakeview activities director, Jake Shadley, decided it was time for Scotus and Lakeview to combine their students for activities including softball, tennis, swim, and baseball.

"I am excited to join in this new partnership with Lakeview," Lahm said. "It is a great opportunity for our students and for Lakeview students to join together in making new competitive teams."

The school board was not open to the switch at first. Scotus and Lakeview have always been known as "rivalry" schools and did not know how parents and students would react. Because Lakeview and Scotus are close in size, the school boards of both schools decided to share school colors. At away meets/games, all athletes will wear blue. At home, all athletes will wear green.

Junior tennis player Maddie Sueper said, "I am excited to try something new. I also am excited to rock that Lakeview blue at away meets!"

Some students, however, are not as pleased with the new adjustment.

Sophomore baseball player Tyler Palmer said, "When I first heard about playing with Lakeview athletes, I was upset because I have been playing baseball with the same guys for years. I don't know if we are going to be able to develop that same type chemistry on this new team in the next few years while I'm here."

No matter what an athlete's opinion is, the switch is happening and will be in full affect starting the fall season of next year. Lahm asks that all Scotus Athletes participating in the activities affected to have an open mind next season.

Lahm said, "I really do believe this new co-op could be a good, if not great, opportunity for both schools and all athletes."

STEAM technology takes prom funding

By Faith Przymus
Staff Reporter

Girls, return your prom dresses. Boys, have a celebration. Prom has been cancelled.

Due to the funds required for the usage of the new STEAM Lab, the school has decided to put the money raised for prom into the STEAM Lab.

President Jeff Ohnoutka, who played a major role in setting up the STEAM opportunities for students, said, "Looking at the long-term benefits for the school, the STEAM Lab will be more beneficial for our students than prom will be. A cut had to be made, and it was either this or the athletic banquet."

The school has not yet come to a consensus on whether or not prom will be held in the future.

"In regards to prom for the years to come, I would like to make it clear that if an opportunity arises for the STEAM Lab then that will take precedence over prom. The school has dealt with injuries and complaints from prom and post-prom in the past, and the STEAM Lab will only help our students excel without any negative side-effects," Ohnoutka said.

The junior class is in charge of fundraising money for prom, and this year they raised $9,500. This money will now be used to purchase new robots, called the TI-Innovator Rover, for the school. This robot connects to students' TI graphing calculators allowing them to explore topics in math, science, and new STEAM opportunities.

"With the money that has already been fundraised, we hope to purchase a robot for every student enrolled in a math or science class who is also using a graphing calculator. This technology will allow students to write their own programs on their calculators, as well as introducing them to an abundance of other learning opportunities," Ohnoutka explained.

Fundraising for "prom" will continue to be required of the junior class in the future regardless of whether prom will be held that year or not. If the juniors raise enough money to cover the money needed for prom and extra money to make purchases for the STEAM Lab, prom may still be an option for students to attend.

"Fundraising is required of thousands in the community in order to make Scotus affordable, updated, and innovative. Therefore, the junior class will still be required to raise money. The fundraising the junior class does may be called 'STEAM funding' in the future as opposed to prom funding, since the money more than likely will not be used for prom," Ohnoutka added.

When it comes to prom and post-prom, an abundance of money, nearly $10,000, has to be collected. Additionally, a DJ and entertainer have to be hired, the decorations have to be bought, set up and taken down, food has to be provided to students, games for post-prom have to bought or rented, and parents are needed as chaperones. The school believes that these efforts that go into prom could be more valuable elsewhere.

Ohnoutka concluded, "At the end of the day, the school is not depriving students of fun. Our students are allowed to attend proms that are held at other schools, and the school offers plenty of other fun activities for students to participate in."

ALLISON STARZEC/MEDIA STAFF

Senior Grace Wickham shows her disappointment after receiving the news that prom has been cancelled. The money raised for prom will be used to purchase robots for the STEAM Lab.

Scotus ghost grabs publicity

By Grace Odbert
Staff Reporter

Little theater doors shaking, locker locks swaying, and pictures falling are all crimes committed by the infamous Scotus ghost. Recently, however, the Scotus ghost, given the common name of 'Kitty' by students, has received publicity. The thrill seeker Zak Bagans from the television series *Ghost Adventures*, is seeking approval to film an episode at Scotus this summer.

Ghost Adventures is a television show where Bagans and his crew travel to supposedly haunted destinations across America to document paranormal activity. Bagans and the crew go to the paranormal places and lock themselves in overnight to challenge the spirits who roam the halls of the abandoned buildings.

"I heard about Scotus through my Twitter newsfeed. I saw that it was listed in the 'top 5 most haunted places in Nebraska,' so I did some research," Bagans stated. "Knowing how old Scotus is and the stories about the tunnels underground makes me want to dig deeper to get to the bottom of the paranormal activity people have encountered at the school. I have heard about the nun and her small son that died in the tunnels and about former students who roam the halls at Scotus."

When Zak mentioned the nun's small son, he is referring to Kitty's son who both allegedly died in the tunnels and have haunted Scotus ever since. Several teachers of Scotus have testified to encountering Kitty in the late hours of the night. Miss Melanie Mimick, who teaches English on the second floor of Scotus, has had more than one encounter with the ghost already in her short time at Scotus.

"I was trying to get my door unlocked; it has a very stubborn lock, and I tried to get it opened for about five minutes, but I couldn't," Mimick stated. "I simply said, 'Kitty, can you please let me into my room,' and then the door opened as if on cue. It was freaky. Now every time I need to get my door opened, Kitty helps me."

Kitty has not only been on the whereabouts of second floor at SCC, she has also been in the art room. Previous high school art teacher Lindsay Dannelly had to bolt icons she wanted to display to the wall. The icons on her wall fell and broke multiple times repeatedly, so she finally bolted them to the wall.

Prior to Dannelly, the retired Scotus art teacher Nancy Shadle has told stories to students. Shadle said that chairs have flown across the room at times, and she had to tell Kitty to leave and never return.

Bagan researched Scotus after hearing of several paranormal encounters and reached out to Scotus president Jeff Ohnoutka. Ohnoutka has locked up the tunnels underground since he took presidential position of Scotus.

"There is no reason to leave them open. We have locked them for good to keep rodents from getting into the school. Plus, a long time ago there was a fire in the tunnels, and I would hate for an accident like that to happen again," Ohnoutka said. "I don't know if I myself am a believer in the 'Scotus ghost,' but I wouldn't be opposed to finding out for good if she is real or not."

The *Ghost Adventures* crew will likely be coming to spend the night locked in the school with the Scotus ghost this summer and filming an episode sometime this July.

St. Bonaventure History Book

Scotus, with it's original name as St. Francis Academy, opened in 1878. The photo was taken in 1886 with some of the staff and founding sisters. A mysterious, small boy is standing on the right-hand side of the image.

Priest shortage moves Father to Fremont

By Abe Perault
Staff Reporter

With the shortage of priests in the Archdiocese of Omaha, changes are being made to solve this problem. Archbishop George Lucas recently announced that some parishes will be closing, causing priests to be moved. The move will affect Scotus' chaplain Father Capadano. He will be moved to St. Patrick's Parish in Fremont to replace Father Eliot Schwer who will be moving to St. Peter's Parish in Omaha.

"I never want to move a priest or close a parish, but the situation at hand has made it impossible to not move some of my brothers in Christ," the Archbishop said.

Capadano is currently in his fourth year of being a chaplain and theology teacher at Scotus. His classes include Theology 12 and Theology 8. He also runs Campus Ministry with religion teacher Kelly Koranda and shares his time and wisdom at almost all the youth ministry events in the Columbus area.

"I can't wait to work with Father Nolte in Fremont," Capadano said. "He is a priest who I respect and look to as a model of what I want to become both as a priest and a man."

In Fremont, Father will be taking over as the associate pastor of St. Patrick's, but he will not have any specific chaplain responsibilities at Bergan High School, leaving the school without a chaplain. Not only will Bergan be without a chaplain, but Scotus will also be left with no chaplain. Scotus President Jeff Ohnoutka has already started looking at new candidates to teach in place of Capadano.

"I'm not worried about there being no chaplain. The theology teachers here do a great job, and I expect my replacement to be just as good," Capadano said.

As for priest replacements, it seems unlikely that Scotus will get a new chaplain, which will leave Columbus with only three priests. Campus ministry will be handed off to Kelly Koranda with his move as well.

Capadano first arrived at Scotus in 2014 after just being ordained a priest that May. Since then he has helped with confirmation for the eighth graders at Scotus, as well as celebrated Mass on Sundays at St. Isidore's Church. Recently, he has started celebrating Mass at St. Bonaventure as well due to Fr. Mike Keating being moved.

"I'm sad because that I really wanted to see the juniors all the way through their time at Scotus," Capadano explained. "They were my first class of eighth graders, and I was hoping they'd be my last group of seniors."

Father Capadano never expected to be at Scotus for four years. Most priests usually stay in one place for four years, but depending on the work they do at their parish or school, the Archbishop is willing to let them stay longer. The Archbishop is also open to listening to what the priests' opinions are on their situations as well. Father Capadano requested to stay until the junior class was graduated, but the priest shortage made a change in his plans.

"The Lord likes to play tricks on me," Capadano chuckled. "Every time I start to get comfortable where I'm at He likes to remind me that I'm not supposed to be. That's His sense of humor."

Maggie Feehan /Rock Bottom Staff

Father Capadano gives a homily at St. Patrick's Parish while visiting his new assignment in Fremont. Capadano will begain being an associate pastor at St. Patrick's starting this summer.

Girls qualify for national tournament

By Matt Strecker
Editor

A surprising turn of events sends the Shamrock girls' championship basketball team to places the team has never been to in school history.

After winning the 2018 C1 girls basketball state championship in the first weekend of March, the Shamrocks have been informed that they have qualified for the high school national basketball tournament. Every year, one state champion team is chosen from the multiple classes from each state, and this year the Shamrocks were chosen.

"I was at a loss for words when I received the email telling me we got in," head coach Jarrod Ridder said. "We almost forget about it because of how rare it is to get in. The coaching staff is really excited for this opportunity."

The Shamrocks defeated the Bishop Neumann Cavaliers 40-37 for their first state championship in 14 years and were chosen by a committee from the six state champions from each class. The tournament is set up similarly to the NCAA March Madness brackets where 48 teams begin in the first round and play until three teams remain and play a round-robin style final round.

"It's so exciting to be chosen to play in this tournament," senior Grace Wickham said. "We all fill out brackets and watch the NCAA tournament in March during school, so it's fun to be able to play in that type of format."

The Shamrocks will begin practice for the national tournament on March 25th as the first game tips off on Saturday, April 7th. Unfortunately, the opportunity to play in the national playoffs means that the girls will not be able to participate in spring sports.

"It honestly really sucks that I won't be able to run track," junior Bailey Lehr said, "but this is more important to all of us because the school has never been able to play for a national championship."

The Shamrocks will not have a cake-walk through the tournament, however, as they will face off against the Arkansas state class 4A champions, Central Arkansas Christian Academy. CAC Academy comes into the tournament with a loaded 36-1 record, and the number one player in the class of 2018 in Christyn Williams, who has signed to play with the UCONN Huskies next winter.

"She is a fantastic player," Ridder said. "She's the ESPN number one ranked player in her class for a reason. She can hurt you off the drive or behind the ark. We are going to guard her similarly to Chloe Dworak, but it will be tough because the girl is 6'3, not 5'6."

Luckily, the Shamrocks will not have to travel far for their first round of national tournament play as the first round will be hosted by Creighton University at CenturyLink Center in Omaha. The second round will be a little pricier as the second round of tournament play is hosted by the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. If the girls are lucky enough to make the final cut as the last three teams left unbeaten, the round-robin games will be played at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

"The best part about making it to state is getting to play in big arenas that we aren't used to being in," senior Shania Borchers said, "so I'm really excited to play in this tournament because the venues are going to be way bigger than we have ever played in."

The Shamrocks first round game tips off at 2:00 p.m. on April 7th, and the winner will play the winner of Long Beach Poly out of California and Riverdale Baptist from Maryland on the following Saturday, April 14th, at 8:00 p.m.

Morgan Rinkol/Media Staff

Seniors Maggie Feehan (4) and Grace Wickham (11) play defense against Bishop Neumann in the C1 state championship. The girls qualified for the national championship tournament by being nominated by the NSAA after winning their class.

Track season takes off

By Jadyn Larsen
Staff Reporter

The gun goes off, marking the beginning of the 2018 Scotus track season. With only nine returning state qualifiers, Scotus' track team is young and full of underclassmen. Coaches Janet Tooley, girls' head coach, and Joe Schoenfelder, boys' head coach, had to put together a new team this year.

Fifty-Four students went out for track this year; 29 girls and 25 boys. This is a smaller team than Scotus has had in the past.

Scotus has already competed at three track meets. They have competed at the Wayne St. Indoor meet, the Wesleyan Indoor meet, and at the famous Scotus relays.

Senior Matt Strecker said, "The first two meets went really well. With both of them being indoors and one being unscored, it's a good warmup for the season.

Scotus competes at two indoor track meets every year. The other meets all take place outside.

Senior pole vaulter Chase Andresen said "I love that there is a consistent temperature and no wind [during indoor track meets], but I don't like how small the area for everything is.'

Andresen started the track season off strong this year performing well at both indoor meets.

"I've had a lot of success in the first two meets with a meet record and tying the school record especially with being hurt," Andresen said. "I didn't expect it, but I am happy with it."

Many athletes on the track team have high hopes in mind on how they want their season to turn out.

Senior thrower Marika Spencer said, "My goal for this track season is to throw farther than I did last year so I can up my school records! I also want to go undefeated, but we will see how that goes!"

Sophomore distance runner Liza Zaruba has a different goal in mind for her season.

"I am looking forward to becoming close to the girls and having a ton of fun. As for my goals, I hope that I will just get in really good shape and continue to improve every race," Zaruba said.

At the Scotus relays on March 26th, the boys team placed 8th and the girls team placed 4th. High school teams including Gretna, Waverly, Bennington, Neumann, and more all competed in the Scotus relays.

Senior Matt Strecker said, "I love competing against teams like Waverly and Bennington because they are always talented, and they give us a taste of what the competition at state is like."

Both track teams will compete next at the Wayne Invite today, April 3rd.

Allison Starzec/Media Staff

Junior Bailey Lehr runs the 440 shuttle hurdler race at the Scotus Relays on March 27th. The Scotus girls placed fourth overall.

Grace Odbert/Rock Bottom Staff

Junior Elliott Thomazin hands the baton to senior Matthew Bichlmeier as Bichlmeier takes off for his leg of the boys 4x800 relay. Thomazin and Bichlmeier are two of the team's leading scorers on the track.

Scotus boys aim to improve

By Maggie Feehan
Staff Reporter

The freshly cut grass is streaked with white painted lines, and the sun is finally starting to peek out from behind the clouds. Spring season is here, and the boys' soccer team is grinding away at practice, hoping for an appearance at Creighton Morrison Stadium later this May.

"I expect we can make it to state, and I personally want to help the team achieve that," senior Thiago Pereira-Ferreira said.

After multiple years of successful coaching from Jon Brezenski in the past, the Shamrocks now have a new head coach. This will be PJ Miller's 12th year coaching, but first at Scotus. He previously coached at Lakeview High School from 2002-2013. Assisting him is Marcus Horwood from London, England and former Scotus players Clint Torzan, Brady Miller, and Matt Hoenk.

"We are an inexperienced bunch. We graduated a lot of players the past couple of years, and we will have quite a few new faces seeing extensive playing time," Miller said.

The boys kicked off their season with a home matchup against the Gretna Dragons. The postponed game held on March 17th proved to be difficult for the Shamrocks. The boys fell to the Dragons 10-0. After a cold and windy 80 minutes, the boys were handed their first loss of the season.

"We have a very daunting schedule. We need to just take one game at a time and keep getting better every week, so hopefully, we can make some noise near the end of the season," Miller said.

On March 20th, the Shamrocks found their rhythm against city rival, Lakeview High School. The boys came out on top, earning their first win of the season, 3-2. Junior Braden Labenz found the back of the net twice during the game, and junior Bailey Christensen added a goal of his own.

"I think the main thing that helped us was our defense. They played a good game. We all knew it was going to be tough, and we needed to play our best," Labenz said.

The Shamrocks took on Skutt on March 24th. The boys gave it their all but came up short 3-0 with a last second goal by the opponent. Despite the loss, senior Carson Hottovy is proud of how his team played against the #1 ranked team.

"I think we all played as a team more and communicated better. We had a tough defense, and we kept possession of the ball more. We are still learning, so we just need to get our touches down," senior Carson Hottovy said.

During the second round of the tournament, the boys battled against Lincoln Pius. With the only Shamrock goal scored by Labenz, the boys lost 3-1.

"We learned that we need to break down the ball instead of stabbing, and if we play hard, we can play with anybody," senior Wren Allen said.

With a new head coach, practices are a little different than years past. Senior Calen Hinze is playing soccer for the first time since 3rd grade.

"The drills are a little difficult, but I'm getting used to them. Some of the drills are also pretty fun, and I enjoy doing them," Hinze said.

Miller believes the team's outlook on the season could carry them far.

"They have a really good attitude. They're all willing to give it their best shot. We just need to keep working hard and keep working on our chemistry," Miller said.

All the sweat and hard work is done in preparation for the big stage in Omaha.

"I've never actually played at Morrison Stadium, but I've had similar games in club soccer like ones at Morrison. It makes you feel like you are playing for the best, and it makes you feel like you are one of the best," sophomore Henry Hernandez concluded.

The boys will play next on April 5th at Norfolk Catholic High school.

Brandon Huynh/Media Staff

Junior Inri Dimas tries to beat his opponent to the ball at Wilderness Park. The boys defeated Lakeview 3-2 on March 20th.

Girls start the season with confidence

By Abe Perault
Staff Reporter

Hardwork is not unfamiliar to the girls on the Scotus soccer team. After making it to the state championship last year, they were defeated by Skutt Catholic 3-0. Even though they were defeated, the Shamrock girls know what they need to do get to the state championship again this year.

"Coach always pushes us hard and prepares us well for every game. This year, we are going to have to figure out ways to beat teams like Gretna and Skutt to make it back to the championship," senior forward Grace Wickham said.

Using the idea of getting to state again as the flame to their fire, the Scotus girls powered their way through two-a-days to start off their season. After a couple weeks of practice and some unfavorable weather, the girls finally had their first game against Gretna. The Shamrocks lost the game in a shutout with a score of 0-4.

"We know we have a lot of work to do with our new formation, but we will get the hang of it," junior defender Emma Brandt said.

The soccer team could not dwell on their loss for too long. Three days later, the girls had to face their cross-town rivals, the Lakeview Lady Vikes. The Shamrocks had no trouble defeating Lakeview handily winning the game with a score of 5-1. This will most likely not be their last time playing the Lady Vikes this season. They have a chance of facing off against each other again in districts or sub-state, but the Scotus girls already have an idea of what they'll see.

"We expect that they will pack their defense and force us to shoot longs shots," senior midfielder Kendra Wiese explained.

Part of the key to the Shamrocks success this year will be the fact they lost very few starters from last year, the most crucial of them being Alyssa Kuta and Emma Strecker. Coming back with almost the same team as last year gives a big advantage to the Shamrocks.

"Although we lost two seniors, I believe everyone is replaceable, and we had a lot of underclassmen step up to fill their shoes," senior midfielder Jadyn Larsen said.

The Shamrocks' biggest disadvantage this season is that they will have only three home games. Sadly, for the shamrocks, one of their three home games got canceled. Lucky for them, districts will most likely be played in Columbus on their home field.

"Personally, I wish we had more games because it gives more people opportunities to attend," senior midfielder Maggie Feehan said. "Otherwise, it doesn't really matter. It's the same field, same game."

The Scotus girls' soccer team will play today against Lincoln Lutheran at Wilderness Park. They will have one more home game against Schuyler on Tuesday, April 24th.

Brandon Huynh/Media Staff

Senior Jadyn Larsen dribbles the ball between two Lakeview defenders in their 5-1 victory over the Vikings. The Scotus girls' soccer team will play today against Lincoln Lutheran at Wilderness Park.

Baseball sets winning tone for the season

By Matt Strecker
Editor

Shaking off the pain of last year's trials and tribulations, the CHS boys' baseball team is off to a strong start.

Boasting a 4-1 record after the first few weeks of the season, the Discoverers are confident in where the year is heading looking forward to the rest of the season.

"We have a new head coach this year, and he is really trying to simplify different areas of our game," senior outfielder and Concordia University signee Jacob Morse said. "We have a lot of talent on our team this year, and we are going to put it to good use."

The Discoverers spent the first few weeks of their season battling with Mother Nature as there was plenty of rain near the beginning of March. However, the boys fought through the weather and stole a double-header from Norfolk, and another form Bellevue West.

"We've only had five games and six others have been cancelled," sophomore 3rd baseman and University of Nebraska recruit Tyler Palmer said. "We've played well the first five games, we just need to hit better than we are and not commit as many errors.

The Discoverers are confident going into this season in being the first CHS baseball team to make it to state, but the schedule will prove to be a challenge staring at the boys in maroon and white. The Discoverers face off against previous post-season tested teams such as Norris, Omaha Westside, and Elkhorn South.

"I'm looking forward to playing ranked teams," Palmer said, "because we love playing good teams to prove to people that we are better than people may think."

Their 2-0 start would be tampered with however on Thursday, March 22nd as the Discoverers were handed their first loss of the season. Lincoln Southwest scrapped past the Discoverers by one run in dramatic fashion with a walk-off hit in the bottom of the seventh inning.

"It's never fun to lose, especially in a close, heartbreaking fashion like that," Morse said. "We can definitely take some positives from the loss though. Southwest is in contention for a state title every year, and to be in the game with them up until the very end says a lot about our team."

The Discoverers followed the loss the next day with a doubleheader against Bellevue West. A Shamrock-led Discoverers team destroyed the Thunderbirds in both games 13-6 and 5-1. The first five batters in the Discoverer's lineup were Scotus students in Palmer, fellow sophomore Eric Mustard, senior Trevor Kaslon, Morse, and senior Buena Vista signee Logan Mueller.

"We've just been playing really well honestly," Mustard said. "We just need to keep hitting the ball hard and playing clean baseball on defense."

The Discoverers look to keep their winning ways going with their home invite on Saturday April 7th.

MAGGIE FEEHAN/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Logan Mueller prepares to swing at a ball against Norfolk in the team's 12-7 win. The CHS baseball team's batting order is led by five Scotus athletes.

Tennis team starts season strong

By Flora He
Staff Reporter

As time flies to the last quarter of the semester, the girls' tennis team has started their practice with Columbus High girls.

"Being in the CHS tennis team has helped me create an amazing bond and friendship with CHS girls," sophomore Makenzie Enderlin said.

There are seven Scotus girls participating in tennis this year out of twenty-eight in total.

"Right now, we are working on making sure we all get to play during matches since there are so many of us," freshman Keira Feehan said.

This is Feehan's first year participating in the tennis.

"I like tennis a lot and have lots of fun during our practices. I've made new friends. The season is going great so far; I'm excited to start playing in matches," Feehan said.

Senior Natalie Brutty is the only Scotus player who is in the varsity team. She ranks second in the ladder, and this is her fourth year playing tennis.

"I've truly had the best experience, I'm so blessed to have made so many friendships and to have a coach who continues to increase my love for the game. I will definitely miss it next year," Brutty concluded.

The tennis team had their first meet on Friday, March 23rd with Lincoln Northeast High School at Lincoln Northeast. Only two Scotus players participated in this match, senior Natalie Brutty and sophomore Emily Miksch. The girls started their season strong with winning both JV and varsity.

"Our first meet went extremely well, with varsity winning 7-2 and JV winning 9-0. Winning both doubles and singles is a definite confidence booster. We're hoping for a strong season!" Brutty said.

The girls had their first home meet on Tuesday, March 27th with Norfolk High where varsity and JV played at Pawnee Park and reserves played at Gerrard Park. This time most of Scotus players took part in this meet.

As an outdoor activity, the weather played an important role in tennis.

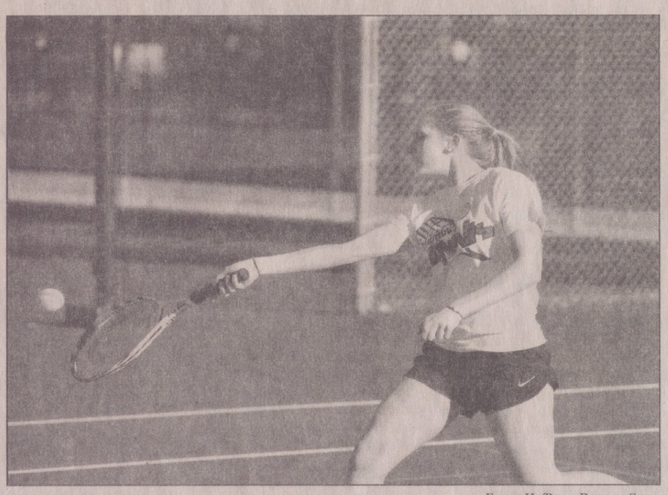
"The season has been very hard because, with the cold weather, it makes it hard to practice," Makenzie Enderlin said.

As a team, the girls are working together to improve their tennis skills.

"The team as a whole is working more on serving and getting the ball in bounds." Enderlin said.

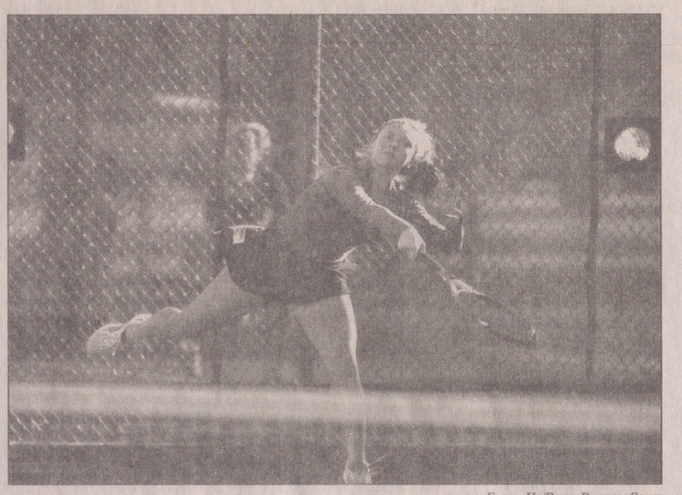
This is Miksch's first year in tennis, and as the highest ranked Scotus tennis player on junior varsity, she started this season strong by winning the first tennis meet.

"Since it's my first year, I was really nervous about it at first, but it's a lot of fun! I would recommend doing it to everyone that is thinking about going out," Miksch said.



FLORA HE/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Sophomore Emily Miksch plays singles in the first home match at Pawnee Park. Miksch is the highest ranked Scotus player on JV.



FLORA HE/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Natalie Brutty plays singles and wins 8-0 in the first home match at Pawnee Park. This is her fourth year on the tennis team.

Scenes from the 2018 track season

GRACE ODBERT/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Madison Kerkman lifts herself over the high jump bar. The girls won high jump at the Scotus Relays on Tuesday, March 27th.

ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Junior Abe Perault hurls the discus at the Scotus Relays track meet. The boys received 3rd place in the event.

Mr. Shamrock makes memories for seniors

By Faith Przymus
Staff Reporter

Only in the Memorial Hall on Sunday night could one have seen senior Colson Kosch dressed up as a crayon, and senior Wren Allen doing gymnastics.

On Sunday, March 25th, at 7:00 p.m. seven senior boys competed to become Mr. Shamrock. After presenting a talent, answering questions, and walking the cat-walk, the scores were tallied up, and Brandon Huynh was named the 2018 Mr. Shamrock.

"It feels great [to be Mr. Shamrock]. I did not expect this to be completely honest, but it feels really nice," Huynh said.

After paying two dollars or bringing two cans of food to be donated to the Simon House, spectators had quite an entertaining show to watch. The talent portion of the competition ranged from beach ball ballet to painting like Bob Ross.

Senior competitor Tyler Miksch, who received runner-up said, "The morning of I spent four hours watching Bob Ross on YouTube [to prepare for Mr. Shamrock].

At the end of the competition, all of the boys strutted down the cat-walk to show off their "catch that dream girl outfit." Wren Allen got some brownie points from the judges by dressing as a cook and giving the judges brownies. Nathan Donoghue took a different approach by dressing as cowboy Ronald Regan as he believed that look is what every girl wants. Colson Kosch portrayed a particularly interesting outfit to catch his dream girl.

"I was a green crayon, because I know that when you see a green crayon you cannot help but run towards it. I wanted to mark all of the ladies hearts out there with my outfit so that they would not have to go back to their black and white ways," Kosch said.

Seniors Matthew Bichlmeier and Matt Strecker both put quite a bit of time into preparing for the Mr. Shamrock competition. Bichlmeier, who told puns as his talent, spent the last few months writing down his best original puns in a notebook to save for the competition.

Strecker danced to *Napoleon Dynamite* for his talent.

"I watched the movie *Napoleon Dynamite* about 8 or 9 times just to makes sure I was doing the dance right," Strecker said.

Every spring, student council members look for boys to participate in the Mr. Shamrock competition. Donoghue, Kosch, and Allen, are all members of student council, and they said that because they were in student council they were encouraged to participate in Mr. Shamrock.

"Peer pressure played a big part [in why I decided to participate in Mr. Shamrock]. Basically, every student council senior is expected to do it, but I think I would have done it anyway. It looked really fun because you get to be yourself and have a good time," Kosch said.

Although Brandon Huynh was the only winner of Mr. Shamrock, all seven boys said they enjoyed the competition, and they would encourage the senior boys next year to participate in Mr. Shamrock as well.

Senior Nathan Donoghue said, "I would say to do it because you only regret the things you don't do, and you get to have a lot of fun with your classmates."

Logan Zanardi /Media Staff

Judge Pat Broackhaus crowns Brandon Huynh as the winner of the 2018 Mr. Shamrock pageant. Senior competitor Wren Allen cheers for Huynh as he was announced the winner on March 25th, 2018.

Logan Zanardi /Media Staff

Senior Tyler Miksch, dressed as Bob Ross, paints a happy tree for his talent. Miksch was named runner-up at the Mr. Shamrock Pageant.

Lifters bring home state hardware

By Caitlin Steiner
Staff Reporter

The weekend of March 3rd was an exciting weekend to be a Shamrock. As many know the girls basketball team took home a state trophy, but what many might not know is that that same day three other trophies and countless medals were also won for the Shamrocks. Scotus powerlifters competed at state on Saturday, March 3rd in Beatrice for their own state titles- both personal and as a team.

Junior Emma Brandt placed 2nd in the 132 lb weight class.

"Scotus powerlifting is like my family," Brandt said. "It sounds cheesy, but it is so different from other sports and activities."

The team brought 27 lifters to compete. Out of the 27, 16 placed. State medals are given to the top 5 lifters in each weight class. Lifters also compete for overall lifter in the lightweight and heavyweight categories. Along with personal scores, teams are also placed as a whole. Titles for teams are given to the top 3 schools. Scotus placed third in the girls, boys, and coed divisions; a first time placing at state for all three categories.

"I feel the team did very well as a whole," freshman Madison Wittwer said. "I am very proud to be considered a member of this family."

Although they compete at different class meets, Scotus competed at the Class B state competition. Scotus also competed at a class A competition during their season.

Senior Tyler Miksch placed 1st in the 148 lb weight class and took home the overall lightweight lifter title for the second year in a row. Miksch also broke two state records at the meet in squat and deadlift.

"My favorite memory is running back and forth between the 3 platforms to watch all the Scotus lifters compete," Miksch said.

Competition is scored off a total of three lifts- squat, bench, and dead lift.

Lifters are given three chances to complete each lift and may go up in weight each time. The three lifts are then totaled up and winners are announced accordingly.

Senior Logan Mueller broke the Scotus record for deadlift at 510 pounds. Mueller also placed 3rd in the 181 lb weight class.

"I love how the program has grown in the past 3 years. There were 6 people out the first year and now we are up to 27," Mueller said.

The group traveled down to Beatrice Friday night to weigh in before the big day. If a competitor does not make weight then, they have the option to re-weigh in the next morning. The team is coached by Dan Wallin, Tom Woodward, and Brooke Taylor.

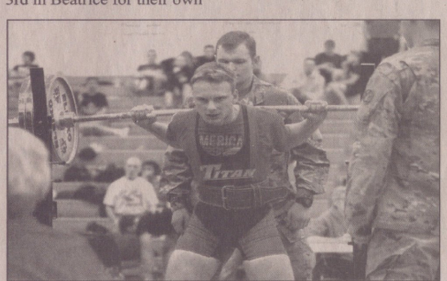
"We went to weigh in Friday, and I was 4 pounds over, so they gave my card to Brooke, and I told her they knew I would make weight. I had to wear a sauna suit and at 10:00 p.m. Brooke and I went to Anytime Fitness and I ran 2 miles," Brandt said. "If I put my arms down sweat poured out. Tom then bought 3 scales and I was still overweight. The next morning, I was 4 pounds under my weight class."

When given a free moment, Scotus lifters and fans went outside the gym and gathered around a T.V. screen to support their classmates playing in the girls state basketball championship.

Junior Abe Perault placed 4th in the 220 lb weight class.

"[Powerlifting] is a great activity to be a part of," Perault concluded. "No where else have I seen so much improvement on a regular basis."

NAME	PLACE	WEIGHT CLASS
GIRLS		
Katelyn Bayer	2nd	114
Alli Demuth	4th	114
Gillian Brandt	4th	123
Emma Brandt	2nd	132
Madison Wittwer	2nd	148
Ashtyn Preister	2nd	165
Allie Mielak	2nd	181
Michaela Kresha	3rd	198
BOYS		
Daniel Tworek	2nd	114
Jared Gaspers	3rd	114
Collin Dreher	2nd	123
Tyler Miksch	1st	148
Alex Preister	1st	165
Logan Mueller	3rd	181
Wren Allen	5th	198
Abe Perault	4th	220



Brandon Huynh/Media Staff

Senior Alex Preister squats at the state powerlifting meet on March 3rd. Preister placed 1st in the 165lb weight class.

Ostdiek places fourth at state

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

At the end of the day at districts on March 12, speech performers from each event line up to stand and wait for their name to be called. Seven speech team members from Scotus heard their names

The Scotus OID placed third including seniors Logan Zanardi, Alaina Wallick, Brandon Huynh, and juniors Isaac McPhillips and Isaac Ostdiek.

"[I feel] very happy with how we [placed at districts,]" Zanardi stated. " Our OID always struggled and got a lot of last places at meets, so to get to state is kind of an upset and overcoming a lot of odds."

The last other qualifiers were junior Hannah Allen, who placed third in Informative, and sophomore Lauren Ostdiek, who also placed third in Entertainment.

"I'm super excited! A lot of people qualified, so it is going to be a lot of fun," Ostdiek exclaimed. "My finals round was really good, so I was nervous about placing, but I was very happy with it."

Before districts, the speech team had a conference meet on March 3rd, the same day as state girls' basketball.

"My favorite memory this speech season was at conference. It was the same day as the girls' championship basketball game against Neumann, so we turned on the TV and watched the game between rounds," Wallick recalled. "It was even more fun because the Neumann speech team was at our conference meet, too."

Speech members can recall pleasant and humorous memories from their early morning bus rides all season.

"[My favorite memory is] listening to Hannah blaring 'Are You Ready for It?' by Taylor Swift every Saturday at like six in the morning at least twelve times," junior Isaac Ostdiek said.

Speech members left for Kearney late Wednesday night, March 21, arriving at their hotel to be prepared for their first round at 9:00 AM for Entertainment and Informative, and OID and Duet Acting at 9:30. Only Lauren Ostdiek broke into finals, and placed fourth in the state.

"My experience at State was absolutely incredible! This year was a lot of fun because we had seven speakers at state. At the actual meet, I had the most fun I had ever had giving my speech," Ostdiek concluded. "My first round was super fun to perform for, but finals were a crazy experience. Finding out that I broke was super exciting! I had a blast talking to new people and spending time with the team, especially at Panera."

Senior Alaina Wallick competed in two events: OID and Duet Acting.

"My experience at State was awesome. I had so much fun getting to have one last meet with my team," Wallick concluded. "Overall, State might not have gone as well as I was hoping, but I think everything happened exactly as it was supposed to it. State was the goal this season, and I am just grateful that we got there."

Emily Carstens/Yearbook Staff

Sophomore Lauren Ostdiek performs her speech at state speech in Kearney. Ostdiek received 4th place for her entertainment speech.

Obal sets himself apart with Quiz Bowl

By Jacob Morse
Staff Reporter

Cool. Calm. Collected. This would describe senior Winston Obal's emotions while answering question after question correctly in the recent quiz bowls he's taken part in.

With Scotus' dominance at the quiz bowl competition on March 7, they qualified for the state quiz bowl contest. Scotus, who is undoubtedly a favorite in Nebraska's state competition this year, is ready to take state with Obal holding them under his wing.

"I am really proud of this team, they have shown a lot of growth in the past couple years. Even though I answered ninety out of the one-hundred questions we were asked in the last competition, I can see their potential," Obal said.

His performance during the Central City quiz bowl gave him enough attention to be invited to be a part of the Nebraska national quiz bowl team. It is comprised of the five smartest high school students in the state. All fifty states will compete in a national tournament where each team will be asked questions head to head against other state's teams. Nebraska normally doesn't get past the first round in the national tournament, but they are ranked 3rd in the nation this year due to the wit of Obal. It is going to be a tight race, but the Nebraska team will surely be one to lookout for throughout the tournament.

"It's an honor and a privilege to be a part of this team. I want to use this opportunity to show the nation what kind of competitor I am. I want, more than anything, to win this competition. I have studied my entire life for a moment such as this, and I don't only want to do it for myself, but I want to do it for all those who have supported me throughout my quiz bowl journey," Obal said.

Obal, who has been accepted to several Ivy league colleges, has been trying to narrow down his decision on where he wants to go to school. Along with the academic success he has on his resume, Obal has to add the quiz bowl scholarships as a factor on where he wants to go. Many schools are fighting over him, offering up to full ride scholarships.

"I am very grateful to be recognized by so many schools. I have always dreamt of being a part of a school with a reputation such as these. It is a very hard decision. Right now, I have it narrowed down to a full ride to Harvard or a $30,000 scholarship to MIT," Obal said.

With all the different quiz bowl activities that Obal is going to be a part of soon, he still holds the state competition dear to him.

Obal concluded, "Although there are so many different competitions with more pressure, I am still looking forward to the state competition with Scotus. They are like a family to me, and without them I wouldn't have all these different opportunities. They have given me a great high school education, and I want to help win this thing for them."

ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

The Scotus quiz bowl team, sophomore Tyler Palmer, junior Abe Perault, junior Nathan Schumacher, senior Winston Obal, freshman Abaigeal Aydt, senior Kendra Wiese, and junior Elliott Thomazin, pose for a picture after their second place victory in Central City. They will compete in the state tournament on April 11th.

Gaspers grabs opprtunity of a life time

By Caitlin Steiner
Staff Reporter

Racing the clock, swinging through the air, jumping over hurdles, avoiding falling at all costs; for senior Jared Gaspers this has been a lifelong goal. Over Christmas break Gaspers signed up to compete for *American Ninja Warrior*, never thinking anything would come of it.

"I turned on the show one day and thought it looked really cool and challenging. The more I watched, the more I thought, I can do this," Gaspers said.

Gaspers has been training for *American Ninja Warrior* his whole life. Signing up on ANWCasting.com, Gaspers had to submit a 2-3 minute video talking about himself and showing off his moves.

"One day I was looking up *American Ninja Warrior,* and I found the sign up," Gaspers said. "I was previously under the impression that I had to be 21, but it turns out I only have to be 19, so I thought, why not? I never imagined I would actually make it in."

Gaspers is allowed to compete in the regional round at 18 but must wait until he is 19 to compete in the finals.

"By the time Nationals roll around, I'll be 19 and able to compete nationally," Gaspers said.

Regional competitions are held all over the United States throughout March, April, and May. Gaspers will be traveling to Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 25th and 26th to compete regionally.

"The whole process can take a while; you have to go through some training before you can even compete at the regional level. If I make it past that round, then I will need further training before I can compete nationally," Gaspers said. "I've been training myself for a while, but to actually get in and place, I'm going to need to step up my game."

Competition training will consist of trial runs on a practice course to ensure all competitors understand the rules and are fit enough to compete. As for his own practicing, Gaspers joined a Ninja Warrior Gym in Colorada to practice on a more realistic course.

"I went down over spring break and Easter break to practice on their course," Gasper commented. "It's still not the real thing, but it's a step closer than my practice course at home."

Nationals will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada. Days for the competition have not been announced yet.

"I'm going to take a couple classes at CCC next year but mostly online so if I do make it to nationals I can keep up with my schoolwork," Gaspers said. "Winning the grand prize could really help pay for college, though."

The winner of the National American Ninja Warrior competition is awarded $1 million.

"Whether I win or lose the competition, I still can't believe this is actually happening," Gaspers concluded. "I'm just going to enjoy the moment while I can."

ALAINA WALLICK/ROCK BOTTOM

Senior Jared Gaspers jumps to catch the trapeze bar at a Ninja Warrior Gym in Colorado. Gaspers will be competing for American Ninja Warrior at the regional level on May 25th & 26th.

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A Day in the Life

Students' Social Media

Written by Kaylie Rocha

7th Grade

This is the school year that my parents are giving me a chance of having a phone. Ever since 3rd grade, I have seen my classmates have phones, and my mother was completely against me having one until I was 13. My friends had theirs since they were 8, 9, or 10! The first thing I must do is get everyone's number, so I can text them and be able to send emoticons. My favorite ones that I have seen so much of are: 😬, 😁, and 😂. I also can get games! Do you realize that I have be waiting for years to be able to play Minecraft with my buddies? I am so excited!

8th Grade

Lately, everyone has been upgrading their phones to iPhones. I still have an Android... it's an Android Razor though, and my mother constantly bugs me to take good care of it. Anyways, I got some social media apps that my friends have so we can be cool. I got Instagram this year, and it's not quite the same as it used to be. It's where you would post your pets, quotes of the day or selfies. When I was chatting with my close friend, Lizzie, she told me about Sinsta. It's like a rant account? I decided to make one and see what's all the fuss is about. Oh! Some classmates let me follow and requested back... Wait... Susan doesn't like Lizzie and yet, she still hangs out and talks with her? I am utterly confused.

Freshmen

Instagram? Snapchat? New emojis? Ways to abbreviate words? LOL. Nice. I think...I might use LOL a little too much, but it's such a relatable thing to say. Also, everyone doesn't like using xD; however, I still think it's a great way to smile back at a funny text. Omg, Steve sent me a Snapchat??? I need to tell Susan about this because like, Steve is a SENIOR. Why would he snap me? Is he interested? Should I snap back? I think I'm going to send a picture of the ground and say, "What's up?" That's good enough, right? NO! I just ran straight into someone and dropped my phone...please don't be cracked, please don't be.... My mom is going to kill me.

Sophomores

Another school year passed, and my classmates are having a fit over a couple getting together due to their history. It's all over Instagram and Snapchat. I don't understand why people just cannot be happy and respectful of people. Like, yeah, you may not like the decision, but in the end, does it really affect you? No. But it's the only interesting thing happening right now in the sophomore class. Other than that, there's this new music video by Beyoncé coming out soon, and I literally have all my notifications on for her so the minute it drops, I will know about it. It's for her song, "Lemonade", and honestly, I am stoked. I love this woman more than life itself.

Juniors

Anymore, all we want to do is be on our phones. They also implemented the policy of putting our phones in the phone caddies, and honestly, I don't care because I don't use my phone in school: it's usually in my locker or at my house. It's just easier. Besides, when I do bring my phone, and I put it in a phone caddie, I end up leaving it there for the rest of the day and forgetting until I get home and search for it. Anyways, it was enforced in the beginning, now it seems like my classmates could care less if they get caught or not with their phone out. Maybe they should consider changing it or something? I dunno, but it's a hassle.

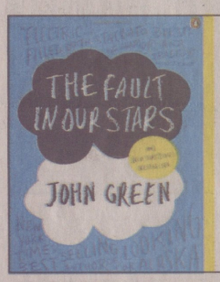
Seniors

I just want to start my life; every time I scroll through Facebook and Instagram, I see last year's graduates living their life. On Snapchat, there are such funny videos of the past graduates during college life, or a picture of boxes and a caption saying: "Moving into a new apartment with my three friends!" Seeing everything and having to fill out scholarships and staying connected with the college I am attending it puts me in the mood to start my own life. One of my best friends who graduated two years ago, always brings up how life truly starts when you graduate. That this is the foundation of our life, a stepping stone, and everything is going to start soon, and fast. I am ecstatic.

Teachers

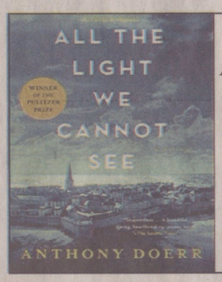
These phones are a PAIN in my class; I still don't quite understand why we let them have them. We are working on getting Lenovos in each class. The most frustrating thing about phones are when I see students in the halls on them and talking with their friends, instead of coming in to fix their failing grade! Or, when they are out in class and they don't pay attention, so they end up failing. It's even worse at home with my son, who honestly doesn't know when to put his phone away. It is ALWAYS in his face, and I told him many times to detach himself for a while, but he never wants to. I just wish there was an easier way to prove that it is okay without having technology every day in our lives.

Students' recommended favorite books



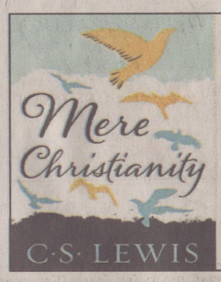
Fault in our Stars

The two main characters, Hazel and Augustus, are both teenagers so it makes it easier to understand the book. Also it's a modern teenage love story and you just fall in love with both characters while reading it. Also the ending is something you wouldn't expect and is such a tear jerker.
-Kate Smith; Sophomore



All the Light We Cannot See

I love this book because of the how intricate the stories of the individuals are, and how they eventually all come together. The writing style is absolutely beautiful.
-Lauren Ostdiek; Sophomore

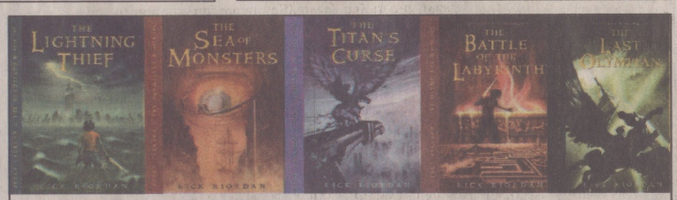


Mere Christianity

Mere Christianity is basically a brief overview of our beliefs as Christians. It frames concepts in new ways, and it lead me to a deeper understanding of the faith that I profess every time I go to Mass.
–Elliott Thomazin; Junior

The Reckoners

I like this series because there is drama, romance, heartbreak, action, and so many plot twists that you never see coming. The characters are funny, quirky, and relatable. Plus the author makes you feel like you are living and experiencing everything the characters are.
-Ava Kuhl; Freshman



Percy Jackson

I like [the Percy Jackson series] because it is super adventurous and it always keeps you on the edge of your chair.
-Kaelyn Dierman; 7th Grader

Harry Potter

Harry Potter's parents died; he lives with his aunt and uncle who are horrible people. He goes to this magic school and gets in trouble every year because of some ridiculous evil thing that wants to kill him.
–Konner Kudron; Junior

Mortal Instruments

Books that mix the real world in with supernatural scenarios have always been my favorite, which is why the Mortal Instruments series has always been one of my favorites.
-Alaina Wallick; Senior

The Day Before

This book is about a girl, Amber, who was switched at birth and her biological parents want to meet her. She doesn't want to, but is forced to when her biological parents receive shared custody of her with her parents. Amber decides to run away for one day, the day before she is forced to go live with her biological parents for 6 months. While on her 'free' day she meets a boy who has secrets of his own. They decide to spend the day together and not ask why they are running away.
-Keira Feehan; Freshman

Selection

The books are about a girl who basically goes from rages to riches over night. She and 35 other eligible young bachelors are selected for the chance to fight for the King to be's heart.
-Emily Stutzman; Junior

Pitch Black

Morgan's best friend, Jason just killed himself and no one knows why. He had good grades, he was popular, he was good looking, and a good athlete. After all his friends found out about his death, Morgan and some of his friends wanted to kill themselves too because if Jason couldn't survive in this world, they didn't know how they would be able too.
–Emma Lindhorst; 7th grader

LEAVING THEIR MARK

See pages 4 and 5

Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic http://issuu.com/scotusjournalism Columbus, Nebraska 68601

Volume 18 • Issue VII • May 3, 2018

Students make it a year to remember

By Maggie Feehan
Staff Reporter

The curtains are finally closing on the 2017-2018 school year. With so much success in different areas of the school, students at Scotus have made it a year to remember.

Starting out with sports, senior Marika Spencer broke the homerun record by slamming 8 balls over the fence during the season and 20 in her career. On top of that, junior Kelsey Faust brought home a medal by placing 15th at state cross country. Along with the girls' basketball state championship, senior Grace Wickham broke two records this season. Wickham broke the season assist record with a total of 114 and also had 62 career three pointers that broke the ceiling as well.

Continuing with the winter season, senior Wren Allen placed 6th at the state wrestling meet. Alongside numerous state qualifiers for state powerlifting, seniors Alex Preister and Tyler Miksch placed 1st at state in their weight classes with Miksch crushing the record for his weight class by deadlifting 480 pounds. Scotus cheerleading also made an appearance at state and earned themselves 2nd place in Sideline.

Athletics was not the only thing that surpassed average this year. *The Sister Act* was a huge performance that wowed multiple crowds, big brains punched a ticket to state in the 2018 Quiz Bowl for the first time in school history placing 8th out of 29 teams, and who could forget senior Brandon Huyhn's beach ball ballet that won him the 2018 Mr. Shamrock Contest.

Students aren't the only ones making a mark on the year. English teacher Becki Zanardi was accepted into the Museum Teacher Fellowship Program in Washington D.C. for a full week of learning about the Holocaust and its important component of education in America. Each year, The Museum selects up to twenty educators. These educators must show evidence of extensive knowledge of holocaust history, successful teacher experience, and participation in community and professional organizations. Zanardi is just 1 of the 20 chosen worldwide. Along with the basketball state championship, head girls' basketball coach Jarrod Ridder was named Huskerland's 2018 Class C-1 girls basketball coach of the year.

Adding to the pile of achievements, HOSA members Maddie Sueper and Kelsey Faust qualified for the International HOSA conference in Dallas, TX. Sueper received 1st in photography, and Faust placed 3rd in dental terminology.

See **STUDENTS**, Page 2

PHOTO COURTESY YUTAN JOURNALISM

All 25 state qualifiers gather around journalism advisor Angie Rusher, celebrating their win on April 23rd. This is Journalism's second year in a row winning the state championship.

Journalism wins back to back state championships

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

Rushing into rooms minutes before the round began, students from all over Nebraska could be heard typing and taking photos at Northeast Community College in Norfolk for the state journalism competition.

Scotus had twenty-five qualifying students from the journalism department including students from Newspaper, Media, and Yearbook. Twenty-three students boarded the bus at 6:45 a.m. on April 23rd, getting ready to compete, while two others came later in the day to be present in the awards. At the end of the day, Scotus had won yet another state championship.

Senior Maggie Feehan placed 4th in News Feature Writing,and placed 6th and 2nd in Indepth News and placed 3rd in Newspaper Layout.

"It was really surprising at first because all the other people there seemed so confident," Feehan said. "I know we were all jumping out of our seats when our name was called, and Abe even broke Emily's glasses because he was so excited."

Each qualifier was sent in to competing rooms and performed in an hour and fifteen minutes, whether it be writing an article, making a layout, taking pictures, or making an illustration.

Junior Abe Perault qualified for Entertainment and medaled 1st in Newspaper Layout.

"I was super nervous. On the outside I was trying to seem confident, but I was breaking down on the inside. I thought I had totally bombed it coming out of my first round, which was Newspaper Layout," Perault said. "Then to my surprise I got first place! The Lord works in crazy ways!"

This year Scotus had three state champions including Perault, senior Caitlin Steiner in News Feature Writing, and senior Ellie Bock in Sports/Action Photography.

"Being able to win first in both my personal category and overall as a team was truly amazing, especially because I am going into journalism in college," Steiner said. "I can't wait to wear my state Journalism champion sweatshirt around the journalism building next year at UNL."

Scotus had some new competition this year because state had Broadcasting as a new category. The other top two teams, Yutan and Sandy Creek, placed eight different medals in that category. Even with that, the journalism team medaled more than one person in nine different events.

"I told the kids that we had enough qualifying entries to win, but that we would have to do really well in every category to pull it off," journalism advisor Angie Rusher said. "They did great, other schools

See **JOURNALISM**, Page 2

Spring play performances begin tomorrow

By Faith Przymus
Staff Reporter

This year's spring play called, "Comic Book Artist" will be presented to new crowds at a new venue.

Usually the spring play travels to the three Catholic elementary schools to perform the spring play, but this year the Catholic elementary schools are invited to Scotus to watch the performance.

Not only is the crowd going to be different this year, but new actors are being introduced to the play also. Many of those who participate in one acts and musical are those who go out for the spring play, but Trey Dallman has made himself the exception.

After auditioning for the theatre for the first time at the end of his senior year, Dallman has snatched the lead role of Stanley Sappovitz for the spring play.

Dallman said, "[This year's play] is aimed more toward a younger audience for the elementary kids. It is about superheroes and this guy, Stanley Sappovitz, realizing who he is and what his potential can be."

Seniors Natalie Brutty and Alaina Wallick are two other seniors who landed big roles in the play. Brutty will be playing the role of Viola, who has a one-sided crush on Stanley. Wallick will be playing the role of Wombat Woman.

"Wombat Woman is a superhero in the play, and she is a lot like me because she is really sassy,"

See **PLAY**, Page 2

FAITH PRZYMUS/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Seniors Alaina Wallick, Trey Dallman, and Natalie Brutty practice for their spring play performances on May 4th and 6th. The three seniors landed big roles in the spring play for their last theatre performance.

JOURNALISM

did not do as well as predicted, and it all came together for another win! Last year's title was great because we were expected to win, but this year's title coming from a third place preliminary team was a huge upset. The kids came to compete and performed beyond expectations. I am so proud of them!"

When the journalism students and advisor came home, a victory crowd was waiting; the crowd was filled with the students' parents, and even staff members.

"It felt amazing to have a crowd welcoming us home. It was fun to celebrate with my team after the competition, but it made it feel so much more real when we rounded the corner and saw the crowd," junior Hallie Parker, who medaled 6th in Yearbook Theme Copy, said.

PLAY

Wallick said.

The team has practiced since the beginning of March for their upcoming performances. The performance for the elementary schools will be on May 4th in Memorial Hall, and the home performance will be on May 6th.

Elliott Thomazin, who plays the role of the character Triple Time said, "We have had quite a few practices [to prepare for the spring play]. We try to have practice Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday. We try to just have a good time at practice, and it is a lot of fun."

Not only are some of the actors in the spring play different than those who participate in one acts or musical, but the angle of the play is different as well.

Brutty explained, "[The spring play is different] because the play is more of a comedy whereas the one act play was a drama that we competed with, and not as many people went out for the spring play."

Senior Brandon Huynh went out for the spring play as his one last theatre performance. Huynh will be playing the role of Dr. Shotclock, who is a supervillain in the play.

"If you want a good laugh, then you should come watch, and you will hopefully be entertained for the night!" Huynh concluded.

STUDENTS

Junior Isaac McPhillips' vocals gave him the only Shamrock placement at All-State Music, Mock Trial made Scotus history by winning their way to state and finishing runner up, and District Music received 11 superior ratings for band and 7 for vocal music. Because the Shamrock Singers received the best score possible, they also received a plaque for their performance. The girls' vocal ensemble and girls' vocal quartet also received the best possible score. The girls' vocal ensemble received honorable mention from their judge. State speech was also impressive this year with multiple students qualifying, but sophomore Lauren Ostdiek stood out in the crowd by placing 4th at state in Entertainment.

On April 24th, the journalism staff traveled to Northeast Community College in Norfolk to participate in the 2018 State Journalism Championships. The journalism staff brought home the gold and added more hardware to the Scotus trophy case. Seniors Ellie Bock and Caitlin Steiner along with junior Abe Peralt placed first in their categories at state.

The end of the year is approaching, but the spring season is still making progress. Senior Chase Andresen already set a record by pole vaulting 14'1" at an early meet. If softball isn't enough, Spencer also broke her own record in discus, smashing last year's record by 8 ft and throwing 153'4".

Everyone in the school has made an impact on this school year; this is just to name a few. Thank you to the whole Scotus student body for making it one for the books.

GRACE WICKHAM/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Chase Andresen maneuvers over the bar at the Centennial Conference Track Meet. Andresen vaulted 15'4" to set new conference and school records.

ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Advisor:
Angie Rusher

Editor:
Matt Strecker

Staff Writers:
Maggie Feehan
Flora He
Jadyn Larsen
Jacob Morse
Grace Odbert
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RUNZA

Prom places students in Central Park

By Jadyn Larsen
Staff Reporter

One of the most anticipated events of the year took place on Saturday, April 21st. It is the final dance of the year and one of the last times the senior class participates in an event together. The dance is decorated nicely by the junior class according to a theme that their class voted on. The girls dress in long evening gowns, and the guys dress in a tux they rented from J. Patrick's. This special event is known as prom!

As the juniors and seniors stepped into Scotus, they were surrounded by lights, gold, and naturistic decorations. The junior class, with the help of teachers Helen Schumacher and Deb Ohnoutka, decorated the cafeteria of Scotus to a certain theme. After a class vote that took place earlier this year, the theme the juniors decided on was Central Park.

Junior Bailey Lehr said, "I thought prom was decorated very elegantly. I give credit to our class officers and a big shout to Mrs. Schumacher."

Scotus students and their dates came to prom nicely dressed for the evening.

Senior Alex Preister said, "Bryan Littlefield was the best dressed because he wore a cowboy hat, suspenders, and boots."

Before the dance started, the juniors and seniors enjoyed a nice meal served by Husker House. The students had the choice of eating steak or chicken.

Lehr said, "I ordered the chicken, and it was really good. My date kept eating my chicken instead of his steak."

After dinner, the DJ started up the music and students swarmed the dance floor. The DJ played appropriate songs requested by the students. Dance songs including "The Chicken Dance", "The Wobble", and "Soulja Boy" were all used to get the majority of the students out on the dance floor.

"My favorite part of prom was the dancing. My class definitely went out with a bang on the dance floor," senior Kayla Hall said.

Post prom took place after the dance. After the students left the dance, parents of the junior class stayed to set up post prom. Post prom this year brought laser tag, bouncy houses, board games, and a comedian/magician for entertainment. The parents also brought pizza, sandwiches, and desserts for students to snack on all night.

Junior Katy Lovell said, "My favorite part of post prom was racing in the bouncy houses. I raced Hannah Allen, and she completely flipped over and fell on her back!"

Juniors and seniors all win prizes at post prom. The biggest prize a student could have won was a T.V., and the smallest prize was a $25 gift card to Hy-Vee.

"My favorite activity at post prom was the laser tag because it was just a lot of fun trying to strategize how to win," Preister said.

Prom was the last dance the senior class will attend at Scotus.

Hall said, "Prom was definitely a great way to end senior year."

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Seniors Maddie Neville, Kelli Williams, Ellie Bock, Macy Hamling, and Kaitlyn Enderlin dance in a circle at prom on April 21st. Prom and post prom were both put on by the junior class and parents at Scotus.

Matt Strecker/Rock Bottom staff

Seniors Jadyn Taylor, Adelynn Newman, and Kaylie Rocha all laugh and enjoy their time at post prom. Many students gathered together in the cafeteria during post prom to play games, eat, and socialize.

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Juniors Abe Perault, Caleb Kosch, Hallie Parker, and senior Emily Carstens sing a song played by the DJ. The DJ played songs requested by the students.

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Logan Zanardi, Brandon Huynh, and a group of seniors dance together at prom. Before the dance, the students ate a meal catered by Husker House.

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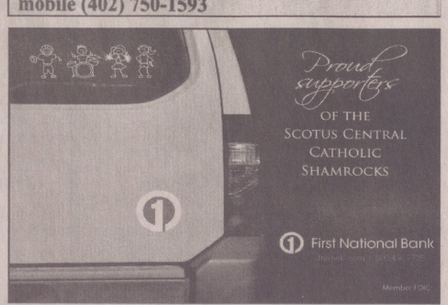
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University of Nebraska Lincoln

Major: Biology

Memory: When the buzzer rang at the state basketball championship game.

Major: Ag. Business

Memory: Reminiscing all of the great memories with friends.

Major: Animal Science

Fact: I broke my finger ringing Wahoo's town bell.

Major: Agronomy

Fact: I have made it through high school with the same backpack since 3rd grade.

Major: Broadcast Journalism

Memory: I won a cutest baby contest at Columbus Days.

Major: Pre-Medicine

Memory: Mrs. Rusher praying for patience and grateful hearts every day.

Major: Elementary Education

Fact: I take hand sanitizer from the same girl in the stairwell almost every day. If you're reading this, thank you!

Major: Computer Engineering

Memory: When Chuckie Case told Courtney Kosch she threw like a girl, and then she nailed him in the face with a dodgeball.

Major: Chemical Engineering

Fact: Multiple classmates are infatuated with how smooth my knees and elbows are.

Major: Environmental Studies

Memory: Josh Hergott thought my name was Greg until freshman year.

Major: Pre-Medicine

Memory: Being able to cheer at the Nebraska Stadium for football.

Major: Biological Systems Engineering

Memory: When Jake Novicki wrote a six traits paper about rocks in the 8th grade.

Major: Chemistry

Memory: On senior retreat when Kaylie and I were paddle boating, I saw a spider and almost tipped us.

Major: Engineering

Fact: I like to cut my toenails outside because I don't have to throw them away.

Major: Computer Science

Fact: My hair hasn't grown since I chopped it off at the beginning of my freshman year.

Post-High School Plans: United States Marine Corps

Fact: I'm the oldest in our class.

Major: Political Science/Health Law

Memory: When Mrs. Tooley told me I might be athletic.

Major: Secondary Education

Fact: I can juggle up to five balls at a time.

Major: Business Administration

Memory: When I won a chess game against Mr. Salyard

Major: PTA

Fact: I have been higher on a stick than anyone in school history.

Major: Music

Memory: When I accidentally threw Zach Svehla's wallet out the window.

Major: Athletic Training/Physical Therapy

Fact: I have never worn pants to school.

College of Saint Mary

Major: Occupational Therapy

Memory: When I was rocking too hard in Mr. Salyard's class, and I squealed and then fell out of my chair.

Major: Nursing

Memory: I was given the opportunity to know that true joy and happiness comes from loving and living life for someone else before myself.

Major: Biology

Fact: I have a first degree black belt in Taekwondo.

The University of St. Bonaventure

Major: Living life to the fullest

Memory: At a one act practice junior year, we were on the St. Bon's stage. I was in charge of banging on the door and jiggling the door knob. I was on the other side of the stage, stuck sitting in a tire so when my time came to jiggle the door, I yelled, "shakes vigorously."

Southeast Community College

Major: Political Science and Philosophy

Memory: Senior year one act.

Major: Elementary Education

Memory: Watching Marika fall on her face when she was playing in a pep rally game.

University of Nebraska Omaha

Major: Psychology

Memory: Getting to spend 3rd period with Ms. Mimick every day this school year and a few Saturdays, too.

Major: Corporate Law

Memory: One time in 8th grade I box died my hair and it turned orange. I wore a green sweatshirt the next day and a senior boy turned around and said, "You look like a carrot."

Major: Business

Fact: I'm 87-1 in pick-up basketball games against Matthew Bichlmeier despite Bink having the best 15-foot jumper in Scotus history.

Major: Bio Mechanics

Fact: I was the greatest 15-foot shooter to ever walk the halls of Scotus.

Major: Psychology

Memory: Competing at state speech two years in a row.

Central Community College

Major: Undecided
Fact: My tongue is abnormally long.

Major: Undecided
Fact: I hope to live in Europe someday.

Major: Undecided
Memory: Making Aaron Gonka throw up from laughter.

Major: Undecided
Fact: I have fainted at least 12 times in my lifetime; first time when my dad pulled my tooth (I was 6), last time was when I stood up after my surgery (when I was 18).

Major: Nursing
Fact: I have a scar on my leg from when Marika and Maddie pushed me into the lake.

Major: Business
Memory: I dye my hair blonde to fit my personality because I'm the biggest blonde you would ever meet.

Major: Media/Video Production
Memory: My favorite memory would have to be the 'great' jokes that would be told by Matthew B. in 9th period government.

Major: Education
Memory: When I accidentally hung myself on the blinds in English class, and Mrs. Schumacher had to cut me down in front of everybody.

Major: Wildlife Management
Fact: I had to have stomach surgery when I was a baby.

Major: Engineering
Memory: When I qualified for state wrestling and beating Cody Thompson in the process.

Major: Nursing
Memory: My favorite memory was of Brock getting stuck on the high ropes and having to get rescued.

Major: Mechanical Engineering
Fact: I haven't worn a sweatshirt since the 4th grade.

Northeast community college

Major: Nursing
Memory: Listening to Morgan and Kelli sing the chicken dance on our way to math while smacking their books.

Major: Nursing
Fact: I would not have passed my math classes without copying the odds from the back of the book.

Major: Nursing
Memory: Mr. Salyard's class, freshman year, Marika randomly slaps me and said, "Should have had a V8".

Major: Nursing
Memory: On the last day of freshman year, Lizzie Hoppe hit my face on accident, and I split my lip open and had to pull my lips out of my braces.

Major: Diesel Mechanics
Fact: I am related to the man who invented the pivot.

Major: Radiology
Memory: Whenever I would get a point during a volleyball game, the student section would chant, "ELLEY ELLEY ELLEY BEAVER."

USD

Major: Human Biology
Memory: My favorite memory is when Carol's sister came to visit over spring break, my brother said we were being overrun by Spaniards.

Morningside College

Major: Biology
Memory: Winning the state football championship sophomore year.

Hastings College

Major: Pre-engineering
Fact: I was born cross-eyed, and I had eye surgery when I was about 2 year's old.

Memory: When Bryan was trying to ride on my back and fell off, almost nailing his head on the corner of a wall.

U.S. ARMY

Fact: I'm a highly opinionated individual.

Buena Vista University

Major: Busines Administration
Fact: I have lived on a lake my whole life.

UNK

Major: Language Arts
Fact: Greg Dallman didn't want anything to do with me until freshman year.

Major: Pre-Med
Memory: I have had 5 different jobs since I was 15.

Major: Political Science and International Relationships
Fact: I've never driven to school.

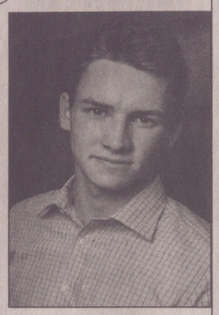
Major: Social Work
Memory: When I passed out twice in junior religion. First was talking about the blood drive with Mrs. Dusel and then talking about the crucifixion. Mr. Linder caught me, and I had to go in the ambulance from school. Word is nobody has ever seen Mr. Linder move as fast as he did when he caught me. He practically saved my life!

Major: Business Marketing
Memory: I had a duet with Faith in 8th grade for the Christmas Concert and I 'forgot' to sing and left her out to dry.

Major: Spanish with emphasis in Pre-Med
Memory: I got kicked out of my last freshman basketball game. I never played basketball again.

Major: Biology Comprehensive
Fact: I can't speak good English.

Jacob Morse



"I still have four more years to go; this is going to take forever." "I just want school to be over already."

As a freshman, completely new to all things Scotus, I can remember thinking thoughts like these. Past experiences had put a stain on my views of school, and I didn't want anything to do with classes or teachers. When I started coming to Scotus, I expected it to be just the same as the last school, and I found myself wishing my years away, wanting to be done as soon as possible. I thought about how "long" the journey was going to be, and how I wasn't going to enjoy any of it.

As years went by, I slowly started to realize how special Scotus is. I began to realize how much the school and faculty mean to me. I enjoyed school, and what it had to offer me. I started to realize the people, the education, the activities, and the atmosphere surrounding me more and more because I was able to open my eyes and think on all that was occurring. I could see that Scotus wasn't just any other school. It isn't just a place to get a diploma and move on.

I know from my own experiences as a freshman that it can be very easy to be negative, but what we need to do is focus on the positives. We are all very blessed to be at a school as great as this, and if we dwell on the negative aspects of our days, then there isn't any way of seeing the positives. I know that everyone has some of those days where they don't have the energy, motivation, etc., to want to be at school, but we can't take a single thing that Scotus offers us for granted. We are surrounded by teachers who care about our future and are great at what they do, we can openly praise God without feeling persecuted, we are blessed to be living in the United States with all these opportunities--don't take it for granted, be thankful.

High school may seem like it is going to take forever, but this is not the case. The time really does fly by. One moment it looks like you are going to be here forever, and then the next you are a senior and only a couple weeks away from graduation. The truth is, four years is a very limited amount of time, and if you focus on the negative aspects of each day, your time will be up before you know it. Appreciate what Scotus offers, and bring the most out of each day before they are all gone.

This is Jacob Morse, signing off.

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Jadyn Larsen

"I just want to graduate," is a phrase I have said more times than I can count. "There are bigger and better things than high school" is something else you might have heard come out of my mouth. No more seven hour school days. No more waking up early five days of the week. No more school lunches. "No More."

Even with all these feelings, I still believe one is never fully ready for a chapter in their life to end. No one is ready for the comfort of familiar faces, a familiar setting, or a familiar schedule to just end. Next year I will be partaking in new activities. I will be surrounded by new friends. I won't have that strict, hard to shape schedule to follow every day. The warm, cozy feeling of comfort will not be there.

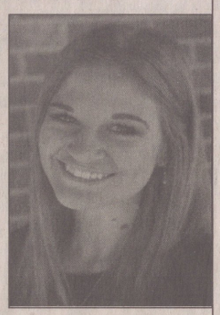
August 17, 2017 was the last time I walked into Scotus for the first time, and on May 13, 2018 I will walk out of Scotus as a student for the last time. I will no longer be a Rowdy Dowdy, a defensive specialist on the volleyball team, captain of my soccer team, or Twila from One Acts. I will fall under the broad category of a Scotus alum. I have been waiting to graduate for what felt like an eternity, but now as my days here come to an end, I just want those last memories to happen all over again.

My advice to underclassmen is to stop looking too far forward. Your time to graduate will come even if you feel like you have been waiting for eternity. Focus on what is happening in the present because one day you won't be eating your mom's famous spaghetti the night before your game. You won't be sleeping down the hallway from your sister. And you won't be a short drive from your friend. Focus on the events, the people, and the environment around you because one day it won't be the same.

When my class sits in the newly air conditioned Dowd Activity Center on that specific Sunday in May, we will all have to take in the simple fact that our graduation ceremony will be the last time our entire class is present in the same area together. All 64 of us will be going our separate ways as soon as we throw our hats up into the air. I will be taking some friends with me, but I will also be leaving some behind. Whether I am ready or not, I have to close the north doors behind me. However, I will carry the memories and the friends I made here with me forever.

This is Jadyn Larsen, signing off.

Caitlin Steiner



Look around; how many people do you recognize? In small Columbus we have our even smaller community at Scotus. Now, I'm not saying this in a bad way, many blessings can come from being a part of a small community, such as being able to meet so many people.

I may not know all the 7th graders, but other than that I recognize and know by name a good portion of the other students at school. I am ready to take the next step in my life, but leaving Columbus is a bit harder. Stepping into a new school can be exciting but a little terrifying. For me, I will be attending UNL next year. Lincoln is a much bigger town and UNL is considerably larger than Scotus. Walking out of Columbus and onto that campus will be a whole new world.

As seniors branching off, some of us will stay here, but for many, we won't call Columbus our home anymore. Being surrounded by so many friends and familiar faces has been a comfort. When you find yourself in a tight situation, odds are there is someone nearby who can help. Being in a new place with new people will be more difficult. At UNL I'll be able to run across some old faces occasionally, but not nearly as often as here.

Meeting new people can be a good thing. It's a part of growing up; at some point we all must step out on our own. Sometimes, though, it's easier to step out when you have a friend nearby. Friends are there to back you up, be your support, and laugh with you. Friends help you get through high school and make life more enjoyable.

Junior high and high school are where you find yourself. You find out what your interests are and what you look for in a friend. Whether it's a senior heading off to college, or a new junior high student starting here, learning who you want to be around is one of life's most valuable lessons. This is something I will hold with me forever. Through the small community at Scotus, I have had the pleasure of meeting many people in several different grades. Each person I've met has taught me something new. I truly wouldn't be who I am today without the people in my life.

High school gives you the opportunity to meet so many different people, whether you take that opportunity or not is up to you. High school truly does go by fast, make sure you slow down enough to look around and thank God for the people He put in your life.

This is Caitlin Steiner, signing off.

Matt Strecker

Wow. It's all about to be over. My last six years at Scotus are about to become the past, and I will be on to shape my life into whatever I want it to be. Scary thought, but the fact that it is finally here is crazy. That's right, I said finally. Fun fact: the stereotype that high school flies by is a complete fabrication. In my own personal experience, high school took forever, and I can't believe that it is over because I have gotten so used to it. I realize as I write my last article for the Rock Bottom that I pretty much did it all. I was a three sport athlete in high school (four in junior high), participated in band, wrote for the newspaper, was inducted into NHS, won several NSAA medals, and even participated in the musical my senior year. I pretty much exhausted all the schools extracurricular opportunities except for showing up to cheerleading and flag team tryouts (you're welcome). Now that all of it is in the rear-view mirror, let me just say, I am exhausted.

Did I do a lot? You bet I did. Do I regret any of it? Nope. Sure, throughout my high school career I found myself going to bed at three in the morning because I was overwhelmed with homework, but most of those nights were due to severe procrastination. Public service announcement: if you are involved in a bunch of activities at once, procrastinating is not allowed. It always catches up with you and sooner or later you will be forced to hand a worksheet to a teacher with one question answered (sorry, Mr. Salyard). However, the consequences of procrastinating should not scare anyone away from being involved in as much as they can be. Being able to manage time wisely was my ticket to stepping outside my comfort zone. Way outside of it.

Musical and theatre aren't things that I saw myself doing when I was a seventh grader, so how the heck did I find myself in priestly vestments in Memorial Hall in Sister Act and as a lead role in the theatre section of Revolution? Simple. I thought of the things that scared me the most and went for them. Let me tell you all something that you already know: sometimes high school sucks. It's unavoidable; it is going to suck a lot sometimes. You might as well make your high school years memorable and do something crazy that is way outside your comfort zone. It may be scary, but once you get into it and put everything you have into it, there is no greater feeling.

This is Matt Strecker, signing off.

Grace Odbert

What is the one thing I cherish the most from my past six years here at Scotus? Connections. High school wouldn't have been nearly as easy for me if I had to go at it alone. Finding connections in high school is important to finding happiness; however, some of the most meaningful friendships come from a small circle.

Keeping your circle small is necessary to avoid the drama that comes along with being a people-pleaser. I believe that finding a few very close friends will lead you to finding several good friends. Keeping your circle small in high school can help you find the people who you connect with the most. You might be thinking, "One or two friends sounds so lame, I want to be friends with everyone!" I have found that there is a solution to that thought. First, some of my favorite, most enjoyable memories are with my tight-knit group, so if you are truly best-friends with a small group of people, you will have fun with them no matter what. Second, I have a lot of good friends, but only a couple of great friends.

You don't have to be on the same level of closeness with your whole class; in fact, different levels of connections forms a perfect balance of friendships. Large friend groups are often associated with more drama, so keeping your circle small and staying on the outskirts of larger friend groups gives you the best of both worlds. Even with a tight-knit group of friends, you can still form connections with most of your classmates. Friends with everyone, but best friends with few equals blasts of fun and minimal drama.

Connections make everything easier. Having at least one or two super close friends can be beneficial because you always know you can trust at least those people. Sometimes there are things you don't want everyone to know, but you must tell someone. A smaller group of friends means lesser odds of your secrets being let out. Smaller groups of friends have the strongest kinds of connections. Strong friendships in high school make everything worth it in the end. After graduation, I will miss all my friends, but, of course, there will be the three or four who I will miss the most. Popularity isn't the key to friendship, the key to friendship is be nice to everyone and find the people who make you the happiest.

Friends help make high school so much easier and more enjoyable. I encourage you to share your high school experiences with a small group of people who will lead you to sharing your experiences with your class. Small circles can make big relationships that will fulfill you the most.

This is Grace Odbert, signing off.

Maggie Feehan

"Congratulations graduating class of 2018." These will be one of the most bitter-sweet words I will ever hear. Throughout the past month, I've been dying for the year to be over, yet part of me is aching to relive all the enjoyable moments of high school.

I'll miss coming home to my parents after basketball and soccer games and talking late into the night about the game until I finally start to fall asleep. I'll miss Friday night football games with my friends and cheering loud for the boys in green. I never thought I'd say this, but I'll miss sitting in Mr. Salyard's class praying that my card isn't drawn while playing the 'game' he calls 'Name That Derivative.' I'll miss walking into Mrs. Bomar's class and smelling the candle she just lit and being able to talk to her about anything. I'll miss the pre-game nerves I always had because I always wanted to play my best. I'll miss all the locker room talks, all the tough practices, and the championship celebrations. I'll miss going to Godparents every Wednesday night and talking about everything and anything with some friends I never imagined I'd become so close with. The list could go on, but I'm afraid I would take up the whole newspaper spread.

I feel so blessed to be incapable of listing all the many things I will miss about high school. It really means that I've had the chance to experience countless moments that are worth missing. What an abundance of love and smiles I get to take along with me. Ultimately, isn't that what we all wish for? To be able to look back on our lives and remember all the memories we've had with all the wonderful people in our lives? And maybe even forget some because there were too many to count? High school and life in general has a world to offer, so grasp every opportunity given to you. It's in those moments when you create the best miss-worthy memories of your life.

School bells, lunch lines, and routine fire drills are all part of high school, but it's the memories you make within the windows of opportunity these four years have to offer you that really count. I pray that you can look back while sitting at your own graduation and be ecstatic about carving out the rest of your life, yet also storing the memories of high school within your heart.

This is Maggie Feehan, signing off.

Faith Przymus

Before the first day of seventh grade, I told my dad I needed to get my haircut so that I would have bangs. I didn't like bangs, but I thought all the cool girls had them, so then I got them.

Eighth grade I started box-dying my hair because the cool girls dyed their hair too. I was constantly longing for newer shoes and clothes to wear on dress down days because, of course, then I would feel cool. The lengths I took to feel 'cool' only increased once I entered high school.

I was constantly trying to change myself because I had this self-induced notion that I was not enough. I wish I would have known that I was not the only one who felt that way.

If you'd like a sneak peek as to how trying to change yourself as an attempt to 'fit in' in high school turns out, it isn't fun. I would give a lot to not have to relive freshman year again. This is not an attempt to scare the underclassmen, but rather encourage you all to embrace who you are.

Once sophomore year rolled around, running cross country began a new chapter in my life. Why do most girls play volleyball in junior high? Because the other girls do. I was the only sophomore girl to join the cross country team, but that intimidating experience changed me. I think that was the first time I started to embrace who I was. Competing as an individual brought me confidence while being part of a team helped me put myself out there. Joining the cross country team was clearly not the norm amongst other girls, but it brought me some of my best friends and favorite memories.

Now that I am a senior, I can confidently say I have finally fully embraced who I am. I understand now that no once can ever be truly happy attempting to become someone they aren't. I would encourage you all not to wait as long as I did to accept that fact. We are all sons and daughters of God, and we were wonderfully made. The sooner you believe that, the better your high school experience will be.

High school is tiring the way it is, don't make it harder by constantly trying to be someone else. Embracing who you are is one of the most beautifully confident acts a person can do. So listen to the songs YOU like, do what YOU enjoy, surround yourself with the people who make YOU happy, and never let what you perceive to be 'cool' change who you are.

This is Faith Przymus, signing off.

Alaina Wallick

Choices are all a part of growing up, and as we grow up, the importance of our choices grows with us. We go from choosing between chocolate, vanilla, or strawberry milk at snack time to choosing between UNO, UNL, or UNK. We choose to put our lives on hold in order to get the best grades to get into the best school to get the best job to get... what? Happiness? We have put our happiness on the backburner by saying we will make up for it after this season or test or deadline. However, you can choose happiness in everything you do, and you can have the best year ever right now.

For starters, if you want to have the best year ever, make that choice right from the start because in high school, attitude is half of the battle. Avoid drama. Avoid people who bring you down. Avoid anything that makes you feel like you are less than you really are, which is awesome, in case you forgot. Look at your year and ask yourself, "What do *I* want to get out of this year?" After you figure this out, make that one of your priorities and never stop working for it.

Secondly, do the activities that *you* want to do. My parents wanted me to be an athlete; I wanted to do *anything* but that. Guess what? My parents did not disown me or shun me. They came to my speech meets, One Act performances, and they learned more about law than they probably ever wanted to. Why? Because every one of those things made me so darn happy, they did not care that I have not stepped on a track or court since I was in junior high.

Lastly, thank all the people who made your year amazing because, more than likely, you would not be where you are without them. I do not really know what else to say about this except remember your best supporters can come all forms.

Well, here I am, writing one of my final journalism articles. As I have looked back on everything I have done this year, I can say that I have had one of the best years of my life. I went to state in speech, Mock Trial, and journalism, had one of the best One Act seasons, and made memories with some awesome friends. I decided early on to have the best year ever and made sure I did what I loved the whole time. Now, if you will excuse me, I have some thank-yous to write.

This is Alaina Wallick, signing off.

Jenna Salerno

From the beginning of my schooling here at Scotus, I have only ever wanted to graduate. It has been the light at the end of a long, dark, school-filled tunnel, much like the hallway by the Dowd Activity Center. Every day, waking up before the sun has risen, I would drag myself out of bed and would not see all the blessings that surrounded me every day. Walking into school to see the smile on my best friend's face, laughing at inside jokes with my favorite teachers, and the feeling of accomplishment after acing a test I studied all night for; these were the things I did not fully appreciate until this year.

Senior year has been a wake-up call to how different the next chapter of my life will be. Moving to a state 1,500 miles away from every person I am used to seeing and talking to is intimidating, especially when I also do not know anyone where I am going. But this intimidation gives me the opportunity to really look around and see all the great things I have had here. Not only in school, but in the people I have surrounded myself with throughout these years in high school.

Having friends who know my every thought and a sister who always has my back have been some of the best parts of high school. Knowing that I always have someone to rely on is one of the most important parts of high school, and the only way others will have that is if they keep their friends close. As humans, we are social creatures who desire to be fulfilled through our friendships, so enjoy these high school friendships while they last because some day they will either disappear or change drastically from how they are today.

Take the time out of your day to tell your friend how good their hair looks. Give your parents a hug after they tell you good job after a game or concert. Thank your teachers and coaches for all of the extra time they have put in to benefit you. These are the things that I realize truly matter and the memories that I want to keep. Take lots of pictures, as you will miss these familiar faces. Enjoy all of these everyday things we all have taken for granted because as each day I get closer and closer to graduation, the closer and closer I am to losing all of these moments and the more I realize how important they are to me.

This is Jenna Salerno, signing off.

Kaylie Rocha

High school can be one of the most stressful years of someone's life; however, it is just not high school life, it is the person's whole life that can be stressful. With these hardships that life can throw at us, there is an end goal; an ease in the pain. This is all worth it, and I am proof of that.

Before coming to Scotus, everything about my life seemed to slow down. It started when I took my first step into my old high school, and after that moment, I thought that I would not be able to live to see my graduation ceremony. With everything going on at home, the abuse, and the anxiety of being a freshman, there was no way that I could do it. Everything was crumbling down, and I began to tear myself down along with it. I began to fail classes, I began to hurt, and I began to act on my thoughts. This led to a hospitalization and a scare to my biological mother and my stepfather. Even with the scare, they didn't believe me and thought I was doing it to get attention until I told them that I was trying to die.

Freshman year was coming to an end, and my mother sent me to our family friend. It's where I showed up mid-third quarter at Scotus. Everything was new, and everything seemed to be okay. It was too okay for me—I was used to constant fear of falling, crumbling, and being alone in the world.

Sophomore year was rough and then it became junior year, and something hit me, hard. Life is short, and life should be about love, appreciation, gratitude, and hope. With the help of opening myself up to a few people about what was going on the inside, I got the support I needed.

Fast-forward to me sitting in the journalism room, reminiscing on my journey at Scotus. All the baby steps it took to get to this point—the tiny accomplishments and tiny victories; I can say I am proud for surviving high school and life.

Don't spend your high school experience being alone and thinking that no one will understand. Talk to someone. Go to the teachers and staff, let them know that you are struggling—these people are some of the most understanding and caring people around. Reach out to your classmates; they will surprise you, just like mine did with me. They all listened to my story and rooted for me the time I spent here.

I am ready to graduate with my fellow classmates and am honored to be able to walk with them by my side.

Life is going to throw curve balls at you and going to make life seem draining; however, life is about taking baby steps and reaching those achievements

This is Kaylie Rocha, signing off.

Flora He

Viewing the world in another perspective is one of the most important lessons Scotus has taught me. There were a bunch of things I have never thought of before I went to America because of the culture difference, and it is normal and amoral for us in China, such as abortion and death penalty.

The conventional Chinese belief rooted in my mind so deeply and profoundly, I have never even thought of death penalty would be immoral or inhumane. In China, we consider the death penalty as a repays of offenders to a victim. The history of the death penalty could go back to the beginning of Chinese history and persevered till now. We believe that people need to pay for what they have done. We call that "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."

Abortion is another thing aside from death penalty that I had a new perspective of. Abortion is legal in China; I used to think it is a choice because it is so common in our society. During the two years of studying in Scotus, I grew the sense of morality that abortion is immoral, although I still don't agree with a woman should not operate abortion in any conditions.

The proportion of religious believers in China is 7%, which is the lowest in the world. Most of the people in China don't believe in God or any kind of celestial being. The most common religion in China is Buddhism, we celebrate birthdays (3 times a year) of Avalokiteśvara (aka Bodhisattva, is a symbol of compassion and wisdom in Buddhism). My family somehow celebrates it in an informal way, we go to the temple (I mean my grandma goes to the temple). Besides that, my family really doesn't do anything for religious purpose. After growing up in a non-religious atmosphere, it is very hard for me to believe any kind of God, because all my close family members and friends don't have a religion, and I am raised in the belief of you are holding your future in your own hands.

During the two years of studying in Scotus, I experienced a lot different feelings and things, had the chance to understand others better and view things from different angles. After seeing perspective of another side of story, it makes more sense why people believe what they believe. I wanted to thank myself from two years ago to make this most wonderful and most important decision of my life.

This is Flora He, signing off.

Baseball has eyes on state tournament

By Jacob Morse
Staff Reporter

It has been an action-packed weekend for the Columbus High Discoverers baseball team, showing a lot of promise for what is to come in the final weeks of the season.

Coming off a four-game losing streak, the Discoverers sought to turn things around with an away game against Lincoln Pius on Friday, April 27th. Scotus student-athletes were able to provide the spark that they had been needing the past few games.

ELLIE BOCK/MEDIA STAFF

Scotus senior pitcher Jake Novicki delivers a pitch against an Omaha South hitter on April 16th. The Packers handed the Discoverers their 3rd loss of the year beating CHS 4-2.

Scotus' own senior Trevor Kaslon made it on base four out of his five plate appearances, hitting four runners in. Sophomore Tyler Palmer also had a good game at the plate going 5-5, hitting two triples in the contest. Columbus was able to rally many timely hits together to pull out a 17-9 victory over the Thunderbolts.

"The Pius game gave us a lot of confidence moving into the tournament the next day, as well as our district games next week. They are a good team, and we know that we can compete with them," senior Logan Mueller said.

The next day, the baseball team was faced with two more games as they played in the Lincoln High invitational. They started off the tournament playing Lincoln High. The Discoverers struggled to earn runs in the first three innings, but finished strong scoring thirteen runs in the next three innings to mercy rule the host of the tournament.

"It was nice to start off the tournament strong like that. The way we competed let Norris know that we were a team that shouldn't be taken lightly," sophomore Eric Mustard said.

Following the win against Lincoln High, Columbus faced Norris. The Discoverers came into the game with a chip on their shoulder. Their previous matchup against the Titans on March 29th did not go well, as they were hittless in an 11-0 defeat. This time the bats were there for Columbus as they were able to produce four runs off of nine hits. However, their defense was lagging a little behind. Kaslon pitched the entire game, only allowing two runs, but the Discoverer defense had four costly errors that resulted in two runs for Norris. These two extra runs would give Norris just enough to win. Coming in the bottom of the seventh inning, the score was tied, and the Titans were able to sneak away with the victory in walk-off fashion.

"I am proud of the way that our team played. Norris is one of the top teams in Nebraska, and if we are able to clean up a few areas of our game, we are going to be a team to be reckoned with come district time," Kaslon said.

The baseball team will be playing their first district game on Friday, May 4th. If they win, they will move on to the championship game and will have to win that game as well to get to state. The only chance for the Discoverers to make it to state is if they win their district tournament. If they accomplish this, they will be the first team in Columbus history to make it to state during the spring season.

"One of our team goals that we set at the beginning of the season was to make it to state. We still have our eyes on this, but if we are going to win both district games, we are going to need to be at the very top of our game," Palmer said.

Track heads to final stretch

By Matt Strecker
Editor

With the 2018 track and field season nearing its close, the Shamrock track team is fighting for places and opportunities to go to state.

A late winter sneaking its way into the spring sport season has not stopped the Shamrocks from letting go of huge performances. Recently, seniors Marika Spencer and Chase Andresen shattered school records in discus and pole vault respectively. Spencer took apart the discus record with a heave of 153'4", and Andresen followed suit soaring over 14'1" in the pole vault.

"This track season, my disc has gone far past my expectations," Spencer said. "I never thought that I would be able to throw over 150 feet my senior year."

The Shamrocks sent five athletes to the second annual Nebraska Track and Field Festival in Papillion on Thursday, April 20th and returned with a considerable amount of hardware. For the boys, Andresen, Midland University signee, stole 5th place in the pole vault with a vault of 14' and fellow senior Tyler Miksch tied for 12th with a 12' effort. Junior Grant Shanle snuck into 8th place in the 110 meter hurdles in a time of 16.37 and finished the discus in 9th with a toss of 130'.

"It exciting to finally be consistently over or around 14 feet," Andresen said. "But, there are several guys in class B at 15 feet or more, so I am going to need to get up there to medal."

For the girls, Spencer, University of Nebraska signee, continued her dominant senior season at Papillion with a pair of golds in shot put (40'6") and discus (149'4"). Senior Elley Beaver and junior Bailey Lehr both competed in the 100 meter hurdles and placed 9th (16.37) and 13th (16.83) respectively. Lehr also finished the 300 meter hurdles in 49.20, which was good enough for 11th place.

"Nebraska 'Track Fest' was so much fun," Lehr said. "There were so many talented girls there, the competition was so different than what we are used to at our meets."

On Saturday, April 28th, Pawnee Park played host for the competitive Centennial Conference track meet yet again. The day brought competitive teams, beautiful weather, and a great day to see records fall. Andresen shot himself up to the third ranked pole-vaulter in class B with a new school and conference record of 15'4"

ALLISON STARZEC/MEDIA STAFF

Senior Tyler Miksch attempts a vault during the Knights of Columbus Invite at Pawnee Park. Miksch placed 4th at the invite with a vault of 12'6".

"It was nuts," Andresen said. "I just kept going higher, and higher and it was all surreal to me. I am finally where I need to be to possibly win the pole vault title."

On the girls' side of the meet, Spencer again showed her throwing dominance breaking conference records in the shot (43' 8.5") and disc (145'6"). Freshman Anna Ehlers took the gold in the girls' high jump, and the girls took home the conference runner-up title.

"It feels so nice to finally get a great mark in the shot again," Spencer said. "I have been struggling to get over that 40 feet mark this year, so it feels amazing to get back out there again."

The Shamrocks will compete at the Boone Central Quadrangular on Thursday, May 3rd before battling for state spots at the district meet on May 3rd in Albion.

Boys soccer aims for state

By Flora He
Staff Reporter

The sunshine peeks through the cloud with gentle breeze; as the spring season is coming up to an end, the soccer team finally meets the perfect weather for soccer practice.

After a good number of games being postponed and canceled, the boys' soccer team finally got back to their field and had their second home game on April 5th against Norfolk Catholic, and it ended 2-1 in the Shamrocks favor.

Senior Grant Bettenhausen is a mid-fielder on the team.

"The game against Norfolk Catholic was my favorite, and I personally know some of the players. It was an intense game, and we play against them first at district," Bettenhausen said.

The boys' soccer team played against Northwest on April 9th and won 2-1. The boys also had a game the next day with Kearney Catholic and fell 1-3.

"We have played a good amount of good class A teams. Also, we have lost a few games that we definitely should have won. Our goal is to get better as a team. When everyone brings their best efforts, great things can happen," junior Carter Thorson said.

The Scotus soccer team traveled to Omaha Bryan for the Omaha Bryan Invite from April 11th to April 12th. The boys fell to Omaha Bryan and Omaha Burke by 0-9 and 0-6.

"Playing against big schools in Omaha was a great lesson. Even though we lost both games, playing with better schools is always a good opportunity to improve ourselves," senior Thiago Pereira said.

The previous losses didn't stop the Shamrock boys, they practiced hard for nine days before going into a triangular hosted by Omaha Concordia on Saturday, April 21st. Scotus matched up with Grand Island Central Catholic and Omaha Concordia, and the boys won both matches handily 4-0 and 7-3.

"It felt good to win two games in a row because that was the day of prom, and it put me in a good mood for it," Thorson said.

As the season is approaching an end, there are many moments that stood out to the boys.

Senior defender-Calen Hinze said, "The Skutt game stood out the most to me, we only lost by 3 goals which is good because Skutt is one of the best teams in the state,"

The district is on Tuesday, May 1st and state tournament is at the following week after district. The Shamrock boys had a high expectation for the state. Pereira, a left wing on the soccer team, has ambitions about their goals.

"It's going better than before now; we are making a huge improvement as a team. Our team main goal is to win the district to make our way to state," Pereira concluded.

GRACE WICKHAM/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior mid-fielder Grant Bettenhausen passes the ball upfield during the game against Council Bluffs-Thomas Jefferson. The Shamrocks won 2-0 on Friday, April 27th.

Girls' goals kick-off

By Grace Odbert
Staff Reporter

With the setbacks caused by Mother Nature, the girls' soccer team has gotten nowhere close to playing a full schedule. The cancellations and changes throughout their season has put a damper on their game time, but it has not tampered with their expectations for the upcoming post-season play-offs.

Senior Kendra Wiese, one of five team captains, scored a goal in the Shamrock's most recent game against Schuyler.

"The cancellations and postponements have really hurt this season. It feels like we're playing catch up with the rest of the teams. The mercy rule [against Schuyler] felt good especially after not playing a game in a while," Wiese said.

Mercy-ruling Schuyler was the Shamrock's most triumphant win this season, pounding ten goals through the net before the final buzzer in the second half. Another team captain, senior Grace Wickham, contributed with three goals to defeat the Schuyler Warriors. Wickham leads the team in goals this year so far, but the goals aren't the most memorable part of her senior season.

"Through our almost month of not playing, our whole team stuck together to keep all of our spirits high! I love playing and spending time with the girls! They make all of the hard practices, conditioning and (few) games worth it; no matter what the outcome of the season is, I will cherish these friendships and this team the *most*," Wickham said.

The Shamrock's have a win-loss-record of 5-2 for the year. Earlier in the season, the girls beat Grand Island Northwest and Kearney as well. With the lack of game-time for the season, the soccer staff of coaches made an executive decision to host a boys vs. girls scrimmage.

"My favorite part was defending the boys because they are genetically so much faster than us, and I think it helped our defense improve," senior Jadyn Larsen said.

Larsen is a team captain and contributes to the team with her defensive feet helping sophomore goalie, Allie Mielak, protect the goal at all costs.

"Allie has really stepped up this year. She is always talking to the defense to let us know where to go. She has been a big help to us in the back field," Larsen said.

The Shamrocks are preparing for districts. The first round of district play will be Tuesday, May 1st. The girls' soccer team has a bye first round and will see Lakeview as their first competitors for the post-season. Wiese, a returning senior who started last year in the championship game, is familiar with the post-season rhythm the girls are about to enter.

"I feel more nervous than previous years because it seems like the season is still starting for us, but people are going to have to step it up if we want to make it back to state again," Wiese said.

The Shamrocks were on a five-game win streak until their most recent loss to Millard South during tournament-play. However, the Shamrocks need to keep the wins coming for a chance at state this year.

"We need to win out because we don't have a lot of power-points since we didn't get a lot of games in. There is always going to be some nervousness, but I believe we have the team and the ability to make it to state," senior captain Maggie Feehan said.

The girls are going into the first round of sub-districts with a 6-3 record. Districts for the shamrocks started Tuesday, May 1st. The Shamrocks got runner-up last year at the state tournament, but

THIAGO PEREIRA-FERREIRA/MEDIA STAFFF

Freshman starter Olivia Fehringer heads the ball. The Shamrocks beat Thomas Jefferson High 2-0 on April 4th.

Boys golf swings into action

ALAINA WALLICK/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Colson Kosch tees off at the Quail Run Golf Course Triangular on April 5th. Districts will be held on May 15th at the Wayne Country Club.

By Alaina Wallick
Staff Reporter

Though March and April are long behind, the winter weather has continued to affect spring activities. For the boys' golf team, this is no different.

"The weather has really disrupted our season so far," senior Colson Kosch, the only senior on the team this year, admitted. "The weather has made it tough to be consistent because we have had to cancel so many practices. We have also had crazy wind conflicts at meets, but it is Nebraska. What should we expect?"

The late snow showers that swept through Nebraska also led to the cancellation of the Fremont meet in addition to practices for the golf team, but they have tried to make the best out of this bizarre situation.

"My favorite memory of the season was going to VanBerg and having competitions out of the snow," junior Bryce VunCannon said.

The golf team has had meets at York, Schuyler, and multiple meets at Quail Run.

"My favorite meet so far was the Lakeview Invite. I place 11th and played with a really fun group," junior Sam Blaser recalled

The team has struggled to golf at the level they have been at in past years. However, the golfers remain focused and still have their eyes on the prize: state. As district golf approaches, the golf team feels optimistic about their chances at making it to the state meet.

"I want our team score to improve from last year. We were about 15 shots off state last year, and I think we can close that gap," VunCannon stated.

With this in mind, members of the team are fully aware of what they need to do in order to improve this year.

"I want to improve my score. I want to get it under 50 by the end of the season," sophomore Jared Beaver said.

Districts is set for May 15 at the Wayne Country Club with State Golf to follow at Quail Run Golf Course from May 22nd to May 23rd.

District music scores new awards

By Caitlin Steiner
Staff Reporter

District competitions aren't always about competing against other schools. Sometimes competitions are just meant to be a push to do your best. This is how district music works.

"District music pieces are always much more difficult and unique than normal concert music because to score high, a band needs to do something different that stands out, so they set themselves apart from the 10-15 other bands the judges see that day," senior Matt Strecker said. Strecker received a 1 for his tenor saxophone solo to "Derriere" by Danny Boy.

The district music competition was held at Central Community College on April 20th and 21st, 2018. Students involved in both choir and band prepared songs as a large group, small ensembles, trios, duets, and solos.

"We practice once or twice a week in the mornings super early," senior Brock Kracman said.

Scoring is based per performance. For the full choir and full band there are three judges who score the performance. For smaller groups there is a single judge. Judges will then award a number score for each performance with a 1, a superior, being the best and working its way down to a 5.

"[District music is different from normal music] because there are fewer people, and it is easier to tell if someone messes up; it is harder to hold your own part," freshman Maddie Blaser said.

Thirty entries are allotted for both the choir and band to split among its members. The band had 21 entries and vocal music had 9.

"Our saxophone quartet played "Calypso Morning" [by Bruce Pearson] because it's been a tradition to play it," senior Emily Carstens said. "We've played it for four years in a row and really enjoy it," Carstens also received a 1 for her solo of "Ave Maria" by Bach-Gounod.

The full choir scored a 1 from all three judges, the best possible score, and received a plaque for it. The group performed a total of three songs, "Jenny" words by Ryan Kerr and music by Nick Myers, "Let All the World in Every Corner Sing" by Ryan Murphy, and "I am Not Yours" music by David N. Childs and words by Sara Teasdale.

"I thought they did really, really well," vocal director Laura Salyard said. "I was thrilled and very proud of them."

The band received a 2 for their full group pieces. They performed a total of two songs, "Garden of the Gods" by Rick Kirby, and "Valley Forge March", written by Karl King and arranged by James Swearingen.

"I was very proud of the band's performance at district music," band director Kristen Cox said. "Everything that we had worked on in class was executed extremely well in their performance in front of the judges. I feel they are proud of themselves because they knew they did their very best."

The girls' vocal ensemble received the best possible score and honorable mention from the judge. The trumpet quartet also recived honorable mention.

"The judge hears people all day long, and out of everyone the judge is allowed to give 2 awards, one outstanding performance and one honorable mention. We received the honorable mention award, which is huge considering the number of people they hear throughout the day," Salyard said.

The girls' vocal quartet, made up of freshman Janae Rusher, sophomore Jayden Heng, and seniors Jenna Salerno and Caitlin Steiner, also received the best possible score for their piece. The group performed "O Oriens" by Thomas Juneau.

Salerno received a 1 for her solo of "If the World Should End", from *Spiderman* the musical, by Bono and the Edge.

"Receiving 1's on almost every ensemble that I was a part of was a great way to end my senior year; I'm grateful for all the people I got to share it with," Salerno concluded.

Superior Rating Recipients		
Full Choir	Clarinet Ensemble	Flute Ensemble
Saxaphone Quartet	Girls Vocal Quartet	Boys Vocal Quartet
Girls Vocal Ensemble	Trumpet Ensemble	Jenna Salerno Vocal Solo
Emily Carstens Saxophone Solo	Katie Stachura and Ashtyn Preister Flute Duet	Ben Merrill Trumpet Solo
Isaac Ostdiek Saxophone Solo	Matt Strecker Saxophone Solo	Isaac McPhillips Vocal Solo
Isaac McPhillips Tuba Solo	Katie Stachura Flute Solo	Freshmen Vocal Ensemble

EMILY CARSTENS/YEARBOOK STAFF

The Shamrock Singers perform their district music pieces at their home show on April 17th, 2018. The group competed at district music at CCC on April 20th and 21st. The full choir received 1's from all three of their judges.

A Quiet Place thrills through silence

By Abe Perault
Staff Reporter

In the society we live in today, we are surrounded by so many noises. Whether it be music or someone talking, it seems as if we are always listening to something. Because of this, I think many of us have forgotten what true silence is, leaving its power unknown to us.

A Quiet Place is one of the most unique films of all time because of this. It takes that silence that we have forgotten and completely turns it against us, pulling at the strings we call emotion, and truly captivating our minds.

The movie follows a family in a post-apocalyptic future when almost all of humanity has been wiped out due to super hearing creatures, which closely resemble the Xenomorph from Ridley Scott's 1979 movie Alien. The family's only way of survival is by living a silent life in the countryside, with the main key to their survival being the sign language they use to communicate with their deaf daughter.

One of the things that makes this film unique is that the husband and wife in the movie, Lee and Evelyn Abbott, are played by John Krasinski and his real-life wife Emily Blunt. Not only that, but Krasinski directs the film as well.

HIGHLIGHTHOLLYWOOD.COM

Lee Abbott (John Krasinski) puts a hand over his son Marcus' (Noah Jupe) mouth to muffle his screams to keep him safe. Krasinski directed the movie and starred alongside his real wife Emily Blunt.

I have no complaints with this movie. From the starting scene to the end of the credits, I was literally on the edge of my seat. Krasinski's use of silence in the film filled the theater with so much suspense that at one point I had to remember to breathe. I have never been so enthralled in a film; even its short runtime, a mere 1 hour and 35 minutes, seemed like it flew by.

The main human conflict was probably the most interesting aspect of the movie to watch. To say it would reveal crucial plot threads, but please take my word for it. Those scenes were the most interesting to see because my body went tense, and all I could do was watch in horror.

A Quiet Place's strongest aspect by far was in its pro-life and pro-family themes. I have no clue if these were intentional or not, but I have to praise them. Hollywood is known for making males seem brainless and incompetent, but here, Krasinski's Lee is a great depiction of a good father and man. Even in the greatest moments of conflict, he is thinking and giving everything for his family, and he struggles with his kids like fathers do today. Emily Blunt also portrays Evelyn as a strong mother. I very much appreciate the fact that she is also intelligent, but her character does not make her male counterpart seem stupid like most films this past year have. They both are truly characters of love, and, overall, they show that a marriage can be good and healthy in movies.

The way that the movie captivated my emotion and the people around me blew my mind. It was hard not to squirm from the sheer suspense of every moment. Even though the movie was not supposed to be comical, I could not help but chuckle whenever I heard the theater start breathing again after a moment of terror and suspense.

I must also commend the movie for being clean. At no point in the movie does it swear or have sexual content. There is a mediocre amount of blood, but most of it is to do with the conflict that I eluded to earlier. The movie isn't really a horror movie either. *A Quiet Place* is by no means scary but is full of pure suspense and thrillingly tense moments. When I went home, I did not feel the need to have my mother sleep with me because I was scared. So, for those who are usually scared to watch movies like this, give it a shot. You will not be disappointed.

Overall, *A Quiet Place* is a thrilling adventure that never had a dull moment. I have never been to a movie that was so atmospherically engaging, that it kept me on the edge of my seat the whole time. The suspense of the film is practically unmatched by any other movie of this caliber. Ultimately, *A Quiet Place* is a masterpiece, and I would go as far to say that it might be one of the best movies of all time.

A Day in the Life

Longing for Summer

Written by Abe Perault

7th Grade

Yes! Yes! Yes! Summer is right around the corner. I will finally get to play Xbox as much as I as I want. There's nothing like being able to Fortnite for fifteen hours straight (food and bathroom breaks included). This summer is going to be awesome! I can just see it now. I won't have to do anything. I can sleep in, or I could just lay on the couch all day. I might consider going outside, but that is highly unlikely. As much as I don't want to think about school anymore, we won't be the youngest kids in the school next year. Now the coaches will look to us as the better athletes... at least for the junior high.

8th Grade

We're finally going to be high schoolers! I do not know why I'm excited about that. It is basically back to the bottom of the food chain for us. Now we can finally play varsity sports... and get completely destroyed by the seniors. There is no positive side to this freshman thing is there? I guess we will get a new nickname. The "frosh" sounds better than the "sevies". Hopefully the weather is nice for our first year of high school camps. I for sure don't want to be playing basketball in the gym when it's 1000 degrees outside. This summer will be interesting.

Freshmen

Sophomore year (ponders those two words). There is absolutely nothing interesting or new about sophomore year. I'm so excited to have three years of school left (sarcastic eye roll). I guess I am excited for Mrs. Zanardi's English class, but besides that, there's not much to be excited for. I'm might be able to get a starting varsity spot on the basketball team. The chances of that happening are slim though. Another bright note is that there are some new classes we can take. CAD sounds interesting, but so does Video Production. With so many choices, maybe sophomore year won't be so bad.

Sophomores

Now That I finally have a car, I'll finally have some freedom this summer. Mom and dad won't have to drive me anywhere. But that means I have to drive my younger siblings everywhere. Ugh! I have to pay for my own gas as well, so now I have to get a job. I basically have three options: being a Hy-Vee clerk, babysitting, or working at some fast food chain. None of those sound appealing, but I don't want to be the person who can't do fun things because they have no money.

Juniors

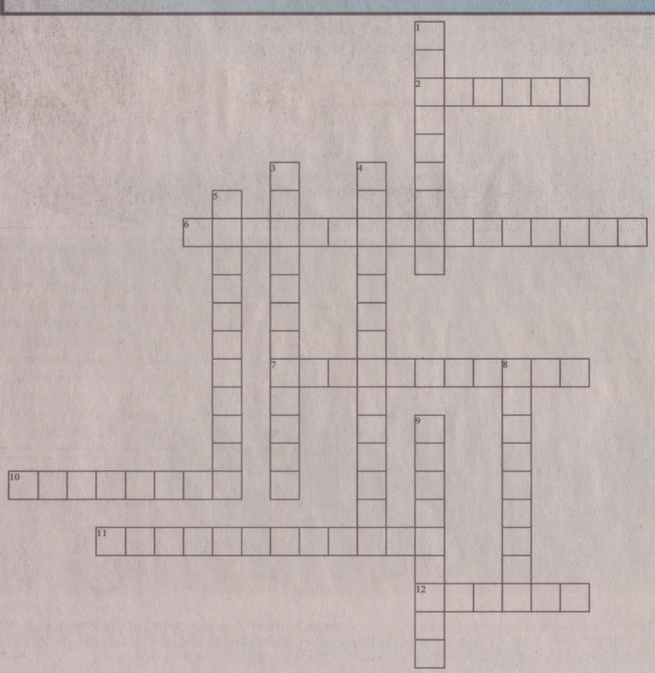
We are finally going to be seniors! To get there, we have to survive all five hundred tests we have in these next two weeks plus, our final exams. Regardless, we are still going to be seniors. It's too bad we will still have to lift for sports and go to all our football and volleyball camps, but at least we'll be seniors this summer. Going back to my job this summer is also going to stink, but hey, we only have one more year because we are seniors. Senior year is going to be a step up from junior year because of all the new classes we can take. Oh, and did I mention we'll be seniors?

Seniors

Ah three days left. I can hear summer calling my name! I don't have to go to any camps in the burning summer heat. It doesn't get better than that. Yah I'll have to work, but at least I know I don't have to go back to high school. I'm so excited for my graduation party as well, but there is so much left that I still have to prepare for! Planning a party this size is much more stressful than I thought. My stack of things to do is growing with all the thank-yous I have to write; I'm going to start freaking out. I'm already stressed out just thinking about semesters let alone this!

Teachers

The year is ending way faster than I expected. I just handed my kids their semester reviews today, and I'm shocked that the year flew by this fast. In a couple of days, I have to say goodbye to my seniors, and I am honestly going to miss them. Hopefully I don't get emotional! On a lighter note, I am excited to have some free time to myself. I think I am going to find a nice book that I want to read. No pencils, red pens, or highlighters, I want to sit down and enjoy myself. If students need me, I'm going to tell them they can find me by a pool side sipping on some lemonade.



Crossword Puzzle

The answers to the Issue 7 Crossword Puzzle can be found in the articles written in the Rock Bottom Newspaper. Have Fun!

Across

2. What is everyone longing for in the "A day in the life?"
6. Who did Alex Priester name "best dressed" at prom?
7. Who is the only senior on the boys' golf team?
10. What's the last name of the pole vaulter who broke the record this year?
11. What senior competed at state speech two years in a row?
12. What junior qualified for Nebraska Track Fest in the discus and 110 hurdles?

Down

1. What big tournament is taking place this week for the baseball team?
3. Which girls' soccer player is currently the leading scorer for the Shamrocks?
4. Who is going to college for journalism and won gold at state?
5. Who landed the lead role in the spring play?
8. What musical did Jenna Salerno's solo come from?
9. The last name of the director of "A Quiet Place."