



Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic

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Students engage in faith

Exchange students arrive from three countries

By Sarah Bichlmeier
Staff Reporter



TAYLOR DAHL/MARKETING DIRECTOR

Eighth grader Karol Torres tells a story to her group during Rock Talk on September 25th. Rock Talk is a new activity that has 88 volunteers to help students get closer to God.

By Tyler Palmer
Staff Reporter

This year, Scotus has stepped up its faith-based community with the creation of Rock Talk. Rock Talk is a new event taking place once a month at Scotus. A group of same-gendered students in each class meet with their sponsors to discuss Catholic topics, grow in their faith, and get to know their classmates better.

"I really enjoy being able to talk about my faith with others and listening to them talk about their faith," senior Jared Beaver said.

Along with every Scotus student participating in Rock Talk, the Scotus community has brought in 88 volunteers to help teachers lead 44 groups of students to grow in their faith.

"I love the fact that our leaders are people in the Scotus community who want to grow in their faith with us throughout the next few years," junior Camille Pelan said.

Students spread out all over the school, from the media center to the gym to Mr. Ohnoutka's room with their groups.

"I am looking to get closer with the girls in my Rock Talk group and getting to know them better," senior Haylee Cielocha said.

Rock Talk offers not only a chance to talk about faith but to have a safe spot and a place to talk about really anything.

"It is such a comforting environment to talk about your faith and things on your mind," eighth grader Mason Gonka said.

Many of the changes at Scotus are due to the absence of a school chaplain at Scotus because Father Capadano was called to a different church in Omaha. Campus Ministry has felt the effects of no priest leading their group, but students at Scotus have taken the challenge of stepping up and leading the group to success.

"[The loss of Fr. Capadano]

will challenge us to step up as leaders because we don't have a priest to lead us," junior Lizzie Parker said.

Several changes have been made from the previous year due to no priest and the large number of students taking part in Campus Ministry. Instead of a priest, leading the group this year are Angie Rusher, Sarah Doernemann, and Kelly Koranda.

In order to maximize the most people who can help the group, everyone can now be in Campus Ministry versus the twelve people

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Zanardi and Ericson enlighten the community

By Ava Kuhl
Staff Reporter

Scotus is known for its service and giving back to the community. The teachers at Scotus lead by example for the students when it comes to responding to other's needs. Two teachers just this fall have done that.

English teacher Becki Zanardi and art teacher Clyde Ericson have been sharing their knowledge with the people in Columbus in their own ways. This September, Zanardi shared a presentation in the Little Theater at Scotus about the Holocaust. This summer Zanardi went to Germany to experience and learn more about the Holocaust.

"I journaled on the trip and wrote everything down," Zanardi recounted. "I had to sort pictures, put them in a good chronological order, and inserted my notes in appropriately [for the presentation]."

Zanardi planned to share her knowledge about the Holocaust once school started. She also wanted to teach her students what she knew about subject.

"It was supposed to be the Media Center but around fifteen people

came last year," Zanardi said. "This year, forty-seven people came, and the Little Theater made it easier to accommodate."

On September 12th at 7:00 P.M., Zanardi gave her presentation. The presentation was a success and Zanardi shared with the community what she had learned. Zanardi is also a part of the fellowship for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) and is planning to give the presentation again for the association.

"God has placed it on my heart to talk about the Holocaust and what I know," Zanardi said.

Ericson shared his gifts with Columbus by having his art displayed at the Columbus Public Library and speaking about it on September 5th.

"The gallery was the most obvious opportunity and a good start," Ericson said, "and it was home to the work itself."

At the show, Ericson's drawings of different scenes around Columbus were on display for all to see ranging from downtown Columbus to the taco trucks that are around the town. The gallery seemed like the perfect place to display his work.



AVA KUHL/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Art teacher Clyde Ericson explains his artwork to junior Simon Pichler at the Columbus Public Library Gallery. Ericson interpreted his art to the community at the gallery on September 5th.

"The gallery is a vehicle to share my observations," Ericson said. "My pitch was, 'something everyone could relate to in different ways.'"

His art was seen by curious people in the community and art fans who wanted to see his creation.

"The best thing was seeing my family and some of my students," Ericson remarked, "and hearing other people's responses to my art."

Ericson's art and Zanardi's presentation are both examples of ordinary people giving back to the community in their own way and sharing their passions with others. By teaching and sharing what they both know they were able to help others in Columbus.

"Knowledge is power," Zanardi said. "If there is something you know a lot about, share it."

Language, food, fashion, music, art, and customs are what make up a culture. Imagine all these features changing drastically at one time. Foreign exchange students experience first-hand this drastic lifestyle change, and at Scotus, there are five foreign exchange students this year who are undergoing this transition.

The foreign exchange student program undertook major changes in 2012, when Scotus began accepting multiple foreign exchange students, instead of just one, as they did in previous years.

President Jeff Ohnoutka said, "I think as a school we do a much better job of helping the foreign exchange students get adjusted to their new environment. Not only have they left their homes, but they have to adjust to new social and academic expectations. This can be a real challenge for a sixteen-year-old. So, I think the process that we have developed has made for a smoother transition."

At Scotus, foreign exchange students over the years have come from four different continents. From Vietnam and Thailand to Spain, Germany, and France, foreign exchange students have come from all around the world to Scotus.

Senior Mariano Azurduy is from Bolivia. His favorite thing to do in his free time is to spend time with his friends. Mariano lives in a bigger city in Bolivia, so Columbus is a new experience.

Azurduy said, "The weather is different- Bolivia can get up to eighty degrees in the winter!"

Junior Lily Nguyen is from Vietnam. In her free time, she likes to call her family from Vietnam and tell them about her life in America. She also likes to listen to K-Pop. Nguyen appreciates how hard-working Americans are.

Nguyen said, "My favorite part about my home country is eating the street food and hanging out with my friends. After school when we are hungry, we eat a lot of street food like milk tea, Vietnamese pancakes, noodles, grilled pork, and Korean food."

Sophomore Big Konja is from Thailand. His favorite parts of America are the variety in the weather, the nature, the technology, and the people. In his free time, his favorite things to do are swimming, listening to music, reading, watching movies, and exercising. He also likes the education environment in America.

Konja said, "I want to experience American culture and explore new places. I also want to meet new friends and do something I love, such as swimming."

Sophomore Andrew Chien is from Vietnam. He was inspired by

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“We accepted anyone who was interested to be on the Campus Ministry Leadership Team,” Rusher said. Despite the changes, the group is still looking forward to helping the school embrace the idea of a faith-centered environment.

coming more student-based, and we have committees to help organize everything that needs to be done around school,” junior Abaigeal Aydt stated.

President Jeff Ohnoutka did not have any problems getting numerous people to volunteer to be leaders of groups. “We advertised in the bulletin and personally asked people to participate. We also prayed for the success of this program as well. I am so thankful to all of the adult volunteers for stepping up to be a part of it,” Ohnoutka said. “I hope that a bond will develop among the members of each group. I truly believe, if we allow ourselves to commit to this, we will encounter Christ in each other. That makes for a better person, a better school, and a better church.”

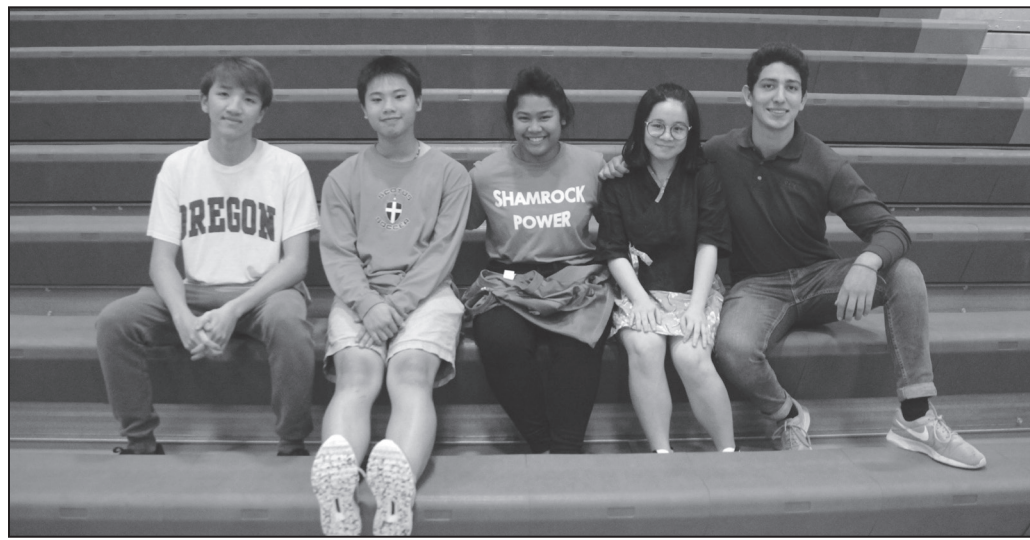
“I hope that a bond will develop among the members of each group. I truly believe, if we allow ourselves to commit to this, we will encounter Christ in each other. That makes for a better person, a better school, and a better church.”

~Jeff Ohnoutka

“Our focus in campus ministry this year is to empower students to take a leadership role in the faith experience of the school. The students want to be involved and have great ideas. I have been moved by their enthusiasm and personal relationships with Christ. There are great things going on at Scotus this year,” Rusher said.

With over 25 students taking part in Campus Ministry this year, it is becoming more of the student’s job to oversee events and organize specific activities.

“Campus Ministry is be-



SARAH BICHLMEIER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF
Above are this year’s foreign exchange students. Pictured from left to right are Big Konja from Thailand, Andrew Chien from Vietnam, Arin Kijjanont from Thailand, Lily Nguyen from Vietnam, and Mariano Azurduey from Bolivia. Scotus began receiving multiple foreign exchange students in 2012.

STUDENTS

his father to come to America because of how well his father spoke of it. Chien has enjoyed how friendly everyone in America is and the feeling of open space.

Chien said, “The feeling of crowdedness is gone. The whole state has approximately two million people, and the city I live in in Vietnam has ten million people.”

Sophomore Arin Kijjanont is from Thailand. Her favorite part about her home country is traveling with her family. Her dad used

to drive a car from North Thailand to South Thailand in one week! Kijjanont’s favorite parts about America are the new people, places, and experiences she is getting to have. Her favorite thing to do in her free time is cooking.

Kijjanont said, “All of this is making me grow up and be a better person. This let me know that I can do so many things I normally never do.”

The foreign exchange program is not only an exciting opportunity for the

students who come to Scotus; it is also a great opportunity for the Scotus students to learn about new cultures.

Ohnoutka said, “Our students really benefit from the exposure to other cultures. Both the Scotus students and foreign exchange students develop an appreciation for each other quickly. I think they both learn that there are as many similarities between them as there are differences. It is really neat to watch the friendships develop between the two groups.”

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Taking a break from being strong



By Chloe Odbert
Staff Reporter

“When you come to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on,” (Franklin D. Roosevelt).

Junior year is like one big Christmas present that you are hoping to find a gift receipt in the bottom of. Though I learned the definition of a mole, the significance of the seven sacraments, and of course, the unit circle, the most important thing I obtained from junior year was the importance of a good, old-fashioned mental break down.

It takes more than my ten fingers and toes to count the number of nights I spent sitting on my washing machine, at our computer, or in my bed with tears streaming down my face. With my Accelerated Chemistry packet resting atop the other four hours of

homework and studying I had to do, I instead used my time to cry, which to an extent is completely healthy.

The migraine and burning eyes the next morning were completely worth it in exchange for the feeling of finally letting go. Each year of high school brings a new main stressor or multiple small stressors that slowly but surely build up. Some years, mental break downs come more often than others.

Hitting the wall and finally allowing yourself to face your stress head on allows you to see the light of tomorrow shine a little bit brighter. When you hit rock bottom, making a comeback

and climbing back up to the top the next day or a few later gives a sense of accomplishment. Everyone has bad days. Thus far, each one of us has made it through every single bad day we have had. No matter how hard life was trying to pull us down, we got up the next day and tried again.

Having bad days and break downs for me makes the good days seem so much better. Knowing where I have been in my lowest moments helps to build the confidence that I can get back to the best days.

One thing that I found comfort in junior year and still now as a senior is finding

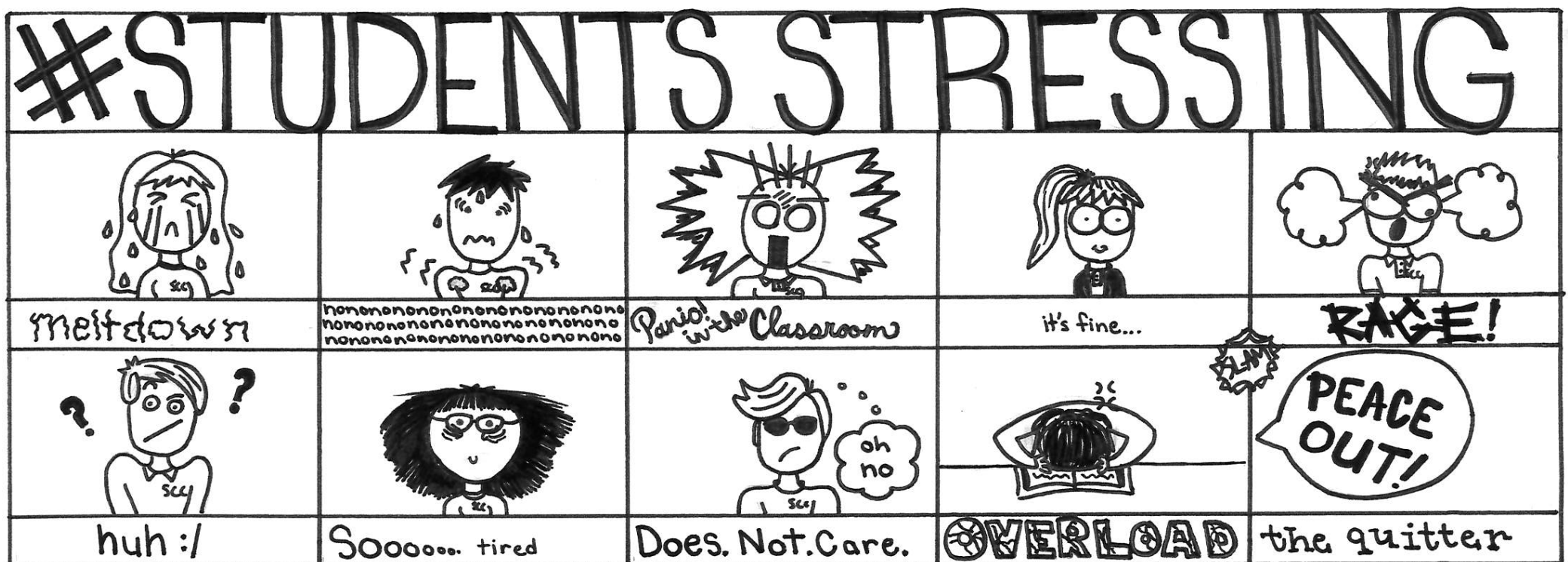
people that you can relate to on this level. Knowing that I wasn't the only one completely flustered with what we were learning in a class made it that much easier for me to let go occasionally.

Those same people constantly supported me and made me feel as if it was okay that I was feeling the way I was. If nothing else, junior year brought my closest friends and me even closer because we bonded over our suffering.

Having break downs and finally giving up on being “tough”, like everything else, is healthy in moderation. So, do not be ashamed if that is what it takes to overcome your stress once in a while.

If your break downs come consistently multiple days a week, find your people. Whether it's a teacher to vent to or a friend group to go hangout with to get your mind off your stress, get some help. Although it feels good to let it all out and do your Accelerated Chemistry through the blurred vision of your tears, seek another way to cope in order to maintain a healthy overall mindset.

Unfortunately, neither stress nor junior year come with a gift receipt in the bottom of their box, so occasionally you have to grab a bowl of your favorite ice cream and let it all out.



AVA KUHL/ ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Stand up against sexism in sports



By Brea Lassek
Editor

“I bet you don't even know who Tate Martell is,” a male teacher scoffed at me.

That one comment fueled a raging fire in my innermost being. Okay, maybe that is a tad dramatic, but these types of remarks have piled up over the years. Women are often discriminated against on their knowledge and interest in

men's sports.

I am a daddy's girl at heart, which blossomed my obsession with the vast world of sports. Growing up, I forfeited catching up on sleep to partake in the greatest thing to ever happen on Saturday mornings: ESPN's *College Gameday*. I have filled out dozens of March Madness brackets and picked bowl game odds for years. While other girls hung up posters of Justin Bieber and the Jonas Brothers, my bedroom walls dawned newspaper cutouts of Ndamukong Suh and Alex Gordon.

Athletics were fundamental to the development of my character and personality. I lived (and suffered) through the transition from BCS to the College Football Playoff system. I learned devastation and pain at the end of the 2009 Big 12 Championship. When Colt McCoy and Mack Brown signaled there was still one second remain-

ing to kick the game-winning field goal, I literally broke down into tears. To say the least, I care immensely about sports.

Therefore, sexism in sports upsets me greatly. Many men cannot believe or accept that women can know as much or even more regarding sports as them.

It is difficult to have dialogue with men about sports because they assume they are always superior on the subject. When these conversations do occur and women share a comment, the common response involves the man challenging the woman with another sports question. These questions are often ridiculously detailed such as, “Oh yeah... but who pitched for one out in the top of the seventh inning in the fourth game of the 1957 World Series?”

Instead of engaging in a simple discussion, many men attempt to disprove that

women have any athletic competence at all. As a woman, I often feel as if I must stay updated on every single highlight, ranking, new contract deal, or game to adequately defend myself in conversation. On the contrary, if a man would not know the score of the game the night before, it would simply be accepted, not challenged.

This attitude evolves from the typical stereotypes we were introduced to as mere children. Girls play with dolls and do makeovers on each other while boys are tough and play football as soon as they can wobble around. About a week ago, my five-year-old nephew stayed with us on a steamy August afternoon. I set up the sprinkler in the backyard

for him to run through, but he had not packed any swim trunks, so my mom and I fixed my smallest pair of shorts to fit him. The shorts were pink. My nephew refused to run through the sprinkler because in his words, “Aunt Brea, I'm not a girl!” Nevertheless, when we put him in green shorts, he played in the sprinkler for an hour.

This rationale demonstrated by my nephew in kindergarten develops into men associating themselves with sports and women with fashion and more “feminine” interests. This not only harms women who seek credibility in conversations about sports but also men who could not care less about

athletics.

It is okay for boys not to be interested in sports; however, in society, gender stereotypes force men to assume the characteristics of “modern masculinity.”

Sexism and feminism are phrases that can be exaggerated and overused in media. So much so, audiences are often turned off from reading an article if it mentions one of those words in the headline. We must change this stigma and push beyond stereotypes, especially with women in sports. Interests do not define masculinity or femininity.

Yes, I do know that Tate Martell never lost a game in his career at Bishop Gorman High School and that he recently lost the quarterback battle at Miami after transferring there from Ohio State... and I am certain many other women do too.

Interests do not define masculinity or femininity.
~Brea Lassek

Males and females: the irony that separates us



By Kate Smith
Staff Reporter

We all judge one other. We all have our presumptions about a person or a group of people. When it comes to genders, however, stereotypes are pushed on us

more now than ever. Men are more pressured to stay with their stereotypes than women are. That is because our culture has made going against male stereotypes and staying true to female stereotypes somehow wrong. The irony of today's society is that men are pressured to be exactly what their stereotype says they ought to be while women are pushed to break away from their stereotypes as much as possible.

Men must be tough and in control of their emotions. When was the last time you

saw your dad cry? When was the last time you saw a male teacher cry, if ever? Exactly.

Yes, men are more apt to control their emotions simply because that's how they are psychologically. I've heard too many boys call other guys “wimps” or pose the

question “Why are you crying?” followed by the statement, “Take it like a man.” I would like to know when it became feminine to show emotions and have feelings? Are we not all human? Do we not all experience pain? Even if it is not pertaining to any-

Men are more pressured to stay with their stereotype than women are.
~Kate Smith

thing sad, we are all passionate about something that hits our soft spot whether that be a sport, family, or even a job. We all are beings of emotion, and I do not feel that men should be excluded from that basic human trait.

Women are not excluded from this “typecasting.” Although they are not pressured to act exactly in accordance with their stereotypes as men are, I feel that modern feminism has made women feel as if they can't be what their stereotype entails. Girls are taught to believe that they are on the same level as men. While I'm not saying we aren't, I'm just saying there are some obvious differences between the two genders. Feminism today has made women believe that the only way we

can be valued is if we break away from our stereotypes and prove to men and society that we can do exactly what males can and even do it better. Sorry, but there are truly some aspects of life that men are better at than women, but on the same token, there are numerous skills women are better at than men. We as females don't need to dominate every field of play. It is okay to be your stereotype. No girl should feel ashamed at being good at baking or laundry, and it's completely normal to have a comforting or emotional personality. I believe we should raise powerful women in society but also teach them to be proud of who they are and embrace what they're good at.

I know I'm only includ-

ing the emotionally closed off men and feminists, but there are also people who don't buy into the status quo. They go against the pressure of the world. I see stay-at-home moms openly admit they love baking and doing laundry. I have seen a couple of my own classmates cry at the end of the football season. Does this make them defective somehow? Absolutely not. On the other hand, it is still normal for a guy to keep his emotions to himself and for a woman to want to be good at everything she does, even in a male-dominated society. Despite how you choose to live your life, do not force your ways on others and be respectful on how others choose to live theirs.

Traditions run deep at Scotus

By Tyler Palmer
Staff Reporter

At Scotus, a school that has been around for nearly a century and a half, there have been many traditions that have come and gone. There have been traditions that have been here for what seems like forever and traditions that started in the past five years.

Whether it is a sport-specific tradition, a student section tradition, or even going to Mass once a month as a school, it is fair to say Scotus is not like any other school in Nebraska.

One tradition started during the 2015 season as the football players were en route to a class C-1 state championship.

"In football, we have the lunch box tradition. Every week, one player is chosen to put a quote and item in the lunchbox and present it to the team," freshman Ted Fehring said.

Along with football, cross country also has their own similar tradition the day before games.

Senior Brea Lassek stated, "In cross country, we have premeet pink. Even Mr. Lahm wears a pink shirt every week."

Of course, do not forget about volleyball and their own traditions.

Claire Rickert, a freshman at Scotus, said, "We do this thing in volleyball where every time we win or accomplish something we add a bead to our string and keep that string all through high school."

Apart from extracurricular activities, students have noticed certain teachers have their own traditions that they take part in.

Freshman Kaelyn Dierman said, "In religion class we do this ARR time, basically you get to sit in silence praying for fifteen minutes every Monday."

Mrs. Koranda, the 8th, freshman, and sophomore

religion teacher at Scotus has students noticing her efforts to inspire her classes to grow in their faith.

Koranda said, "A lot of students knew about God but didn't have a personal relationship with him, which comes through prayer."

Students also have discussed new traditions that could start and gave their own ideas as to what they would do if they could start a tradition.

Freshman Mark Buhman eerily stated, "One tradition that could start is taking an all-school trip down to the tunnels once a year."

Rock Talk began this year and was intended to help students grow in their faith, converse with classmates, and get to know each other.

"Rock Talk, I think, will stick around as a tradition," sophomore Carson Czarnick said.

Due to a shortage of priests in the diocese, Father Capadano, the school's chaplain, had to part ways

with the Scotus following the 2018-2019 school year. Students have noticed that it seems as if his traditions went along with him.

Freshman Alex Settje exclaimed his feelings, "Fr.

Capadano used to do a tribute to the seniors at the end of every year, but he left last year."

From the outside, Scotus may look bland, but students are noticing that this school is

not like the rest.

Freshman Alex Ferguson said, "Scotus stands out from other schools because we are a family of tradition and pride in our faith and sports."

What are the most defining traditions at Scotus?



"The support we have for each other. If there is a football game, everyone who can make it goes. If there is a volleyball game, we have the biggest student section that supports what we do."

-Chloe Walker, 10



"We pray after every game to Mary, and I think that our devotion to Mary in that way is very powerful and makes us stand out."

-Simon Pichler, 11



"The drive of students is the most that stands out. I know that the curriculum at Scotus is different and somewhat more difficult than other schools."

-Claire Rickert, 9

Teachers appreciate family at Scotus

By Ava Kuhl
Staff Reporter

Scotus students and faculty have many traditions, ranging from what the student section chants at games to what teachers assign for homework. However, a tradition that tends to go unnoticed is one the teachers at Scotus uphold all on their own.

The teachers at Scotus Central Catholic have a tradition that gets overlooked by most students. The tradition is simple but rare. For years, teachers at Scotus have remained committed to the Scotus community. In

fact, this year the teaching staff hired no new teachers, which is unheard of at other schools.

Social science teacher Pat Brockhaus has been at Scotus for twenty-seven years. He also taught at Lindsay-Holy Family for three years.

"My first few years, it was hard to believe how long Mr. Petersen, Mr. Younger, the Puetzs, etc. were here and the impact they have had," Brockhaus said. "I truly can't see myself any other place."

Brockhaus is also the freshman boys' basketball coach. Teachers at Scotus try to impact students in any way they can.

"The Scotus community

and family is a great place to be a part of. [There is] great support to be successful as a coach, teacher, and person," Brockhaus said.

The Scotus faculty has created its own tradition of committing to Scotus and having each other's back through it all. Pam Weir, Scotus's guidance counselor, has been at Scotus for twenty years. She helps students with their schedule, as well as planning for their futures after Scotus.

"The ability to share faith and pray is paramount along with morality and values. The people, faculty and staff, and students are like family," Weir said.

Through everything Sco-

tus has gone through, all the teachers and staff continue to be an example of morals and faith for the students. Science teacher Joan Lahm has been a Scotus teacher for twenty-four years. She previously taught at Archbishop Bergan but after moving to Columbus, began teaching at Scotus.

"Faith, family, and community have kept me here," Lahm said. "I love the environment at Scotus."

The teachers at Scotus have become much more than only co-workers but family to one another in this way. Chemistry teacher Jane Dusel-Misfeldt has been a teacher at Scotus for about twenty-seven years.

"The faith and family atmosphere has always been a big part of the Scotus Way," Dusel said. "I was, and still am, drawn to that 'at home' feeling, and it didn't take long to realize that I found a place where I could help myself grow in faith as well as help others to do the same."

This year Janet Tooley, P.E. teacher and head girls' volleyball coach, as well as Thomas Salyard, advanced math and astronomy teacher, have both been teachers at Scotus for about thirty-two years, making them the veteran teachers at Scotus.

"It has been interesting to see how we have managed to keep up with the ever-changing needs of edu-

cation over the 3+ decades I have taught here," Tooley said. "We do not need new and fancy at Scotus to deliver an affordable, quality, faith-based education, and I think that's a great accomplishment we can all be proud of!"

For years, Scotus teachers have kept their traditions alive and made each other family through it all.

"There will always be challenges, but Scotus has a wonderful tradition and fantastic families," Lahm said. "The faith foundation and values make it even more amazing."



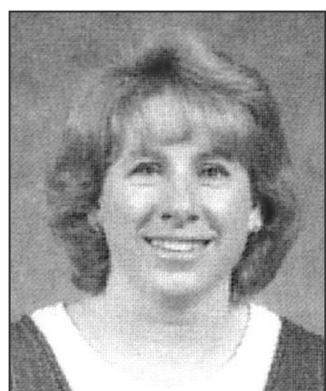
Mr. Brockhaus, 1992



Mrs. Blaser, 1991



Mrs. Salyard, 1993



Mrs. Lahm, 1995



Mrs. Cox, 1994



Mrs. Dusel, 1992

A Glimpse into the Green and Gold

For decades, Scotus has been known for its excellence in academics, extra-curriculars, and most importantly, faith. The road in which it got here, though, includes a backstory that many are unaware of. Because of this, it is now time to roll back the clock and take a look at the early days that formed this place into what it is today.

Originally named St. Francis Academy founded in 1878	1936: First Cheerleaders-only cheered for basketball	1941: Girls athletic program began.	Football was added in 1941, played a 6-man game. Changed to an 11-man game in 1946.
1915: a large fire burned down the 3 rd floor. There was \$7,000 worth of damage which is equivalent to \$175,000 of damage today.	September 28, 1936: First school newspaper "The Bonaventure".	1941: Track added.	
All men were of Irish descent. Hence the mascot "The Irish". Later evolved to be "The Shamrocks" which had nothing to do with Blessed John Duns Scotus, who was Scottish.	Served all 12 grades free of tuition	October 4, 1936: First Play- "The Fixer".	
	First Sports Team was boys' basketball in 1931	1937: Basketball won Class C District Title.	Baseball added to sports in 1937.
1936: City of Columbus grants lots to school for the creation of an ice-skiing rink.			



1939: the makeshift practice facility called "The Barn" was remodeled to be a full functioning gym for the basketball team.

Uniforms provided by Tooley Drug Company and were bought from the University of Notre Dame.

This article was created using the 1953 and 1954 Bonaventure yearbooks, as well as timeline documents from the Scotus archives and a summary from the St. Bonaventure 100-year anniversary book.
LIZA ZARUBA/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Mustard monarchy rules Scotus again

By **Kate Smith**
Staff Reporter

It was the night of Friday, October 5, 1990 after the Scotus win over Wahoo-Newman when the young senior Chris Mustard was crowned Scotus homecoming king. Little did he know, history would repeat itself. Nearly 30 years later, on September 20, 2019, his son Eric Mustard was also announced as Scotus royalty. The tradition of having a Mustard as king lives on for another year at Scotus.

Both Mustard men expressed feelings of surprise and excitement of being voted king.

"It was a long time ago, but I was pretty excited. There were a lot of good guys in my class, so for me to be chosen, it was a big deal. I think it helped to have a younger sister in the sophomore class and a brother in junior high. Most of the school knew who I was or

knew our family," Mr. Mustard said.

The similarities between the two Mustard reigns are quite ironic. Both men attribute younger siblings to their crowning.

"I think having my sister Grace in the sophomore class helped me with votes. I also always try to build a relationship with the younger guys in the sports I play to make them feel as comfortable as possible at Scotus, so that may have helped as well," Eric Mustard commented.

The race to win royalty always seems close. Despite the unknown, both men had a good feeling about Eric being crowned that Friday night.

"You never really know who's going to win until they announce it. But like I said, when I won, I had a pretty good feeling that Eric would win," Mr. Mustard added.

For Eric, being crowned was a surprising and surreal moment. Not only did he have his dad as an example

to look up to but also all past homecoming kings growing up.

"I was pretty surprised when I won, and I was also really excited. It was always cool seeing the homecoming king as I grew up and then to win it, that was a great experience. It was also special to receive the crown from Caden Pelan. He's been one of my best friends since we were kids so that was a really cool moment," Eric Mustard said.

Not only did Mr. Mustard win royalty in the fall of 1990, but his wife Janell won homecoming queen at Columbus High in the same year.

"Every year around homecoming time at Scotus, I tease our kids that they are living with royalty. I was homecoming king at Scotus in 1990 and my wife Janell was homecoming queen at Columbus High the same year. We were dating at the same time so that was kind of neat also," Mr. Mustard added.

Once again, the tradition of a Mustard as ruler of the school lives on. With two more kids to come through the Scotus system, the potential for more Mustard royalty is there. For now though, the Mustards will live in the moment of not only Eric's

reign but the time they have left with him.

"Well, in order to continue the tradition of kings, our son Drew would have to do that. He's in third grade, so we have some time before we have to worry about that. Drew has some big shoes to fill if he wants to be like his

big brother Eric. We could have a chance of more royalty in our family in a couple years if Grace ends up being a homecoming candidate. It's fun to think about those things, but right now, we're going to enjoy the rest of Eric's senior year," Mr. Mustard concluded.



ANGIE RUSHER / JOURNALISM ADVISOR
Columbus Public Schools Special Education Teacher Chris Mustard and his son Eric Mustard pose in their homecoming crowns. Chris Mustard won in 1990 and Eric was voted homecoming king this year.

Filling the trophy case

Scotus does not have Boys Basketball, Girls Golf, or Wrestling banners.

The Volleyball team was in a state championship game 14 years in a row from 1993-2006.

In 1964, when the school was still St. Bonaventure, the Boys Track team won a state championship. It is the only St. Bonaventure win on the wall.

Scotus won a state championship in at least one sport from the year 1995-2006.

Every banner has a photo in the hallway.

There are 47 total state championships.

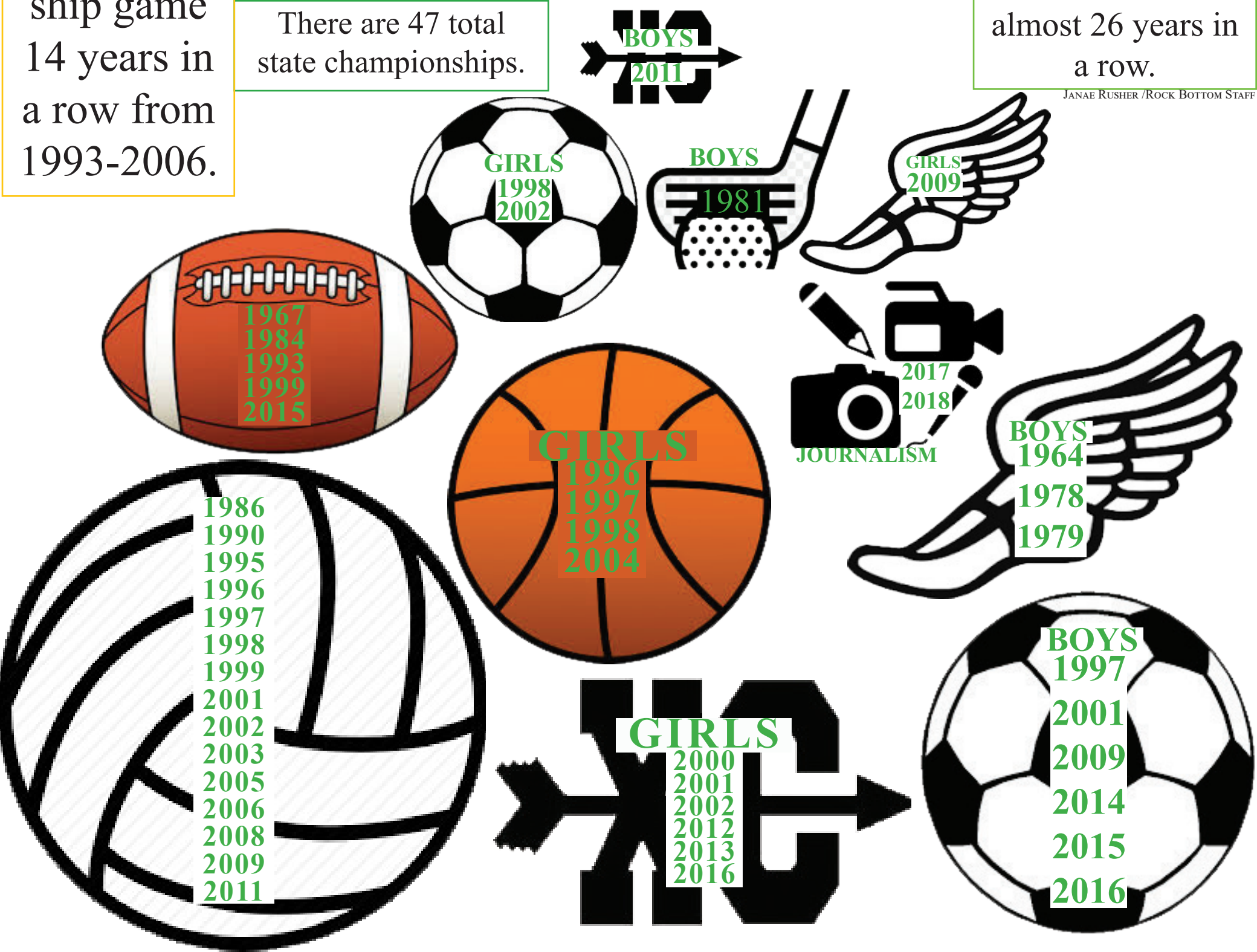
Journalism is the only fine arts championship Scotus has ever won. Scotus doesn't have Play Production (One Act) or Speech championship wins.

Volleyball has the longest run of state championship wins in a row, having 5 in a row from 1995-1999.

1992 was the only year that the Scotus Volleyball team had not been in a state championship game in the span of 1990-2006.

Scotus has two sports with exactly five state championship wins, Girls Basketball and Football, and has two sports with exactly six state championship wins, Girls Cross Country and Boys Soccer.

Except the year 2010, Scotus was in at least one State Championship final from 1993-2018. That is almost 26 years in a row.



JANAE RUSHER / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Shamrocks overcome size and slow starts

By Brea Lassek
Editor

After last season's state tournament run, the Scotus volleyball team has provided a strong case for their return to Lincoln. The Shamrocks have battled to a 12-3 record to start the 2019 season.

As one of three senior captains, setter and right-side Chloe Odbert explained there is no dispute on what the team's mission is this year.

"The goal is to always end up in Lincoln," Odbert expressed. "Some teams are kind of scared to talk about the state tournament, but it's a pretty common topic of conversation for us."

To accomplish this feat, the Shamrocks must conquer two main obstacles: their lack of height and sluggish first sets.

"One of our biggest challenges this season is that we lack a lot of height. We go up against a lot of teams who are much bigger than us, so we have to focus on defense and hitting smart shots," senior defensive specialist Lauren Ostdiek explained.

On August 29th, Scotus' season opener featured Kearney Catholic in a five-set thriller. The first set ended with Kearney Catholic on top

11-25, but that did not faze the Rocks as they locked in to win the next two sets. Scotus was able to escape with a victory over the sixth-ranked Stars with a stellar performance from the back row and capitalization off Kearney's 23 service errors.

"We weren't predicted to win, and after a rough start, we came back and beat them in five. It was the first game of the season, and the student section was super loud. It was an awesome atmosphere to play in," senior middle blocker Amber Buhman remarked.

The Shamrocks then hosted Omaha Concordia on September 3rd in a Centennial Conference showdown. The Scotus girls decisively swept the Mustangs in three sets and restricted them to a .012 hitting percentage. Once again, the back row made up of Ostdiek, junior Este Lesiak, and sophomore Kate Maguire outperformed their opponent, digging up 43 of Concordia's 86 hits.

After failing to win their home invite for three years, the Rocks ended the streak with a 3-0 record on September 7th, defeating Stanton and Twin River to enter the finals. The championship game proved to be the main event as cross-town rival Lakeview also advanced. The Rocks won the rivalry match in

three sets and earned some hardware as well.

"It was a super competitive game against Lakeview, and it felt good to win against them, because we will face them a couple more times this season," Buhman commented.

On September 10th, the Scotus girls went on the road for the first time to visit third-ranked Wayne. The Blue Devils handed the Rocks their first loss of the season in four sets.

"The toughest game was the Wayne game because we really struggled. Our play was off, and we did not close like we knew we should have," Ostdiek stated. "However, I think that loss motivated us to get back to the gym and continue to get better."

The Rocks hit the road again for the Omaha Bryan tournament on September 13th and 14th. In a bracket composed of mainly Class A opponents, the Shamrocks accumulated substantial power points to boost their state rank. Wins over Lincoln North Star, Fremont, Omaha Bryan, Norfolk, and Omaha Central propelled Scotus into the championship round to clash with Bellevue West. The Thunderbirds towered over the Rocks in size, and as a result, Scotus finished



JAYDEN HENG/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Chloe Odbert and junior Janae Rusher block against an Omaha Concordia hitter on September 3rd. The Shamrocks captured a victory in three sets against the Mustangs.

runner-up of the tournament.

"[One of the toughest games] was Bellevue West because they had a couple girls over six foot. They were hard to dig and block," sophomore libero Kate Maguire commented.

On September 19th, the Shamrocks returned home to take on Aquinas. Scotus stepped on the gas pedal for a 25-13 first set victory and did not let up the remainder of the night. Scotus hitters pounded the Monarchs as Buhman led the way with

11 kills, Odbert had 10, and junior outside hitter Tanelly Miller contributed seven of her own.

"The Aquinas game really stands out to me because we played to our level," junior middle hitter Janae Rusher shared. "We also didn't make very many errors."

Scotus headed back on the road for a match against Lincoln Christian. The Shamrocks came out with the victory three sets to one.

On October 1st, Lake-

view arrived at the Dowd Activity Center seeking revenge. The Vikings capitalized on Scotus miscommunication and hesitation, defeating the Rocks three sets to one.

The Shamrocks played in the Columbus Chamber Classic on October 5th and will compete in the Centennial Conference Tournament on October 10th.

Buhman concluded, "We started the season out strong, and we're all very hopeful and optimistic about where we can end up."

Golf grinds through season

By Liza Zaruba
Staff Reporter

After competing at the state meet for the fourteenth year in a row, the girls' golf team is back again this season ready to make their mark. Despite their number one

golfer Hannah Allen graduating last year, the team holds onto four returning starters. These girls include seniors Jaycee Ternus and Makenzie Enderlin and sophomores Alaina and Avery Dierman, all of which competed at the state meet last year. Junior Jaelyn Podolak also stepped

into a varsity position this year, claiming spot number five on the varsity team.

"This year we are really working on our short game and also just bonding as a team," Podolak said.

The season kicked off with a varsity dual against Norfolk Catholic on August

29th where they struggled to score. Norfolk Catholic scraped out the win by 8 mere strokes with a final score of Scotus 219 – Norfolk Catholic 211.

Up next was the Lakeview, Scotus, and Fullerton Triangular on Tuesday, September 3rd. The girls pulled off a resounding win, defeating the two other teams with a score of 190. Enderlin led the team during the nine holes by shooting a 44.

"My goals moving forward in the season are to play the way I do in practice," Enderlin explained.

Two days later, the team traveled to Grand Island to participate in the GICC Invite, and the girls did not disappoint, pulling out second place with a team score of 404. The team had three medalists that meet including Avery Dierman, who placed 14th.

"It was the first 18-hole meet, so it was stressful.

There were a lot of mosquitoes, and it was hot outside, but I think we did well as a team anyways," Dierman said.

One of the main goals for the team this season is focusing on shooting under a score of 400 as a team. The invites on September 12th and 14th at Lakeview and Aurora respectively fulfilled this goal with team scores of 361 and 393. These two performances rounded out two more runner-up finishes as a team.

"The Aurora meet impacted me the most," Ternus said. "I played with a girl that had a 72 average, which is really good. My nerves were raging, but I got through it and ended up getting third."

Blair was the next invite the golf team faced. This time, sophomore Alaina Dierman rose to the top, leading the team to a third-place finish overall.

"Team effort is definitely our goal as we do not have

one dominant player on the team. So far this year, three different ladies have stepped up to lead the team: Makenzie, Jaycee, and Alaina," Coach Tanya Niedbalski said.

Contrary to the team's successful performances in the meets previous, the Boone Central Invite on September 21st revealed some inconsistencies. The girls finished third as a team with a team score of 411.

"Our coach can't stress enough how much the points add up around the green," Ternus explained. "We always try to improve on our putting and chipping. Most of the strokes come from how you play on the green."

The team is focusing on consistency moving forward, realizing districts and state are right around the corner. Districts are on October 8th at the Oakland Golf Club, and state is October 14th through the 15th.



MCKENNA HOEFER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Jaycee Ternus swings her club during the Girls' Varsity Dual against Norfolk Catholic on August 30th. The Shamrocks barely lost the dual with a score of 219.

Softball maintains a positive dugout

By Amber Buhman
Staff Reporter

As the Columbus High softball team started out their season this year with a new coach and new ideas, there was nothing but positivity in the dugout. That positivity has been encouraged by junior Camille Pelan. This is her first year on the team, and her teammates voted her a team captain.

"Coach Newman is incredible. The culture she has created for us is beyond words," Pelan said.

This is a season of learning and growing for the team. A new coach comes with excitement but also with a lot of changes. Senior Kate Smith has been playing on the team for the past four years.

"No two coaches are the same, especially in softball," Smith said. "Everything has changed, from the way

practices are ran, the way pitches are called, and what parts of the game are more important."

Despite all the excitement and positivity about a new coach, the season has not gone as planned. The team has a 2-23 record, with their first win coming from Lincoln Northeast in the first home double-header of the season.

"The environment [of the Lincoln Northeast game] was so fun to play in," Smith recalled. "There were so many people in the stands cheering us on to our first win of the season."

After that win against Lincoln Northeast, the Discoverers have gone through a dry spell. There is not a specific fundamental or skill that the team lacks however.

"Our team struggles with executing either defensively or offensively in games. They never line up, so both are on the same game," senior

pitcher Katie Stachura commented.

The struggles on the field could easily carry over to the dugout or the camaraderie of the team, but that is not the case with this team.

"Our team all gets along both on and off the field. Whether you are sitting the bench or playing the game, everyone is positive and very supportive of each other," sophomore second baseman Halle Langan said. "We work hard during practice, but we also have a lot of laughs."

The team has been battling this losing streak since their 9-7 loss against Omaha Westside back in August. That loss and the losses since are not due to a lack of effort.

"We are very good at controlling the controllable. Our attitude and effort are usually better than a lot of the teams we play," Pelan said.

The team hosted Fremont High for a double-header on September 23rd. Both

were tough games, and the team almost had Fremont in the second one. Smith hit her third homerun of the season.

"I thought the games [against Fremont] were a big improvement from the rest of the season. Our offensive game has gotten much better, and I'm excited to see how we build off these games," Smith said.

The team got their second win in the second game of the double-header against Lincoln Southeast. Smith hit a homerun in this game also, which was her fourth of the season. The team also hosted Norfolk and then competed at conference. They wrapped up the regular season with a double-header at Grand Island.

"Our record doesn't say anything about the team that we are," Pelan stated. "If we can put our skills together with our attitude and effort, then everything should start to click."



AMBER BUHMAN/ROCK BOTTOM & YEARBOOK STAFF

Sophomore Halle Langan tracks down a ground ball in the win against Lincoln Northeast. This is Langan's first season with the Discoverers.

Football picked six for state

By **Chloe Odbert**
Staff Reporter

As the 2019-2020 school year kicked off, so did the Scotus Central Catholic football team. The Shamrocks have started the season with a 4-1 record and are currently sitting sixth in NSAA power points.

The 2019 Shamrock football season began against the David City Aquinas Monarchs. The Shamrocks had a high-scoring first half, leading 19-13 at the end of second quarter. The Shamrocks were able to continue to run the ball and ended on top. The final score was 27-19 after the Shamrocks put up 406 yards of offense.

Senior fullback and line-backer Eric Mustard had 24 carries in the season opener against Aquinas.

"The Aquinas game has been my favorite so far. It's always fun to play in that rivalry and to beat a rival like that has been a huge boost for us," Mustard stated.

Carrying that boost into week two of the season, the Shamrocks took down the Central City Bison at home. The Shamrocks controlled the game all four quarters. They

went into halftime leading the Bison 27-12 and completed the game on top with a final score of 41-27.

Senior quarterback, safety, kicker, and punt returner Tyler Palmer was proud of the group effort made by the Shamrocks to defeat the Bison.

"We played as one big unit: special teams, offense, and defense. Our coaches did a great job preparing us for Central City all week, and we did a great job executing their game plan," Palmer stated.

Week three, the Shamrocks took on and took down West Point-Beamer to advance their record to 3-0 on the season. The Shamrocks traveled to West Point for their away game against the Cadets. There, the Shamrocks rolled the West Point-Beamer Cadets 40-23.

Sophomore linebacker and wide receiver Garrett Oakley played last year as a freshman and now starts on both ends of the game.

"Our offense has been a big game changer from last year. We are scoring a lot more points and making a lot of important plays," Oakley said.

In week four, the Shamrocks fell to the Pierce Blue-

jays, converting their record to 3-1. The Bluejays came alive in the first half, creating a large score deficit for the Shamrocks to recover from of 30-7. The Bluejays continued their tricky offense, creating a final score of 50-21.

"We are still looking to improve our defense; because of our size, we really need to fly around and out hustle our opponents," Oakley continued.

On Thursday, September 26th, the Shamrocks stayed home to play Raymond Central. The Shamrocks beat the Mustangs with a final score of 35-14.

The following week on October 4th, the Shamrocks hit the road to play Bishop Neumann.

Despite their no longer perfect record, the Shamrocks have high hopes to make it to the 2019 state final and repeat what the Scotus 2015 team did, which was end up on top. However, the Shamrocks recognize they need to improve areas of their game in order to make that happen.

Mustard agreed with Oakley, "We need to improve on defense. If we're going to be successful this year, we need to find ways to make stops and get off the field."



KAMRYN CHOON/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Eric Mustard observes David City Aquinas' defense as he sits in the backfield. The Shamrocks traveled to David City for their season opener on August 30th and won 27-19.

The Shamrocks also notice that they are doing things better than they have in the past. This will help them to hopefully achieve their goal of a state final trophy.

Junior running back Evan Bock, who returned to

playing football this season, understands this concept.

"We can never really be satisfied because our schedule gets harder and harder as the season goes on. We just need to keep improving each week to get better as a team

and as individuals," Bock expressed.

The Shamrocks play their cross-town rival the Lakeview Vikings this Friday, October 11th at Memorial Stadium.

Scotus boys make impact on tennis team

By **Kade Wiese**
Staff Reporter



MAKENZIE ENDERLIN/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Drew VunCannon serves a ball to a Norfolk High player during the Columbus Tennis Invite. VunCannon is one of three seniors on the tennis team.

Most of the athletes at Scotus are sporting the green and gold this fall, yet others are helping support the maroon. Here in town, Columbus High and Scotus co-op with five sports. One of those co-op sports is boys' tennis.

This year's boys' varsity tennis team is comprised of three CHS juniors and three Scotus seniors. The three Scotus seniors Adam Kamrath, Connor Wiehn, and Drew VunCannon have all made an impact on the tennis team. Despite their losing record, all of them have a leading role on the team.

Kamrath leads the team with a 6-9 singles record. As his record is not what he wants, he hopes he has more wins than losses at the end of season.

Seeing into the future, Kamrath plans to make it back to state after qualifying last year.

"Another goal of mine this year is to get another win at state," Kamrath said.

Another senior that has impacted the tennis team is Wiehn. Wiehn played doubles with VunCannon early in the season. They had a record of 1-12. Recently, Wiehn has been moved to play the No. 2 position in singles. With a 0-1 record in singles, Wiehn said there is much room for improvements.

"My personal goals this season are to do well at the Greater Nebraska Athletic Association conference tournament and do better at state than I did last year," Wiehn said.

The last senior on tennis team is VunCannon. VunCannon plays doubles with CHS junior Landen Hastreiter. VunCannon plans on improving his game along with his teammate.

"My personal goal this season is to get better at the game and have fun playing it," VunCannon stated.

Along with the three

seniors, there are two additional Scotus athletes who help on the CHS tennis team: Nicholas Zoucha and Bohden Jedlicka. Though they do not play varsity, they have a bright future ahead of them on the tennis team.

Zoucha believes the team has many strengths and thinks their record doesn't tell the whole story. This is Zoucha's first season on the tennis team and plans to be part of something bigger in the future.

"I want to get to know the sport and become better at it," Zoucha said.

Jedlicka says this season has been quite the learning experience.

"I want to improve on serve backs, back hands, and fore hands," Jedlicka stated.

The team has six more regular season meets and despite their tough schedule, the three seniors only see the positives.

Their next match is October 10th against Norfolk at home.

Rocks fill shoes and strive for success

By **Lauren Ostdiek**
Staff Reporter

Coach Merlin Lahm has led his cross country teams to many state meet appearances, and with their continuous returns to state, the teams have created an environment that strives for state-level success. A state-level team requires development throughout the season, and the Shamrocks are continuing to improve at each meet.

The Rocks started off on the right foot, with both teams winning their opening dual against Columbus High School on August 29th. This meet allowed some new runners to find their footing. This is junior Nic Schultz's first year on the team.

"The CHS dual at Pawnee Park [stood out the most to me] because I placed the best at this meet," Schultz said.

With the new season

comes a new team, and with the loss of last year's seniors, both the boys and girls teams have some speedy shoes to fill.

Junior Benjamin Juarez Mendez said, "With Elliott [Thomazin] graduated, we needed a fourth runner on the team, so Nic Schultz joined this year. As a result, the team started off the season well, and we are continuing to improve."

Senior Brea Lassek is a returning varsity and state runner.

"This season we are without Kelsey Faust who was a consistent and reliable runner for us. Filling her shoes has been tough, so we have to work on pacing ourselves in the middle of the race," Lassek said.

On September 6th, the Rocks raced at their first invite of the season, the Boone Central Invite, and placed 2nd and 3rd for boys and girls, respectively. This meet allowed

them to see where the team needs to improve.

"The Boone meet stood out to me the most because it defined our goals for the season. We realized for us to compete with the top teams in the state we will have to tighten the gap between our first and fourth runners," Lassek explained.

The Wahoo Invitational on September 12th gave the teams a glimpse of what they have to look forward to at the end of the season.

Senior Liza Zaruba is another returning varsity and state runner.

"Everyone ran really well at the Wahoo meet, which allowed us to see how much potential we really have as a team," Zaruba said.

Both teams are continuing to improve, placing in the top three team rankings at their home invitational on September 19th.

The Rocks continued their success at the Boone



HAYLEE CIELOCHA/YEARBOOK STAFF

Juniors Michael Gasper, Nic Schultz, Benjamin Juarez Mendez, and senior Tyler Vaught lead the pack at their opening dual. The Shamrocks won the dual against Columbus High.

Central Individual on September 27th. The boys team won while the girls placed second, and the girls won the UNK Invitational on September 30th.

The Shamrock runners

will next race at their conference meet in Omaha on Tuesday, October 8th. However, the anticipation continues to build for the state meet that will be run on October 25th at the University of Nebraska

Kearney.

Juarez Mendez said, "I am looking forward to seeing the team do well at state. I am confident that we can do great things this year."

Activities

Band marches to a new beat

By Janae Rusher
Staff Reporter

Hair braided in two tight braids, shorts and white t-shirt, black socks, instrument, and uniform. This is the short list of the many things the 56 band students need on parade days.

This year the band has had a change in its upperclassman to underclassman ratio. One of the biggest changes was made in the drumline. Junior Benjamin Juarez has been in drumline since 7th grade.

“My leadership role has changed since last year since I am now the oldest member in drumline,” Juarez said, “This has challenged me to be a role model by helping new members if they need help or have any questions.”

Many of the other upperclassman have also had leadership changes this year. Junior Josh Styskal has been in the band since freshman year.

“A new responsibility is being trumpet co-leaders with Lizzie Parker,” Styskal said. “We have to be the first to know the music to help the others.”

Junior Maddie Blaser’s role changed this year; she is drum major, and she plays the clarinet when they are not marching. Blaser lead the band as they marched in the Columbus Days parade, the band’s first parade of the year.

“It is a lot more responsibility than marching because I control everyone else,” Blaser said.

Lauren Ostdiek, senior clarinet player, has been marching since 7th grade.

“My favorite part of parade season is performing at parades,” Ostdiek said. “There are a few things [I enjoy] as far as seeing little kids cheer for the band or seeing parents/ grandparents smile as we march.”

Parade season has many highs, but it also has a couple of lows. Junior Lizzie Parker

has been in band throughout junior and senior high school and plays the trumpet.

“[My least favorite part of marching is] marching in freezing weather... while it’s raining,” Parker said.

The band kids practice early in the mornings before school. They practice turns, lines, and songs to make sure they are prepared.

“The most challenging part is turning while in line” Blaser said, “It’s hard to adjust your pace to make sure you don’t get ahead of the person on the end.”

The high school band marches in three parades in the fall. Their most recent parade was October 5th in Grand Island. The junior high students had their own parade in Norfolk that the high school band students did not attend.

The junior high was in Norfolk September 21st. Alex Casperson, 7th grader, plays the baritone.

“It was so much fun and to find out we got second



CHLOE ODBERT/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Sophomore Adriana Cielocha plays her flute in the Columbus Days Parade. The band marches in the Hastings parade this Saturday.

place and scored a one,” Casperson said. “It is so amazing to be that good on the first parade.”

There are 67 junior high students who are in band. They were given a superior rating and the second-place

plaque for the junior high division. Eighth grader Joanna Rusher plays the tenor saxophone. The Norfolk parade was her first.

“It was fun, but it wasn’t easy to hold and play your instrument for that long!”

Rusher said.

The junior high students only had the Norfolk parade, but the high school has their last parade this Saturday in Hastings.

Faith and bonding lead retreats

By Rachael Lam
Staff Reporter

Every year, Scotus students look forward to one event and that is their annual class retreat. In some ways, it can be considered a tradition of Scotus, but it also changes a little every year. This year, all of the retreats were kept within the school day. The retreats incorporate faith into their activities and allow the whole class bond since having the class together does not happen very often.

The seniors took a trip to Timberlake Ranch Camp in Marquette, Nebraska. The retreat took place the whole school day. There was a Mass with some small group talks in the morning while all other activities took place in the afternoon. The camp offered a variety of different activities for the seniors to enjoy. For example, the seniors went on obstacle

courses like the zipline or the power pole.

“I feel like we had more activities together this year than in others,” senior Debanhi Adame-Hernandez said.

The senior retreat has usually lasted until 7 p.m., but it was shorter this year due to Scotus not having a permanent chaplain. Nonetheless, the seniors were still able to spend lots of time together in small group discussions and go on obstacle courses.

“Seeing our class together bonding was good and after prayer, when the teachers spoke helped strengthen my faith,” senior Kenzie Brandenburg said.

While the seniors were not allowed to go swimming this year, they were still able to canoe around the lake and do some small water activities.

“One of the fun things that happened was when



JAYCEE TERNUS/YEARBOOK STAFF

Seniors Allie Mielak, Brock Clarke, and MaKenzie Enderlin enjoy a paddleboat ride during the senior retreat. Along with paddleboating, the seniors also went on the power pole and went ziplining.

Evan fell off the canoe and into the lake,” senior Debanhi Adame-Hernandez said.

As for the seventh graders, their retreat took place in Memorial Hall at Scotus. There was a fun game and various small group activities so they could get more familiar with everyone and Scotus.

“I learned about how

close my classmates are to God and what some of their hobbies are,” seventh grader Katelyn Pensick said.

While the seventh grade retreat only took place in the afternoon, the students were still able to spend time with each other, ask questions, and play mail call.

“My favorite activity was when we wrote a note to



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Seventh graders Evan Steffensmeier and Henry Chard engage in a small group talk led by senior Antonio Chavez. Senior campus ministry students helped to lead the retreat.

ourselves for senior year,” seventh grader Samuel Ollmer said.

In both retreats, faith is a big part, and it is one of the main reasons why Scotus even has retreats. At the seventh grade retreat, there was adoration at the end led by campus ministry students with music.

“I feel like my faith changed because I got a deeper understanding of what adoration is about,” seventh grader Cohen Pelan said.

Planning for the freshmen, sophomore, and junior retreats is under way and will probably happen sometime in October.

More pictures from fall sports



OLIVIA FEHRINGER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior quarterback Tyler Palmer runs the ball through Central City’s defensive line. Palmer’s first carry of the game gained 43 yards and a touchdown for the Shamrocks.



AVA KUHL/JOURNALISM STAFF

Junior Olivia Fehringer, seniors Brea Lassek, Liza Zaruba, and junior Abigail Aydt race at the Lutjelusche course. The girls’ team placed 2nd at the Scotus invitational.



McKENNA HOEFER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Sophomore Alaina Dierman puts her final shot of the hole at the Norfolk Catholic Dual on August 30th. The girls’ golf team has made a state appearance every season for the last 14 years.



AMBER BUHMAN/JOURNALISM AND YEARBOOK STAFFS

Junior Camille Pelan squares up on a strike in the double-header against Lincoln Northeast. Pelan was voted one of the captains by her team.

Spirit hits peak during homecoming week

By Sarah Bichlmeier
Staff Reporter

Homecoming at Scotus is not only a dance but a week full of festivities. The hallway decorations, dress-up themes, and pep rally all serve to bring school spirit in preparation for the dance. The student council members take a major role in the planning of these festivities.

Senior Liza Zaruba has been a member of student council for all of her high school career.

"Student council had a ton of fun preparing for this year's homecoming dance. The dance itself went super well. We got a new DJ this year, and he did an awesome job. The beach balls on the dance floor also added for a bit of excitement. It was great to see all the hard work pay off," Zaruba said.

The themes this year included Meme Monday, Toga Tuesday, Groufit Wednesday, Beach Thursday, and Spirit Friday. Some students could

be seen sporting minimalist outfits, but there were some that could not have been more in-theme. Outfits ranged from the popular "Flashback Mary" meme sported by the boys to togas so authentic they could have been sported by an ancient Greek.

Joan Lahm is the student council sponsor and plays a major role in the planning of homecoming and its activities.

"Students did a great job dressing up and decorating their hallways. My favorite part of the week was the energy provided by the students," Lahm said.

Pep rallies have always been a great source of entertainment and involvement at Scotus. The flags and dance team lit up the gym floor with a popular song from *The Greatest Showman* while the cheerleaders had everyone on the edge of their seats with the stunts in their pop remix dance. When the performances had concluded, the homecoming candidates

were called up to compete in a "Minute-to-Win-it" style competition. These activities ranged from cup stacking to an "Emporer's New Groove" style back-to-back stand up game.

Senior Jayden Heng and the other cheerleaders planned the homecoming pep rally and its activities.

"My favorite game that I got to see a little bit of was either when Eric and Evan shook the ping pong balls out of the tissue boxes with their butts or when Dalton and Jared hit the bottles over with pantyhose," Heng said.

Senior candidate Jared Beaver said, "The suspense was killing me. I was so nervous that my legs were shaking."

The winner of homecoming queen was Brea Lassek, and the winner of homecoming king was Eric Mustard.

"The best part was walking out in front of all the little girls at coronation. I remember when I was their age and how all of us ran to get the best spot on the field. It was



KAMRYN CHOHOON/YEARBOOK STAFF

Candidates are pictured after the coronation ceremony. Candidates include seniors Jared Beaver, Amber Buhman, Cole Demuth, Lauren Ostdiek, Eric Mustard, Brea Lassek, Connor Wiehn, Liza Zaruba, Evan Hand, Emily Miksch, Rachael Lam, and Dalton Borchers. Crowns were presented by last year's winners Caden Pelan and Courtney Kosch and crown bearers Elle Swanson and Silas Linder.

crazy to see that my friends and I were now the seniors they were all excited to see," Lassek said.

The process of getting into Scotus homecoming is not a pleasant one; getting breathalyzed and dress coded are not activities one would

like to partake in frequently. However, the dance itself made up for it.

Freshman Maysa Kuhl said, "I think the music was great! I think there was a lot of variety."

During homecoming, all sorts of activities took

place: slow dancing, conga lines, dance battles, and loud, off-tune singing. The next opportunity to partake in these activities is at the annual Winter Ball, which is on December 7th.




KATELYN BAYER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Kenzie Brandenburg works on her Algebra II assignment during homecoming week. The themes for the week were Meme, Toga, Groufit, Hawaiian, and Spirit Day.



KATELYN BAYER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Seniors Evan Hand and Connor Wiehn break down on the dance floor while being cheered on by their audience. Dance battles were a frequent occurrence at this year's homecoming.

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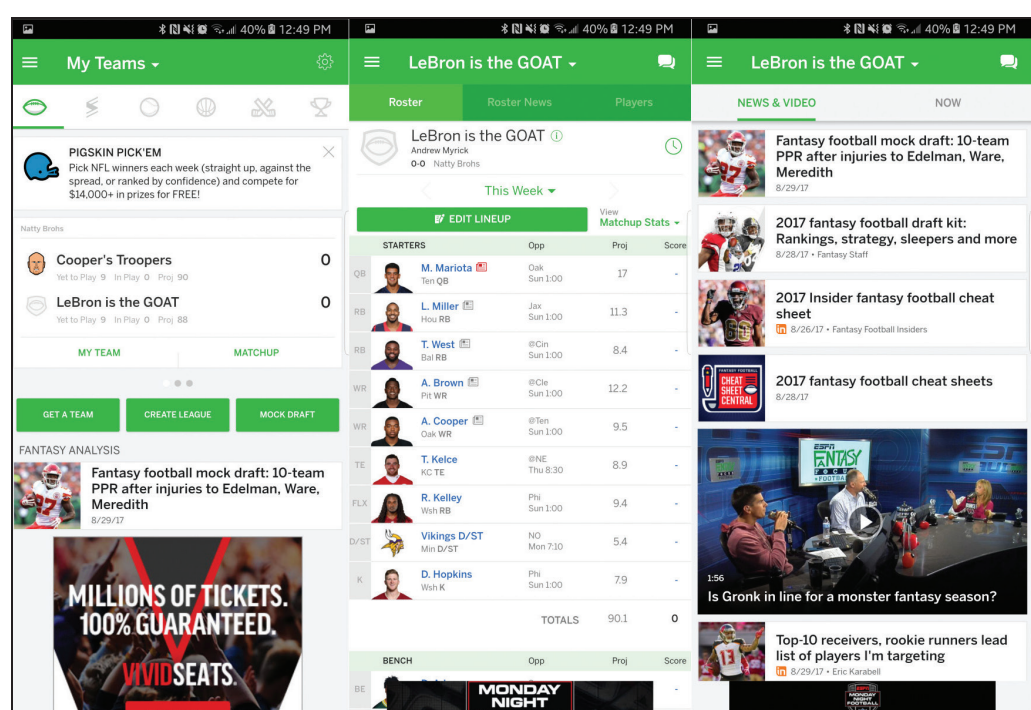
Being real about fantasy football

By Kade Wiese
Staff Reporter

“Are you kidding me right now?! I was going to draft Saquon Barkley! Whatever, my team will still dominate everyone else’s.” This is an example of what could be heard in the hallways at school, at your parents’ offices, and in your own basement. This is the sound of a new season of fantasy football draft taking off in late August. Fantasy football is a competition in which participants select players from the National Football League and score points according to the actual performance of their players. According to the Fantasy Sports Trade Association, there are now thirty-three million people playing fantasy football each year. What is stopping you from playing fantasy football? If you are not already, there should not be anything stopping you from playing fantasy football, and I believe

you should participate in it. One reason why so many people play fantasy football is because of its social aspect. Not only are you involved in the fantasy football, but so are the people in your league. Your league is comprised of you and up to nine other participants. Sometimes, there are leagues that can compete with fifty participants. Every new season, there is a draft. In this draft, you and the members of your league select what football players you desire to have on your fantasy team. For most leagues, the participants usually meet up and initiate the draft. When meeting up, members of the leagues bring food to eat, they talk, they hangout, and they usually have a football game playing in the background. Another reason for playing fantasy football is for the competitiveness. This is one of the only few activities that everyone can take part in and still have some good competition. We all long for a little competitiveness, and

fantasy football will fulfill that need. If you like a little competition but are not much of a smack talker and hate losing, fantasy football is for you. Fantasy football is also for those who love competition, like to smack talk, put in dedication for their team, make the best trades for their team, and know to never give away their number one player. Plus, it is a healthy competition in which no one can truly get hurt. Many people outside of fantasy football think it is a complete waste time to participate in it. I would love to assure them that they are so wrong. By playing fantasy football, you can be with your friends and socialize about it anytime you want. You know those weird conversations when you run out of ideas to talk about with a person? Fantasy football doesn’t ever lead you there. You can go up to anyone and converse about fantasy football forever. Fantasy football brings the competitiveness out of you. If there is ever



HTTPS://PHANDROID.COM/2017/08/30/BEST-FANTASY-FOOTBALL-APPS-2017/

This is ESPN’s NFL Fantasy Football app interface. Last year, fantasy football alone brought in seven billion dollars revenue.

any anger built up inside you, fantasy football is the place to let it go. Go ahead. Go make fun of those who play fantasy football and tell them what a waste of time they are spending playing a pointless “game.” While you are doing that, there are millions of other people, even in your class and own family, who are having the time of their lives playing fantasy football. Trust me, it is super weird when your uncle, cousin, or friend asks you how your team is doing, and you have to respond to them by saying you do not have one. Ouch. It might all be a fantasy, but the feeling of beating your uncle or best friend that week is so real.

Swift makes a loved comeback



HTTPS://WWW.UDISCOVERMUSIC.COM/STORIES/TAYLOR-SWIFT-LOVER-SEVENTH-ALBUM/ Taylor Swift’s Lover album was released on August 23, 2019. More than one million copies of the album were sold within the first week.

By Rachael Lam
Staff Reporter

You Need to Calm Down! This is a message to all of the Taylor Swift lovers out there....and yes, the pun is intended. Taylor Swift recently came out with her 7th album titled *Lover*, and it has become a hot topic all over social media. All eighteen of the songs on the *Lover* album have even managed to make it onto the Billboard Top 100, which is extremely hard to do. “You Need to Calm Down!” is currently ahead standing fourth on the Billboard Chart. After listening to each and every one of those songs thoroughly, I can say that I enjoy the *Lover* album with all of my heart.

Now, I cannot say that I have been a fan of every one of Taylor Swift’s albums, but there are many reasons as to why I am in love with this particular album. The pieces she has written for the *Lover* album are a similar style to the songs she used to release before. Like, her *Taylor Swift* album that she debuted back in 2006 or even the *Fearless* album. I like that the songs all have a different beat so there is more of a variety. This allows people to be able to listen to the *Lover* album no matter what type of mood they are feeling. Taylor Swift releasing music that is similar to her old songs was something that not only I, but many of her fans had also hoped for and now that wish is fulfilled. At the same time, I am

in full support of the fact that this album is also a call out to her haters because it really proves them wrong in the comments that they have made about her for years. Many have said that she only knows how to write songs about her exes and all of the relationships she has been in, but none of the songs have had any direct relation to that. For instance, her piece “Soon You’ll Get Better” was actually written about her mom, who has been fighting cancer. It also features the Dixie Chicks because they are her mom’s favorite group. There have been opinions expressed about the *Lover* album saying that all of the songs sound the same. Personally, I believe that statement is false. For example, her song, “ME!”

and “Lover” are drastically different. “ME!” is more upbeat and has a colorful vibe while “Lover” is slower and has a sultry vibe. My only critique of Taylor Swift would be that I do not agree with all of her decisions. Some of the organizations she chooses to support and that she stands for are not in compliance with my own. At the same time though, she has supported many great organizations too. No matter what, I think that everyone should give the *Lover* album a chance, even if it means listening to the songs more than once. I was not a fan at first, but now it has grown on me so much, and you never know because it just might surprise you.

We’ve got spirit, literally

By Lauren Ostdiek
Staff Reporter

A fire in the tunnels, a death, and a spirit that does not want to leave the hallowed walls we walk each day: we have all heard the legends of the “Scotus Ghost.” Now, whether the spirit lives on or not has yet to be proven, but the legend certainly lives within the student body, and it starts early on in the Scotus community. “When I was younger, I went to cheer camp, and the cheerleaders convinced all of us that they had seen the Scotus Ghost,” sophomore Abee Hutchinson said. With more than 80% of students believing in it, Scotus students are not short on personal encounters with the supernatural spirit of Scotus that goes beyond our student section. Junior Maddie Blaser has experienced the legend for herself. “One time Clarissa Kosch and I were in the bathroom washing our hands and no one else was in there when every single toilet flushed at the same time,” Blaser said. She is not alone in her experience. Freshman Alex Ferguson also believes he was in the same room as the supernatural.

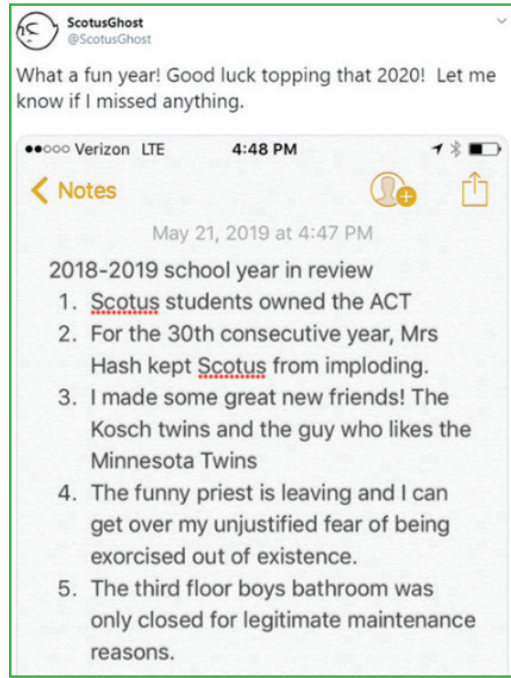
“One time in Art, the door slammed and the projector screen shot up at the exact same time,” Ferguson explained. However, the Scotus Ghost has taken to a slightly more direct route of interacting with the living who walk the halls of Scotus: a Twitter profile. Joining the world of Twitter in February 2019, the Scotus Ghost has made its presence even more known to the world. The owner of the account remains anonymous on Twitter. “It’s anonymous because it’s part of the fun. It’s funny because most people don’t know who it is. There is something hilarious about the fact that the Scotus Ghost could be Rob the Maintenance Man or Mrs. Dusel,” the Ghost said. Certainly, Scotus students have yet to crack the mystery of the person behind the account with a whopping 181 followers. However, they are not short on guesses. “I think that it’s a secret senior class tradition that is discreetly passed down from one year to the next, either that or Mr. Salyard,” junior Simon Pichler said. Among some of the most suggested people believed to be the unidentified spirit are Mr. Ohnoutka, Joe Schoen-

felder, Mr. Swanson, Mr. Mustard, and a literal Scotus ghost. The ghost itself explained, “[My goal] wasn’t to get followers. It was to get laughs.” The account’s playful banter certainly has left the Scotus community a little

happier than it was before. From declaring Mrs. Tooley as the Queen Bee of Scotus to sharing gifs that help get students through the first week of school, the ghost tries to fill the community with a little more humor. Certainly, the Scotus Ghost, both undead and alive,

will not be leaving Scotus for the foreseeable future. In the meantime, it might be worth it to make the spirit feel a little more welcome. Thanks to the Twitter account, we do not need to plan a séance to properly communicate with the ghost of our school. However, just think, it might be

a little lonely being the only non-living soul in the school, so reach out on Twitter, the ghost is looking for a friend. “I’m waiting for someone to create a Tony the Leprechaun account so we can banter back and forth,” the Ghost concluded.





Bonds form within activities
See Pg. 5

Rock Bottom

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Teens stand through prayer

By Janae Rusher
Staff Reporter

October is Respect Life Month, which is recognized throughout the Catholic Church. The Life Chain, 40 Days for Life Rosary, and March for Life preparation are many ways Scotus has recognized Respect Life Month. As a school, Scotus goes to the Life Chain.

On October 6th, the Columbus community and Scotus students stood on 33rd Avenue and 23rd Street, holding Pro-Life signs and standing silently for an hour on the Life Chain. This one hour is witnessed by many cars as they drive on the busiest roads in Columbus. Senior Tyler Vaught went to the Life Chain for the first time.

"I thought it was really cool to see some peoples' reactions to what we were doing," Vaught said. "They waved, honked, and gave us thumbs up; it was really interesting and cool."

Vaught was one of the 71 students who attended the Life Chain from Scotus. The Teens for Life committee set a goal for 100 students to attend the Life Chain. Even though they did not quite make their goal, they beat the average of about 40 students from previous years. Junior Katelyn Bayer has been to the Life Chain three times and is on the Teens for Life campus ministry committee.

"This year, the Teens for Life committee decided that we would give out Pro-Life bracelets at the beginning of the Life Chain and provide hot chocolate for everyone afterwards," Bayer said.

To prepare for the Life Chain, the Teens for Life representatives went into the religion classrooms to raise awareness and give details about Respect Life Month and the Life Chain.

Along with the Life Chain, Teens for Life also does an annual 40 Days for Life Rosary. Junior Maddie Blaser is a part of the Teens for Life committee and has attended the Life Chain and the March for Life.

"[The 40 Days for Life Rosary] is where every day for 40 days straight, we have a different student or staff member pray a rosary for the end of abortion," Blaser said.

Teens for Life sponsor Angie Rusher has been helping organize students on the Life Chain and March for Life for three years. She is also helping head campus ministry with Kelly Koranda.

"One misconception about the March for Life is that it is a just a fun trip," Rusher said. "It is most definitely a pilgrimage. The long bus rides and days away from school make it a sacrifice for all who attend. I am proud that we have students go multiple years and that we can fill our own bus every year."

The Teens for Life committee

See LIFE, Page 2

Thompson and Dahl fill Scotus needs

By Liza Zaruba
Staff Reporter

Some unfamiliar faces have hit the halls of Scotus, and no, they are not new students or the seventh graders. Instead, they are the newest additions to the Scotus faculty: Taylor Dahl and Holly Thompson.

This past fall, School Registrar Kris Andresen and her family decided to make the move to Omaha after her husband received a job offer. With her leaving, though, a hole was left to be filled.

Thankfully, Scotus algebra teacher and volleyball coach Julie Blaser saved the day.

"It was simply a phone call from Julie Blaser asking me if I wanted a part-time job here," Thompson said. "I said sure, and here we are today."

Thompson joined the faculty in August, but before that, she was a stay-at-home mom.

"[Being a stay-at-home mom] was my favorite; however, I was a para at North Park Elementary School, as well," Thompson said.

Thompson works in the school office, handling all the workings in PowerSchool, as well as assisting Shelly Adams in the cafeteria with the new lunch program.

Beyond that, though, no two days are ever the same for Thompson.

"After checking the sub lists and PowerSchool in the morning, it's all about picking up the little odds and ends throughout the day," Thompson explained. "I really do love the people I work with."

Taylor Dahl is also a new addition to Scotus as the new marketing director. Scotus has never had a marketing director before, but with the rise of technology and the constant demand to stay connected,



JANAЕ RUSHER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Marketing director Taylor Dahl films events during the Homecoming pep rally on September 20th. Dahl is the first marketing director in Scotus history.

president Jeff Ohnoutka felt the timing was right to hire one.

"We needed someone whose focus it was to tell the story of Scotus," Ohnoutka explained. "We also want to use that person to put together promotional videos for the school and help the development office with some of the fundraising efforts that they have, so it was just a much-needed thing."

Dahl's previous experience as a marketing director, along with his work in video production, made him a perfect fit for the job.

"At my first job, I was the social media manager at Sid Dillon Chevrolet and Sid Dillon GMC Buick Mazda in Fremont, where I created their Facebook pages and Twitter accounts. I also updated

their websites, handled photo inventory, and shot different videos for customers," Dahl explained.

After moving to Columbus, Dahl was approached by Ohnoutka about the possible addition of a new marketing director and came in for an interview. It was an instant fit as Dahl is now a couple months into his new position at Scotus.

"I think that he has done a really great job so far," Ohnoutka said. "He has created some great content for people to look at for our school, and I think it's only going to get better and better."

The marketing at Scotus is certainly not slowing down as many of Dahl's greatest ideas are still in the making.

"Eventually, I would like to

do a fall recap of highlights of the sports, and then in the winter when we have the one act play, speech, basketball, and wrestling, I'll do a package for that as well," Dahl said.

Dahl's work is about more than simply the videos or tweets, though. It's about the greater mission of Scotus, promoting the little details that make Scotus the institution that it is.

"I feel strongly about the value of a Catholic education. It's important to me," Dahl explained. "I want to keep promoting the community aspect of Scotus. This is a family, and when you send your kids here, you will feel safe as a parent knowing they are being taken care of and getting the best quality education."

Construction affects school

By Ava Kuhl
Staff Reporter

St. Bonaventure Church has been St. Bonaventure parishioners' and Scotus students' church for years. It is a place where people in the community gather to worship God and meet as friends and family to help each other out. This year has been different, though, because with St. Bonaventure's 2020 project, they are adding onto the front of the church and expanding the parking lot.

The construction at St. Bon's Church began this July and should be done sometime this winter. Junior Evan Ruskamp has been going to St. Bon's all his life.

"I think it will be much easier with the bigger parking lot and bigger social hall," Ruskamp said. "I am looking forward to just having a bigger place to gather as a parish."

Since this whole process is happening right across from the school, students get to watch their church be rebuilt and witness what will soon be St. Bonaventure 2.0. Junior Kamryn Chohon attended St. Bon's all through elementary school and is still a member of the parish.

"I think it's pretty interesting

because during history one time, we just watched them pour concrete instead of learning," Chohon said.

A major change that has occurred, aside from parking, is that all weekend Masses are now being held in the Scotus cafeteria. Junior Olivia Klug attends Mass for St. Bonaventure every Sunday.

"It's different [not having a physical church to go to] because I've been going there my whole life, so switching it up is unusual," Klug explained.

Some students attend St. Isidore or St. Anthony, but a majority go to the cafeteria. Eighth grader Mary Faltys is a part of St. Bonaventure parish.

"The construction is going fairly quick. Some days I feel like it's going to be done soon, others I don't," Faltys said. "It is interesting to see how much they've done from when I went home to the next morning to the afternoon."

St. Bonaventure's perpetual adoration has also been moved to Scotus and is held in Scotus's chapel. With this move, it has allowed students to go to the chapel anytime during the day for Adoration. President Jeff Ohnoutka has helped the school accommodate for the church since construction has begun.

See CHURCH, Page 2



TAYLOR DAHL/MARKETING DIRECTOR

Senior Lauren Ostdiek reads at Mass in the Dowd Activity Center on Friday, November 1st. As a result of the construction at St. Bonaventure, school Masses are held in the gym.

LIFE

is helping to plan bus activities for the March for Life. The March for Life is January 24th, and as of right now, the bus is as full as it can be with chaperones and students. While they are on their pilgrimage, they visit historical monuments and museums, cathedrals, basilicas, and

seminaries as well as the March for Life.

Blaser concluded, "It is important that as a school we recognize the power of prayer and know that even if we can't physically do anything to stop abortion, we can always pray."



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Freshmen Hailey Steffensmeier and Claire Rickert stand on the corner of First Nebraska Bank on October 6th during the Life Chain. They stood with 71 other Scotus students, taking a stand against abortion.



LIZA ZARUBA/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

As Scotus students peer out the windows of their classrooms, the construction sight of St. Bonaventure is on full display. Project 2020 is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

CHURCH

"We have perpetual adoration in our chapel, which has been something that's been going on for a long, long time in the parishes between St. Anthony's and St. Bon's," Ohnoutka said. "That was going to get broken up if they couldn't find a place, and our chapel ended up being the place to do that. Many of the adorers have said they love it here at Scotus and want to keep it here at Scotus."

With all the construction and changes, other churches have had to step in and help. Whether it is with daily Masses or finding a place for Adoration, the Scotus community and other parishes have helped with this new change.

"The church, the parishes, and the schools are all one thing. When one thing affects one part of it, it's going to affect everything, and that's okay," Ohnoutka said. "We are all part of the same mission. It's kind of like a family, and you make adjustments, so everything keeps running smoothly."

One of the biggest inconveniences has been 18th Avenue and 16th Street being closed off during construction, which has now been reopened.

"It's been a good experience. Have there been some bumps in the road? Yeah," Ohnoutka said. "But it's all been worth it."

ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

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Coming up short for being tall



By Amber Buhman
Staff Reporter

“Okay, we’re going to move you to the back because you’re the tallest here.”
This is a classic phrase I hear all the time as a 6’1”

girl. Short people all around the world constantly complain about the struggles of being short and don’t understand the constant challenges of being tall. They think it would be so great to be tall. However, being tall is not all it is cracked up to be.

Being shoved in the back of every picture is disappointing. Finally, as a senior, I get to sit in the front row for team pictures, but this is new territory for me. Every other year, I’ve been put in the back.

I can’t even remember how many times someone has asked me to reach up to the top shelf and grab something for them. I remember being at a hotel one time, and there

were cups up on a high shelf. Three ladies asked me to help them grab a cup from the top.

Going shopping is a struggle in and of itself. As a tall girl, there are few clothing stores that have clothes that will actually fit me. Jeans are too short, every shirt looks like a crop top, and sleeves will never go all the way down to my wrists.

Speaking of finding clothes that fit, meeting the dress code for school dances is nearly impossible. Every year the teachers read through the dance dress code, and I sit there waiting to hear about the fingertip rule. With my body type, every dress is short. No matter how hard I try to find a longer dress,

meeting the fingertip rule is difficult.

I decided to wear a long dress for homecoming this year, in the hopes it would actually look long enough on me. Unfortunately, a dress that would cover someone else’s feet and flow partially onto the ground left my ankles obviously exposed. Now, that might not be scandalous, but it isn’t flattering either.

My 5’1” friend always complains to me about how tall I am, and I get it. Being tall does have its perks. I can see over people when they stand in front of me, I can reach high places, and it can be helpful in sports. Being short has its perks too. How often does someone go up

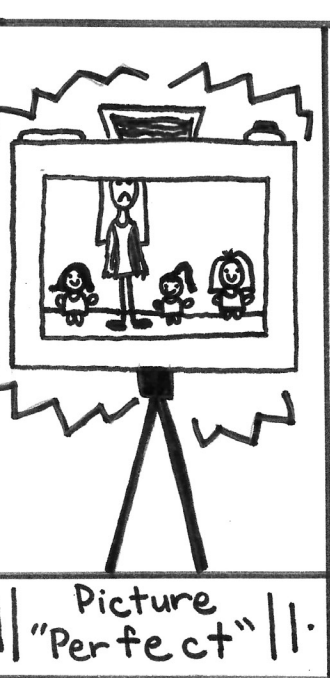
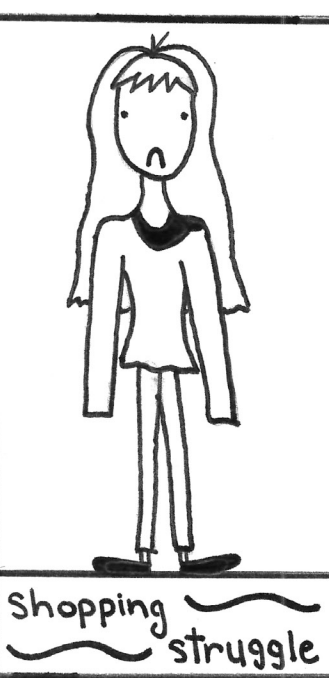
to a short person and say, “Wow! You’re really short!” That doesn’t happen very often, but I have been told that I am “so tall” a countless number of times.

Being tall is rough though. It doesn’t help that guys seem to be getting shorter and shorter. The guys in the senior class are relatively tall, but still, every school dance, there will always be something said from one of the guys who has to stand behind me in a class picture.

Ultimately, few people are completely happy with the height or body type they’ve been given. There are so many problems or circumstances that matter more than how tall you are or what

dress size you wear. I know in today’s culture people are always talking about body positivity, but then the media still gives girls a nearly impossible idea of what a woman should look like.

What it all comes down to is being happy with the body God has given to you. Someone out there probably wishes they looked more like you, just like you wish you looked like them. So, the next time you look in the mirror and you have to crouch down or stand on your tiptoes to see yourself, remember God made you in a way that is unique to only you.



AVA KUH/L/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Don’t be sorry, not sorry



By Lauren Ostdiek
Staff Reporter

You are walking to Calculus, fretting about the quiz you have, the essay due next period for English, wondering if you remembered your jersey for tonight’s game, and

juggling just as much in your hands as in your head. All of this leads you to miss the 7th grader walking on the left side of the hallway, plowing full speed ahead until BAM—you drop your books and nearly hit the ground while he walks away unscathed. “Sorry,” you hear yourself mutter under your breath.

But why? Multiple times a day, I hear students at Scotus apologize for doing nothing wrong. In the above instance, you should be the one asking for an apology, not absentmindedly giving one.

I often find myself using “sorry” as a filler word to try to sound polite or make my opinions more accommodating. However, using “sorry”

to begin all my sentences makes me sound and feel less confident in what I have to say, and I catch myself doing it all the time.

“Sorry, this might be wrong, but I think the answer is...”

“I’m sorry, but I just don’t agree...”

There are things worth apologizing for, but having a wrong answer in class when you tried your best or having a different opinion than a friend do not fall into that category.

Instead, trade an apology for “thank you.”

Try “Thanks for waiting for me,” instead of “Sorry, I’m late.” Swap “Sorry to complain,” with “Thank you for listening to me.” Ex-

change “Sorry for being so needy,” for “Thank you for being such a great friend.”

When we use words of gratitude, the focus shifts from ourselves to the other person. Instead of being self-pitying and making the other person feel like they need to make the apologizer feel better, we recognize our appreciation for their actions.

Taking an extra second to think about what I actually want the other person to know transforms my language and how I feel. When I want my friend to know how much I appreciate her being with me, I can say that instead of apologizing for wasting her time.

I have found women are quicker to apologize

than men, which may be due to women believing more actions deserve an apology. I do not believe men feel too proud to apologize; rather, men have a higher standard for what deserves an apology.

Some may say we all should simply apologize more, but I disagree. When we frame our words, thoughts, and opinions with apologies, we perpetuate the idea that thinking a certain way is a mistake. Apologizing when somebody hurts me makes me feel like it was *my* fault.

In our society, we say sorry out of habit, and I know I say it many times without even meaning it. By saying “sorry” when we do not need to, we devalue its meaning

for when we legitimately need to apologize. I am not saying you should never apologize. Rather, do it purposefully. If you hurt someone or make a serious mistake, take the time to reach out and make amends. Say sorry, take responsibility, recognize the person’s hurt, and figure out a way to stop it from happening again.

Make your words meaningful, be strong in your beliefs, and never apologize for being yourself. I refuse to frame my thoughts or actions with “sorry.” If that offends you, I’m not sorry.

Getting paid to play



By Tyler Palmer
Staff Reporter

Think about driving into Lincoln, Nebraska, on a Saturday and seeing the huge sea of red that fills up the Memorial Stadium for a Nebraska football gameday. Or seeing the thousands of people entering the Devaney Center to watch the Huskers play volleyball. Have you ever wondered where all the money from the parking, tickets, food, and revenue goes? Well, a recent law was passed in California, allowing

collegiate athletes to be paid for their athletic performances and brand they bring to the school. This new law has sparked a lot of controversy nationwide.

All states, excluding California, do not allow college athletes to receive compensation or any type of monetary advantage. This is the way it has been for as long as the NCAA has existed, but as the idea gets more popular, more states are looking into it.

Schools get paid millions of dollars from their athletics, and the biggest reason is not the coaches, athletic facilities, or fans but because of the players’ abilities to make games entertaining and do their best to win. This is nothing against the coaches as it cannot be done without them, but the players are what make the school’s athletics thrive; therefore, they should be rewarded with a portion of the revenue that school brings in.

A common misconception of college athletes is they get everything paid for,

live glamorously, and are treated like kings and queens on campus. That, however, is not always true. What most people do not know is that full scholarships come few and far between in the college athletic realm. Most college athletes either receive preferred walk on offers, or a small amount of money to pay for their college. Don’t get me wrong, there are a lot of perks of being a college athlete financially, but it is not free money willy-nilly like the majority of people would think.

A recent study by *Sporting News* showed 86% of college athletes live under the defined poverty line. This means the athlete is getting by with small amounts of money to pay for their room and board, food, and tuition. This is very eye-opening, and something needs to be done to help with this. Receiving compensation would not only help these athletes pay off their student loans and necessities but would also help

those who got them there in the first place, their families.

Another problem student athletes face is that they are not allowed to apply for any major scholarships schools offer such as the Husker Power scholarships at the University of Nebraska. Student athletes are prohibited from having an actual job as well. This rule was set in place to keep student athletes from overexerting themselves and make them choose between a job or a sport.

This ties to my next point—being a college athlete is a full-time job. A 2011 study by the NCAA showed the average student athlete will spend 43 hours on their designated sport, and 38 hours on academics. That is an 81-hour workweek, which is double the hours the average American adult will work in a week. The average day of a college athlete consists of a morning lift, classes, practice, and depending on the day, more sport-specific exercises required by the team. There

is virtually no way (if it was legal) for a student to have a job, because there is little to no time to do that in the day.

Paying all student athletes would end the corruption when it comes to agents and undercover payment of athletes. There have been many issues with this happening, and usually it is not even the player’s fault but a misunderstanding of rules.

All these aforementioned points bring me to my main agenda—college athletes should receive some type of compensation for their hard work and efforts to show off the school in their athletics.

The main issue people have with this recommendation is that there will be loopholes and athletes, coaches, and even schools that will take advantage of this and abuse the system. This can be said about nearly every topic in today’s world, but it is important if this rule gets in place, there are strict guidelines, and it is regulated constantly by the NCAA and

the school.

Another argument against student athletes getting paid is that this would make student athletes prioritize the word “athlete” more than student. This would still not be the case as there are still ineligibility lists, tests, and grades in general, which would insist on good schoolwork to be able to play their certain activity or sport.

Scotus, a school of exemplary extracurricular activities, has students that go on to play a sport at the next level each year. As a future college athlete, a big role that played a part in my commitment process was how much debt I would walk out of college with. If you are considering playing a sport in college, it is important to know what that school is offering regarding money and to stay informed on which school will cooperate with you to ensure you have an affordable college athletic career.

Faculty parents bond through kids

By Rachael Lam
Staff Reporter

Scotus is made up of numerous families, both big and small. Many staff members have children who are still infants, and some even have children who are already adults. Regardless of the age, having all the families still makes for a great environment at Scotus.

Theology teacher Tyler Linder has two sons Carter, who is eight years old, and Silas, who is four years old. He also has two daughters Cecilia and Flora. Cecilia is two years old, and Flora is ten months old.

"I think having my family along with the other Scotus families is awesome. This is a very pro-life and pro-family

environment," Linder said.

Math teacher Zach McPhillips and science teacher Bridget McPhillips have one son and one daughter. Their son Maverick is two and a half years old while their daughter Gloria is two and a half months old.

"I think my kids are close in age but not too close. Maverick is at an age where he can speak for himself, so he tells us if he needs something. I also think it's adorable that he tries to help take care of Gloria!" Mrs. McPhillips said.

Jarrod Ridder is a social studies teacher at Scotus. He has 4 children Aurora (10), Pierce (7), Lincoln (4), and Archer (2). All his kids were also named after towns in Nebraska.

"It's nice being able to share the same experiences

with our children as other faculty members. We also enjoy going to Scotus events and other kids are there for my kids to play with," Ridder said.

Joe Schoenfelder is the head custodian at Scotus with four children. Kylason (4), Kennason (6), and Emerson (8) were all born within a time span of four years. Addison (13), who is the oldest, currently attends Scotus as an eighth grader.

"We almost need to hire a babysitter when the Linders, Schoenfelders, Ridders, and Swansons are together; the kids outnumber the adults two to one," Schoenfelder said.

Some of the Scotus faculty even have older kids who go to Scotus now, and they can see them daily. The parents like this aspect and

have good feelings towards it.

Angie Rusher is an assistant principal and journalism adviser. She has three daughters whose names all start with the letter J. Jillian (11), Joanna (14), Janae (16). Janae is currently a junior at Scotus, and Joanna is in eighth grade. Next year, she will have all three girls at Scotus for one year.

"I love having them at school and being able to understand what is going on in their day. [I am] pretty sure I embarrass them during the day sometimes, but so far, they are still talking to me," Rusher said.

Grace Mustard is currently a sophomore at Scotus along with her brother Eric Mustard who is a senior. Their dad Chris Mustard is a Columbus Public Schools special education teacher for

Scotus. "I personally love my dad teaching here. He is so funny in the hallways, and if I ever need anything, he's

always there. I also like going to school with Eric. Everyone likes him, so then everyone likes me," Mustard said.



PHOTO COURTESY WHITNEY SWANSON
Silas Linder, son of Alysha and religion teacher Tyler Linder, stands alongside Elle Swanson, daughter of Whitney and business teacher Tyler Swanson, as crown bearers for the 2019 homecoming court. Elle and Silas are two out of many Scotus faculty children who attend Scotus events.

What is it like going to school with your siblings?

Olivia Ehlers,
8th Grade

"It feels like everyone knows me, and I like it because I don't have to be alone."

Nick Ehlers,
10th Grade

"Sometimes it can help because if you forget something, they might have it. For example, money for band."

Anna Ehlers,
11th Grade

"It can be interesting."

Tim Ehlers,
12th Grade

"Well, it is pretty much like a normal school day for most people, but I get the occasional 'hello' from my siblings, or I talk to them a bit in the halls."

Seeing double at Scotus



The Dierman Twins

Have you ever done a switcheroo with your twin?

"No, she won't cooperate...."-Avery

What are the benefits of being a twin?

"It's always fun to help each other with school, and we enjoy watching people struggle with who is who." -Alaina



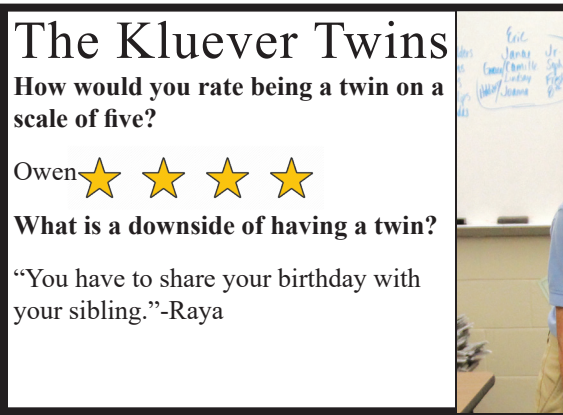
The Schumacher Twins

What is a downside of being a twin?

"Nothing; absolutely nothing." -Joel

How would you rate being a twin on a scale of five?

Simon ★ ★



The Kluever Twins

How would you rate being a twin on a scale of five?

Owen ★ ★ ★ ★

What is a downside of having a twin?

"You have to share your birthday with your sibling."-Raya



The Quinn Triplets

What are the benefits of being a triplet?

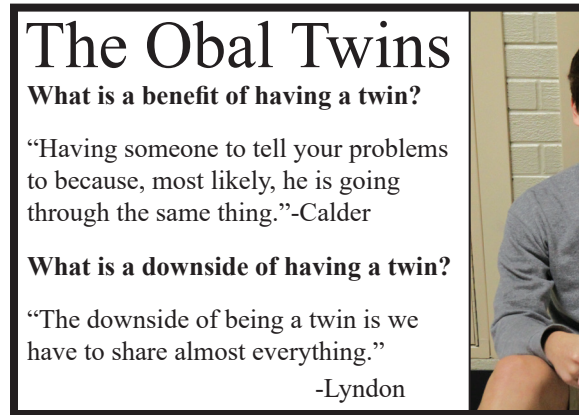
"There are literally none." -Adam

How would you rate being a triplet on a scale of 5?

Sierra ★ ★ ★

Do you have any triplet powers?

"No, if anything, we have the opposite." -Sydney



The Obal Twins

What is a benefit of having a twin?

"Having someone to tell your problems to because, most likely, he is going through the same thing."-Calder

What is a downside of having a twin?

"The downside of being a twin is we have to share almost everything."

-Lyndon



The Riedmiller Twins

What is a benefit of having a twin?

"You have that person who can always be your best friend and the same classes so that's nice too." -Alexis

How would you rate being a twin?

Dylan ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



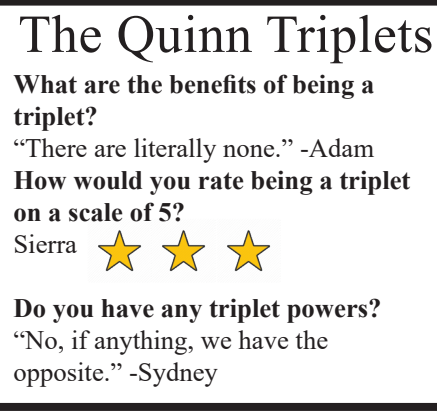
The Houfek Twins

What is a benefit of having a twin?

"A benefit of having a twin is helping the other study for any upcoming tests or quizzes."- Lauren

How would you rate being a twin on a scale of 5?

Cameron ★ ★ ★



The Nelsen Twins

What is a benefit of having a twin?

"The other one gets the blame." - Alyssa

What is something unique you do with your twin?

"We always tell each other that we are better than all of the other twins." -Olivia



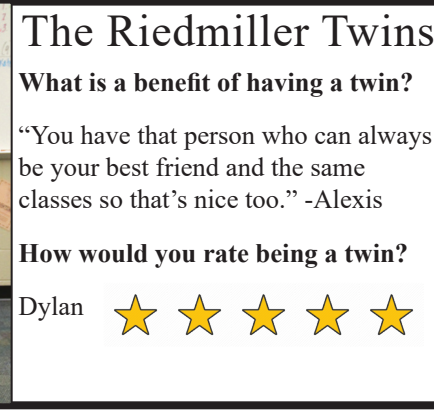
The Sueper Twins

How would you rate being a twin?

Ben ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

What is your favorite part of being a twin?

"We love playing video games together and playing sports; we pretty much do everything together."-Jack



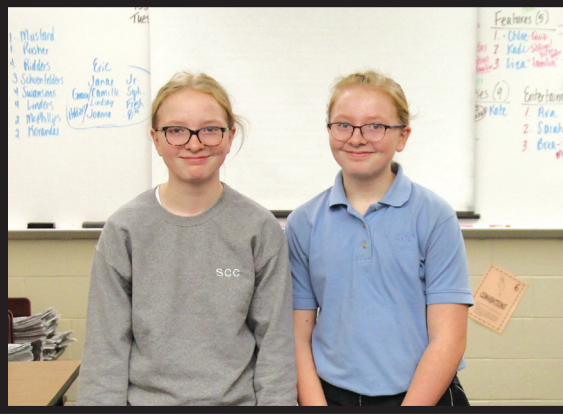
The Karges Twins

Do you have any twin superpowers?

"Not really, unless you count me knowing what to do to annoy her." -Ian

What is something unique you do with your twin?

"We send each other memes." -Sofia



Families by FATE

Highs and lows of the family line-up

LOWS



"You're the test kid. You may get dropped a few times or fed the wrong kind of food, which may result in being sick, but that's just part of the title. You also have a lot of responsibility, so if any of your younger siblings mess up, you are usually the best person to blame it on because it's the easiest."

Cole Demuth, 12



"It's nice being the middle child because my parents don't pay attention to me and forget I'm there."

Gillian Brandt, 11



"Benefits of being the youngest are your parents make your brothers listen to you, and they punish them if they don't. Also, your brothers can give you some tips."

Kamren Kudron, 8

Highs



"The drawbacks of being the oldest is your parents expect you to do things 'because you're the oldest'. Another drawback would be if your siblings do or say something bad, your parents say they learned that from you."

Piper Liebig, 7



"When you are the middle child, you are not special to the family; you are just, kind of there."

Josh Faust, 11



"The worst part about being the youngest is everything. My siblings made my parents strict."

Ross Thorson, 11

Are you the family favorite?



"They would never say it, but I know I'm the less favored of the two. I'm the opposite of my parents; I'm the one who hides in his room most of the time because he has no shared interests with his parents while my sister is a social butterfly that hangs out with them more often. The only way I will ever be their favorite child is if Becky does something truly horrible."

Ben Policky, 10



"Yes, because I get so many more things, and I am treated the best because I am the only girl. My brothers must treat me with respect."

Camille Pelan, 11



"Probably not; I'm the reason my siblings and I always get in trouble. Janae is the favorite because she always either gets us out of trouble or is too perfect to get in trouble."

Joanna Rusher, 8



"Yes, I am most definitely the favorite child because I do everything right, and somehow I always end up washing dishes."

Garrett Oakley, 10



"No, my parents love to give me jobs but instead of giving them to my sister, they take her out to go shopping."

Kaden Young, 11

Families by CHOICE



Band definitely feels like a family because I have been in band with some of my bandmates since 5th grade, and we all support each other. When I walk into that room, I can just feel the love and energy that fills that room.

Adriana Cielocha, 10

I feel like playing football is a big one because being on the line, you feel like you must protect the other guys around you. You want them to be able to get to the end zone, so as a team, you can celebrate an achievement you all worked together to get.

Connor Wurtz, 7



Cross country really feels like a family because we all get along so well. It is a tough sport, and we are all in it together.

Michael Gasper, 11



Volleyball feels like a family to me. All those girls are like sisters to me in a way. We all support one another and try to make each other not just the best players but also the best people we can be.

Larkyn Mahoney, 7



The cheer squad is like another family to me. We hang out at least once a week, cheering of course, and we are all very close and get along.

Alli Demuth, 11

Track [is a family] because we all suffer together, and we bond through it all! It's a great time, and we love each other.

Clarissa Kosch, 11



Who are your Scotus parents?



What is your favorite school subject?

- A English
- B Science
- C Math
- D Religion
- E History

What is your favorite sport to play?

- A Baseball
- B Basketball
- C Volleyball
- D Football
- E Soccer

What is your favorite sport to watch?

- A Football
- B Baseball
- C Volleyball
- D Soccer
- E Basketball

What is your favorite food?

- A Salad
- B Tacos
- C Hamburgers
- D Pasta
- E Pizza

What is your favorite drink?

- A Water
- B Gatorade
- C Diet Coke
- D Coffee
- E Milk

What is your favorite genre of music?

- A Pop
- B Rap
- C Rock
- D Classic
- E Country

What is the closest to your shoe size?

- A 10
- B 14
- C 6
- D 12
- E 8

What color are your eyes?

- A Light Brown
- B Hazel
- C Green
- D Blue
- E Dark Brown

What is your favorite color?

- A Blue
- B Red
- C Yellow
- D Green
- E Pink

What is your favorite type of food?

- A Mexican
- B Indian
- C Chinese
- D Italian
- E American

Flip upside down to view your results!

If you answered mostly A's, you are officially a McHardt! Your Scotus mom is Mrs. Zanardi, and your Scotus dad is Mr. McPhillips.
 If you answered mostly B's, you are officially a Hardan! Your Scotus mom is Mrs. Hash, and your Scotus dad is Mr. (Andrew) Sheridan.
 If you answered mostly C's, you are officially a Rooley! Your Scotus mom is Mrs. Tooley, and your Scotus dad is Mr. Ridder.
 If you answered mostly D's, you are officially a Lahmder! Your Scotus mom is Mrs. Lahm, and your Scotus dad is Mr. Linder.
 If you answered mostly E's, you are officially an Ackerman. Your Scotus mom is Mrs. Ackermann, and your Scotus dad is Mr. Brockhaus.

Football fights into the playoffs

By **Brea Lassek**
Editor

Throughout the season, the Scotus football team had one goal on their mind: to reach the playoffs and compete for a state title. Although falling short of the latter, the Shamrocks clinched a playoff berth.

On October 11th, Scotus secured their first playoff appearance since 2016 with a win over cross-town rival Lakeview. Senior quarterback Tyler Palmer accounted for 137 yards and three touchdowns before going down with an injury in the third quarter, preventing him from starting the next two games.

“We started out slow defensively, but Coach Linder made great adjustments to help us get their offense off the field,” Palmer stated. “We pulled away in the second half...It’s always a great feeling beating them.”

Scotus took the road to face the Logan View/Scribner-Snyder Raiders on October 18th with junior Josh Faust starting under center. Scoring five of Scotus’s six touchdowns, senior fullback Eric Mustard ran for 188 yards to lead the Shamrocks to a 42-22 win.

“We were a little short-handed without TP [Ty-

ler Palmer], but we all came together, and each gave a little extra to make up for it. We really put together a great team effort. We shut their offense down, and our offensive line did a great job opening up holes to let us backs work and put up points,” Mustard expressed.

The Shamrocks travelled to second-ranked Wahoo on October 25th to wrap up the regular season. Despite the first quarter ending in a 0-0 stalemate, the Warriors cruised to a 49-0 victory.

“Offensively, we couldn’t move the ball on their very talented defense, and defensively, we got tired in the second half,” junior center Kade Wiese explained.

Finishing regular season play with a 7-2 record, the Rocks gained the seventh seed in Class C-1 State Playoffs. For the nine seniors on the squad, any game could bring their final snap.

“We expect a lot out of ourselves,” Mustard commented. “When it comes to playoff time, it’s all about working as hard as possible every day in practice and preparing to be 1-0 every week because we know every week could be our last.”

Scotus drew tenth-rated Wahoo Bishop Neumann for the first round at Me-

morial Stadium. Previously, the Shamrocks edged the Cavaliers 34-33, a showdown decided in the final seconds. Although the Rocks came away with a victory, the team identified the improvements still needed to be made for the next matchup.

“We did not play as well as we thought we could have. We had some turnovers at crucial points in the game,” Palmer explained. “I think what killed us were the few big plays they broke loose, which will happen with a good team like Neumann.”

Palmer returned to action against the Cavaliers as the Shamrock offense rolled, scoring 48 points. The passing attack erupted for Scotus, guided by sophomore wide receiver Garrett Oakley. Between Palmer and senior backup quarterback Dalton Borchers, Oakley caught 13 of his 17 attempts and led the offense to 230 passing yards. The Shamrocks ended Bishop Neumann’s season with a 48-28 win.

“The first game [against Neumann] we moved the ball pretty well, but this game they put a different corner on me, and I was a lot bigger than him,” Oakley remarked. “Depending on the play call, I would tell TP [Tyler Palmer] or Dalton to just throw it up to me and give me a

chance.”

The Shamrocks could only celebrate momentarily before gearing up for another battle against Wahoo High School on November 8th. Senior offensive guard and linebacker Evan Hand understood the stakes coming into the game.

“I am not ready for my football career to end yet. I have played this sport for over ten years,” Hand reflect-

ed. “My whole life revolves around it, and it’s not over until I know I have left everything on that field.”

Despite adjustments made from their last meeting with the Warriors, Scotus ended their season with a 7-49 loss. The 2019 Shamrocks were the first team since 2015 to reach the second round of the playoffs and finished with an 8-3 record.

Palmer concluded, “The

bond all of us seniors have with each other, the underclassmen, and the coaches is something I think a lot of teams envy...what makes us a good football team is every day we come to practice and work as hard as we cannot for personal gain but each and every one of us just want to make the team better and do whatever it takes. This season has been the best I have been a part of the past four years.”



AMBER BUHMAN/ROCK BOTTOM & YEARBOOK STAFFS

Senior wide receiver Dalton Borchers blows past a Bishop Neumann defender on November 1st. Borchers assumed many roles for the Shamrocks this season, including backup quarterback.

Shamrocks keep tradition up to par

By **Chloe Odbert**
Staff Reporter

After a long fall season, the Scotus girls’ golf team took their final swings of

2019 at the state meet. After qualifying for the state meet through achieving a district title, the Shamrocks secured their spot in the state meet for the 8th consecutive year.

On October 14th and 15th,

the Scotus Shamrocks girls’ golf team loaded the vans and headed off to Iron Eagle Golf Course in North Platte, Nebraska. Senior MaKenzie Enderlin, who was not new to the state golf tournament,

was overwhelmed with joy when the team advanced after winning the district meet.

“My reaction when the team won districts involved tears of happiness,” Enderlin shared. “I knew our team could make it to state because of our previous performances this year, but it all came down to the district meet.”

Enderlin not only was overwhelmed with joy when the team advanced to the state tournament but also when she heard her name called at the conclusion of the state meet. Enderlin’s dream of medaling at state came true as the 14th place medal dangled from her neck.

“At state I felt very accomplished by shooting 90 both days with a few 8’s on par 4’s that brought down my confidence throughout both days. My goal was to medal, and I ended up in 14th place out of 94 total golfers,” Enderlin explained.

Senior Jaycee Ternus

shot a 203 at the state meet. Ternus tied for 41st place.

“The first day at state I was nervous and excited. I didn’t shoot what I wanted to, but I had a lot of fun with the girls I was put with. The second day, I shot much better and ended up with a 96, which was my goal,” Ternus said.

Although the remaining four golfers on the qualifying team did not medal alongside Enderlin, the team still used the state meet as a time to have fun and bond.

Sophomore Alaina Dierman returned as a state competitor from last year’s team. Dierman shot 208 at the state meet, which tied her for 50th place.

“State is all about the fun and bonding. We have so many traditions we all love to carry out. Whenever we had free time, which was not often, we would be in the lobby or in our rooms trying to squeeze in homework even

though we ultimately knew we would not get anything done,” Dierman stated.

Although some individual goals were not met at state, they knew above all the goal was not to compete for themselves but rather for each other.

“I was extremely happy; I am just glad the seniors got one last chance,” sophomore Avery Dierman stated.

As a team, the Scotus Shamrocks finished 10th out of 15 teams at the state meet.

Two of the three Shamrock golfers that would have qualified individually for the state meet were the two seniors on the team Enderlin and Ternus. Junior Jaelyn Podolak will be the lone returning senior on next year’s team.

“It is going to be so weird not having Jaycee and MaKenzie at practice because I have been with them since my very first practice as a freshman,” Podolak stated.



SARAH BICHLMEIER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Makenzie Enderlin lines up a shot at a home meet. Enderlin placed 14th at the state meet on October 14th and 15th.

Seniors finish tennis careers at state

By **Tyler Palmer**
Staff Reporter

Three Scotus seniors ended their final season on the Columbus High co-op tennis team at the state tournament in Omaha this year. Although the season did not go as they intended, individual goals were met, and the teammates became closer with each other.

Leading the way for Scotus and for the whole team was Adam Kamrath. He finished with a 20-15 record this year, which surpassed his goal of having a winning record this season. He also played #3 doubles and was 0-4 on the season.

“The highlight of the season was getting first individually at conference and second as a team,” Kamrath said.

Kamrath went to state unranked and did not pull off an upset of the ninth seed and

lost first round, although he did pull off an upset earlier in the year.

“I beat Ty Schneider (York) in #1 singles at their duel in a tie breaker. He later went on to get second at state.”

Coach Scott Bethune completed his 15th season as the Discoverers head tennis coach as well as coaching track in the spring.

“Adam was a valuable piece to our team. He was our best player for the last two seasons. He practiced hard and played hard day in and day out. His off-season training and commitment to the sport showed in the results of his season,” Bethune said.

Another senior who contributed to the tennis team was Connor Wiehn. Wiehn finished with a 1-8 record for #2 singles and a 2-17 record for #1 doubles with fellow Scotus teammate senior Drew

Although the records might not say so, his outlook on the season was optimistic and successful.

“We improved our overall level of tennis and got better with each practice,” Wiehn said.

On top of improving his skills, he also found the positives at his meets and practices, especially the humorous ones.

“The funniest moments were watching people rage during tennis matches,” Wiehn said.

VunCannon is the third Scotus athlete on the Columbus High varsity roster. He finished the 2019 season with an 0-4 record in #6 singles. He went 2-17 in #1 doubles with Wiehn, and 4-11 in #2 doubles with Landon Hastreiter.

Bethune had high praise for VunCannon, giving him the “utility” player description.

“Drew stepped into the

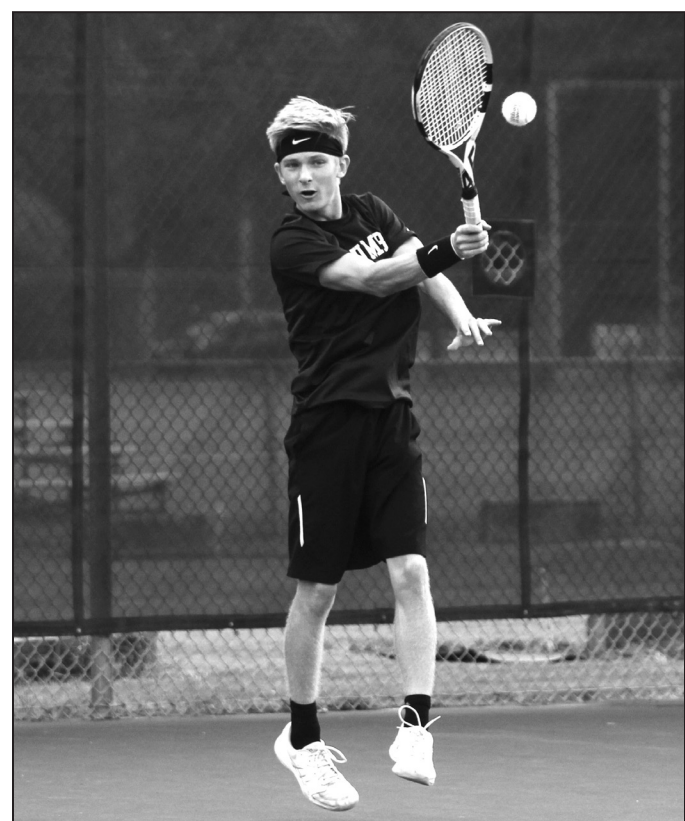
‘where do you need me’ kind of guy. He would fill in for varsity guys who could not compete at certain tournaments,” Bethune said.

Along with being the one teammates could rely on, VunCannon also found the most success at state despite the record.

“Drew and his partner [#2 doubles] came the closest to winning a match at state but came up short,” Bethune said.

Even though the seniors’ tennis careers have come to an end, it is likely to still see some Scotus students next year participating for the co-op sport. Freshmen Nick Zoucha and Bohden Jedlicka are expected to play again next year.

“I’m looking forward to more of my classmates going out for tennis and improving myself,” Jedlicka said.



MAKENZIE ENDERLIN/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Adam Kamrath returns a serve during Columbus High’s invite on September 7th. Kamrath went 3-1 in the meet and finished with a team best 20-15 record.

Shamrocks battle tough schedule



JAYCEE TERNUS/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior middle hitter Amber Buhman tips against Lakeview during districts on Monday, October 28th. Buhman led the team this year in blocks and kills.

By Rachael Lam
Staff Reporter

With two tournaments, three games, and districts against the top teams at the end of the season, the Scotus Shamrocks volleyball team had much to overcome and fought hard but ended their season in the first round of districts.

On October 10th, the

Shamrocks competed in the conference tournament against GICC and Aquinas. They beat Aquinas in two sets but lost to GICC.

That same weekend, on October 12th, the conference tournament took place in David City. The Shamrocks competed against Wahoo Bishop Neumann, Lincoln Christian, and Archbishop Bergan. The girls lost in the game against Neumann but then went on to beat Lincoln

Christian. Finally, in the third game, the Shamrocks lost to Bergan. It was challenging as the Rocks had not played Neumann or Bergan yet during the season.

"We did not perform as well as we should have at the conference tournament. Getting a few more wins in the tournament would have helped us out by boosting our confidence and getting our power points back up. The tournament didn't go

as planned but that is what happens in the game of volleyball," senior setter and right-side Chloe Odbert said.

Although the Shamrocks lost, they also took home a win against Lincoln Christian a second time.

"I liked playing the Lincoln Christian game because we had already played them once before, so it was good to go at them again," junior outside hitter Tanley Miller stated.

After the tournaments, the Shamrocks traveled to GICC on October 15th. The Rocks won the first set 25-21 before the GICC girls took over the last three sets, which ended in a loss for Scotus.

"I thought we started off really strong against GICC, and I don't think they were expecting us to come out so well. They are a good team, and it was a tough match," senior middle hitter Amber Buhman stated.

Two days later, the Shamrocks left home once again for Bishop Neumann. This time around, the Shamrocks played full of energy. The Rocks lost the first set by only two points and came back, winning the second and third sets. However, Neumann then rallied by winning the fourth set 25-17. This lead into the determining

fifth set where they won 15-9 against Scotus.

"Playing against our conference teams was a tough stretch because both Neumann and GICC are talented teams. We fought hard against Neumann but ultimately didn't play as well as we needed in order to beat them," senior back row specialist Lauren Ostdiek said.

After losing to Neumann and GICC within just two days, the Shamrocks faced challenges heading into their game against Hastings St. Cecilia.

"It was really hard getting beat multiple times in a row by really good teams. We played with some of them, which was good, but we didn't quite get the job done," junior hitter Janae Rusher said.

On October 22nd, the Shamrocks hosted their final home game against St. Cecilia, and it was also senior night. Unfortunately, Hastings won in just three sets while the girls struggled due to the same challenges they have faced.

"We were not a tall team this year. This challenged the front row to be smart when hitting and knowing when to get a kill or make a shot to keep the play going. The back row also had to know where

to be because the teams had extremely good hitters that were young and will keep getting better," sophomore back row specialist Makenna Svehla remarked.

Districts took place at Columbus High less than a week later on October 28th where the Shamrocks played Lakeview. Although the loss to Lakeview was upsetting, the Shamrocks were still able to take a set from them and had already beaten them two times earlier in the season.

Nevertheless, the Shamrocks still made many improvements from the beginning of the season.

"We improved our passing and our hitting. We had much better shots at the end of the season and viewed different hits better," junior hitter and setter Kamryn Chohon said.

As the season came to an end, the team expressed gratitude towards their three senior captains Ostdiek, Buhman, and Odbert.

"The three seniors were a huge impact this year. They were the ones that lead our team this year. I am so grateful to be able to play this great sport with them. They will truly be missed," junior back row specialist Este Lesiak stated.

Cross country reaches the finish line

By Amber Buhman
Staff Reporter

As the Rocks ran into districts this year, both the boys' and the girls' teams had the same goal: to make it to state. Both teams accomplished this goal and took second at districts. Michael Gasper led the boys at districts, placing sixth overall.

"I was very happy with the results from districts," Gasper recalled. "I knew we had a good chance to qualify for state, and we did just that."

Following both teams' outstanding performances at districts, they traveled to Kearney to compete at state. The week leading up to state was full of anticipation. Senior Liza Zaruba has been on varsity for the past four years and has been a part of the teams many accomplishments.

"The best part about the lead up to state is definitely the energy that builds every day," Zaruba said. "The

atmosphere is so much fun to be a part of."

The lady Shamrocks had high hopes heading into state. In the past three years, the team had placed 3rd in 2018, 4th in 2017, and first in 2016. The goal, as always, was to bring home a trophy, and sophomore varsity runner Liz Adamy wanted to be a part of it.

"My expectations going into state was for us girls to bring a trophy home," Adamy said. "Unfortunately, we did not, but we were so close as a team."

The team was close, bringing back the bronze and coming up only five points shy of second. Although they did not quite reach their goal, Zaruba, Adamy, and freshman Whitney Klug all ran personal bests. Junior Olivia Fehringer also ran well and lead the girls to 3rd place. Fehringer has been the Shamrock's top runner in every race this season taking 15th at state.

"I was very happy with how I did at state," Fehringer

said. "My goal is always to place at state, and I did just that."

The boys' team also prepared well during state week and were excited to go out and race at state. Senior Tyler Vaught was the team's fourth runner at state and has ran cross country all four years of high school.

"Going into state we were looking to get at least top six as a team," Vaught stated. "Since it would be my last race, I just wanted to perform to the best of my ability, and I would be satisfied."

The boys ended up taking ninth at state. Gasper led the team, followed by juniors Ben Juarez and Nic Schultz. Cole Demuth, who was the team's alternate at state, put the season into perspective.

"Cross country has something different about it. It's not the sport of running itself but instead the people you run with," Demuth said. "They have become a second family because I got to spend two extra hours out of my day with them."

The cross country team as a whole is a family, and the season is a growing experience. Senior Brea Lassek has learned this process firsthand through her five seasons

of participation.

"My last meet ever did not go how I planned in my head, but I think that is fitting. Cross country is not about the awards; it is about

the development of character-failures included," Lassek concluded. "Cross country has made me a stronger person in every aspect of life."



AMBER BUHMAN/ROCK BOTTOM & YEARBOOK STAFF

The boys' cross country team starts the race at state on October 25th. The boys' team took ninth place.

More photos from fall sports



AMBER BUHMAN/ROCK BOTTOM & YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior defensive tackle Levi Robertson wraps around a Bishop Neumann player for a tackle on November 1st. The Shamrocks defeated the Cavaliers 48-28 to advance to the second round of the playoffs.



JAYCEE TERNUS/YEARBOOK STAFF

Sophomore Chloe Walker, senior Chloe Odbert, and junior Kamryn Chohon celebrate with their team after getting a point against Lakeview during first round of districts. The Shamrocks ended their season with a record of 16-11.

HOSA informs students and community

By Sarah Bichlmeier
Staff Reporter

According to the American Nurses Association, by 2022, there will be a shortage of 3.44 million nurses. There will also be a shortage of 90,000 physicians by the year 2025 as stated by the *Washington Post*. Because there will always be people getting injured or ill, doctors and nurses are essential personnel. The HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) program is working to provide experience in the medical field for high schoolers today in order to hopefully fill the increasingly large gap of medical personnel that will be missing within the next decade. Science teacher Joan Lahm is the founder of the HOSA program at Scotus. "HOSA members attend various 'Experiences' to learn about careers in the health sciences. They also tour Columbus Community Hospital and learn about their departments," Lahm said. "Some students have participated in the HOSA State Leadership Conferences and International Leadership Conference. Hopefully some

members will consider going into the health sciences after attending these events."

The HOSA program is relatively new at Scotus, beginning in 2015, so this year will be HOSA's fifth school year. This year, it has 55 members in grades nine through twelve. Senior vice president Jayden Heng has been a member of HOSA for two years.

"People started asking me what I wanted to do as a

sophomore, and honestly, I just said nursing because I had no plan of action. As I grew up though, I looked into the field and looked at other jobs around me. It was then that I knew nursing was for me," Heng said.

24 HOSA members attended the Metro Community College HOSA Experience on October 11th. This experience included various activities that helped give students insight into the medical field.

For example, students were able to measure their pulse rates and oxygen levels with a pulse oximeter, and they listened to different breathing patterns on automated dummies with a stethoscope. They were also able to see what breathing for patients with airflow obstruction felt like by breathing through a piece of licorice. A paramedic gave a demonstration on how to intubate a patient as well.

Senior MaKenzie Ender-

lin has been a member of HOSA for three years.

"My favorite experience at Metro CC was when I got to see the simulated cadaver to be able to see how the parts of the body truly felt," Enderlin said.

At the end of the event, a panel of medical students, paramedics, and nurses talked about the steps they took to get to where they are. Students were able to ask the panel questions. Two on the panel were single moms and another was a double lung transplant recipient.

Senior Rachael Lam has been a member of HOSA for two years.

"My favorite thing was being able to hear the stories from the professionals on the panel about how they got started, their struggles, and their experiences. They gave a lot of helpful advice for students who are thinking about a career path in healthcare," Lam said.

HOSA will be attending several other experiences hosted by colleges and hospitals, but the competitive aspect of HOSA takes place at the State Leadership Conference. At SLC, students can take detailed tests about different aspects of the

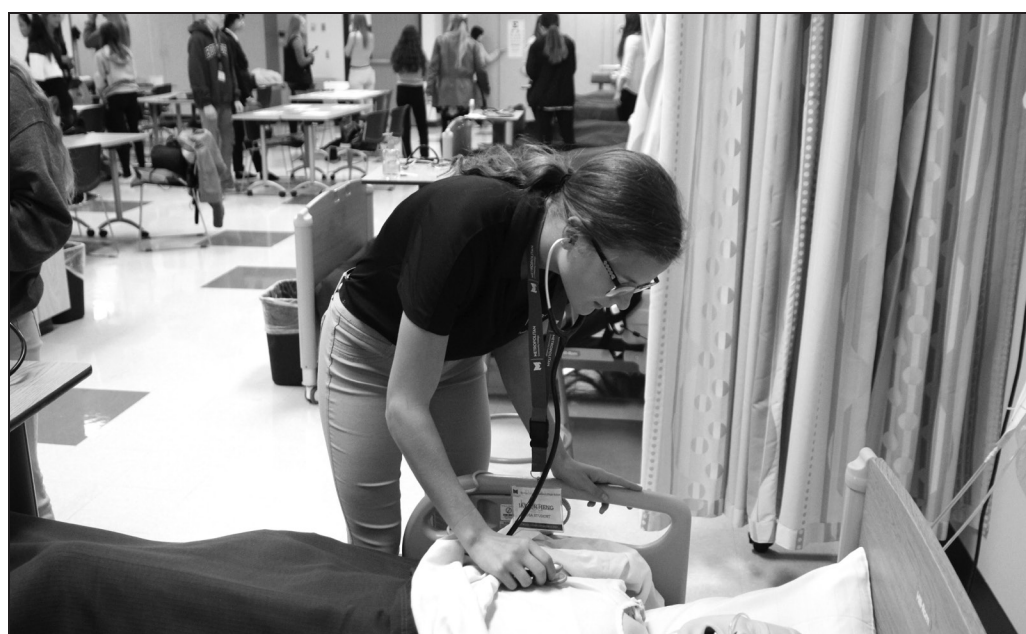
medical field. Some of these tests include physical therapy, dental hygiene, and behavioral health. Students can also compete by making informative projects on different topics in the medical field.

While the HOSA program prides itself on keeping students informed about the medical field, it also takes time to donate to local causes.

"Throughout the years, Scotus's HOSA has donated funds to Sammy's Superheroes and families who have members battling cancer. It is our goal this year to increase our community outreach," Lahm said.

The year will conclude with the State Leadership Conference in March. Senior Dalton Borchers is the president of the HOSA program.

"The most exciting things HOSA will be doing are going to tours and events at different hospitals or health centers. When going there, you can be involved in groups where you get to learn about different career paths in the health field. You can even take part in some hands-on learning to help you decide the career path you would like to go down," Borchers said.



SARAH BICHLMEIER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Jayden Heng observes breathing on a simulated dummy with a stethoscope during the experience held by Metro Community College on October 11th. HOSA participates in various hands-on activities at their conferences.

Families work it out together

By Kate Smith
Staff Reporter

In high school, most students are encouraged to get a job and start making their own money whether that be a cashier at Hy-Vee, a nanny for a family friend, or a barista at Starbucks. Most people decide their place of work based solely on if their friends will be their co-workers, but what if your parents end up being your co-workers? Or worse, your boss?

Some students currently at Scotus have the opportunity of seeing their parents while on break or even being on their parents' pay roll. Senior Tyler Palmer, whose dad is the General Manager of Agricultural Park, works for Brian Palmer in the summer,

doing odds and ends on the grounds.

"It is like having a boss who is your friend and cares about you but also lays down the law and is strict. You know you cannot get away with things," Palmer said.

Here at Scotus, many students work within their parents' family-owned businesses. Senior Rachael Lam's family owns Ninja Mongolian Grill located across from Hy-Vee. Lam helps as much as and in any way she can.

"I do a little bit of everything; it just depends on what they need help with. I'll waitress, take money, answer calls, put in orders, or package orders too," Lam stated.

Lam is not the only student at Scotus who works for their parents. Junior Bryce

Foreman works for his dad at Foreman Lumber where he is on the construction crew. He even hopes to take on the business when he is older.

"I want to keep the business in the family. I also find the construction part of the business fun and interesting," Foreman added.

Not only do students work for their parents but also with their siblings. The VunCannon siblings have followed their dad to the Elk's Country Club where they clean clubs and carts or pick range. Seventh grader Quinn VunCannon enjoys working alongside her brothers and having her dad as a boss- even when she must fill shifts she does not want to.

"It's a lot of human interaction and welcoming members as they come into

the Elk's. It's taught me a lot about going outside my comfort zone and talking to adults," VunCannon said.

Some students volunteer to help at their parents' work. Senior Brea Lassek drives with her dad and picks up cars for Columbus Auto Mart, which her dad manages. She enjoys being with her dad but does not see herself in the car business.

"I do not [plan to work with family in the future] because none of my family members are in the area I want to pursue; however, I will always cherish my time I get to spend working with my dad," Lassek said.



KATE SMITH/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Rachael Lam answers a customer's food order call. Lam is one of many students who work for their parents' family businesses.

FBLA leads through service

By Kade Wiese
Staff Reporter

From working the concessions at the football games to holding the annual pumpkin decorating contest, the Future Business Leaders of America club has been doing many activities for Scotus and the community this fall.

Business teacher Patti Salyard has been the FBLA advisor for Scotus Central Catholic for a long time. "It's good for the kids to get out and do those things. Community service is a part of what FBLA is all about," Salyard said.

While she understands service is a key aspect in FBLA, she also believes leadership plays a tremendous role.

"FBLA is something that they [students] can easily get involved in and can get to the point of becoming that leader," Salyard added.

One leader who has emerged this year is junior Lizzie Parker.

"Lizzie has done a great job. She has really stepped up this year. She is always reminding me of meetings

and other things I can't keep track of," Salyard stated.

Parker is currently the president of FBLA and is following in her sister Hallie Parker's footsteps, who was last year's president.

"She knows what she's doing, and she always had Hallie to look up to. It helps a lot because she knows what to do," Salyard stated.

Alongside Parker are the other FBLA officers. Some of the officers include vice presidents Gavin Brabec and Alaina Dierman, secretary Chris Adame, treasurer Abaigeal Aydt, reporter Cassie Kouma, historians Emiliano Rodriguez and Hannah Pflum, parliamentarian Camille Pelan, and project director Emily Ferguson.

"I was really concerned about losing some key people, but this group of kids have really stepped it up this year," Salyard said.

Brabec has also stepped up this year as a leader of the organization. Brabec was involved in setting up a day in the summer to play bingo with the senior citizens at Mory's Haven.

"I think Gavin has stepped up the most. He is

really starting to come out of his shell and do more," Salyard said.

The FBLA members perform various types of service, and most of it is outside the school campus. Some of these services include volunteering at the Simon House, giving out roses to the residents at Prairie Village, and playing bingo with the senior citizens at Mory's Haven.

"I think people don't see what goes on behind the scenes. A lot of times people may see we do the concessions, but they don't see we volunteer at the Simon House, they don't see play bingo with the senior citizens, and they don't see all the ribbon projects we do because this all happens outside of school," Salyard stated.

Not only does the FBLA club do a lot for the community, they also do a great deal of service at Scotus. This includes collecting food for the annual Food Feud against Lakeview, packaging food for third world countries, holding the annual pumpkin decorating contest, organizing the Troops Project, and working the concession stands at home games.

"My favorite part of FBLA this year was helping out on the visitor side concessions during a football game. It was a lot of fun to talk with Mrs. Moody and Mrs. Zanardi about life as a teacher at Scotus," Aydt said.

With all this service work the FBLA members do, they receive points for participating or for helping out. These points decide who all goes to the State Leadership Conference, which is held in Kearney this year. There, the members with the most points get to participate in a three-day-long conference where they can learn more about FBLA and earn prizes for their service works.

Salyard believes doing service benefits not only the students but the community too.

"One, it helps the students see what opportunities are out there as far as careers that Columbus offers. Secondly, it helps the community see the involvement of the school and how the school helps the community," Salyard added.

The FBLA club currently has 22 high schoolers and 13 junior high students and

are always looking for more people to join.

"If you're thinking about joining FBLA, you should because it is a lot of fun. We usually get food at our meetings, and it is great to put on your college resume," Aydt stated.

With much more to come



RACHAEL LAM/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Juniors Abai Aydt and Christina Oakley wait for fans to give them food during the Food Feud game against Lakeview at the Scotus vs. Lakeview game on October 11th. The Food Feud is an annual event, and all proceeds go to Simon House.

Faith lays foundation against fear

By Lauren Ostdiek
Staff Reporter

“Be Not Afraid.” This saying can be found in the hallways at school, on the new Rock Talk shirts, and at the center of Scotus’s faith mission this school year. St. Pope John Paul II’s message of putting faith in God and letting go of fear has been the foundation of several retreats for Scotus students, both within our halls and beyond. The message of St. Pope John Paul II took heart especially for the junior class retreat, which was held at the St. John Paul II Newman Center in Omaha for the first time.

Junior Maddie Blaser attended the retreat with her class, which was led by college students from the Newman Center.

“I thought it was really cool how the students at the Newman Center led our retreat because it was something that we hadn’t experienced before,” Blaser said.

Junior Lizzie Parker listened to different speakers along with her class. One speaker was Scotus alumna Naomi Kosch.

“Naomi Kosch’s talk about decision-making and not being afraid impacted me the most,” Parker explained.

English teacher Bree

Ackermann helped lead the retreat as well. Junior Noah Korth and the junior class listened to her speak.

“Ms. Ackermann’s speech about letting go of control really spoke to me,” Korth explained. “It made for a great meditation before adoration.”

Along with speakers, the juniors attended Mass, had Adoration, and talked in small groups at the retreat.

“I got to spend time with my close friends as well as people whom I otherwise wouldn’t have talked to,” Korth commented.

NET Ministries came for the first time to lead the eighth grade Confirmation retreat, held on November 13th, at St. Isidore’s.

The retreat was centered on helping the students prepare for Confirmation.

Eighth Grader Mary Faltys participated in activities that included reading the Gospel and discussing in small groups with her class.

“The leaders of my retreat were very committed to their work and eager to spread God’s love to everyone,” Faltys said.

The sophomore class had their retreat on October 21st.

Sophomore Luke Pryzmus participated in a “Fear Factor” game with his classmates that followed the theme of the retreat.

“I really liked the activities on facing our fears,” Pryzmus said. “It was a fun way to explore the fears that people have and relate to them.”

Sophomore Grace Mustard went with her class to St. Anthony’s to volunteer time with the elementary school students.

“My favorite part [of the retreat] was hanging out with the little kids at St. Anthony’s. I remember when I was in grade school, and I thought Scotus kids were superstars,” Mustard explained.

The sophomore retreat was led by Scotus staff and seniors and was held at St. Anthony’s Parish Center.

Senior Amber Buhman helped lead the retreat.

“I like helping with retreats because it is an opportunity for me to impact the underclassmen in a unique way,” Buhman explained. “It gives me an opportunity to share my faith with them and get to know them outside of sports or other activities.”

Along with the fear-testing games, and time with elementary school students, the sophomores listened to speakers and spent time in adoration.

Sophomore Liz Adamy attended the faith-focused retreat with her class.

“Brea’s and Mr. McPhillips’s talks impacted me



JANAE RUSHER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior Madison Wittwer receives Communion at the junior retreat. The juniors participated in many activities, including Mass, on their retreat on Wednesday, October 23rd.

the most. It brought me to a better understanding to just go for it and to not be afraid! To trust God because He really is there for us always,” Adamy commented.

Due to the departure of Father Capadano, the responsibilities of retreat planning have been shifted around. This makes for a new challenge but also allows for new perspectives and ideas for retreats at Scotus.

Campus ministry advisors Kelly Koranda and Angie Rusher are part of the new retreat-planning team at Scotus.

They, along with Mr. Ohnoutka, have coordinated the locations and leaders of the retreats. Although it is a new task, the team has worked together to make retreats still happen along with student members of the Campus Ministry Retreat Team.

“I think it can be more meaningful for the students on retreats to hear about their faith from other high school students, and the student leaders have had a lot of great ideas and added positive energy to the retreats!” Koranda said.

Upperclassmen also helped lead the freshmen retreat on Wednesday, November 6th. It was held at St. Anthony’s as well, and the students went to St. Isidore’s to volunteer with the elementary students.

Rusher concluded, “I think overall the retreats have gone well, we have learned a lot about what our vision will be for the future, and students and staff have spent quality time with each other and God.”



KELLY KORANDA/CAMPUS MINISTRY ADVISOR

Sophomore Ruby Martinez reads to elementary students at Saint Anthony’s school. The sophomores volunteered at St. Anthony’s in the afternoon of their retreat.



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Freshmen Ally Wemhoff, Jasmine Jackson, and Brooke Lehr work together on a puzzle at the freshmen retreat. The students did several team-building activities on their retreat.

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The Cottage: a bookworm's home

By **Ava Kuhl**
Staff Reporter

When you read, you can be taken to a new world of imagination, but in order to get there, you need a place to purchase magical books.

At the corner of 14th Street and 33rd Avenue, across from Ace Hardware, a small bookstore hides from the outside world. That bookstore is The Cottage run by Norma Bender. The Cottage has been open for many years but sadly goes unnoticed every day. For anyone looking for a good book and an even better place to purchase one, The Cottage is the bookstore for you.

At The Cottage, the chances of finding the book that fits a person's style is high. Bender has books for all ages even if the reader does not like to read. She has a variety of books from picture books to one-thousand-

page novels that will make any bookworm jump for joy. If Bender does not have the book her customers are looking for, she can order it for them. If a customer knows a certain book is coming out, Bender can also, order it for them in advance. That way, the day it comes out, they are among the first people to get it.

There are two different types of people who visit bookstores, the people who know exactly what they are looking for and exactly where that book will be and the people who simply wanted to stop by and see if anything sparks their interest. The majority of people have no idea what they are looking for in a book until it is right in front of them. Bender asks what the customer is interested in and what type of genre they are looking for. Then, like magic, Bender has a book or books the customer never knew they wanted!

Most people merely purchase books on Amazon to skip face-to-face communication or go to Barnes and Noble solely to get Starbucks.

Both things are good, especially since most bookworms are anti-social and would do anything to get their book as fast as possible, but The

Cottage can rival with these other businesses.

When buying a book online, it loses its personal touch that should come with

it. At The Cottage, Bender personally helps all her customers find a book they are looking for, even if they do not know it yet. She gives advice on what books might be best and uses her experience from helping other people to find a book that fits the customer.

The Cottage is also convenient for people who live in Columbus. Since it is in town, it is a perfect place for last-minute gifts. Plus, instead of only buying books when people go out of town as a "special treat," they can purchase a book whenever they feel like it.

The Cottage can be a place to find a book for someone who does not know what they are looking for. So, next time you drive past that little, blue house at the corner of 14th Street and 33rd Avenue, stop by and say "hello". You will explore a world you did not even know you were looking for.



AVA KUHL/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

The Cottage is a small bookstore at the corner of 14th Street and 33rd Avenue. The Cottage is run by Norma Bender.

Celebrities switch mental health stigma

By **Brea Lassek**
Editor

Oftentimes celebrities are placed on a pedestal, characterized by red carpet appearances and award shows. However, when the glitz and glamour are taken away, a regular human remains. Their children may be dressed in Gucci, but I guarantee they still drool and need their diapers changed.

Many celebrities are open to sharing their ordinary lives on social media, revealing personal struggles such as mental health to their followers.

In past generations, mental health was swept under the rug as people failed to recognize the validity of the illnesses. Anxiety, eating disorders, depression, and bipolar disorders are only a few mental illnesses now publicized on social media.

Demi Lovato is especially well-known for her transparency, sharing her strides toward sobriety. Lovato suffered from bulimia, self-harm, depression, drug abuse, and alcoholism for some time and is on the road to recovery. After celebrating six months of sobriety in March of 2019, she released her single, "Sober," to reveal her relapse that summer. I admire Lovato's raw ability to include her mental health

into her music and press interviews. She refreshingly conveys mental health in a new light- it is not an issue to be ashamed of.

Teenage and adult celebrities alike are using

social media to raise awareness of their mental illnesses. Actor Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson often portrays roles of tough, rugged men; however, he has expressed his ongoing battle with depression. J.K. Rowling, the author

of the *Harry Potter* series, is 54 years old and speaks out about her depression. Kendall Jenner has experienced anxiety dating back to her teenage years, explaining how panic attacks would wake her up at night. These individuals are living proof mental illness does not discriminate between age or gender.

Other celebrities share in Lovato's same belief, engaging in The Child Mind Institute's #MyYoungerSelf campaign. Beginning in 2017, the foundation partnered with numerous celebrities, asking them to post YouTube videos to explain their past experiences with mental illnesses. From musicians to actors,

celebrities composed one-to-two-minute videos and gave advice they would have told their past selves. Their testimonies serve as a sign of hope to children with mental illnesses.

Everyone worries and experiences a lack of self-confidence from time to time, but if these types of

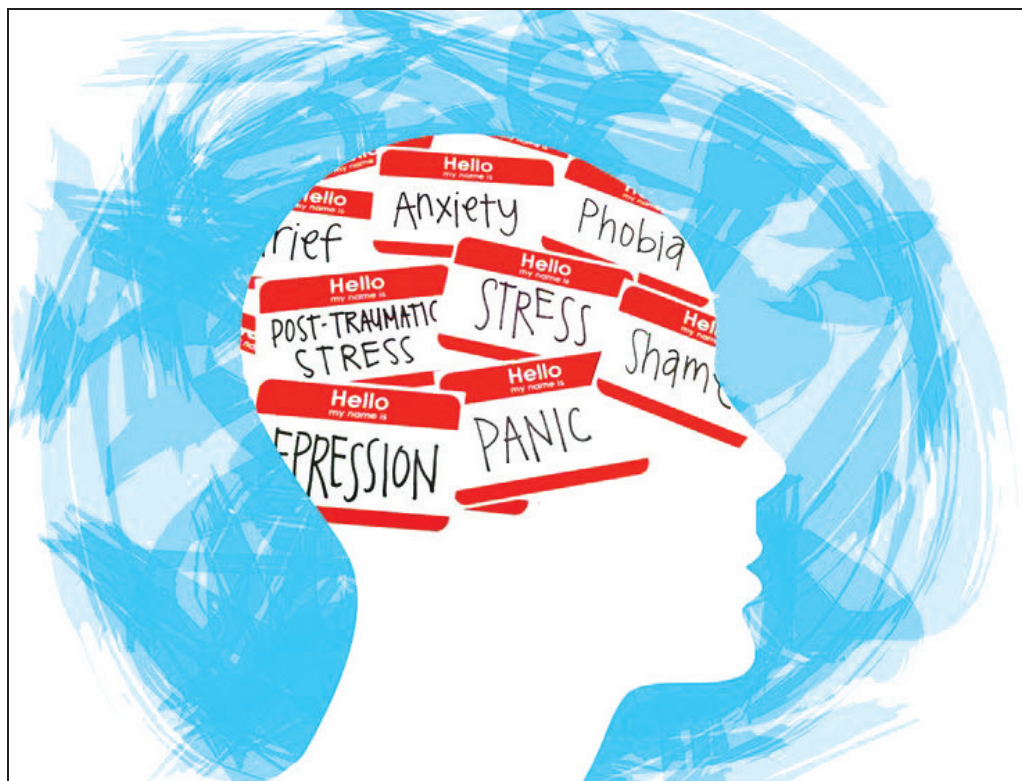
thoughts are overshadowing your daily life, it is time to seek help. It is okay not to be okay every single day. Your struggles are valid and exist even though they are invisible.

Personally, I have been affected by Social Anxiety and Panic Disorders, and I know many others who have dealt with anxiety as well. Many perceive anxiety as overexaggerating and oversteering- this is the exact stigma celebrities are attempting to overcome through social media. Like those who have spoken out, I am not ashamed of my anxiety.

Those with the most luxurious and publicized lives fight against mental illnesses and their stigmas in their daily lives, and you can too. If you struggle with anxiety, depression, or any other mental illness, confide in a trusted adult; there are also resources to help, including childmind.org, yourlifeyourvoice.org, and national hotlines. By texting HELLO to 741741, a counselor is available to talk. You are not alone.

"Anxiety, eating disorders, depression, and bipolar disorders are only a few mental illnesses now publicized on social media."

~Brea Lassek



NPR.ORG

Social media abuses platform

By **Sarah Bichlmeier**
Staff Reporter

A few days ago at dance, I came across a six-year-old with a Snapchat account. At the risk of sounding like my mother, the sight shocked me, but it got me thinking. I first made Snapchat and Instagram accounts in seventh grade, so

I've witnessed how the apps have changed over the years.

The formats of the apps have changed drastically, but more than that, I've noticed these apps have increasingly displayed their political agendas. The

prime age for influence is in the early years of one's life, and I believe people should have the right to form their own political opinions without the influence of media at such a young age.

If you are unfamiliar

with Snapchat and Instagram, they have "Explore" pages. These pages include posts from celebrities, various companies, and the makers of the apps themselves. From looking through these pages, the political stances of the apps are glaringly obvious, which are almost always incredibly liberal. Normally, I could not care less whether or

not the apps had their own agendas, what sparked my fuse was the overwhelming amount of media being displayed from Planned Parenthood.

I'm unfamiliar with parental controls on these apps, but I can

imagine a six-year-old is not at the maturity level to have that talk yet- especially when it concerns abortion. As intelligent as it may be to target the youth of today to form their political stances through social media, most would

agree it is intrinsically wrong. The most troubling part of this whole issue occurs when I scroll through Instagram, though. The posts generated from the Explore page on Instagram are based on posts the user likes; these posts can

include travel, food, art, and, most importantly, memes. For the most part, I have found the page to be scarily accurate by what types of posts are on there, but something I noticed that was not accurate was the amount of pro-choice

posts that showed up on my page. What annoyed me even more was after I would like a post including something about the pro-life movement, a slew of pro-choice posts would encompass my feed. Snapchat and Instagram are

not the only social media apps guilty of such practices, though. Twitter, Facebook, and Google all have been accused of filtering out conservative news from their platforms.

Social media is not the only form of media guilty of ensuing its own political influence, however. Over the years, I have noticed an increasing amount of TV shows and movies include their stances on politics.

The last season of one of my favorite shows *New Girl* was ruined by the amount of political references they made. Most president shows today bash on Donald Trump at some point or another, and although I am not a fan of Trump, I still believe people should be able to come to their own viewpoints concerning politics.

As Americans, we have freedom of speech, which is an incredible blessing. However, I believe we also should have the access to all sides of the story; today's youth should have the right to come to their own conclusions concerning politics.



SARAH BICHLMEIER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Molly Carstens studies on her phone during the minutes before the morning bell. Most students can be seen on their phones in the morning studying, playing games, or scrolling through social media.



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Campus ministry spreads Advent cheer

By Ava Kuhl
Staff Reporter

Advent is the time of year when all are called to prepare their souls for the birth of Jesus. At Scotus, the campus ministry team has made it their goal to make this Advent the best it can be.

For Advent, campus ministry has many plans to prepare the students at Scotus. Religion teacher Kelly Koranda is in charge of campus ministry along with Angie Rusher and Bridget McPhillips.

“The theme this Advent is ‘Be Not Afraid’ and Isaiah 35:4,” Koranda stated. “Isaiah 35:4 says, ‘Say to those with fearful hearts, be strong, do not fear; your God will come, He will come with vengeance; with divine retribution He will come to

save you...’”

With this as the theme for Advent, campus ministry hopes to spread this theme to the other students in the student body by being the example. Campus ministry accomplished this by placing Advent tags on students’ lockers and praying for them during the first week of Advent. The Advent tags were a way for other students at Scotus to see the power of prayer. Junior Abaigeal Aydt is a member of campus ministry and has helped place the Advent tags on students’ lockers.

“I love the Advent tags. When I got mine on my locker, it was a nice addition to my day,” Aydt explained. “I hope they brighten up everyone’s day and allow people to remember this is a time of prayer.”

Advent is not only physically preparing for Christ

but also mentally preparing through prayer. Campus ministry members made it their goal to help other students with this, whether it was by inviting them to Divine Mercy Chaplet or daily Masses.

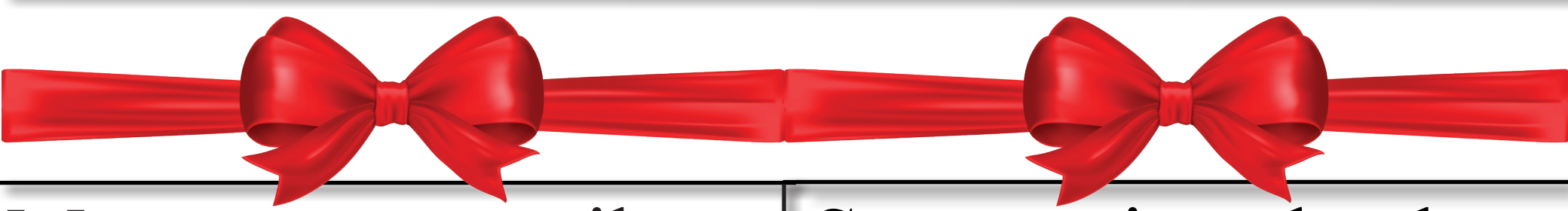
“We support each other in a lot of different ways, but we don’t necessarily remember to pray for each other all the time, and we all could use prayers,” Koranda stated. “I hope as people see campus ministry leaders praying for the student body that it will create a culture of being willing to pray for each other.”

An Advent prayer service took place on December 2nd in the Dowd Activity Center. Campus ministry took this as an opportunity to remind students that Advent is upon us and everyone needs to prepare for the birth of Christ. Junior
See ADVENT, Page 2



LIZA ZARUBA/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Father Heithoff blesses Scotus’ Advent wreath on December 2nd in the Dowd Activity Center. Campus Ministry held a prayer service that day to prepare students and staff for the Advent season.



Managers contribute behind the scenes

By Chloe Odbert
Staff Reporter

Behind the scenes of the game, three-pointers, touchdowns, and pins, are countless hours of practice and preparation. Many students attend athletic events, whether it be football games or wrestling meets, and all they see is the final product.

Before any team is ready to go out and compete, they must practice. Many of the athletes are credited for their performance in competition and their preparations leading up to the game, but the student managers behind the scenes are not. Student managers sacrifice their free time in order to be a part of the team and help the coaching staff to ensure success within all programs.

Although student managers may not get their names in the *Columbus Telegram* after the big wins, their hard work and effort does not go unnoticed.

Janet Tooley agreed the student managers work hard behind the scenes for her team.

“Our student managers help with getting equipment out before practices and putting it away at the end. During practice they help with drills by being targets, shagging, running the clock for timed drills or scoring drills,” Tooley stated. “They also help to keep water bottles filled during practice and games and help with filming and keeping the book during matches. Most importantly, they run to the concession stand to buy me a Diet Coke before the game if I have not already done so. I cannot coach without it!”

Senior Rachael Lam recently concluded her third and final year of managing for the Scotus volleyball team.

“I opened up so much more by being a manager because the team itself is a big, supportive family. So many of my close friends were people I got to know more

through volleyball, including seniors who graduated last year,” Lam said.

Student managers can be found on nearly all the Scotus squads. Scotus has students who manage football, volleyball, basketball, track, and soccer.

Boys’ basketball head coach Tyler Swanson, who is entering his fourth year as head coach, enjoys having the managers in the gym.

“Most of the jobs they do tend to be the thankless kind. You don’t really know they are there unless the water bottles are empty or the clock is not set. We almost always need to do a better job of letting them know we appreciate what they do,” Swanson expressed.

Seventh grader Cohen Pelan manages football and enjoys being a manager because he gets to watch and be involved in a sport he loves.

“I became a manager because I wanted to be a part of all the action. It is a time

See MANAGERS, Page 2

Scotus gives back to the community

By Amber Buhman
Staff Reporter

Christmas trees, stockings, and snowflakes are all signs Christmas is on its way. All these Christmas symbols also show it is the time of year for Holiday Coop.

Campus ministry, student council, and National Honor Society are all organizations at Scotus who give back to the community over the holiday season. All three groups raise money or buy gifts for the Holiday Coop. Holiday Coop buys gifts for children and adults who do not receive presents for Christmas.

“[Holiday Coop] is a really easy way for our students to be generous and think of others during the Christmas season,” campus ministry advisor Kelly Koranda stated.

Campus ministry has set up a giving tree at Scotus for the past four years. Students can take an ornament off the tree to buy a gift for a teenager.

“The gifts we provide go

toward the teens,” Koranda said. “Oftentimes, the teens don’t get adopted as quickly or they don’t get as many gifts because the things they tend to want are a little more expensive than gifts for younger kids.”

This year, student council also raised money through their annual dodgeball tournament. Every year, student council chooses some type of charity to donate the money they raised. Joan Lahm is the advisor for student council.

“We use [the money] to sponsor a family for the Spirit Coop,” Lahm said. “We have five children we’re buying presents for.”

Student council also held their “No Shave, No Sock Rule November” to raise money for the Simon House.

“We raised \$1070, which exceeded our goal,” student council president Brea Lassek recalled. “The participation from the student body was encouraging to see. It shows our students are willing to contribute to a worthy cause.”

Much like student

council and campus ministry, National Honor Society also raises money for Holiday Coop, and the NHS officers go to the store to buy the gifts. NHS has raised its money through the Christmas candy sales in the past.

“Holiday Coop volunteers do a great service for those less fortunate during the holy season of Christmas,” National Honor Society sponsor Jane Dusel-Misfeldt said. “The officers have felt [Holiday Coop] is a worthy cause for many years now.”

The NHS officers decide each year where they want the money raised through candy sales to go. Senior Lauren Ostdiek is the president of National Honor Society this year.

“Candy sales are a fun way for students to celebrate Christmas together,” Ostdiek said. “Not only do you make someone feel special by buying a candy slip, but it also gives back to the community.”

See GIVING, Page 2

GIVING



AMBER BUHMAN/ROCK BOTTOM & YEARBOOK STAFF

Junior Camille Pelan gives seventh grader Sofia Karges a candy cane slip. National Honor Society sold candy slips to raise money for the Holiday Coop.

ADVENT

Prayer team leader Clarissa Kosch has been a part of campus ministry since freshman year with Father Capadano. "The Advent prayer service came together quite nicely with the help of Mrs. McPhillips and Mrs. Rusher as well as Mr. Ohnoutka," Kosch said. After the prayer service, the campus ministry team accomplished many other goals to make the rest of Advent meaningful. This included Adoration, which was

held on Friday, December 7th. Students and staff were given the opportunity during their study halls or free periods to go down to the chapel and pray for the intentions of others. Junior Emily Ferguson is a part of prayer team and helped coordinate many of the Advent events. "Adoration is always awesome anytime of the year, but especially during Advent," Ferguson said. "It is a great way to spend some time with Jesus and grow in relationship with Him as we

Candy sales were held over the first week of December. Candy slips were sold for fifty cents apiece, and hundreds of candy slips were sold. The following week, NHS members sorted the slips and bagged candy to be handed out to the students. National Honor Society, Student Council, and Campus Ministry all use their platforms to raise money to give to the community. "It's awesome to see the Scotus students work together and give back to our community since our community gives so much to us," Ostdiek said.

MANAGERS

commitment because you have to go to practices every day after school," Pelan stated. Sophomore Ruby Martinez, who entered her first year as a volleyball manager this past fall, found she could still get her schoolwork done while sitting through daily practices. "It is a time commitment, but it isn't too bad because it is like a study hall

but with your phone if you're not handing balls," Martinez explained. Although it is a large time commitment for some, it also is a rewarding experience according to Lam. "I am so grateful for the experience being a volleyball manager has given me because it was honestly really fun. If you are not in an activity, I would suggest trying it for a year!" Lam concluded.



JAYCEE TERNUS/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Rachael Lam hands balls to coach Bree Ackermann before the subdistrict game. Lam began managing volleyball her sophomore year.

await His coming." With the semester ending and Christmas quickly approaching, campus ministry tried to get their point across in many other ways. This included an Advent wreath outside Mrs. Rusher's room, Christmas sweaters day, and hot chocolate for all students the day before semester tests. "Stay awake, be ready. For you do not know the hour when the Lord is coming," Ferguson said.

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Variety vanquishes boredom



By Janae Rusher
Staff Reporter

On any typical day, I wake up at six in the morning, lift, play guitar and sing the Divine Mercy Chaplet,

go to school, go to basketball practice, then go to musical, and finally get home by nine. Along with all these activities are often student council, National Honor Society, Revolution, or campus ministry meetings. Being in lots of different groups can be stressful, crazy, and overwhelming, but being in all these different activities is also exciting and makes my life more interesting.

I am involved in sports, musical, Shamrock Singers, Revolution, student council, journalism, and campus ministry. Each group has its own vibe. When I am with my Singers friends, we talk about much different topics than when I am with my

sports friends. Music makes me a better musician, sports practice gets me in better shape and makes me better at that sport, and meetings help me help others. Every activity is different in its own way and benefits me differently every day.

Each of my different groups consists of a different friend group and different faces. This is good because I am never with the same people for more than a few hours each day. Being with the same people all day everyday can get exhausting even when you get along with them, so changing it up is more enjoyable.

Each activity I am a part of gives me a different skill

set. All of them require hard work, leadership, and staying organized, but some require singing, and others require physical activity. Learning how to work hard through fatigue and mental exhaustion is one of the most rewarding skills I have ever learned.

I am never bored. There is simply no time. Sometimes when I get home, I just go downstairs and sit on the couch in silence because I have been doing something every second all day for 14 hours. I enjoy being busy because I hate sitting still. I always must be doing something, and I will go as far as saying I love being busy.

Each of my activities has its highs and lows. Some-

times I don't want to go to a meeting or practice, and I always have a backup. If one group is not enjoyable, I can plow through and go to my next group. This is nice because sometimes it can be the people, sometimes it can be the activity, but, either way, there is always a different hobby to fall back on.

Being in too many extra-curriculars can also be bad. Spreading myself too thin is one area I really must work at because I want to do so many activities, and if I do this, I cannot be good at any of my favorite pastimes. I am not trying to say you need to be in every single possible activity you can be in because that is crazy. You can be in

activities, but within reason.

Sometimes a yes means a no. You cannot be in too many extra-curriculars because not everything is manageable, but being in lots of activities is rewarding. You can be in three sports, fine arts, and many other groups without going insane. If you are not in extra-curriculars, pick a new group to join. I cannot guarantee you will like it, but I can tell you you won't regret trying something new. I am also not saying to agree to everything, but to say yes to activities that make you happy and add excitement to your schedule.



AVA KUHL/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Temperatures rise, time runs out



By Liza Zaruba
Staff Reporter

Every day in my government class, Mr. Brockhaus will start out the period reviewing CNN's top five news stories for the day. Politics and recent noteworthy events dictate many of the stories featured; however, one of the most frequent themes running through numerous stories is not the political climate of the day, rather, climate change. Climate change is one

of those topics too "trendy" for many to care. Nobody believes using a metal straw or slapping a "save the bees" sticker on a hydroflask will have any effect on the environment one way or the other. Without any real, direct impact on the average person, to many, climate change can seem almost fictional.

If only that were the case.

In reality, climate change is overtly real and worsening at an alarming rate. According to an article from *ABC News* by Stephanie Ebbs, climate change is largely caused by greenhouse emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and water vapor that block heat from escaping the atmosphere, thus creating global warming. In the last 150 years, carbon emissions have become 35% higher than at any other point in the last 650,000 years of our Earth. That is not a coincidence. It's called industry.

In an article from *Busi-*

ness Insider, author Kevin Loria reported scientists are predicting within the next ten years, carbon emissions will cause a 1.5 degree rise in atmospheric temperature, and though that figure may seem miniscule, a rise at that scale would trigger the death of over 90% of the ocean's coral. The coral reefs provide close to 85% of the world's oxygen and absorb nearly 50% of the excess carbon dioxide found in the atmosphere. Their extinction would wreak havoc on the Earth's atmosphere and the aquatic ecosystems over a billion people depend on for their food, jobs, and oftentimes, livelihood.

In addition to the death of the coral reefs, the rise in global warming is heating the ocean. Because of it, water molecules expand, and glaciers melt, giving way to unparalleled rises in sea levels.

Tuvalu, an extremely small island in the Pacific,

could be one of the first big casualties of the climate crisis. As sea levels increase, Tuvalu and its thousands of citizens will cease to exist. An entire population, an entire culture of people, will have been wiped out because of the catastrophes of climate change.

The effects are not only thousands of miles away in the oceans, though. Nebraska itself has been hit by the crisis. Just this past spring, floods raged through the Midwest devastating homes and the livelihood of so many. The destruction continues to impact Nebraska as laborers toil every day to rebuild what was lost. Unfortunately, these floods will most likely not be the last of their kind. According to an *Omaha World Herald* article by Nancy Garder, officials are already predicting a high chance of floods reoccurring this spring.

Climate change is not going away.

Every single person has a moral responsibility to do what they can, and with the slow-moving wheels of politics, the need for citizens to take responsibility for their actions is ever increasing. Power comes in numbers. A single person cannot change the momentum of climate change. It takes the collective whole.

Ultimately, it is the small things by large amounts of people that make the biggest difference, and, fortunately, the small things are simple. Cut waste. Everywhere. Turn off the water faucet. Shut off the light. Bring reusable grocery sacks to the store with you. Recycle. Instead of driving, walk to the coffee shop, and while you are at it, opt to have your drink *without* a plastic straw. One less straw or one less gallon of water might not seem impactful, but when hundreds, then thousands, then millions, sign on to this lifestyle, the world will take

notice. Change will happen.

Many may argue the difficulty of halting climate change without the support of countries, such as India or China, who lead the world in carbon emissions, and while they have a point, that is no excuse to let up. Countries around the world are signaling for attention to climate change. A movement is brewing, and the conversation is finally out there. Bringing attention to the crisis is half the fight.

Despite generations of politicians kicking climate change down the road, resorting to "bigger issues", today, there is no greater issue. We don't have ten more years. Everything is not alright. The future of not just our town or our country, but our world depends on it. The future of every generation to follow depends on it. The future of our very lives depends on it. The clock is ticking; the time to act is now.

Shutting down sexism



By Sarah Bichlmeier
Staff Reporter

"That's a bunch of bullcrap." This was a response from one of my male classmates after being corrected on a test

by a female teacher. After observing this classmate's behavior in other classes, I can confidently say that this sentence would never be uttered in a classroom taught by a male teacher. These minor forms of sexism at a young age are excused and brushed off by some as "boys being boys," but these tendencies can form into a much greater problem if left unaddressed. Although sexism can also be shown among girls against men, it is predominantly shown among boys towards women. Even though women are treated with a much higher regard today than in the past, sexism is still a relevant issue that needs addressing, especially among young men.

I believe it is the responsibility of parents and figures of authority to shut down sexist tendencies in adolescence.

When trying to solve an issue, the most important thing to ask is where the problem stemmed from. With sexism, I believe it is developed majorly in adolescence, and the role models in young boys' lives have an essential role to play in the development of how young boys view women. Sexism, like other forms of discrimination, such as racism and disability discrimination, is not a bias one is born with. Sexism is learned through one's environment- people are "socialized" to be sexist. Sexism can stem from many

different sources: parents, peers, and media.

Young boys learn what level of respect they "should" have for women by the way their mothers, sisters, and other women around them are treated. When young men see women being treated with respect, they imitate that behavior.

One of the first places young boys get their conceptions or misconceptions about how to treat women is in the relationship of their parents. In relationships where the mother and father live under the same roof, the parents should treat each other with the utmost respect and dignity. This can promote a healthy view of opposite-sex

relationships.

Although there is not much the average person can do about how the media portrays women, parents can point out the discrimination taking place and its negative effects to the young boys viewing it. Parents are also able to positively point out when respect is shown toward women in television shows and movies.

According to *psychologytoday.com*, when disrespectful behavior toward women extends past the age of 12, it becomes an indicator of possible sexual harassment or sexual assault to women in the future. During youth, the mind is most vulnerable to influence, and good influenc-

es on young boys will lead them to respectful behavior.

How can we expect to change discrimination in our society if it is not seen as wrong? Young men should not be fully blamed for sexist tendencies, but they do have the power to change. Figures of authority, especially female, need to call out young men on disrespectful behavior, but young men also need to have the willingness to change. To the young men I see disrespecting female figures of authority, pay attention to your behavior and realize how your behavior reflects on you as a person.

Festive Holiday Sweets

Candy Canes

Origin: The candy cane started in Germany, and it became a European tradition to hand them out to the children at Church around Christmas.

Ingredients: 3 cups granulated sugar, 1 cup light corn syrup, ¼ cup water, 1 ½ teaspoon peppermint extract, red food coloring, white food coloring

Amount: 1.76 billion candy canes are sold each year.

Fun fact: Each 1 ounce candy cane has about 110 calories, so about 193.6 billion calories come from candy canes each year.



Scan the QR Code above for a candy cane recipe.



Gingerbread Men

Origin: The first ever recipe for gingerbread came from Greece in 2400 B.C.; gingerbread houses originated in Germany in the 16th century.

Ingredients: ¾ cup unsulphured molasses, ¾ cup butter, ¾ cup dark brown sugar, 4 ½ cups flour, plus more for rolling surface, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 1 teaspoon salt, ½ teaspoon baking soda, 3 ½ teaspoons ground ginger, 2 teaspoons cinnamon, 1 egg, lightly beaten

Amount: 450 million gingerbread men are made a year; that many cookies could wrap around the world one and a half times.

Fun fact: The record gingerbread house was 60 feet long, 42 feet wide, and over 10 feet tall.



Scan the QR Code above for a Gingerbread Cookie recipe.



Christmas Sugar Cookie



Origin: Christmas cookies were brought to the United States by the Dutch.

Ingredients: 3 ¾ cups all-purpose flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder, ½ teaspoon salt, 1 cup margarine (softened), 1 ½ cups white sugar, 2 eggs, 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Amount: Americans eat around 2 billion sugar cookies each year.

Fun Fact: If Santa ate every cookie left out for him at Christmas, he would eat 40 billion calories of cookies.



Scan the QR Code to the right for a sugar cookie recipe.

Deck the Hall-mark your calendar

By Lauren Ostdiek
Staff Reporter

Last Christmas, in a last-minute effort to procrastinate studying for finals, I went on Netflix and stumbled across their new Hallmark-esque Christmas movie *A Christmas Prince*. Now, I am by no means a romantic; I have never enjoyed cheesy love stories as much as my *The Longest Ride*-loving friends have pressured me to. It might just be that my brain was desperate for any break from practicing balancing Chemistry equations, but I was hooked. The feel-good quality of the film filled my room and my heart.

Netflix has released several Christmas movies over the last few years. Each one is as cliché as the next with titles like *Christmas Inheritance*, *A Christmas Prince*, and *The Knight Before Christmas*. I have to be in the right mindset to enjoy a movie like these, but I cannot deny I appreciate their feel-good quality. Sure, they are unrealistic, but isn't that

what we look for in movies? Life is not perfect, but our movies can be, so we should embrace it.

Sophomore Makenna Svehla agrees.

"I like Hallmark movies because nothing bad ever happens in them, which is extremely unlike real life, but sometimes it is good to pretend everything is good," Svehla commented.

Netflix is relatively new to the realm of tacky Christmas movies. However, according to *Variety's* online article "How Hallmark Built a 'Brand Experience' around 'Countdown to Christmas'," Hallmark has been making holiday movies since 2002. The pillar of Hallmark movies lies in their cheesiness, predictability, and romanticism, which is typically the reason people either love or hate their films. Netflix also does not depend near as much on their holiday movies as Hallmark. The Hallmark Channel's views come largely from their annual "Countdown to Christmas" when they begin showing their holiday movies every

day from late October up to Christmas.

If it came down to sheer quantity, Hallmark would win this battle. They are rolling out 40 new holiday movies this Christmas season, while Netflix is producing just a fraction of that. Nevertheless, viewers take quality into account as well. I appreciate the production quality of Netflix Originals, as well as the accessibility that comes with Netflix. I can watch their movies whenever I want, and I can pause and play as I please.

Netflix also offers a bit more variety in the plots of their holiday movies. However, the predictability of Hallmark movies is what they are known for, and this can be a source of excitement or dread from their viewers.

Physical Science teacher Bridget McPhillips appreciates Hallmark movies.

"They're full of Christmas cheer- gives you all the feels!" McPhillips said. "It doesn't even bother me that I can predict the ending in the first five minutes of the film."

Senior Cole Demuth does not share the same line of thought.

"They only have ten actors who are in every single one of them, or at least rotate. The same people fall in love every episode. It just happens in a different town," Demuth stated.

So, whether you need a way to procrastinate, are ready to truly invest in a Christmas love story, or simply want to make fun of the cheesiness of it all, snuggle up with a cozy blanket and watch some holiday movies. Regardless if you are an avid Hallmark fan or prefer a Netflix flick, fill your heart with Christmas cheer, a little blissful ignorance, and some hope.

Junior Camille Pelan enjoys Hallmark movies for this very reason.

"They show me that maybe, just maybe, I can find my true love during Christmas season," Pelan wished.

Scan the QR Codes to the right for Hallmark's *Countdown to Christmas* (left) and ranking for the best Netflix Christmas Movies this season (right).



(Cindy Lou) Who hates Christmas?



"I absolutely hate the winter season, and it never snows on Christmas, which is the only day it is acceptable. I also will not allow myself or anyone to play Christmas music at least till after Thanksgiving."

Kate Smith, 12

"I like presents and Jesus. I just don't really get the hype of decorations and Christmas trees. I would prefer like a cactus or something you don't have to water or take care of."

Kensy Micek, 8

"Easter is the superior holiday."

Katie Stachura, 12

"I don't like Christmas parties because there are so many people there that I don't know."

Haden Brabec, 8

"I just want the break."

Callie Backman, 10

"I absolutely love Christmas, mainly because I enjoy getting people presents. I love seeing the happiness on people's faces when they get something."

Eden Broberg, 10

"I love being with all my family members, playing many games, and destroying them in all of them."

Jackson Heng, 8

"It is such a happy time of year! I love the generosity people have, the beautiful lights and decorations, the coziness of the home, and, of course, the fact God became a human!"

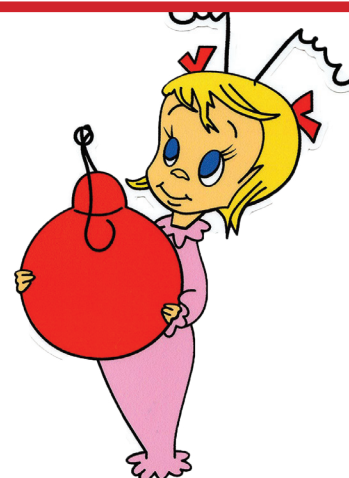
Kelly Koranda

"I think it is a great time to be closer with your family and friends. I like building the tree and decorating for it the day after Halloween. Don't get me wrong, Thanksgiving is great, but Christmas is an elite holiday."

Faith Weber, 9

"I am a Christmas lover because my birthday is the 21st, so I always get double the presents!"

MaKenzie Enderlin, 12



The season of giving

By Rachael Lam
Staff Reporter

Christmas time is rolling around, and you know what that means? Present time! During Christmas, everyone receives gifts, but gifts are also given to family and friends. For many people, buying the perfect gift is a challenge because every person likes something different. The factors that usually come into play are a person's age and gender. I have put together the ultimate gift guide to make Christmas shopping a tad bit easier this year. Many moms are constantly busy with work and their kids, so they may not have the time to pay too much attention to themselves. This is exactly why buying gifts that will show how much you care about them is perfect for this Christmas season.

Jewelry is something all women like because it is the finishing touch to any outfit. Second, any kind of lotion is a definite win, especially with the cold winter season arriving to protect dry hands. No mom will ever go through dealing with their children without a headache so an essential oil diffuser will definitely help. Everyone loves warm drinks, but since moms are so busy, they may not have the time to even finish their drink before it gets cold. A temperature control smart mug, which can be used all year-round will come in handy. Not only will these gifts be very helpful, it will also show them how much they are appreciated.



There are all kinds of dads out there, but every dad loves it when things are made easier in their lives because they, too, are busy with their jobs and family life. Because of this, here are some ideas that will make life easier in different aspects. Any dad will end up fixing something in the house or for their car, so tools can always come in handy. At the same time, some men dread shopping, so buying them clothes will save them the time and frustration. For the winter season, some other gifts dads will love are cushion socks, a Petit gourmet portable tabletop, as well as an electric shaver to make having a clean shave easier. With all of these gifts, dads will be prepared for any occasion without a hassle.

Teenage guys all have different tastes and styles, but the one thing they do have in common is simplicity. Anything simple and generic for boys is definitely the perfect present.

Video games are always of interest to boys, so any new games or gaming consoles will surely be appreciated. They are also into lots of technology, so anything along the lines of a new phone, AirPods, or an Apple Watch is perfect. Now those are very pricey items, so here are some other great ideas on a budget. Boys like receiving any kind of clothing such as sweatpants and hoodies, which are especially popular during the winter season. They cannot seem to have too many pairs of tennis shoes either, so those would for sure be a win. Most guys are not too picky so anything simple is the key.



Over time, many trends come in and out of style, but there are some that will always be favored by teenage girls. Most girls like to look and feel good, so anything that can catch their eye will be a definite win. Fluffy blankets and socks are a must. No matter how many they have, teenage girls will never have enough. With some girls being so picky yet loving clothes, a gift card to their favorite clothing store is the perfect solution. Looking good is crucial to many girls so makeup is always favored. At the same time though, skincare proves to be important which is why the Clarisonic Mia skin cleansing system is a great gift that will last for years. Anything that stands out and is pretty will have teenage girls smiling with joy.

A perfect Christmas for the Rock Bottom



Christmas is my absolute favorite holiday. I am convinced it is not only reserved for one day a year- it's a mindset. Christmas to me is driving around to look at lights, sipping hot chocolate by the fireplace, listening to Michael Buble's holiday album, watching cheesy Hallmark movies, and, of course, spoiling my nieces and nephews.

Brea Lassek, 12

A perfect Christmas is filled with family, music, and coziness. Sitting, piled on top of your siblings and covered in blankets, with Christmas music playing in the background, opening presents, and playing games together is the best way to spend Christmas.

Lauren Ostdiek, 12



Just as Jesus was the gift that completed the Holy Family, Christmas for me is about spending quality time with family. Usually this includes Mass, food, games, and relaxation with the people I love the most.

Angie Rusher



I need Christmas music for sure, hot chocolate, Christmas movies (especially Hallmark movies), snow, Christmas decorations (tree, lights, etc.), family and friends, presents (buying them for others), and food!

Rachael Lam, 12

For me, Christmas starts the Friday after Thanksgiving. Christmas music is going everyday until December 25th. I always struggle to make a list for Santa, but he always comes through. :) On Christmas Eve we go to the children's Mass, and when we come home, we open presents from Mom and Dad. After that we put on our Christmas PJs and make waffles with cherries and whipped cream with my grandparents. Then we play games and have lots of fun. On Christmas morning, we open Santa gifts and stay home. Christmas is by far my favorite holiday because of family, no school, and, of course, Jesus is born!

Janae Rusher, 11



I enjoy looking at Christmas lights with friends, baking festive sugar cookies (usually from the package), and taking part in gift exchanges. My dance team does a gift exchange with fuzzy socks and pajamas. Christmas movies are always on at my house; my favorites are *Home Alone* and *Elf*. On Christmas day, I love spending time with my family.

Sarah Bichlmeier, 12



The perfect Christmas to me would be my family and I going to the Christmas Eve service at my church. There would be a layer of snow on the ground and absolutely no wind! We would go back home and eat chili like we do every Christmas Eve. Then, we would sit around the tree and open some of our presents and play Christmas music. The next morning we would wake up and go to church. After church we would go back to our house and have Christmas lunch. My aunt would come to celebrate Christmas with us. Then we would finish opening our presents and spend the rest of the day hanging out and playing card games.

Amber Buhman, 12

The perfect Christmas: Christmas Eve Mass, presents with your family early in the morning, family Xmas (seeing relatives you do not often see), football games, and tons of food.

Tyler Palmer, 12



You know, for me, my perfect Christmas is watching a Christmas movie, turning on the fireplace, making some popcorn, grabbing warm blankets, playing Christmas music in the background, and snuggling with your significant other.

Kade Wiese, 11

All I need for Christmas are classic Christmas movies, Christmas music you can sing your heart out to, warm and fluffy blankets, my mom's homemade hot chocolate, and friends and family to share it with.

Ava Kuhl, 11



My perfect Christmas always begins the night before. My family always goes to Midnight Mass then comes home to lay out Santa's cookies and milk. We snuggle into our beds, and the next morning is spent racing down the stairs in our matching Christmas pajamas, opening gifts, eating hot dogs and cinnamon rolls for breakfast, and, most importantly, spending time with my family. It's a day to worry about nothing but being with each other, and that is definitely why it's my favorite holiday.

Liza Zaruba, 12

The perfect Christmas for me is all about family. Ever since my siblings have grown up and started their own lives, it is kind of hard to get together, so anytime we are is pretty special. If we are lucky enough to be together on the actual holiday or the night before, we always have a Christmas movie marathon. The prime rib at Christmas Eve dinner is also a nice touch!

Chloe Odbert, 12



Sounds of the holiday season

Favorites:

“‘Mistletoe’ by Justin Bieber because it’s a song that I can really jam out with my friends in the car.”

McKenna Hoefler, 12

“‘O Holy Night.’ I love the words; I can imagine the scene of the nativity when I hear and sing it. I also love the actual melody.”

Deb Ohnoutka

“‘Mary, Did You Know?’ by Pentatonix. I like how soft the music is and everything it says about Jesus.”

Jude Maguire, 7

“‘God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen,’ specifically the cover from Pentatonix. That is the only Christmas song that will get me into the Christmas mood.”

Katie Stachura, 12

“‘All I Want for Christmas Is You’ by Mariah Carey. It gets me all happy and reminds me of the olden days when I was a young buck.”

Levi Robertson, 12

“‘The Christmas Can-Can’ by Straight No Chaser has to be by far my favorite Christmas song. It’s a super fun song that always gets me in a good mood.”

Kyanne Casperson, 10

“My favorite Christmas song is ‘Jingle Bell Rock’ because of Mean Girls.”

Lily Dohmen, 9

Least Favorites:

“‘Grandma Got Run Over by A Reindeer’— stupid.”

Joan Lahm

“‘You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch’ because it gives me a negative vibe, and I’m all about the positive vibes.”

Libbie Brezenski, 9

“The ones with high-pitched female voices; some of them are just too much.”

Drew VanCannon, 12

“‘Jingle Bell Rock’ because it gets repetitive after a while.”

Callie Backman, 10

“‘Mistletoe’ by Justin Bieber because Grace Mustard loves it.”

Gavin Brabec, 10

“‘I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus.’ Mommy shouldn’t be kissing anyone but daddy!”

Chris Mustard

“‘Carol of the Bells.’ We’ve sung it too many times in Shamrock Singers.”

Luke Przymus, 10

“Any Christmas song sung in the Alvin and the Chipmunks voices because it’s annoying.”

Bridget McPhillips

“I don’t think there is a bad Christmas song unless you hear me singing it.”

Vijay Wemhoff, 10



Merry Christmas

Shamrocks focus on strengths

By Lauren Ostdiek
Staff Reporter

The Scotus Shamrocks are back this year and are ready to “bring it.” The girls’ basketball team started prac-

tice on Monday, November 18th, and will play six games before Christmas.

Junior post Janae Rusher is a returning member of a varsity squad that finished 10-12 last season.

“The theme this season

is ‘bring it,’” Rusher explained. “We need to work hard and ‘bring it’ every day because we have tons of potential this year.”

The team has a few main themes to focus on to reach their goals for this season.

Hard work, selflessness, positivity, and playing as a team are the primary focuses of the players and coaching staff as they begin their season.

Senior Chloe Odbert plays post and is a returning starter.

“We are really focusing on working hard all the time,” Odbert stated. “We are having long practices this year, so playing hard and staying focused the whole time is important.”

Junior shooting guard Camille Pelan is another returning starter. Returning varsity experience will be a benefit for the Rocks.

“I think last year was a growing season. A lot of us got some good varsity experience, so we know how it feels to compete on the varsity level. If we consistently execute offensively and defensively, we will go far this season,” Pelan commented.

With hopes of playing at the state tournament in March, the team will need to play to the strengths of each individual to be the best team possible.

Sophomore Grace Mustard gained some varsity experience last season, and

she will likely be a key player for the team this year.

“We have a new offense that brings out what each person is good at, so we need to work on our individual strengths,” Mustard said.

The Rocks will be tested early in the season, taking on the best team in Class B Crete, Class C-2 St. Cecilia, and two other top five teams in the first six games of the season. With such a challenging schedule, the Rocks are focused on maintaining a positive attitude and reaching their goals.

Senior Amber Buhman is one of only two seniors on the team this season.

“We have a tough schedule this season, so staying positive and focused is going to be the key to success,” Buhman remarked. “We can’t let little setbacks get us down, and we need to stay focused on the goal of getting back down to the state tournament.”

Despite facing a strenuous schedule, head coach Jarrod Ridder has confidence in his team.

“I believe we have a team that is mentally tough enough to handle the pressure

and adversity we will face,” Ridder stated.

The Shamrocks started off their season on Thursday, December 5th, with the returning Class C-2 champions Hastings Saint Cecilia.

Junior Ava Kuhl plays point guard for JV and Varsity.

“The game was rough because St. Cecilia is such a good team,” Kuhl commented. “It was good to play them early and learn what we need to work on to continue to grow throughout the season.”

After dropping a game to Hastings Saint Cecilia, the Rocks showed up against Guardian Angel Central Catholic.

“We knew we needed to play our pace since GACC plays so fast,” Buhman explained. “This was a big game for us since it was our home opener.”

The girls played GICC Friday night and will face off against Concordia tonight in Omaha.

“Because of our kids’ attitudes and their willingness to work hard, our growth potential for this season is very high,” Ridder concluded.



KADE WIESE/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior guard Camille Pelan drives to the hoop. Pelan led the team with 12 points against Guardian Angel Central Catholic.

Wrestlers hopeful for new season

By Tyler Palmer
Staff Reporter

With only losing four seniors from last year’s 8-8 wrestling team, the Shamrocks are looking optimistic for their new 2019-2020 season.

Of the six wrestlers who qualified for state last year, three of those return, including senior Nick Taylor, sophomore Landyn Maschmeier, and senior Evan Hand. At state, all wrestlers lost in the first round, but they are all looking to improve this year.

Maschmeier had a record of 33-12 last year and entered state as an underdog in the 113-pound weight class.

“My state experience was great because I got to see how much people believed in me and how many people were there watching. I didn’t do as well as I thought I would, but it taught me every kid there wants the same thing,” Maschmeier said.

Taylor wrestled at the 132-pound weight class last year and had a final record

of 36-17. Hand wrestled at 182 for most of the year but switched to 170 for districts and state. His final record was 25-22.

“I think Evan Hand is a big leader because he made it to state last year. He is usually my partner, and I can always learn something from him,” junior Ben Kamrath said.

Hand, who competed at state in the 170-pound weight class, is confident in this year’s team and is looking to get back to Omaha.

“Nick Taylor and I are the captains, but I know that the other two seniors [Brock Clarke and Ryan Brandenburg] are going to help push the underclassmen to work harder by being role models for them,” Hand said.

D.J. Brandenburg, who is in his third year of being the Shamrocks’ head coach, looks for big improvement coming from the “big three” this year.

“I’m very excited for them this year; they’ve worked very hard in the offseason, and they are work-

ing hard in practice. I truly believe they will bring home medals this year from state,” Brandenburg said.

Although Scotus was not in the top eight in Class B last year and could not qualify for the state duals, the wrestlers are still hopeful coming into the 2019-2020 season.

Junior Sebastien Fritz, three-year wrestler, said, “This year we have some returning state qualifiers, so they bring some experience to the mat. We also have a lot of freshmen as well, which is good for the future.”

Due to Scotus’ enrollment numbers, they have been moved down to Class C instead of Class B like last year. Although this could seem like a clear advantage, the Rocks’ head coach is keeping tunnel vision and not looking past anything.

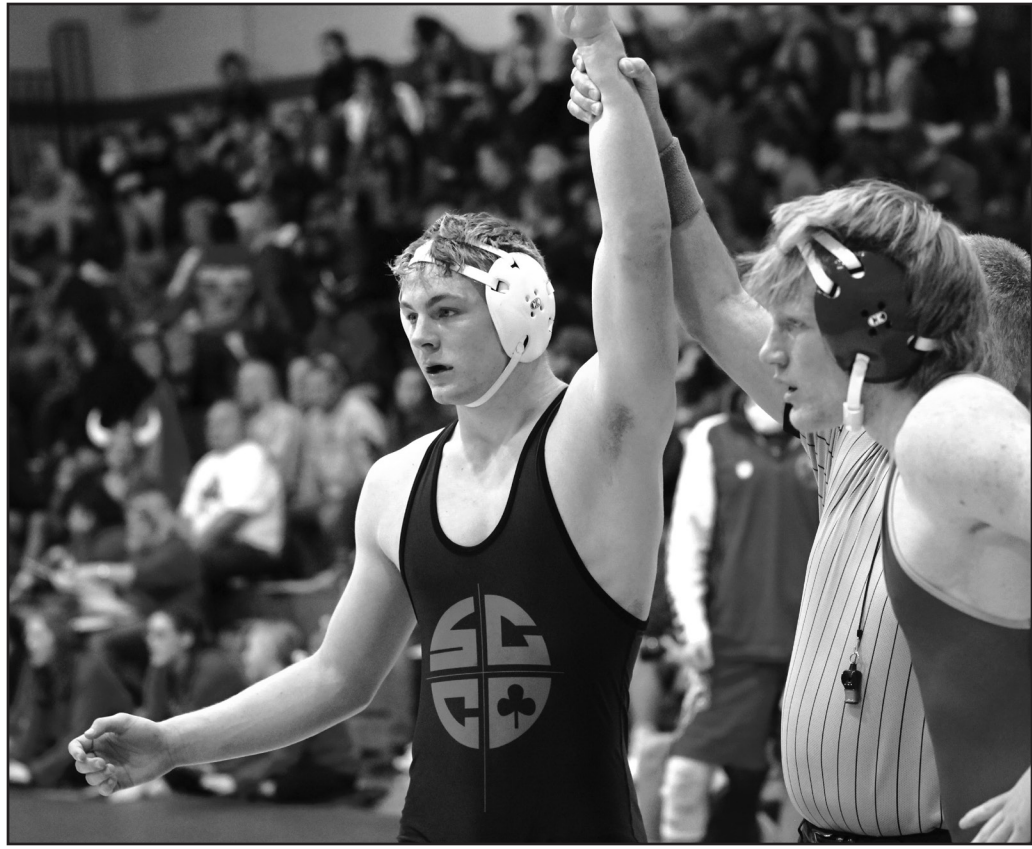
“I don’t know if it’s going to be easier or harder; there’s a lot of tough Class C teams as well, but we’re looking forward to the challenge and wrestling different schools. It does level the playing field as far

as competing with schools with the same ratio of boys in their school so that does help possibly,” Brandenburg said.

The Shamrocks have

only had two state champions in their wrestling history, but the team is hungry to get another winner on the record board.

“I am looking forward to heading back to state and making up for my losses last year,” Hand said.



KADE WIESE/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

The referee raises senior Evan Hand’s arm after he wins a match at the Lakeview meet. Hand went 3-1 and earned 3rd place in the 182 lb. weight class.

Swimmers start season off strong

By Rachael Lam
Staff Reporter

As winter sports are beginning, the swim team is

finally diving into their season. Last year, the swim team won the title of conference champions and headed to state, so the expectations will be even higher this year. The

2019 season officially started on November 18th with the dreaded two-a-days practices.

This season, the Columbus swim team has nine swimmers from Scotus after

graduating two seniors. The stakes are high right now as Emily Miksch is the only senior out of the returners from Scotus.

“This year we have a new coach, so it will be interesting to see what new things we have in store for us,” Miksch said.

From Scotus, there are a few returners who have high hopes and are looking forward to what will come.

Kaira Dallman is a junior with two years of experience. She competes in the 100 breaststroke and 50 freestyle.

“I am looking forward to the Millard North meet because girls and boys are on different days, and they have a nice pool,” junior Kaira Dallman said.

The team has welcomed new beginners from Scotus as there are four freshmen who have joined, and they too have personal goals.

“My personal goals for this year are to get my 50

freestyle under thirty seconds and my 100 freestyle under one minute and five seconds,” freshman Mauricio Velasco said.

While swimming may be the only new venture to newcomers, coming to the States has proven to be different for junior Big Kongja, a foreign exchange student. Being new, he has lots of hopes and is excited for what to expect.

“My focus this season is to learn as much as possible from my coach, teammates, friends, and my failures as well as to have fun swimming,” Kongja said.

The swim team competed against Fremont in a varsity dual for the season opener on December 5th at the Columbus Aquatic Center here. The team also competed in an invite on Saturday, December 7th with eight teams.

“I thought the meet went really well because my time dropped and we won, which I did not think would happen

since Fremont is a good team,” junior Kaira Dallman said.

Not only was returner Kaira Dallman happy with her results, but our only senior Emily Miksch also did pretty well.

“I had a secondary time and qualified in my 100 breaststroke,” Miksch explained.

Although the team competed well, there will always be higher expectations as the season progresses.

“I think everyone is tired right now, but as the season continues, our times should be dropping,” stated Miksch.

The swim team looks to make improvements for state at their upcoming meets. The swimmers will be preparing for their varsity invitational on December 14th and their next dual on January 11th against South Sioux City.



BREA LASSEK/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior swimmer McKenna Mausbach competes in the backstroke at their home meet at the Aquatic Center on December 5th. Mausbach has been a swimmer for three years.

Boys' basketball struggles through first games

By Liza Zaruba
Staff Reporter

Despite the Shamrock's 9-17 record last year, the boys' basketball team hit their stride in the post-season, going on a 4-game winning streak before ultimately succumbing to Ogallala in the district final. They hope to bring that momentum into this year's season and hit the ground running from the start.

"I think that we have a good schedule ahead of us this year. There are some good games that will challenge us to be our best," senior Antonio Chavez said.

This season the Shamrocks bring back nine varsity members, six of which saw extensive minutes last year. With an anticipated rotation of ten players, only a few spots are left to be filled.

"I really like the way our juniors are playing so far in practice," coach Tyler Swanson said. "Many of them will be taking on major

varsity roles for the first time, and they have great basketball IQ."

Early in the season, the team is focusing on their base and taking time for the small details that will hopefully prove to be big when the post-season approaches.

"Practices have been going pretty well. Coach Swanson is pushing us very hard because he wants us to be successful," senior Jared Beaver remarked.

With a trip to Lincoln looming in the team's mind, each game is crucial. The Shamrocks are looking to hold their competitors to under 45 points, as well as limiting their turnovers to no more than ten per game.

"Our strategy this year is to play within ourselves," senior Tyler Palmer explained. "We are not going to be the biggest or the most skilled basketball players, but if we win the little battles here and there, we can upset a lot of teams."

The boys' basketball team has never had an easy

schedule in the past, and this season is no different as the boys prepare to face both the defending state champion and state runner-up teams, as well as many others, who also qualified for the state tournament last season.

"Our schedule is very tough this year, and our conference is not easy at all. Still, we have many athletes this year who can really play, so we are looking to play fast and push the tempo of the game," sophomore Garrett Oakley said.

The Shamrocks opened with St. Cecilia on December 5th at Hastings. A 32-45 loss revealed the amount of work still ahead for the boys.

"Saint Cecilia is a good, young team, and they were a good challenge for us. This game showed us where we are at as a team right now," senior Eric Mustard said.

After the season opener with St. Cecilia, the boys matched up against Guardian Angels Central Catholic but fell with a score of 56-62. The basketball team seemed



HAYLEE CIELOCHA/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Connor Wiehn dribbles to the basket during the boys' basketball game against GACC on December 10th. The Shamrocks lost to the Bluejays 56-62.

to mount a comeback in the final minutes, but they were unable to execute.

"We slowed down when we were ahead and allowed them to come back," Palmer explained. "I was proud of the way we played during the end of the game because everyone turned it up a notch and played selflessly. Unfortunately, we had too many

mistakes in the beginning to come back."

Looking forward, the Shamrocks played at home on Friday, December 13th against Grand Island Central Catholic. With the home advantage, the basketball team was looking to capitalize.

"Our student section is a huge advantage for us when we play at home,"

Swanson said. "We really need that section to be at our best each game and help give us that advantage of playing at home. We really appreciate when the students show up and support us. GO ROCKS!"

The Shamrocks face Concordia tonight at eight o'clock at Concordia High School.

Guys bring new element to performance



CHLOE ODBERT/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Seniors Evan Hand, Brea Lassek, Levi Robertson, Haylee Cielocha, Connor Wiehn, Liza Zaruba, Dalton Borchers, Jayden Heng, Jared Beaver, and Kate Smith show off their flexibility in a kick line in the performance at the pep rally on December 12th. The guy-girl dance featured different jumps, kicks, and leaps.

By Sarah Bichlmeier
Staff Reporter

Those watching from the stands are accustomed to seeing performances by

only the flag corps and the cheerleaders, but this time, a new element was brought to the performance--boys. The cheerleaders and the flag corps alternate performing the guy-girl dance, and this

year, it was the cheerleader's turn to perform it. Each cheerleader was able to choose their own dance partner. The performance generally consists of a cheerleader section, a guy section, and a

combination of the both.

The cheerleaders are accustomed to learning routines, but because most boys are not, teaching them to dance can be difficult at times. Senior Liza Zaruba, who has also taught the Mr. Shamrock dance in the past, has first-hand experience with teaching boys dances.

"Focus was definitely the biggest struggle. The guys are better dancers than most people give them credit for, but their attention spans are nonexistent," Zaruba said.

Although the experience of teaching the boys the dance proved to be difficult, the cheerleaders enjoyed the new dynamic the boys brought to the dance floor. Senior Kate Smith's partner was senior Jared Beaver.

"Jared was super goofy and kept making funny faces any time we did the partner moves. He made each move dramatic, which always made

me laugh," Smith said.

This year, the theme for the guy-girl dance was "High School Musical"; the performers danced to a mash-up of several of the most memorable *High School Musical* songs. One of the more romantic songs in the mash-up was "Can I Have This Dance," but the mash-up also included more upbeat songs like "Getcha Head in the Game" and "Stick to the Status Quo." Beaver is a three-sport athlete, so performing with the cheerleaders was a new experience.

"My favorite song of the dance is when the guy-girl dance is when they play 'The Boys are Back.' It gives the guys a chance to show off their dance moves and really express themselves through the music," Beaver said.

The performance of the guy-girl dance had the audience laughing and engaged. The dance even included

basketballs as a fitting prop for the "Getcha Head in the Game" section. Because of the versatility of the mashup, the performance included many formations: partner tricks, kick lines, and a tunnel for the seniors to go through. Senior Dalton Borchers was able to bring his skills from the basketball court into the performance.

"The dance was perfectly executed. We did a great job of showcasing our talent to the school," Borchers said.

The Scotus cheerleaders will be continuing to cheer at winter activities, and their next major performance is at state cheer in February. Senior Brea Lassek is one of the cheerleaders responsible choreographing the performance for state.

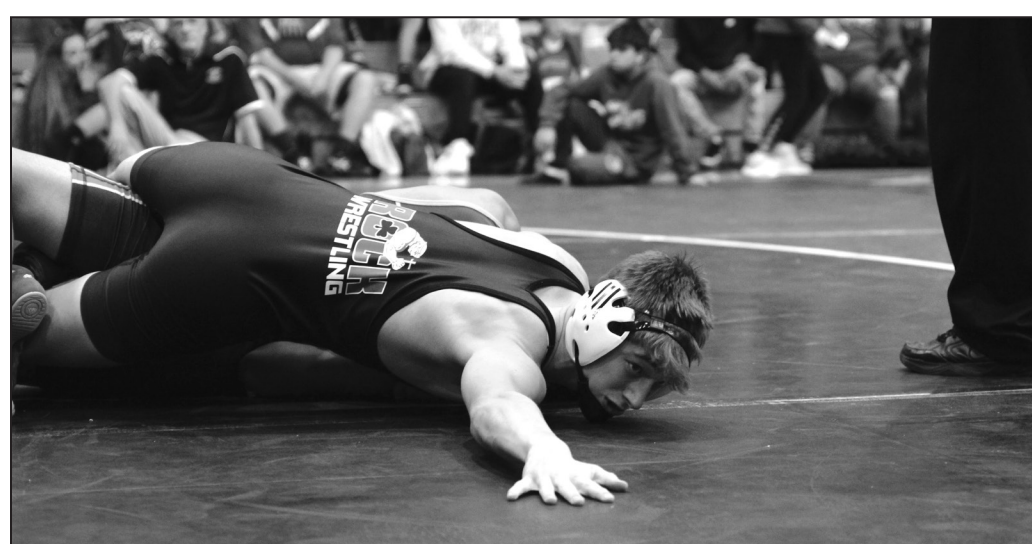
"With state cheer coming up, the guy-girl dance was a fun performance before we get serious," Lassek said.

More photos from winter activities



HAYLEE CIELOCHA/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Jared Beaver shoots a 3-pointer at the beginning of the second half of the GACC game. Beaver is one of the six seniors on the team this year.



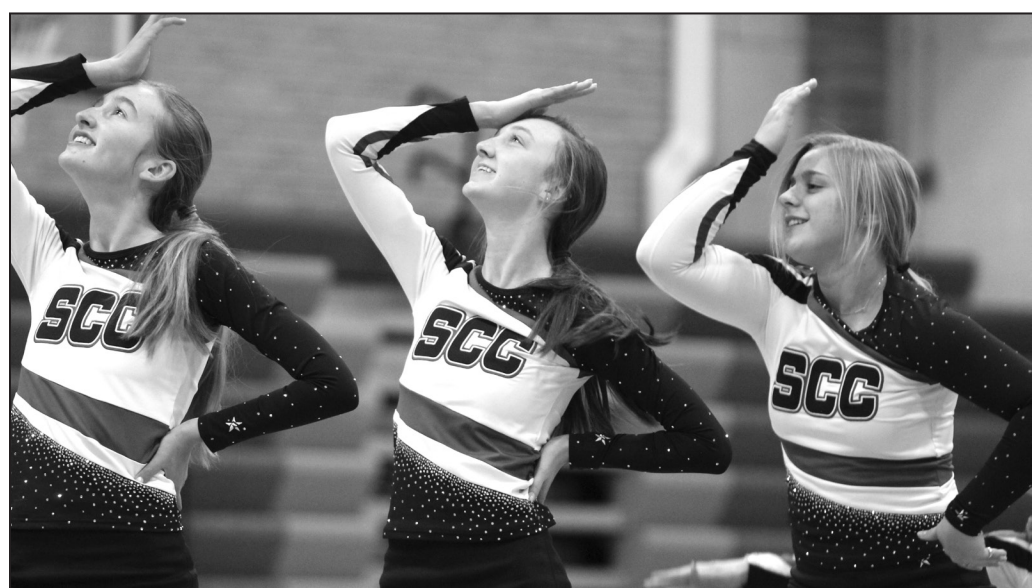
TANLEY MILLER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Freshman Isaak Liebig stretches his opponent for backpicks at the Lakeview Invite. Scotus placed tenth at the meet on December 7th.



KADE WIESE/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

The girls huddle before the start of their GACC game. The Shamrock girls won 46-41.



KAMRYN CHOHN/YEARBOOK STAFF

Seniors McKenna Hoefler and Jaycee Ternus and sophomore Gwen Stachura strike a pose in their performance at the pep rally on December 6th.

One Act tells the story of the forgotten

By **Kate Smith**
Staff Reporter

From upbeat and comical to sad and serious, the one act play took a whole new route in their play production this year. The one act cast and crew has been practicing and performing *Lafayette No 1* every day since auditions were held in September. Mr. Ericson, who has been the director for two years, chose *Lafayette No 1* for the play this year, which is quite different than *Romeo To Go*, last year's play. He was assisted by Andrea Lemmer to produce *Lafayette No 1*.

"I thought it was a story worth telling, and it worked well with the cast of people I knew we had. I knew it would be challenging, but the integrity of the story made it worthwhile," Ericson said.

This year, the acting troupe portrayed the story of the forgotten tragedy of the yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans. Junior Clarissa Kosch played the part of Lizzie Landry, who is hope for homeless orphans after her mother is taken by yellow fever. In the play, she made the orphans' story known and was an advocate for them. This is Kosch's second year having a major role in a one act production.

"I love acting and bonding with everyone who does it. I also enjoy the competitive aspect of it," Kosch said.

The underclassmen made up most of the cast and crew as there were only three seniors in the production.

Nevertheless, the returning two seniors, Levi Robertson and Evan Hand, led the acting troupe by having the two leading male roles. Robertson, who played Harris, went out again this year because of

all the fun he had previously.

"You can really let loose and just have a good time with cool people," Robertson added.

The cast and crew practiced nearly every day to perform a total of four times. They performed first at Humphrey Saint Francis where their performance was critiqued, but they did not receive a placing. Next, they had their home performance for friends, family, and the community. Junior Maddie Blaser, who portrays the role of Anna, holds the home performance close to her.

"There was a great turnout this year. I love performing for my friends and family who know me so well and have them watch me portray a role so different from my normal personality," Blaser said.

After that, they competed at conference, which took place at Central Community

College. The Scotus one act team received fifth place at this competition. Their last and final performance was at the district competition, once again held at CCC, where they placed fifth, once again. This concluded the one act season, but Ericson's hope for their last performance being their best performance was satisfied.

"I thought our last performance at districts was the best. It was the accumulation of a lot of work, and the time was right to put it all together and give our best," Ericson added.

Ericson is drawn to one act because he is able to be creative and work with creative people to make something significant to everyone who is a part of it. Most of the students who are in one act will take what they learned and use it in the musical and spring play performances.

"It's a family. Most of us are crazy, and those who say they aren't are lying. We are a family of crazy theater

heads," sophomore Abec Hutchinson said.



KATELYN BAYER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Sophomore Hannah Pflum (Catherine), junior Clarissa Kosch (Lizzie), and sophomore Chris Adame (Moab) comfort senior Levi Robertson (Harris) before he is taken by senior Evan Hand (Jack Yellow). The one act play was *Lafayette No.1* and is about orphan children in Louisiana during the time of the yellow fever outbreak.

2020 team rocks the mock once again

By **Janae Rusher**
Staff Reporter

Between all the NSAA activities that students participate in, some students spend their few spare minutes participating in mock trial through the Nebraska Bar Foundation. Mock trial had

a successful season last year and again this year. There are four Scotus teams, one from each grade.

The 2020 mock trial team dominated districts for the second year in a row. Last year, the 2020 team placed fourth at state, and this year, they placed third.

The district competition

was held at the Platte County Courthouse on Saturday, November 16th. The Scotus teams competed against other Scotus teams, Columbus High, and Howells-Dodge.

The freshmen team lost first round to Howells-Dodge Varsity. Maysa Kuhl, who is a part of the freshmen mock trial team, competed as a

witness.

"I joined because it sounded like a lot of fun," Kuhl said, "and I wanted to know more about it."

The sophomore team beat Columbus High first round. The sophomore team lost to Howells-Dodge Varsity in the second round of the competition. Ashley Steiner is a member of the sophomore team and competed as an attorney.

"I think our team brought everything together very well on Saturday," Steiner said. "Responding to objections from the other team is terrifying, but when you respond correctly, it is really exciting."

The juniors beat Howells-Dodge JV first round and lost second round to the Scotus seniors. Junior Cassie Kouma competed as witness for the junior mock trial team.

"I feel my team did a great job at our competition," Kouma said. "Our improvement from last year was obvious, and I think we did our best!"

The senior team won the district competition by

beating the Scotus juniors and Howells-Dodge Varsity. Senior mock trial member Lauren Ostdiek competes as a lawyer.

"We did really well," Ostdiek said. "It was a blast to finally compete and show what we can do."

The senior mock trial team is made up of eight senior girls and most have been a part of mock trial for the past four years. Kate Smith competed as a witness.

"As a team, we take it to the next level," Smith said. "The witnesses amp it up by memorizing their parts even more, and lawyers memorize their questions. We all try to improve every little part so that there are no surprises at state."

The team has been putting in more practice time and memorization to be the best they can be for the state competition. Chloe Odbert is an attorney for the senior team.

"We are really hoping to break to finals this year," Odbert said. "We are returning as the fourth-place team and feel a lot more confident this time around."

They headed to Lincoln the 8th of December and competed the following days, coming back with a third-place trophy. Senior Brea Lassek competed as a lawyer.

"I couldn't be prouder of how we performed at state and what we accomplished," Lassek said. "The only trial we did not win all three ballots was against last year's national runner-up."

The seniors only loss was to Creighton Prep, who ended up finishing second in the state competition. Senior Amber Buhman competed as a witness for the senior team.

"Going into awards, I wasn't sure where we would place," Buhman said. "Obviously, we would have loved to make finals, but third place is very impressive."

The Scotus senior team swept Ainsworth and Wayne to achieve this feat.

Smith concluded, "I am so proud to be a part of the Scotus mock trial team and be the most decorated mock trial team Scotus has ever had."



JAYDEN HENG/YEARBOOK STAFF

Seniors Chloe Odbert, Lauren Ostdiek, Rachael Lam, Liza Zaruba, Emily Miksch, and Kate Smith discuss during the district mock trial competition, Saturday November 16th. The senior mock trial team competed at state on December 9th and 10th.

Concerts satisfy the music department

By **Kade Wiese**
Staff Reporter

This winter, the music department has kept itself quite busy. Both the Scotus band and Shamrock Singers performed their Christmas concerts this month.

With both concerts happening in December, the two groups have worked hard to prepare themselves and polish any mistakes in their music.

This year's band concert was a little different than last year's, and with that, band director Kristen Cox hoped to have success.

"This year, the high schoolers worked on harder music than last year. The sixth, seventh, and eighth graders also played harder music too," Cox said.

The band students were able to work on more challenging music because Scotus did not host the Veteran's Day program at school this year.

"This allowed me to choose harder music for the Christmas band concert. It also gave the students a jump

start on the music, so it worked out very well," Cox stated.

The band played festive Christmas music according to the band director.

"There were some standard carols, some medleys with the standard carols tied in, and a song from the Boston Pop Orchestra that the high schoolers played," Cox explained. "The band has worked well together. This group is very team-oriented and works for the common good."

Junior trombone player Madison Wittwer looked forward to displaying the band's talents.

"We have been working diligently to make our performance as enjoyable as possible," Wittwer said.

The band has been preparing for their December 16th concert since the middle of October.

"This concert was a benchmark for me to start formulating ideas for district music. Seeing how they go through this first performance, how well they worked, and how much attention they want-

ed to give to details gives me an idea of what direction I want to go for districts," Cox stated. "We're off to a great year across the board through fifth grade. I'm just really happy," Cox said.

On the other side of the music department is the Shamrock Singers. They held their concert on Friday, December 6th.

They also changed some aspects they haven't done in previous years. Vocal director Laura Salyard planned to see much success from the concert.

"This year we sang two songs for the junior high students to sing together," Salyard said.

"The Shamrock Singers not only sang traditional carols but also some newly written music."

This new music was executed well due to the group's experience.

"We have a ton of returning members of choir back this year," junior alto Ava Kuhl said.

With the new arrangements, the Shamrock Singers practiced often to prepare for the concert.

"The [Shamrock] Singers have been preparing

since about the last week of September, and my younger students have been working on their music since about mid to late October," Salyard stated.

In fact, the Shamrock Singers have already performed some of their music at the Craft Boutique and the Knights of Columbus Dinner.

"Every time we perform music, you hear something different. I learn different

things they do well, and things they are going to need to work on," Salyard stated. "It tells me about my teaching: what have I done well and what I haven't done well. It's not so much about learning about the group after performances but learning what I can do to help them be better."

Junior soprano II Maddie Blaser believed the concert went well for the group.

"We messed up a couple of times, but no one, except us, noticed," Blaser informed.

The Shamrock Singers will begin preparing for district music and the spring concert after Christmas.

"They love doing different stuff, and it's made them grow this year. They are really up for challenging themselves. That's what makes me so happy," Salyard concluded.



KADE WIESE/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Vocal director Laura Salyard directs the Shamrock Singers as they sing a carol at their Christmas concert on December 6th. They also performed at the Craft Boutique as well as the Knights of Columbus dinner.

Students light up winter ball

By Brea Lassek
Editor

Students danced the night away underneath the stars on Saturday, December 7th, as Scotus hosted its annual Winter Ball. This was the second year the dance was scheduled in December. "Having the dance in December was extremely stressful! On top of my dance classes every night, activities, homework, and more, the dance somehow had to be put as a priority for a good week," sophomore class officer Eden Broberg noted.

Traditionally, the sophomore class officers and their teacher sponsors Ms. Alison Timoney and Mr. Clyde Ericson are responsible for organizing and putting on the dance. This includes creating an overall theme and bringing it to life by decorating Memorial Hall accordingly. This year, the officers chose "Northern Lights."

"Mr. Ericson and his crew did a great job on the backdrop, and I think the Christmas tree looked phenomenal," senior candidate Jayden Heng remarked. "The theme really came together."

The senior class nomi-

nates six female and six male candidates for royalty. Ryan Brandenburg was among those selected by his peers.

"It was the highlight of my night," Brandenburg stated. "It felt great to be nominated."

Elementary students Cruz Roewert and Jack Pryzmus assisted last year's queen Mattie Johnson and sophomore class officer Gavin Brabec in crowning the 2019 queen and king. Sophomore class officers Chris Adame and Broberg announced Haylee Cielocha and Levi Robertson as royalty.

"I was excited," Cielo-

cha remarked. "It's an honor to be nominated along with many other great people in my class."

Following coronation, students headed downstairs to the cafeteria to get down on the dance floor. More Music supplied the DJ for the night, collecting mixed reviews.

"Half the time, people just stood out on the dance floor because a song would be played that you couldn't dance to," senior Cole Demuth commented. "Like 'Jingle Bells,' why would you even play that?"

Others enjoyed the DJ's selections and remained on

the dance floor until the event concluded at eleven thirty.

"My favorite song was obviously 'Roxanne' because that's my name," sophomore Roxanne Beshaler shared.

Regardless of their opinions on the music, students could all agree on one aspect: everyone was dressed to the nines. Although personal style is often overshadowed by Scotus' plaid skorts and polos, students were granted the opportunity to display their fashion senses.

"I'm always the best dressed, but Jared Beaver also looked very dapper," Robertson complimented.

Winter Ball served as the underclassmen's last main event of the school year. Many are already anticipating their next chance to dance.

"I love dances in general because Columbus is boring," sophomore Grace Mustard commented.

The seniors, on the other hand, embraced one of their last outings together as a class.

"[The best part was] being there in the middle of the floor with the rest of the seniors, singing our hearts out to country songs," senior Nick Taylor reflected.



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Junior Kade Wiese shows off his dance moves in the middle of the circle while being cheered on by underclassmen. Scotus dances are known for dance battles between students.



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Scotus students get low on the dance floor on Saturday, December 7th. Winter Ball was put on by the sophomore class officers along with their teacher sponsors Ms. Alison Timoney and Mr. Clyde Ericson.



Senior Winter Ball candidates Kaleb Wiese, MaKenzie Enderlin, Drew VunCannon, Chloe Odbert, Haylee Cielocha, Levi Robertson, Sam Tonniges, Adam Kamrath, Jacey Clarey, Emmitt Broberg, Jayden Heng, and Ryan Brandenburg pose at coronation. Cielocha and Robertson were crowned queen and king of the Ball.

ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

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Don't give up on the Huskers

By Tyler Palmer
Staff Reporter

Every Sunday morning when I open my Twitter, all I see are various people hating on Nebraska's head coach Scott Frost. Some tweets are appropriate and some not so much for the school newspaper. With yet another disappointing season, it seems as if fans are losing faith in their Huskers, but we should stick with him, give him time, and wait another few years.

Nebraska is considered to be one of the best football programs in history; they have won national titles in 1970, 1971, 1994, 1995, and 1997, so the past few seasons have been a rut for the powerhouse program. Still, look for Nebraska football to be

on the rise again soon.

When Scott Frost arrived at the University of Central Florida in 2016, they were not a good program and needed desperate help. The first year was shaky at best, and many UCF fans were skeptical of their new coach. Out of nowhere, UCF exploded for a 13-0 season and trended as the "real national champions" in their words. This amazing season can be accredited to not only great athletes on the field, but great coaching and recruiting work—all done by Scott Frost.

I believe Nebraska football will soon be on top again because the proof is on paper: Scott Frost can win football games no matter what situation the program is in. When Frost arrived at Lincoln, he found himself among

many unfamiliar players and an entirely different scheme than he conducted at Central Florida.

You see, the system Mike Riley ran was a power offense, a different offense than Frost ran at UCF. Frost was a tempo, spread offense type of guy, and the players he had at UCF were perfect for his system. At Nebraska in 2018, his players were not exactly what he wanted although still great athletes.

Recruiting takes a long time. The players have to make the decision to come to the middle of the country in a state full of corn; then, the players have to get bigger, better, faster, and stronger. Last year, Frost did not have any of his recruits and was stuck with all of Riley's players, who did not fit his

system. This year, his recruits were coming along, but they were not at the level they needed to be yet.

On top of that, Frost has proved to the country he can bring teams to life and take them high up in the rankings. He took UCF to the top, and he will bring Nebraska to the top soon; no matter how long it takes, we cannot give up on him.

Next year, I believe the Huskers will come to life as Frost's players will fit the product. Players will have much more experience and talent to bring to the table. All good things take time to complete, and Nebraska football is going to be a good thing soon. After all the smoke is clear, Nebraska will be on top.



BRIAN ROSENTHAL/HUSKERS.COM

Scott Frost leads Nebraska on to the field to kick off the 2019 season. The Huskers beat South Alabama 35-21 and finished the season with a 5-7 record.

Coffee shops to love a "latte" in Columbus

By Kate Smith
Staff Reporter

At least three out of the five days of the week, you can catch me walking into school, five minutes before the day starts, with an iced coffee in my hand. Little do you all know, most of the time, each day they're from different places. Since I've managed to try nearly every

place in Columbus that offers coffee in all its beautiful and delicious forms, I choose the place I want coffee based on what I'm feeling, the temperature outside, and how much time I have. Now, here's the rundown of all my favorite places, their drinks, and their special characteristics.

First on the list is my place of employment: Scooter's Coffee. This was recently

added to Columbus in 2016 and has been popular ever since. Scooter's is the only drive-through coffee shop in Columbus, which is essential when you're running late and needing some strong espresso to start your day. Not only is it the only drive-through that offers fresh-pressed espresso, it is also the fastest. Scooter's makes it a priority to get your drink out as fast as possible so you can "scoot" onto the

rest of your day. Nearly every drink can be made without espresso, and smoothies are a popular choice among customers. Scooter's also offers food, ranging from their famous everything bagel to their seasonal pumpkin bread as well as everything in between. Since I work there, I've made it a personal goal to try as many drinks and combinations as possible. My typical order is, however, the most popular drink: the caramelicious, iced, and with an extra shot of espresso. I also order their prickly pear red bull infusion, which I get when I'm not in the mood for coffee.

As you move west down 23rd street, you will come across the Broken Mug. This hidden treasure recently became popular after IC Church inhabited the abandoned YMCA building. When you walk in, you can see it carries the typical coffee shop vibe. There are booths, couches, and stools where you can sip your coffee while talking with friends, working on homework, or studying for finals. Unlike Scooter's, it is not as quick, but what the Broken Mug lacks in speed, it makes up for in quality. Their "house specialty" is the broken mug mocha, which in is my drink of choice next to

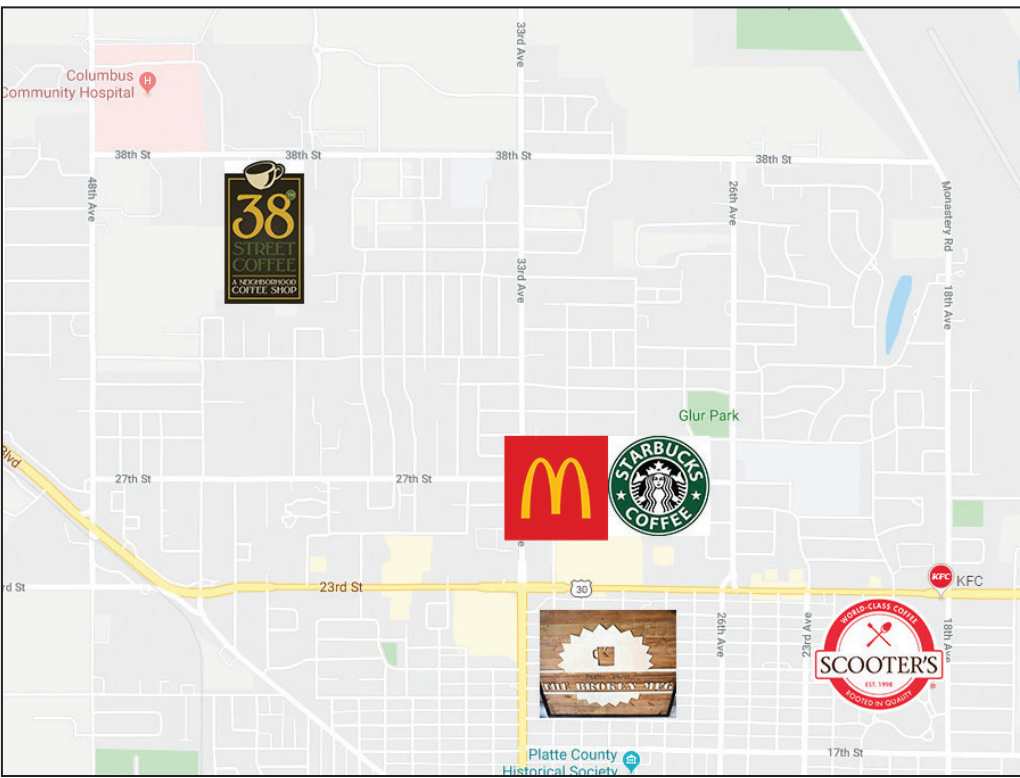
their iced dirty pumpkin chai (which is just fancy barista talk for a chai drink with a shot of espresso). They offer smoothies for you coffee haters, which I personally have never tried. Broken Mug also offers a café that provides homemade breakfast and lunch menus to order with their coffee. My favorite breakfast food would have to be their avocado toast on sourdough bread (basic I know), and my typical lunch order is the California Panini on white bread. The Broken Mug is the perfect place to go with friends or by yourself, only if you have the time to do so.

Last, but certainly not least, is 38th Street Coffee, located across the street from the public high school. Also a hidden treasure of Columbus, this small coffee shop offers iced toddy in a combination of flavors. Like the Broken Mug, it is not known for its speed, but it does have a selection of flavors the two previous coffee shops do not such as Madagascar vanilla, peanut butter, and many others. It also serves food such as muffins, soups, and sandwiches that can be pressed into paninis. My drink of choice there would probably be the iced white mocha and peanut butter toddy. This place is also a perfect meetup

spot for your friends because of their large sitting area. Out of all three, 38th Street Coffee has the biggest bang for your buck when it comes to price and quality; sadly, it is out of the way for most people.

For you Starbucks lovers, you are not forgotten. I do like Starbucks, but I only ever drink their iced caramel macchiato and a small selection of their teas. I personally feel they have the best teas compared to the other three coffee shops, but I am more of a coffee gal than anything else. It is also slightly inconvenient to have to walk in, and I feel I wait in line for my drink the longest time out of all the places in Columbus. It is nice, however, when I am getting groceries and need a midday pick-me-up. McDonald's also offers decent selection of coffee drinks, but McDonald's obviously does not specialize in these types of drinks. For me, their coffee simply isn't strong enough, but for those of you on a budget, a \$2.14 large caramel iced coffee might just be what you need.

So, the next time you are driving to school or work and stressing about the worries of that day, push it all aside and treat yourself to one of the many coffee shops Columbus has to offer.



GOOGLEMAPS.COM

There are five major coffee shops in Columbus: Scooter's, The Broken Mug, Starbucks, McDonald's, and 38th Street Coffee. All these coffee houses are unique and offer a variety of hot, cold, and blended beverages.

Frozen 2: I can't "Let It Go"

By Chloe Odbert
Staff Reporter

For months I had been patiently awaiting November 22nd, 2019, because that was the day the sequel to one of my favorite animated movies was going to be released. Unfortunately, I found the release of *Frozen 2* to be a bit disappointing.

To put myself in the right mindset, I watched *Frozen* on Friday night, knowing I was headed to the movie theatre the next night to watch the new one. As I found my seat and removed the candy I had smuggled in all my secret pockets, I could not wait for the film to begin.

The new movie began just as the last one did. Both Anna and Elsa are young children. Many people who have seen the original know that in the first film both of their parents die in a shipwreck. The sequel to the film has a bit more insight to what happened to their parents.

Elsa and Anna embark on an adventure with a few of their classic sidekicks and

friends to uncover some mysteries about their past.

Along with the classic characters came a group of new ones. On their adventure, the sisters, Christoph, Sven, and Olaf meet a whole new group of people. A new fan-favorite character is also brought to light as a small, blue, fire-making lizard shares the stage with the classic *Frozen* characters. The new lizard has little to no meaning to the plot, none that I understood anyway, but was a cute and fun new element to add.

I did appreciate the involvement of most *Frozen* fans favorite character, Olaf, in the film. Olaf seems to have a more prominent role in *Frozen 2* than he had in *Frozen*. Throughout the movie, Olaf continuously made comments regarding how he was looking forward to being old and mature so that he can understand certain things. Olaf's character in *Frozen 2* yet again charmed me with his adorable and hilarious comments sprinkled throughout the one hour and forty-five-minute film.

This time around, the

producers of *Frozen* took a more mysterious plot line. Personally, for the first forty-five minutes or so of the film, I was a bit confused. I think that the filmmakers could have added a bit more background knowledge and details to inform the watchers more of the plot line.

In the end, the movie and the plot came together into one major theme of love and family just as the first did. My favorite part of the original film was the overall theme of love and family, so I was appreciative of the continued theme into the second movie.

Throughout this movie, Elsa and Anna's sisterhood is spotlighted more as they acknowledge many times that they are to never shut each other out again. The sisters stick together for most of the movie until Elsa fears Anna being hurt. Although poorly executed by Elsa as Anna felt as if her sister had abandoned her yet again, this split of the two characters symbolized the theme of love and family. Elsa was looking out for Anna and making sure to keep her safe.

This film also demonstrated much more control for Elsa. She could control her magical powers this time around as she has had years of public practice and exercise with her powers.

I did feel as if the movie fell short of my expectations; however, the soundtrack was anything but lacking. Although the songs on the *Frozen 2* soundtrack are probably not going to be

quite as catchy as the original's such as "Let it Go," "Do You Want to Build a Snowman," or "Love is an Open Door," the film soundtrack featured a new abundance of musical aspects that held a lot of meaning to the plot. The lyrics to the new songs seem more powerful to the story and to the common person. The songs are meaningful and catchy.

Overall, although the

movie was not my favorite of the two, and I am still a dedicated lover of the original *Frozen*, the new film is worth seeing to develop your own opinion. *Frozen 2* is a great cartoon with a meaningful message for kids; I have heard a lot of my peers who claim to love the new movie. Some people even claim it surpasses the original. So, check it out and see for yourself.



HTTPS://COMPETITIONS.DISNEY.ID/FROZEN2

Frozen 2 opened in theatres on November 22nd. The movie featured the same main characters as the last film as well as added some new faces to the Disney family.



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Rock Bottom

Events elevate Catholic Schools Week

By Amber Buhman
Staff Reporter

Catholic speakers, Adoration, Mass, and Rock Talk are all activities the students and staff of Scotus participated to celebrate Catholic Schools Week.

The week started with a day off on Monday for the students, and the teachers attended a retreat.

“Going to the Benedictine center always creates a great frame of mind to remind us what Catholic schools are all about,” English teacher Melanie Mimick said.

On Tuesday, Christian music filled the halls during passing periods and students wore Catholic shirts.

“My favorite part about Catholic Schools Week is getting to dress up during the week,” freshman Alex Ferguson said. “Seeing everyone participate is awesome.”

Wednesday, Danny Leger came to speak about his mission “Hope of the Poor”. Columbus Catholic Youth Ministry, Co-Coordinator Sarah Doerneman asked Leger to come give his witness.

“Last year, in April, I was able to go to Winnebago and hear

Danny Leger speak about his mission Hope of the Poor,” Doerneman said. “It was a beautiful experience and I asked him after that day if he would ever be interested in coming to Columbus during Catholic Schools Week to talk to our teens about his mission work with Hope of the Poor.”

Leger’s Hope of the Poor mission is based out of Mexico City. They provide food and try to find homes for the homeless people who are living in the dump and on the streets.

“I thought Danny Leger’s mixture of music and speaking brought

an interesting dynamic to his presentation,” junior Clarissa Kosch said. “His presentation was engaging and made me realize the power of prayer and how blessed we truly are.”

This year, Scotus has perpetual Adoration in its chapel. Leger prepared for his talk by first going into the chapel to pray.

“My favorite part [of Leger’s talk] was when he had us close our eyes to pray,” junior Olivia Klug said. “He told us about how he went into the chapel to prepare for what to tell us, and God

See CSW, Page 2

Mysterious drones make surprise appearances

By Sarah Bichlmeier
Staff Reporter

People are used to the idea that they are being watched- by security cameras, their computer monitors, or even by the recently popularized Ring doorbells, which have a camera installed. In rural areas, however, people are generally untroubled by security measures; it is common to see doors unlocked and cars left running. However, a recent discovery by citizens of Colorado and Nebraska has proven that we may not have as much security and privacy as we originally thought.

According to NBC.com, drone sightings started in Colorado a week before Christmas. The drones generally fly in groups of 30 from 7 to 10 p.m. While they have not flown low enough to be considered trespassing on people’s property, the Federal Aviation Association has proposed a law change that would require drones to be identifiable by law enforcement.

Many theories have been conjured about who is flying the drones and what their intentions are. While many suspect the government or military, the military has denied any involvement. Other theories have a hint of conspiracy in them- some think aliens are behind the mysterious drones. Senior Cole Demuth witnessed a drone hovering over a bean field near his house but is not convinced any sort of unwarranted scheme is taking place with the drones’ presence.

“I personally believe they are simply mapping out land topography. It seems like the most reasonable thing,” Demuth stated.

With the United States’ recent tensions with Iran, some speculate the drones are being ran by the Iranian military. Senior Katie Stachura, who witnessed a drone flying south of her house, is skeptical of such accusations.

“I have heard so many people say these drones are from Iran and that they are planning on bombing us to start World War III. First of all, no. There will be no World War III, and there will be no bombing,” Stachura commented.

Word of drone sightings has flooded the halls of Scotus within the past few weeks. Senior Tim Ehlers had a close encounter with one of the peculiar drones.

“I was leaving my house for work and before I got into my car, I saw a drone flying very fast about two blocks away from my house. Then, when I got to work, there was a drone flying above the Hy-Vee parking lot. It moved a bit further away from the lot and hovered around a bit before going away,” Ehlers said.

Junior Michael Gasper owns a drone and uses it for recreational purposes. He brings his drone on vacations and captures the landscape around him. However, using a drone comes with challenges.

See DRONES, Page 2



SARAH BICHLMEIER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Scotus students participate in the actions to “Lean on Me” during Danny Leger’s talk. Leger spoke to the students about his mission “Hope of the Poor”.

Students enjoy first snow day

By Janae Rusher
Staff Reporter

Thursday, January 16th slowly got colder, windier, and snowier as students waited by their phones in anticipation for Mr. Ohnoutka to make the call that could make or break most students’ and teachers’ days. Students were weighing the pros and cons of doing their homework and what would happen if school was on for Friday.

The problem is, Nebraska is extremely unpredictable: it could be 50 degrees with no wind one day and snowing the next. Many wonder how President Jeff Ohnoutka decides if Scotus will have a snow day or not when the weather forecasts cannot agree.

“I watch the weather forecasts,” Ohnoutka said. “I monitor road conditions using the 511 app. I get up around 4 a.m. and drive the roads to see the condition they are in.”

Mr. Ohnoutka then contacts the other administrators when he has made his decision about the day.

“The safety of our teachers and students is always the highest priority,”

Ohnoutka said. “We have staff who drive over 30 miles.”

As Ohnoutka decides the fate of the school, the students must decide if they want to believe the weather forecasts or not. The night before a snow day, students ask themselves if they really want to do their homework or risk not having a snow day.

“The night before a snow day I check the list of closings about every 10 minutes,” sophomore Nathan Eisenmenger said.

Staff and students received text messages or found out on social media.

“My reaction to the snow day was thank you, Jesus, at first,” English teacher Becki Zanardi said, “then concern regarding the activities Saturday.”

Snow days do not happen all that often so when they do, students celebrate mostly by sleeping.

“My favorite part of snow days is waking up and getting to go back to bed with a smile on my face,” Junior Kade Wiese said.

Senior Kate Smith is optimistic about future weather.

“I hope for at least five more snow days,” Smith said.



TAYLOR DAHL/MARKETING DIRECTOR

Taylor Dahl, the Scotus marketing director, posted on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook that school was called off Friday, January 17th. Students and parents also received a civil dispatch Friday morning.

CSW

told him what to tell us. I thought that was really cool.” Thursday brought over the fourth through sixth graders from St. Bon’s, St. Isidore’s, and St. Anthony’s to participate in all school Mass. High school and junior high students sat with the elementary school that they had attended.

“I loved sitting with the elementary students,” freshman May-sa Kuhl said. “We know how much they look up to us, so it was fun to sit with them and participate in Mass with them.” The week was wrapped up with Adoration, music, and teen witnesses on Friday. Seniors Liza Zaruba, Cole Demuth, and Antonio Chavez shared their witness with the school.

“I just wanted people to know that God is always with you no matter what,” Chavez said. “You should always have faith in what you do.”

Demuth followed Chavez with a message of his own.

“Pray to God. Tell him about everything that is going on in your day or your life because that’s what he wants to hear,” Demuth said. “He wants us to have that relationship

with him, and he is there to listen.” Zaruba finished up the teen witnesses and the rally.

“I hope through my talk, people realized the importance to look beyond the here and now,” Zaruba said. “God is everlasting and continues to abide no matter the passing phases we go through. At the end of the day, our relationship with God is what fulfills us and brings meaning to our lives.”

“Pray to God. Tell him about everything that is going on in your day or your life because that’s what he wants to hear. He wants us to have that relationship with him, and he is there to listen.”

~Cole Demuth

God has found many ways to bring fulfillment to Scotus this year. With the loss of a school chaplain, Scotus has had many people in both the school and community step up to take over youth ministry at school. Doerneman is one of those community members who has stepped up. She organizes Rock Talk, and she along with President Jeff Ohnoutka and the Catholicity committee planned the Catholic Schools’ Week events.

“I think Scotus ‘looks different’ than other schools, in that we value our faith, we want to genuinely live out our faith, and our goal is to help our students get to Heaven first and foremost,” Doerneman said.

DRONES



SARAH BICHLMEIER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior Michael Gasper poses with a drone in the STEAM room. Gasper owns and operates a similar model on his own time.

“Trees are big obstacles- I have definitely gotten a few stuck up in their branches. It’s never fun trying to get them down. One challenge with flying is that hobbyists cannot fly within five miles of an airport, so it really limits what you can do in small towns,” Gasper said.

Drones continue to become closer to home than ever. They are making a huge impact on the future of delivery. As reported by The-WashingtonPost.com, Walgreens

has already used drones to deliver items in the southwest Virginia town of Christianburg, making them a top competitor in the race to develop prominence in air carrier delivery. Other companies like UPS and Uber are eager to hop aboard this distribution advancement. Because of all the progress made in drone technology and their increasing popularity, it is certain the drones spotted in the Midwest will not be the last.

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Doubting the Rowdy Dowdies



By Ava Kuhl
Staff Reporter

The clock is ticking down with only a few sec-

onds left before the game is over. You are playing against your archrivals and have felt the intensity of the game the minute you started because of the fans. You need one more score to win the game and go to state. The crowd is chanting and screaming, and you can feel their support behind you the entire way. This feeling and atmosphere is something that dejectedly not all sports or activities get to experience.

As a junior girl who plays basketball, I know what it means to be the opening for the main attraction of the night. However, girls' basket-

ball is not the only activity that feels unsupported at times. Track, soccer, golf, tennis, powerlifting, swim, speech, fine arts, singers, band, wrestling, and mock trial are all activities that often have little to no fans attend.

I think it is important to not only support the major activities such as football or boys' basketball but every activity because all sports and activities represent the school.

If you have ever gone to a home football game or volleyball game against Lakeview, you know what I mean when I say the best

games are when the stands are packed, and both teams have crowds of people there to encourage them. When you are playing in a game or performing onstage, the best feelings come when you can hear the crowd, and you know they want you to win. That sensation is irreplaceable but seems rare because only the major sports or activities get this sort of praise.

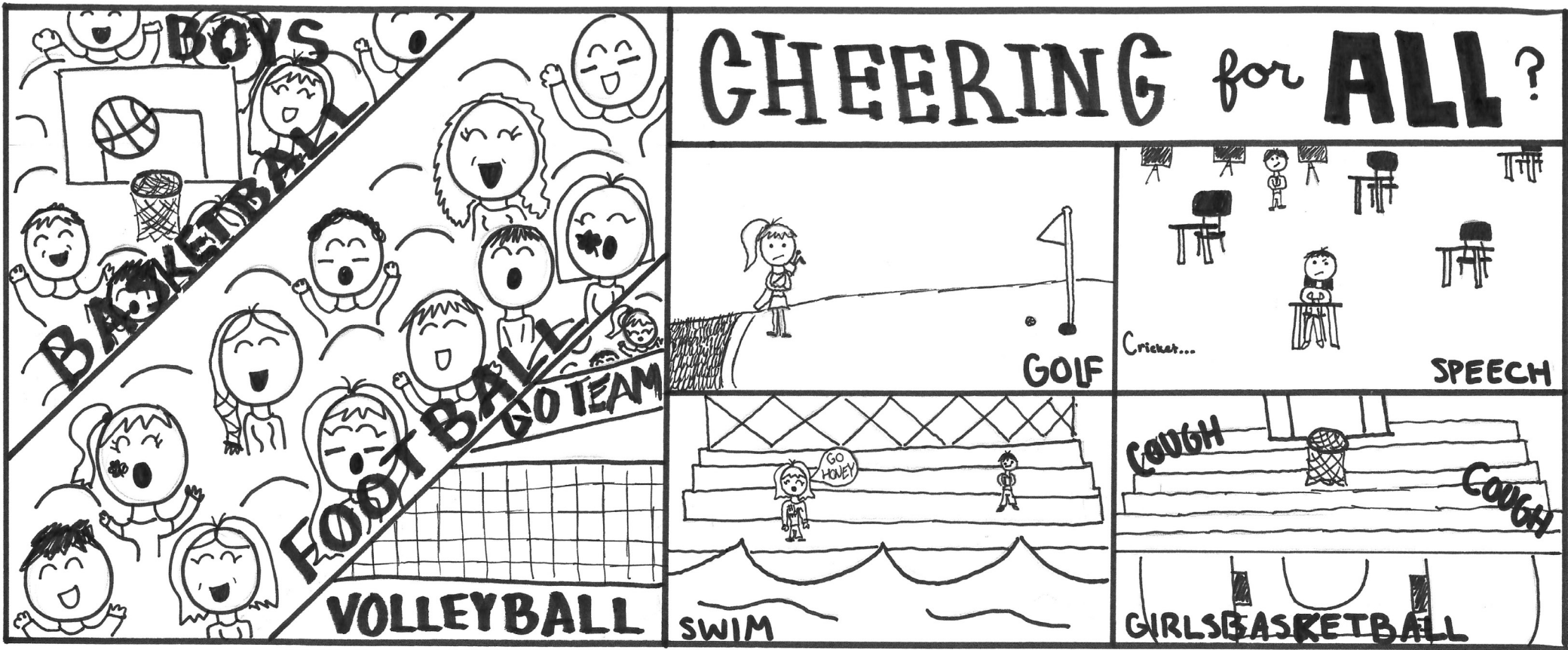
Another reason to come out and boost all activities is that even though for you it may only be an hour or so of your time, the people participating spend days, weeks, and months working to perfect what they do. The most

disappointing part is working for hours to show, not only your parents but everyone, what you have been training and preparing for but no one cares. On the other hand, when people do show up to the activity, and there is a great turnout, the atmosphere is amazing! A crowd cheering on players or an audience giving the performers a standing ovation, can make someone feel incredible.

"I have other things going on that day with practice." "I have work." "I'm still in school." The reasons why people do not attend

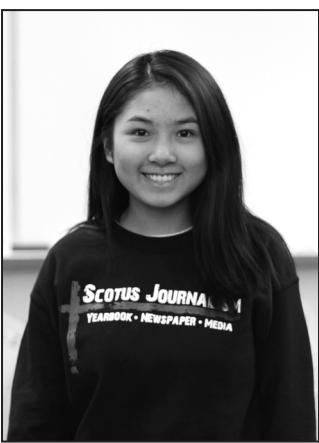
events vary, but most of them everyone has. Nonetheless, anyone can still attend these lesser events, it is just going to require planning and a bit of sacrifice out of your day. It is simple: grab a few friends, plan for a day to go watch and cheer for the activity and go have fun there.

With all that being said, why not go to a lesser supported activity and learn about the sport or event? Go and watch an athlete who plays and takes the time to practice the sport while also showing your loyalty towards Scotus and what it stands for.



AVA KUHL/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Be curious, not critical



By Rachael Lam
Staff Reporter

"Ew, what is that?" or "That looks so weird." These are comments I receive way too often from the people around me. I can still recall an instance in which I brought a snack from home to school. I remember feeling reluctant to take it out and even considered just being

hungry. However, I felt guilty not eating it because my mom had given it to me. As I started eating it, I looked to my side and met the eyes of one of my peers staring at me with a look of disgust before asking me in the rudest way possible, "WhAt iS ThAt?" I remember feeling taken aback and nervous before explaining to her what it was because I was afraid of being judged.

Because of my ethnicity, some of my actions or interests may seem foreign. However, this does not give anyone the right to ask questions in such a way that makes it seem as if there is something wrong with it. Rather, people should take this chance to try and understand other cultures better.

The problem is not in these questions themselves; rather, the problem stems from it. While these questions

seem to come from a place of curiosity, in many cases, an opinion has already been made. People who have no knowledge of a topic judge it beforehand in a seemingly rude way.

In today's society, everyone has become so accustomed to what they are used to doing every day that anything new becomes hard to accept. We all have our likes and dislikes whether it be clothes, foods, activities, or movies. Because we think we know what we want, we decide right away whether we like something or not. This is simply human nature.

I believe everyone should try to become more culturally aware and curious instead of being questioning and judgmental. By asking questions and being genuinely interested, it can allow you to learn and discover new activities or foods you may end

up liking. At the same time, it can help expand your knowledge in different aspects.

For example, if people who did not know me took the time to ask about my background, then they would find I have lots to share. Apart from the foods I eat and what I do, I have also learned many useful lessons from my various traveling experiences and the languages I speak.

By having the ability to speak English, Chinese, and the dialect of Fujianese fluently, it has allowed me to realize the benefits of being able to speak more than one language. Because of this, I place a lot of importance on constantly trying to improve my Spanish skills.

From traveling, I learned the way people interact in bigger cities versus smaller towns is drastically different. Here, people greet each other

but in bigger cities like Chicago, people tend to keep to themselves. I think in smaller towns people are nicer to each other, especially on the roads while driving. Because everyone has somewhere to be and it is crowded in big cities, drivers are impatient.

While I can share many traditions from my Chinese culture, I am also well informed about other Asian cultures, which can be shared as well. Although I enjoy many Chinese foods and activities, I do have to say that many of my favorites also come from Vietnamese, Japanese, and Korean culture.

I like to keep myself up to date with the trends going on in various Asian countries, especially Korea. I enjoy watching Korean dramas and eating Korean food. Something very popular in the Korean culture is Kimchi, which is often paired with

foods such as ramen, Korean barbecue, and a type of rice cake called tteokbokki. Over time, my choice of clothing, makeup, and skincare has been influenced by the Korean trends.

While some people's reactions may be instinctive, practicing awareness and curiosity will only help in being more conscious in the future. Sometimes, the comments we make or questions we ask come off differently than we want, so when people think they are being curious about my culture, it can seem rude instead.

So, the next time you meet someone of a different ethnicity with dissimilar practices, ask questions to become aware rather than immediately making a comment. As the saying goes, "If you do not have anything nice to say, then do not say it at all."

Single in the season of love



By Amber Buhman
Staff Reporter

With the start of the new year, I told my family this was going to be the year I accepted my singleness. My

dad responded with, "So it will be like 2019, and 2018, and 2017."

I guess it's obvious I have plenty of experience with being single since I've lived it for 18 years in a row now. Many people associate single with lonely, but this doesn't have to be the case.

Being single has many benefits people don't normally think about. It has given me many opportunities to third wheel with my sister and her boyfriend and my friends and their boyfriends. Being able to third wheel with other couples gives me a chance to see what I like and dislike about their relationships. It helps me discover what I want in my

future relationship. Like, why would I want to be with a guy who wants to name his car Agatha? Watching other people's relationships and learning from them is a great way to prepare yourself for your future boyfriend or girlfriend.

Much like being single, third wheeling has plenty of perks as well. I don't have to waste my gas because my friends' boyfriends take us in

their cars. Also, your friend's boyfriend's parents also feel bad for you, so they even try to set you up.

In high school, it feels especially important to have a boyfriend or girlfriend because it seems like all your friends have one, and there are dances and events it would be nice to have a date. Many high school students think they will be so much happier once they are in a relationship, but in order to be happy with someone else,

you first need to learn how to be happy alone. Learn to have validation in yourself and not need someone to compliment you or make you feel special.

I've had a date to a dance, but I have mostly gone to dances with my friends. Going to a dance without a date doesn't make it any less fun. In fact, I know plenty of people who think it is more fun to go alone or with friends rather than go with a date. When you go with a date, you feel obligated to always be by them or to dance with them. You feel like you need to make sure they're having fun, and it can ruin your fun.

What it ultimately comes

Learn to have validation in yourself and not need someone to compliment you or make you feel special.
~Amber Buhman

The Difference a Decade Makes



Miss Ackermann

"Ten years ago, I did not think I would be teaching English. I dreamed of being a professional softball player and competing in the Olympics. After earning a gold medal, I wanted to work for the F.B.I. as a secret service agent. I figured my stellar service and experience in the White House would back my campaign as the first female President of the United States."



2010: Megan (11), Lindsay (5), Kristen (14), Ryan (16), Katie (18), Mrs. Ohnoutka, Mr. Ohnoutka.

The Ohnoutkas

2020: Mr. Ohnoutka, Kristen (23), Megan (20), Mrs. Ohnoutka, Lindsay (14), Katie (26) (Her husband Tate), and Ryan (25)

Katie Ohnoutka is married and teaching at St. Bon's, Ryan teaches and coaches at St. Cecilia in Hastings, Kristen is in graduate school at UNL, Megan is at UNO, and Lindsay is a freshman.

Familiar Faces from 2000



2000 Staff

Mrs. Blaser, Mr. Brockhaus, Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Podliska, Mrs. Dusel-Misfeldt, Mrs. Hash, Mrs. Lahm, Mr. Lahm, Mrs. Salyard, Mr. Salyard, Mrs. Tooley, Mrs. Weir, Mrs. Zanardi all were teachers here 20 years ago.

Miss Salyard

"Ten years ago I knew I would be teaching; I just had no idea it would be here."

Father Bill Cremers and Ms. Salyard went to high-school together. They were both juniors in 2010.

Father Bill Cremers

"Ten years ago, I was really beginning to grow in my faith through regular prayer, friendships, and times of retreat like JC Camp or Steubenville.

The past ten years has been a wonderful experience of attending seminary and entering into priesthood, and now I am awe-struck by the way He was present in it all.

I'm very grateful for all that Scotus provided in terms of friendships and teaching, and now I hope to be like Fr. Roza for all those I minister to, especially to my high school students at Bergan."



Resolutions receive mixed reviews

By Sarah Bichlmeier
Staff Reporter

Changing unhealthy habits is one of the most difficult processes human beings can go through. Because January marks the start of a new year, and this year, a new decade, many people seize the opportunity to change their habits at the beginning of the year. The infamous mantra, "New Year, New Me," infatuates the idealistic minds of many, but more often than not, these resolutions are slowly lost with the procrastinatory "It starts tomorrow" ideology.

Why do people struggle so fervently to fulfill their resolutions? And why do people tend to give up on their resolutions so easily?

As reported by *History.com*, New Year's resolutions found their beginnings as early as 4,000 years ago by the Babylonians. The Babylonians believed if they made promises to return their debts to the pagan gods, they would be bestowed with good fortune in the upcoming year.

Today, New Year's resolutions are more frequently a commitment to oneself. Resolutions can include various desires such

as wishing to improve one's organization, intellect, or time management. In a survey, Scotus staff and students resolved to partake in various resolutions. Some said in the upcoming year they were looking for spiritual growth, while others were looking for more palpable forms of self-improvement- refining their video game skills, being successful in their activities, and even getting more sleep.

Resolutions can be beneficial when done properly. According to *Psychologytoday.com*, people will quickly abandon ship when it comes to their resolutions because

they are fearful of disappointing themselves and others, or they find their goals are unattainable. English teacher Bree Ackermann accredits resolutions for having the potential for benefit.

"If done right, resolutions are beneficial. Goal setting is crucial for growth, but if one sets too many goals or unreasonable goals, resolutions are bogus," Ackermann said.

In theory, resolutions seem like a great idea; however, most people find they are not able to keep up. As the 2014 podcast *Planet Money* found, gym owners

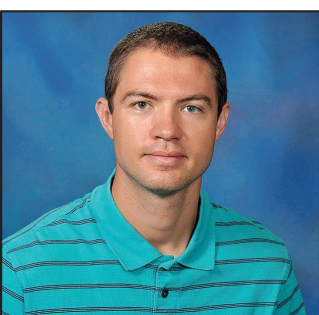
are extremely confident that people will not fulfill their resolutions. In 2014, Planet Fitness had 6,000 members but only a capacity for 300 in their gym. Sophomore Gavin Brabec believes more often than not, resolutions are short-lived.

"Resolutions are not beneficial because there is not enough motivation to stick to something for the entire year," Brabec said.

The enforcement of tangible qualities being the characteristics of one's worth can be a determining factor behind the development of anxiety, depression, and

eating disorders; people often focus on the improvement of their external qualities, not for their own sake, but for the appeasement of others. When people base their worth on the opinions of others, they will often find themselves disappointed. Sophomore Kyanne Casperson believes resolutions have a negative impact on people.

"I feel like resolutions put a lot of stress on a person. If they don't accomplish their resolutions, they might feel negatively about themselves, and that is the opposite of what resolutions should be," Casperson said.



"I hope I don't take whatever comes for granted."
-Clyde Ericson



"I'm trying to improve on procrastination because I do it a lot."
-Chris Adame, 11



"I want all my children to be self-sufficient and happy."
-Joan Lahm



"I'm looking to find more time for fishing."
-Tyler Stuart, 10



"I am looking to be at peace (not stressed) with all aspects of my life next year!"
-Betsy Rall



"I'm trying to learn to write with my non-dominant hand."
-Ben Policky, 10

The Roaring 20(20)'s: 1920's through the eyes of the 21st Century

By Kate Smith
Staff Reporter

The Jazz Age, the Age of Wonderful Nonsense, and the Golden Twenties. The Roaring 20's was a time of celebration, growth, and music. At the turn of the new year, the whole world now gets to experience the Roaring 20's in the 21st century. Through the eyes of the Roaring 20's, it is apparent history has a chance to repeat itself as there are striking similarities yet some obvious differences as the 21st century takes on its own version of the Roaring 20's.

In the 1920's, jazz music took over the music scene. Artists like King Oliver and Willy Smith were heard for the first time on radios. For 75 dollars, Americans were able to tune into any station they wanted to. This allowed the upbeat, feel-good jazz music to become so popular. For the first time, African American artists such as Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington rose to fame, not only because of jazz music but because of the Harlem Renaissance, a social and

artistic growth among African Americans. These artists paved the way for the popular African American artists we listen to today.

Unlike the 1920's, people of the 21st century rarely use the radio. Radios have long since been replaced by aux cords and Apple Music. Jazz was the beat everyone moved to in the Roaring 20's but is not quite the tune of 2020. Today, R&B and rap genres have become the most popular type of music to listen to. Despite the genre difference, African American musicians still dominate the music industry. Artists like Kendrick Lamar, Nicki Minaj, and Khalid Robinson are some of the most popular and influential artists of the time.

Another name for the 1920's was the Golden Age of Hollywood. Numerous movies were produced in this time period, which brought in enormous amounts of money. Since the television was not yet invented, going to the movie theatre was a common way to pass time. Fast forward 100 years, going to the movie theatre is still something people enjoy but is

not quite as popular as it was. Many people love seeing a movie when it first comes out, but most wait until it comes out on Netflix.

Not only did movies flourish in the 1920's, animation did as well. Walt Disney jumped to fame in this decade with his animated shorts. He first found success with his character, Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, while he was with Universal Studios. After leaving Universal Studios, Walt Disney created his trademark character, Mickey Mouse, and started his own studio. He initially didn't have much success, but after Steamboat Willie came out, he became extremely famous for his animated short films. Now, Disney has grown to something Walt Disney never could have dreamed.

Disney in the 21st century is one of the biggest television networks in the world. Disney does not only produce animations anymore. It has grown to produce live action movies, film documentaries, and even has its own television channel. Since the 1920's, there have been at least 163 animated films produced. Animation itself

has come a long way. New animation technology has helped give Mickey Mouse quite a different look than he had in the 1920's.

The Roaring 20's is best known for the rebellious women of the time, called flappers. Flapper style came from French fashions particularly from a French designer named Gabrielle Bonheur "Coco" Chanel. For the first time ever, women wore short dresses just below the knee. Women cut their hair in a "bob cut" which made them appear boyish and young. Previously, pale skin was considered the most beautiful until Coco Chanel spent too much time in the sun after vacation. Coco Chanel stepped out with bronze, caramel colored skin that every girl wanted to have. Fashion has evolved and changed over the past century, but much of 1920's typical look is still seen today.

Today, short dresses have become the norm. Even still today, women cut their hair short and can still get a "bob cut". Heels are still a must have in every woman's closet, even if they have a few extra inches on the heels than

in the 1920's. Tan skin is still considered the most beautiful and there are even tanning beds, tanning lotion, and spray tans to help achieve the healthy glow. Coco Chanel died in the early 70's but her legacy lives on in her luxurious, fashion company, Chanel. Today, Chanel is one of the biggest producers of high-end fashion, jewelry, makeup, and so much more.

Looking back 100 years shows how much American culture has grown



French designer Gabrielle Bonheur "Coco" Chanel (left) pioneered women's fashion in the 1920's. Chanel is still one of the biggest names in high end fashion and was carried on by designer Karl Otto Lagerfeld (above).

A blast from the past

A flash to the future

By Tyler Palmer
Staff Reporter

Over the past decade, Scotus Central Catholic has won numerous state championships, gained excellent teachers and students, and witnessed some of the most dramatic events to happen in Columbus, and the school itself.

There is no doubt Scotus had one of the best decades in Nebraska high school sports, racking up 12 state championships across 7 NSAA sanctioned sports including the first ever back-to-back-to-back boys soccer state championship in Nebraska high school history. Scotus also sent 5 football players to the Nebraska Shrine Bowl. Along with team success, 83 different records across 11 sports were broken over the past decade, led by boys basketball with 14 new records.

Merlin Lahm, who has been at Scotus since 1986, has seen his fair share of state championships and triumphs through coaching and serving as the current athletic director.

“As a coach, [my most memorable moment] was our first ever boys cross country state championship in 2011,” Lahm said.

Aside from sports, Scotus has also excelled in the classroom identifying as the academic powerhouse in Columbus. In the past 10 years, 32 students earned a 36 in at least 1 category on the ACT and 40 students obtained a

33 or above on the test. 7 of the 10 top ACT class scores in Scotus history came in the last decade with Scotus’ highest class average of 25.9 in 2015.

Scotus also has introduced great change and emphasis to the one act and musical groups. Clyde Ericson, who teaches art and is the director of the one act production, is one of many who appreciates the efforts made by the school to revamp the drama group.

“I have really enjoyed putting on shows through the drama department. They are a lot of work and being able to put it all together for a public performance is always memorable and special,” Ericson said.

There have also been some new additions to the school in the 2010’s, such as the new bleachers in the Dowd Activity Center, an upgrade from the previous tan metal ones.

Just as human evolution continues to grow, so do the trends at Scotus from year to year.

“I didn’t expect to see the perm with the shaved sides to come back with such popularity,” Ericson said.

Deb Ohnoutka, who teaches 7th grade English and Literature, has been at Scotus this whole decade and has seen many different trends come through the school.

“[The wildest trends of the decade were] wearing Ugg boots with skirts, pants with elastic around the ankles, and bottle flip-

ping,” Ohnoutka said. Several elements have stayed the same at Scotus, but with the growing use of technology, Scotus has adapted to the new way of learning and used it for great benefit.

“Our use of technology has changed the most. We went from hard wired to wireless and about 100 computers in the building to more than 4 times that,” Lahm said.

Scotus has continued to step up in the faith, making new opportunities for students to create a relationship with God and their peers and found ways to encounter Christ in every hallway at Scotus.

Zach McPhillips, a geometry teacher and basketball and football coach at Scotus, has been here for four years and enjoys the Catholic atmosphere of the school and its environment.

“The spiritual growth of the Scotus community to embrace Rock Talk and to promote the love of Christ is memorable,” McPhillips said. This is evident through the number of students entering the religious life after high school. 1 girl has entered sisterhood and 3 guys going into seminary to be priests.

It is clear Scotus has stayed true to its slogan to maintain academic and extracurricular excellence through the various accomplishments in the two categories. Scotus has seen many trends, wild moments, and a Christian transformation this decade.

By Chloe Odbert
Staff Reporter

I am looking forward to coming back to Columbus, Nebraska for my 10-year class reunion. Not only am I excited to explore the town in which I spent most of my childhood growing up, but I am also anxious to see what other pizza restaurants this town could possibly hold. When the class of 2020 comes back, I hope that we can return specifically to Scotus Central Catholic to see how the school that built us all has continued to develop.

I predict, as they have been for the last 25 years or so, the walls of Scotus will still be a dull color of beige. If they are not, I will be incredibly surprised. If Scotus remains in its original building, I think there is a future full of modernization for the school. Maybe, Scotus will follow the local grade schools and upgrade to Smart Boards rather than overhead projectors and the Lady Bugs. I imagine in the next ten years Scotus will veer away from the Lenovo laptops and perhaps transition to iPads.

Regarding Scotus’ athletics, I hope they are still succeeding. If all goes as planned, we will have to rebuild or modify the Dowd Activity Center because we will officially be out of room for banners. With that expansion, another addition will be necessary. With all the banners I foresee Scotus students and coaches hanging,

the school will need more wall space for championship pictures that come along with them. In the next 10 years, I am sure Scotus will have some talented athletes come in and out of the building. Just as the students of the last decade received, they will deserve a proper display of their success.

Where do I begin to predict what the staff will look like in 2030? With all jokes aside, I think it is a given Mr. Salyard will still be walking through the halls in the mornings to make copies and slightly jogging through them after school. Scotus will get a school chaplain again in the next decade. Father Bill Cremers, a graduate from 2011, will return to the halls of Scotus yet again but this time fulfilling his vocation of the Holy Orders. Julia Pichler, a 2019 graduate, will be back in town and not just for a weekend; in 2030 she will live in Columbus and teach English here at Scotus. I am guessing that the McPhillips will have an ever-growing family of roughly 11 kids within the next decade, following in the footsteps of Mr. McPhillips’ side of the family. Mrs. McPhillips will be tag-teaming the position of school counselor with a new face to Scotus. One will serve as a guidance counselor and the other will specialize in college preparation. This will be beneficial to the students as they will be able to speak with them on different issues rather than only having one

school counselor that is constantly bombarded with multiple requests and questions.

The real Scotus ghost will still be haunting the halls. The stories I was told as a young girl will continue to be told in the chemistry wing as kids meet with their best friends during their older siblings’ games and activities. The Twitter Scotus ghost will also still be active that is, only if Twitter is still cool in 10 years. If Twitter is still around the account will blow up as graduates will continue to follow the account and the underclassmen will start their own Twitter accounts and give the Scotus ghost new followers. In it’s short time of existence, the account has become more witty and hilarious, so I don’t see that account becoming inactive anytime soon. Along with the Twitter account of the Scotus ghost, Mr. Dahl will still be alive and active as the school’s marketing director. He will continue to highlight all extracurricular events and the students who are doing big things within our school and community. With the constant development of technology, by 2030 he will be able to post “Getting to Know” videos as holograms.

All in all, I think it is appropriate for the students, staff, and entire Shamrock nation to be enthusiastic and excited for the future of Scotus. Scotus has greatly influenced the community in the past decade and will continue to do so if all goes as planned.



CALLY LARSON/ 2015 MEDIA CLASS

The Scotus student section cheers on the volleyball team at the 2014 state tournament. The Shamrocks lost in the semifinal match and finished third in the tournament.



BRIDGET MCPHILLIPS/SCOTUS STAFF

Zach and Bridget McPhillips both teach at Scotus. The McPhillips currently have two kids, Maverick and Gloria McPhillips, and will have a plethora more before the year 2030.

What’s your word?

HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS PAST YEAR?

Loved every second of it!

Looking forward to a fresh start this year.

DO YOU MAKE NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS?

DO YOU HAVE A LOT OF PLANS FOR THE YEAR?

Of Course!

Not my thing.

Yes. I’ve been planning for months.

Not really. Just looking to go with with the flow.

CLEAN FREAK OR HOARDER?

HOMEBOY OR PARTY ANIMAL?

NIGHT OWL OR EARLY BIRD?

Organization galore baby!

I can’t see the floor of my room...

Where’s the couch?

Partay! Partay! Partay!

Hoo! Hoo!

Chirp! Chirp!

MY HOPE THIS YEAR IS TO BECOME STRONGER...

2020 IS INTENDED FOR...

Physically.

Mentally.

Forming community with others.

Self-growth.

Anchor

Time is precious, and life is short. Anchor yourself in the people who love and support you and be present for every moment of this upcoming year.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THE MOST THIS YEAR?

Stability

Fresh Start.

Dare

Be unafraid going into this year. Aim high. Reach for your goal and excel. Never let failure scare you or hold you back. Your dreams are attainable.

Stand

Stand in your beliefs and speak your truth. Embrace the person you are and show it to the world.

Go

Do not be afraid to go for it. Embrace change. Move into this next season of your life and live.

To discover your word for 2020, look at the same colored box as the color of the word that your quiz results led you to.

Wrestling works through difficulties

By Liza Zaruba
Staff Reporter

With only three state returners, seniors Nick Taylor, Evan Hand, and sophomore Landyn Maschmeier, the Shamrock wrestling team is generally inexperienced, which has proved to be a struggle over the course of this season. The Shamrocks' current record is 4-14, but that is not to be discounted with the steady improvement being made.

"Our goals moving forward are to continuously get better day-by-day, and they are!" coach DJ Brandenburg exclaimed. "A lot of the kids who lost to kids earlier this year have now been beating them, which proves to me their work ethic and willingness to take risks is paying off."

The wrestlers began their season on December 6th at the Lakeview Wrestling Invitational where they were unable to find success; however,

the team quickly bounced back a week later to snatch a victory against Archbishop Bergan during their home dual. The final score rounded out to a 45-29 win for the Shamrocks.

One of the wrestlers who won matches at the Lakeview Invite was senior Nick Taylor, who currently competes at the 132-weight class and is only two away from breaking the tech fall record at Scotus.

"My season so far has gone very well. I am currently seated first for districts, and I am ranked sixth in the 132-weight class," Taylor said.

On December 13th, the wrestlers headed up to Central Community College to compete in the Nebraska Duals, a large two-day tournament including some of the top ranked schools from all classes. Throughout the weekend, the Shamrocks knocked off two top teams: High Plains Community and Malcolm.

"My favorite meet was when we went against High

Plains," Hand explained. "I was able to beat the fifth-ranked kid in Class C and secure a number one seed in districts."

Over Christmas break, the Scotus wrestling team competed in three more duals as well as the Logan View Letter Club Invite. Hand took home the title in his weight class at the Logan View meet, and the team stomped Mount Michael Benedictine into submission during their home dual on December 30th.

Next, the Shamrocks made their biggest impression of the season after competing at the Norm Manstedt two-day Invitational. Wrestlers must qualify to compete at the second day of the competition. The Shamrocks had an impressive 5 out of their 11 wrestlers advance to the next day, and in doing so they upset currently ranked wrestlers and past state qualifiers.

"My goal for this year is to end up on the state podium with a smile on my face and medal in my hand," Hand

said.

With state now in sight, the Rocks' strategies for practice are beginning to shift slightly.

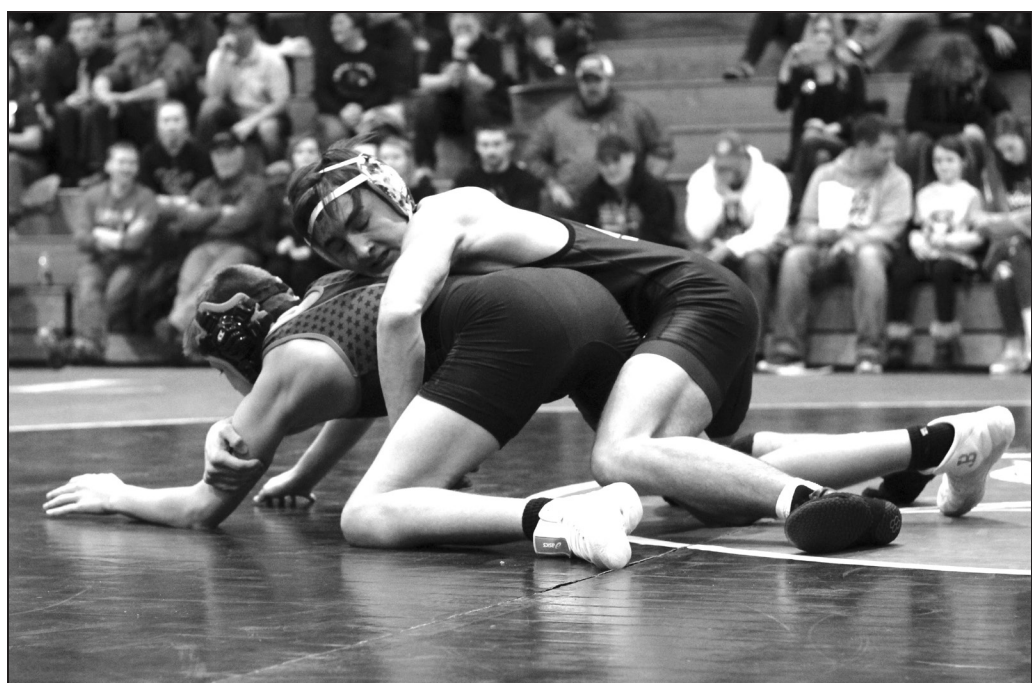
"I am looking for the boys to recognize who they are and how they're going to do it," Brandenburg ex-

plained. "[I plan to] polish them up on their technique because now it's not about teaching new moves. It's about getting better at what you're good at and peaking at the right time."

The Scotus Wrestlers will compete at the state

tournament on February 21st and 22nd.

"I am very proud to be the head wrestling coach for such a great school," Brandenburg said. "It's a pleasure to work with the athletes Scotus has. God is good!"



TANLEY MILLER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior captain Nick Taylor wrestles his opponent at the Lakeview Invite on January 30th. Taylor is two tech-falls away from breaking the school record.

Shamrocks struggle to stay consistent

By Kade Wiese
Staff Reporter

This year's Scotus girls' basketball team has been through a rollercoaster. Although many highs, there has also been an equal number of

lows.

"We have struggled with consistency. Some days we play well all-around and rock solid. Other days we look like we haven't been playing for months," junior forward Janae Rusher said.

Following the Crete loss on December 21st, the Scotus

girls headed into the Columbus Holiday Tournament with a record of 2-4. Despite their record, the Shamrocks managed to get back on their feet and dominate the tournament. In the first game of the tournament, the Scotus girls triumphed over Schuyler with a compelling score of 70-11.

"The Schuyler game was a huge confidence boost for our team. It helped us practice and improve on certain aspects of the game that we needed to work on," junior point guard Ava Kuhl said.

On the second day of the tournament, the girls' basketball team conducted another energetic win against Twin River. With a final score of 64-27, the Scotus girls became the Columbus Holiday Tournament champions for the ninth year in a row.

One week later, St. Paul slipped past the Shamrock girls by five points in a 37-42 contest. Despite their loss, Buhman managed to score 11 points.

On December 7th, Scotus was handed their second loss in a row from Humphrey-Lindsay Holy Family, finishing with a score of 32-40.

"Humphrey-Lindsay Holy Family was the game we learned we have to play the full 32 minutes. We can't take breaks off during plays," junior point guard Kamryn Chohon stated.

Two days after, the girls took another tough loss at

York with a score of 40-43.

"Playing York really showed us what we are capable of. We only lost by three to a top five Class B team," junior point guard Camille Pelan said.

On January 11th, the Scotus girls took an exciting conference win over Bishop Neumann in a 31-23 contest. "Neumann wasn't as skilled as previous years, but it was still a fun one to win," junior guard Clarissa Kosch said.

On January 14th, Norfolk Catholic managed to beat the Shamrock girls with a score of 22-36.

"I think our defense took a big step forward against Norfolk Catholic, but we definitely need to work on not turning the ball over so much," Buhman said.

In the next week following the Neumann win, the Scotus girls were defeated by two excellent teams, the first to North Bend with a score of 27-40, and the second to Boone Central with a score of 33-45.

Despite the loss to Boone Central, the girls' basketball team was able to pull off an

exciting win against Fremont Bergan the next day with a score of 40-35.

"We finished around the basket," Janae Rusher said. "It was a good win to get us ready for the conference tournament."

The extra confidence gained from the Bergan game helped the Shamrock girls beat Omaha Concordia for the second time this season in the first round of the conference tournament with a 54-38 score. Pelan also broke her own record of 6 threes in a game to 7 in the first-round win.

In the following day, the Scotus girls' basketball team fell to Hasting Saint Cecilia in the second-round of the Centennial Conference tournament with a score of 42-27.

"We competed better the second time playing against St. Cecilia. If we want to attain our goal of making it to the state tournament, we need to continue to get better and work hard in practice which is exactly what we plan to do," senior post Chloe Odbert informed.



LIZA ZARUBA/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior guard Ava Kuhl drives to the rim during the girls' basketball game against North Bend on January 21st. The Shamrocks lost to the Tigers 27-40.

Scotus swimmers dive in with new coach

By Kate Smith
Staff Reporter

Scotus offers swimming during the winter season in co-op with Columbus High's team. There are eight Scotus swimmers on the team this season, and two of them are state returners. The Discoverer swim team has faced some changes this season with a new coach, Alyssa Dillon. Coach Dillon previously swam at Fremont High School and then at the University of Kearney. She brought new workouts, techniques, and even teammates as many freshmen decided to go out for swim this year like Jasmine Jackson.

"[Coach Dillon] introduced meditation. Prior to meets, we meditate about our race, getting ourselves ready for the competition. This has a positive impact because it helps us develop a ready mindset," Jackson said.

Emily Miksch is the only senior from Scotus and has many hopes for

her senior season as she is committed to swim at the University of Kearney next year. Miksch typically swims the 100-Meter breaststroke and 50-Meter freestyle.

"I placed 18th [at state] in the 100-breaststroke last year, and I'm hoping to make it to finals this year," Miksch said.

The season started off with a home dual against Fremont where the Discoverers took the win over the Tigers. Next, the Discoverers traveled to Hastings, and the team finished fourth overall for the invite. For the third meet of the season, the Columbus team hosted their own invite, which they placed fourth in as well. Freshman Mauricio Velasco, who swims the 50 Meter Fly in the 200 Meter Medley Relay, 50 Meter Freestyle, and 100 Meter Freestyle at most meets, has seen major improvement not only in himself but the team as well.

"I think the season is going pretty well, at least, for the swimmers I know. They dropped huge in-

crements of time in such a short period; it's pretty impressive," Velasco said.

The swimmers then drove to the Elkhorn Invite. Here, the boys placed 6th and girls 9th overall. After the long Christmas break, the Columbus swim team hosted Lincoln High on January 9th. At this meet, the boys and girls both won. Next, CHS hosted South Sioux City, where they swept yet again. After that, came one of the most important duals of the season: the Norfolk Dual. At this meet, not only were they competing to win the meet but also to win the Maroon cup, which is a long-lasting tradition between the rival teams. Although the Discoverers fell short, this was a meet of improvement as many swimmers dropped time in their respective races, including junior Kaira Dallman. Dallman also performed well as at the Millard North Invite, but the team placed 9th overall.

"I would have to say either one of our home

meets against Norfolk [was my favorite] because I dropped eight seconds in one of my races. Also, [I loved] the Millard North meet because our relay got a secondary time for state," Dallman added.

After the Millard North Invite, the Columbus swimmers hosted Be-

atrice, and won at home yet again. With difficult weather, the Hastings and Kearney meets were combined for a double dual. Columbus and Hastings tied with 49 points each.

"Swimming, believe it or not, is significantly more difficult than any other sport I can think of. Part

of that is because we have to hold our breath. It also works every single muscle group I can think of. As for the team ourselves, we're basically a family. Some of these people I've known for a while, but on the high school team, I could tell that everyone feels much closer," Velasco said.



LAUREN OSTDIK/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Sophomore Abee Hutchinson backstrokes during her medley race at the Norfolk dual. CHS hosts eight home meets this season, seven of which are duals.

Boys' basketball pushes to post-season

By Ava Kuhl
Staff Reporter

With not many games left to play in the boys' basketball season, the Shamrocks are looking to make a run in the post-season. The Columbus Holiday Tournament, which was played on December 27th and 28th, proved their hopes of improvement to be true.

"The Holiday tournament went well," junior guard Josh Faust remarked. "We did not get first place, but we played well and got our first win of the season."

The Shamrocks then went on to play St. Paul on January 3rd. They managed another big win that day, outscoring St. Paul 56-39.

"The St. Paul win was a big turning point because they were 8-1 before we played them," Faust explained. "It showed we can

compete with top teams in C-1."

The following week, the team played at Humphrey-Lindsey Holy Family and lost 39-54; however, they bounced back by getting a win against Norfolk Catholic on January 14th.

"It really had nothing to do with the teams we played," senior guard Eric Mustard recalled. "When we play hard and play together, we can compete with the best teams. We just haven't figured out how to do that all the time."

After the Lincoln Christian game was postponed to February, the Shamrocks began preparing to face North Bend on January 21st. North Bend is currently undefeated, ranking first in C-1.

"I thought we played three quarters very well. We started off sluggish and slow in the first quarter, and North Bend really hit us in the mouth fast," senior guard Tyler Palmer

stated. "After that, we played well, but all credit goes to North Bend. They are a great basketball team, and they hit their shots. We had a hard time getting started, but once we did, we played our game. Everyone did their job, but we came up short in the end."

That following Thursday, the Shamrocks played Boone Central/ Newman Grove in Albion and Archbishop Bergan in Fremont the next night.

"In the Boone game, we won compared to Bergan. At halftime we talked about what we needed to improve and how our energy needed to change. It changed for the second half," senior Conner Wienn said. "At the Bergan game, we could not find the time where our energy changed. We were kind of dead the whole game."

The Shamrocks began preparation to play Boys Town in the Conference Tournament that Monday at Boys Town High School.



HAYLEE CIELOCHA/YEARBOOK STAFF

Junior Kaden Young dribbles the ball past his defender against the North Bend Tigers on January 21st. Going into the conference tournament the Shamrocks were 4-10.

"Again, we started slow and with low energy against Boys Town," Wienn remarked. "We knew going into the game that we were talented enough to win this game. We did not play like

we were the better team at Boys Town."

The Shamrocks' next game will be on Friday, February 7th, against Bishop Neumann at Bishop Neumann High School, followed

by Kearney Catholic at home.

"Our goal is to continue to get better," Mustard said. "We want to play our best basketball at the end of the year and then make a run in the post-season."

Powerlifting looks to go back to back



KATE SMITH/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Sophomore Kyane Casperson deadlifts at the Creighton Prep meet on December 14th. The powerlifting team's next meet will be the state championship meet on March 7th at Peru State.

By Tyler Palmer
Staff Reporter

Last year, the Scotus powerlifting team took home the state championship trophy

in Class B. With only losing three varsity competitors from last year, the Shamrocks are hopeful on their trek to state this year and repeating.

Senior Levi Robertson

has been in powerlifting since he was a freshman and was a part of the 2019 state championship team. Robertson has set personal bests in all three lifts this year and looks to im-

prove as the year continues.

"A personal goal for me is to get first at state and break the deadlift record," Robertson said.

Along with being a great powerlifter, Robertson is held to a higher standard, as he is one of the team's vocal and physical leaders.

"It means a lot to me [to be a team leader] because I think I set an example for the underclassmen. If I'm not doing all my reps, they're not going to either, so it's important to do everything right," Robertson said.

Junior Kade Wiese had an eye-opening year. He has broken the Scotus squat record and shattered the Peru State squat record along with achieving three personal bests and being named "Best Lifter" at the meet.

"Breaking the squat record at Scotus has always been a goal of mine, and

breaking it made me very ecstatic," Wiese said. "I have worked extremely hard for three years to surpass the record that I had always admired."

The powerlifting team continued to compete, finishing second at Peru State on January 11th only 2 points behind Lexington, the hardest competition they will face this year. At the Peru State meet, 10 of the 14 lifters finished either first or second in their respective weight classes.

Coach Dan Wallin has been coaching for over six years and is set on taking his team back to the top.

"The kids are working hard to try and repeat as co-ed state champs. In our last meet at Peru State, the kids competed against other lifters and teams that we'll see at state in March," Wallin said. "This should give our team

an idea of what we need to do to possibly win the co-ed division and have everyone work hard the remainder of the season to try and repeat as champs."

Senior Kate Smith has been in powerlifting since her sophomore year. She placed second at the Creighton Prep meet and first at the Peru State meet.

"We prepare by setting high goals for not only ourselves but for the whole team. We push each other in practice so we can compete to our full capacity," Smith said.

Scotus' next meet will be the state meet at Peru State on March 7th.

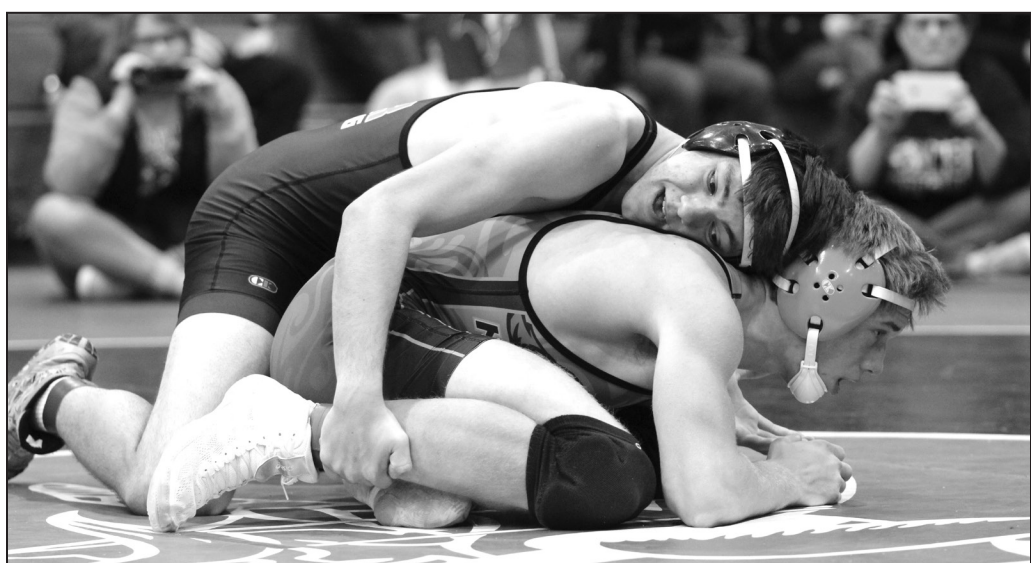
"The whole team has improved so much compared to last year's numbers. All of us are breaking records left and right. The team is definitely on a run to make it a record-breaking year, quite literally," Wiese said.

More photos from winter activities



HAYLEE CIELOCHA/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Eric Mustard guards the ball on defense against the North Bend Tigers on January 21st at home. The Shamrocks lost to North Bend 48-61.



OLIVIA FEHRINGER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Junior Ben Kamrath attempts to break down his opponent at the Lakeview meet on December 7th. Kamrath wrestles at the 170 pound weight class.



LAUREN OSTDIEK/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior forward Amber Buhman defends a Crete player on December 21st. The Scotus girls lost to the Cardinals 35-53.



BREA LASSEK/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior captain Emily Miksch gasps for air during her breaststroke on December 14th. Miksch will swim for the University of Nebraska Kearney next year.

Dancers devoted to passion despite difficulties

By Lauren Ostdiek
Staff Reporter

While 96% of Scotus students participate in a school-sponsored activity, some perform under a different spotlight than others. Many students are able to dance because of the three studios based in Columbus: Lynette's Dance Studio, iDance Project, and Barb's School of Dance.

Because dance is not sponsored by Scotus, there are some unique challenges that come with being a dancer. Junior Anna Ehlers dances at Barb's School of Dance while also participating in several Scotus activities.

"[Dancing] is a challenge because we have practices everyday like other sports do, but everyone thinks it is

easy," Ehlers explained. "In reality, it takes a lot of time and effort."

Senior iDance Project dancer Sarah Bichlmeier has experienced the stigma that can come with being a dancer and not participating in school-sponsored activities.

"There is definitely a stereotype at Scotus around students who are not involved in many school-sponsored activities. I cannot tell you how many times I have been asked to help with after-school activities because I 'don't have anything after school,'" Bichlmeier said.

Senior Lynette's dancer Liza Zaruba also faces the issue of people not understanding the life of a dancer.

"People don't always realize the time commitment dance takes," Zaruba commented. "If a person has a game the night before, people

totally understand why they got so little sleep or did not get home until late at night. There isn't always the same level of consideration given to dance, though, despite it taking up just as much time."

Although many Scotus students may not see it, dancers put in a lot of time at the studio each week, which can be an issue when dancers are also active in Scotus activities.

Sophomore Camille Cox spends about 11 hours dancing each week in addition to staying active at school.

"A lot of time, I have dance the same time I have musical or when I have to cheer at games," Cox commented.

However, despite the challenges, Senior McKenna Hoefer continues to dance.

"I have been dancing since I was four years old,

so for me, it's just part of my life," Hoefer explained. "I couldn't imagine not dancing."

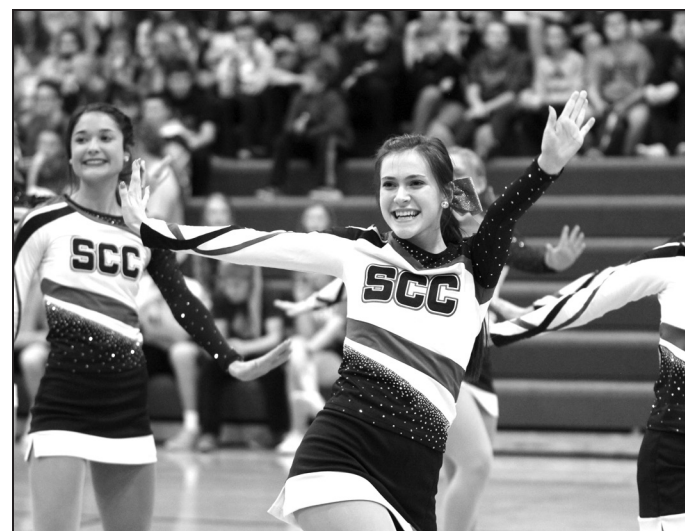
Because dance is not limited to Scotus students, it creates special opportunities to meet people from other schools.

"Dance is definitely one big family, and it is a super diverse group of people," Zaruba said. "My dance class spans all three high schools, and the girls come from all different activities and interests."

Junior Maddie Blaser dances at Lynette's Dance Studio.

"My favorite part is the family aspect. The people in my dance classes are some of my closest friends," Blaser said.

Participating in dance, like any activity, is an opportunity for students to practice



LAUREN OSTDIEK/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Molly Carstens dances with the Scotus flag and dance team at a home basketball game. Both Carstens and MaKenzie Enderlin (left) dance at Lynette's Dance Studio.

their talents.

Senior Makenzie Enderlin has danced since she was in kindergarten.

"I love the life of a dancer

because you get to show off and express your talents just like you do in your school activities," Enderlin explained.

Journalism students constantly capture moments

By Chloe Odbert
Staff Reporter

Each month, the newspaper staff prints 400 plus copies of the latest *Rock Bottom* issue and disperses them around the building. Similarly, the student yearbook staff is continually working to create pages and layouts for their annually-produced yearbook. Room 215, also known as the journalism room, is one of the most top-secret rooms in the building as confidential ideas are being brainstormed constantly.

Newspaper is an elective class offered at Scotus and

differs from other elective classes that are available because there are deadlines that constantly must be met in order to ensure the final product is ready when needed.

Lauren Ostdiek, a first-year journalism student, is the photo editor for the *Rock Bottom*.

"I wanted to be a part of newspaper as a junior, but it did not fit in my schedule. I was thrilled to be a part of it this year because I love to share what's going on in our school and be a part of a newspaper," Ostdiek said.

Senior newspaper editor Brea Lassek explained the behind the scenes work put into each issue of the newspaper.

"Students only see the finished product of the newspaper, but the staff understands it thoroughly. We come up with each article idea, write, edit, and create layouts. The entire process is highly rewarding to get to be a part of something so widespread in our school and community," Lassek concluded.

There are currently 23 students enrolled in journalism this year. There are 12 students in newspaper and yearbook and 11 students on the yearbook staff.

Amber Buhman is a two-year yearbook student. Unlike any other student involved in newspaper, Buh-

man is on both the newspaper and yearbook staffs and understands the importance of meeting deadlines because of this.

"Yearbook and newspaper are different than other classes. If you miss school for being sick or for an activity, you can't just wait to turn in your work until you get back. Deadlines are set, and they have to be met because other people's work depends on your work too," Buhman stated. "If someone doesn't get their article done on time in newspaper, then it puts others behind too because that article goes on someone else's layout."

Currently the newspaper staff is busy working to produce their fourth issue of the *Rock Bottom* for the 2019-2020 school year. Each year the newspaper staff prints seven issues total.

On the other side of the journalism program is the yearbook staff. Although they are not constantly producing a new product for the students to flip through and explore, they are working toward their one large annual product, the school yearbook.

Just like the newspaper staff, the students in yearbook must submit their portion by certain dates and deadlines as well.

Haylee Cielocha is a co-editor of the yearbook this year alongside Buhman. Cielocha is in her second year on the yearbook staff.

"My stress does not begin to rise until the end of the year really when all of the layouts are due. It is especially stressful if you have a page that cannot be completed until after school ends because then you have to come in during the summer to work on it," Cielocha explained.

Each year the yearbook staff suggests and decides on an overall theme for each aspect of the yearbook to follow. The theme is kept secret until the yearbooks are printed and distributed to students.

Junior Kamryn Chohon joined the yearbook staff this year and found the class requires individual practice of time management skills.

"Yearbook is a lot of time management because we have to design each page we are assigned and then we have to make sure it somewhat captures the theme and matches the other pages," Chohon explained.

Each student in yearbook is required to create seven spreads, which is equivalent to 14 pages in the book.

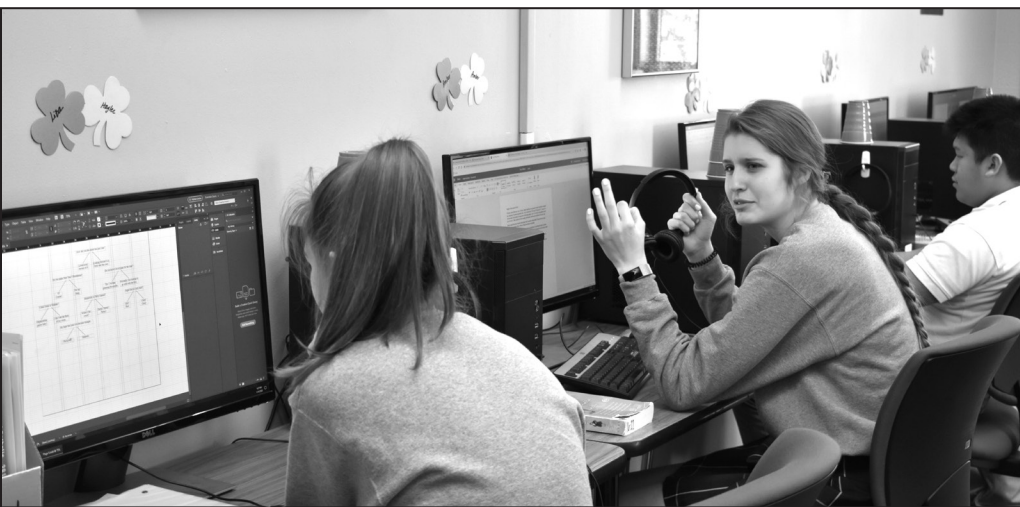
Both classes within the journalism department are

given the opportunity to use expensive camera equipment to capture photos at many school events throughout the year. Each quarter, students are required to take photos at a school event and are more than welcome to take photos at more throughout the year.

"Photography is definitely my favorite part of being involved with Journalism! The fact that I get to use high tech cameras to take photos for the school always interested me and still does. I get to learn how to take good pictures and what is involved in a good picture. Plus, you get to see all the weird pictures of everyone in the school," junior Kade Wiese said.

The journalism staff in both classes are constantly working in overdrive to highlight and capture the main events throughout the school year.

"Journalism classes are a great way to be creative and allow you to leave a lasting impact on Scotus. I would take a journalism class because it teaches you how to be productive and work towards a goal as a group. Also learning camera settings and learning how to take pictures is very beneficial," Buhman concluded.



TAYLOR DAHL/MARKETING DIRECTOR

Senior Amber Buhman asks her fellow senior journalist Liza Zaruba a question regarding her article. Buhman is the only student enrolled in both newspaper and yearbook.

Speech encouraged by numbers

By Rachael Lam
Staff Reporter

The Scotus hallways are once again filled with students, laughing, crying, and shouting at walls as the speech season is in full swing. The number of students out for speech this year is at an all-time high with 30 students, three of which are seniors.

While having many students out for speech is great, there are still challenges the team will face in the future.

"I think both Mrs. Zanardi and I can agree that the size of our team has been a challenge to wrap our heads around this year. Never before have we had so many competitors, let alone so many talented students who work hard and want to do well. For the team, I believe our main challenge is not to look too far ahead in our season, especially state," head speech coach Melanie Mimick said.

Since 2016, Ms. Mimick has taken over speech as the

head coach and she is also an English teacher at Scotus.

"We had a summer camp to help get some of the preliminary planning out of the way for the start of school as well as practices starting up in October. We also had practice days over break that helped solidify some of our events," Mimick stated.

Katie Stachura is a senior who has been a part of the speech team for four years. She is a returning state qualifier and will compete in Oral Interpretation of Drama and Poetry this year.

"Our OID meets at least once a week to work on our blocking and acting. Right now, we are just looking at polishing and giving the finishing touches to our piece to make it that much better," senior Katie Stachura said.

Debanhi Adame is a senior who has taken part in speech all four years of high school. This year, she is competing in the categories of Oral Interpretation of Drama and Poetry.

"My goal for this season

is to make it to state in OID, but I also want to make it pretty far with my poetry program," senior Debanhi Adame stated.

Lauren Ostdiek is a senior who has been a part of speech for 4 years. She is a three-time state qualifier and two-time state finalist. Last year, she competed at state speech in Entertainment and Oral Interpretation of Drama.

"For me, the goal for every season is to create a speech that I enjoy performing and people enjoy listening to and watching," senior Lauren Ostdiek said.

The speech team was scheduled to have their first meet of the season in Ashland-Greenwood on January 18th, but it was cancelled due to inclement weather. Thus, the Scotus home speech meet started off the season for them instead.

The Scotus home speech meet took place on January 25th. Since it took place on the week of the March for Life, many of the students were unable to be in at-

tendance. Regardless, the students who were there received positive feedback.

"I thought that the meet went well. We were low on numbers, but we performed very well for the point in the season. I think I did pretty good. I am in a duet with Dominic, and I think we did

great for our first time," sophomore Chris Adame said.

Abai Aydt is a junior who has just joined speech this year and she will be competing in Duet alongside her sister.

"I am looking forward to having fun this season and hanging out with all the great

people that are in speech and who come to the speech meets. This is my first year, and I am excited for what the season holds," junior Abai Aydt said.

The speech team competed at Logan View last Saturday and will compete at Schuyler on February 8th.



KAMRYN CHOHOH/YEARBOOK STAFF

Sophomore Luke Przymus gives his Dramatic Interpretation speech for the first time at the Scotus home meet on January 25th. Przymus paced second in JV for serious prose.

Scotus becomes voice for the voiceless

By Brea Lassek
Editor

Despite hosting an event protesting death, the streets of Washington D.C. were full of life on Friday, January 24th, for the annual March for Life. In response to the landmark abortion case Roe v. Wade, the pro-life demonstration began in 1974, and this year, President Donald Trump was the first president in its 47-year history to attend.

Hundreds of thousands witnessed this historical moment, including 39 students and 9 adult chaperones from Scotus Central Catholic. The school first sent students in 2012, and the tradition continued this year thanks to assistant principal Angie Rusher and youth minister Belinda Keiter. They not only planned the trip itinerary but also equipped their group spiritually in the days leading up to the march.

"I felt this year our group was able to put special focus on our 'why.' We watched the movie Unplanned on our bus, preparing to pray at the abortion clinic the next day," Rusher said. "There are no

abortion clinics in Columbus, so to watch people walk in and out of the clinic and to know what was going on inside from the movie was very sobering for our students."

For many of the pilgrims, protesting at Elizabeth Blackwell Planned Parenthood, located in the heart of downtown Philadelphia, proved to be the most impactful.

"[Praying at the clinic] made everything seem so real. There is a difference between hearing about abortion and being right there where it happens," junior Cassie Kouma said.

The next day, the group put their strengthened beliefs into practice during the march on the nation's capital. Chanting "Pro-choice, that's a lie, babies never choose to die" and hoisting signs reading "Human rights begin in the womb," students understood they were a part of something much greater than themselves.

"I think the March for Life is so different from any other political march because we are marching on behalf of those who cannot," junior Noah Korth said. "We are living through the greatest

civil rights atrocity of our generation, and it's important to stand up against it."

The issue hits close to home for chaperones Gerry and Christi Wiese. The couple has three adopted children, including their senior Kaleb, who joined them on the march.

"I am so thankful their birth mothers and fathers gave them life," Christi Wiese said. "I pray for peace and contentment in their hearts daily."

Other children have not been as fortunate as the Wiese's. Since 1973, abortion has killed over 60 million babies in the U.S. alone according to the Guttmacher Institute. A common belief portrayed by the media is that it is a woman's choice whether to continue or terminate her pregnancy, which the March for Life organization tried to combat this year.

"The theme this year was 'Pro-life is pro-woman.' Most of the pro-choice rhetoric is based around female empowerment," senior Lauren Ost-diek said. "In reality, abortion is the ultimate exploitation of women."

While the pilgrims focused on the severity of abor-



JAYCEE TERNUS/YEARBOOK STAFF

Freshman Libbie Brezenski and other Scotus pilgrims pray the rosary outside of the Elizabeth Blackwell Planned Parenthood in downtown Philadelphia. The students and chaperones peacefully protested in preparation for the March for Life.

tion, they also had the chance to explore Philadelphia and Washington D.C., visiting three Catholic basilicas and historical monuments such as the Liberty Bell and the Lincoln Memorial.

"My favorite place we visited was the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. It was my first time visit-

ing, and I was in awe of the intricate artwork," Kouma said. "I was disappointed when we thought we would not be able to go to Mass there, but it was an amazing surprise when Mass started as we were walking around the church."

To return home, the group braved another 23-hour

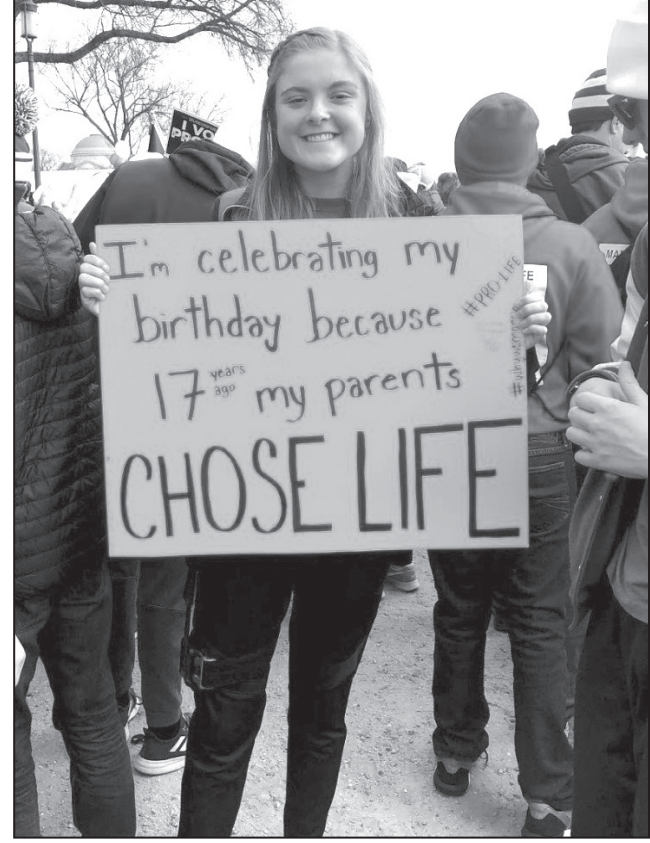
bus ride. Although there were mixed tolerance levels for the strenuous journey, everyone agreed it was worth it.

"If you ever get the chance to go on the March for Life, I 100% recommend it. It's an amazing experience, and it helps you have a better appreciation for your life and your faith," Korth concluded.



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

39 students and 9 chaperones from Scotus Central Catholic pose for a selfie before the March for Life on Friday, January 24th. This year, President Trump made history by being the first president to speak at the pro-life event.



SIMON PICHLER/TEENS FOR LIFE

Junior Anna Ehlers shows off her sign for the March. Her brother, Tim, and father, Jason, also attended.

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Cats: Are you kitten me?

By Brea Lassek
Editor

Whoever said, “Nothing is ever as bad as it seems,” obviously has never seen the new rendition of *Cats*.

With a star-studded cast and a 95-million-dollar budget, the musical adaptation, originally composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber, was destined to be a box office hit. This could not be further from the truth.

On opening night, Liza Zaruba and I sauntered into the theater, only to have our high expectations shattered as we realized there were only two other members in the audience. That, we recognized later, was the first of several red flags. Ironically, the low attendance was the lone positive as only four lives were scarred that night.

Like most musicals, the film began with an extensive introductory song entitled, “Prologue: Jellicle Songs for Jellicle Cats.” I could not tell you its significance to the plot or even recall a slight melody. All I remember— from both that first scene and my subsequent nightmares— is the horrid sight

of my favorite celebrities prancing around, practically in the nude. Yes, you read that correctly, the filmmakers believed their best move was to digitally edit fur over the cast’s bare bodies. To be fair, I am uncertain how one does go about depicting a cat-person onscreen; however, I believe the solution is simple: do not attempt to in the first place.

I was baffled and disturbed. Questions consumed me. Why were they all slithering around so sensually? Did they have to film in extremely thin leotards? What convinced Jason Derulo to agree to this?

When I finally regained my composure, I realized I had no idea what a Jellicle cat was, which appeared to be the most fundamental aspect of the plot. If I had a dollar for each time the word “Jellicle” was sung, I could give the producers back the 70 million dollars they lost.

I eventually grasped a basic understanding of the production three cringeworthy musical numbers later.

Essentially, the Jellicle Cats, a ragtag cult of felines, live on the streets of London. Unfortunately,

some cats are too crazy to be a part of the clan. Grizabella, portrayed by Jennifer Hudson, is ostracized due to her previous life of fame while Macavity, played by Idris Elba, is feared for his desire to capture the others. All the cats, Jellicle and outcasts alike, are preparing to perform in front of the head honcho Old Deuteronomy in hopes of abandoning their current lives and being granted a new destiny. The remainder of the film involves the characters practicing their acts, creating an unbearable string of monotony. A new character sings a tune about their life, Macavity kidnaps that cat, and the cycle repeats.

Personally, I was praying Old Deuteronomy would nominate me so my suffering would finally end.

The only glimpse of hope came from Jennifer Hudson’s emotional solo, “Memory.” Through powerhouse vocals, Hudson explained how strongly she detested her surroundings and longed to escape them. In that moment, I could not agree with her more.

Turns out, I was not alone. To suppress our

boredom, we began reading *Cats* reviews, which were more entertaining themselves than the film before us. Ty Burr from *The Boston Globe* effectively summed up the reviews’ consensus with his four-word headline, “Oh God, my eyes!” James Corden, who plays Bustopher Jones, even joined in on the banter, remarking, “I haven’t seen it. I heard it’s terrible.”

To the avid *Cats* fanatics out there, I must admit I have never seen the original

Broadway production (nor do I plan to), and I am sure you are tired of hearing people like me bash your beloved musical without fully understanding its essence. However, even if I had enjoyed the plot and music, the production quality was sloppy. The original version for opening night was sent to theaters with numerous editing errors, one in which Judi Dench’s hand still donned her wedding ring. It is shocking I even noticed that detail since the camera cut to vari-

ous angles sporadically. The constant switching distracted me from appreciating the advanced ballet choreography, the only aspect that could potentially raise ratings.

A small part of me— perhaps my last surviving brain cell— feels compelled to recommend this horror of a film, if only for how comically atrocious it is. For 2 hours, my sanity was stripped away an experience every human should be required to go through. Regardless, *Cats* belongs in the litterbox.



Cats premiered in theaters on December 20th, 2019. The film was based on Andrew Lloyd Webber’s original Broadway musical.

Mulaney’s special makes comedy musical

By Lauren Ostdiek
Staff Reporter

John Mulaney’s newest Netflix special, *John Mulaney and The Sack Lunch Bunch*, is everything anyone could ever ask for, but no one did. Mulaney, a stand-up comedian, has risen to stardom with his other Netflix specials:

New in Town, *The Comeback Kid*, and *Kid Gorgeous*. However, this 70-minute special, which premiered on December 24th, 2019, is quite different than anything Mulaney’s followers have seen.

While Mulaney’s usual comedy routines take place onstage in front of a live audience and include nothing but himself and his

witty humor, this special is so much more. Although it may look like a children’s special, it touches on some pretty serious topics—death, your greatest fear, when your grandparents are in “steady relationships,” and whether flowers really exist at night. Ironically, it still is appropriate for all ages.

In the words of host

Mulaney himself, it is simply “a children’s TV special... a show for kids, by adults, with kids present.” There are three main portions of the special, which is setup like a children’s show from the 1990’s: individual interviews with the cast and crew, scenes with John Mulaney and 15 children, ages 8-13, and music. Mulaney describes the special, saying, “*Sack Lunch Bunch* is an eclectic mix of things.” Simply put, it’s a lot.

The special starts and ends with individual interviews starring the cast and crew. These portions provide a more personal connection between the cast and audience by posing the question “What’s your greatest fear?” The audience hears a variety of perspectives from both kids and adults whose answers range from clowns to death. These conversations add some lighthearted, unexpected comedy and just enough existential dread to keep you on your toes.

Filling in between the interviews and songs are skits with Mulaney, various guest

stars, and the children dubbed The Sack Lunch Bunch. Many of these take place on a *Sesame Street*-esque set filled with a sweater-clad John Mulaney, who has never had children, and several kids engaging in some well-written banter. One of the most memorable skits involves three girls talking with middle-aged actor Richard Kind, who you may recognize as the voice of Molt in *A Bug’s Life*, but who I recognize as extremely unqualified to be hosting a segment titled “Girl Talk.”

Finally, there are the songs. These numbers, filled with singing, dancing, and eccentric titles, really make the whole show. After all, this is a musical special. All 10 songs are incredibly unique and surprisingly relatable (and available on Spotify—I have unashamedly listened to them all several times). The songs display the depths of real kids’ minds in “Do Flowers Exist At Night?” and “Plain Plate Of Noodles,” which really hit home for all picky eaters out there—I

see you. Perhaps the most memorable song of the special is at the end. “Music, Music Everywhere!” features Oscar-nominated actor Jake Gyllenhaal as a deranged “Mr. Music” attempting, but desperately failing, to show music can come from anything.

Devout followers of John Mulaney’s stand-up will recognize and appreciate the similarly witty comedy that appears in *John Mulaney and the Sack Lunch Bunch*. However, it must be noted that Mulaney’s other works are not quite as PG, and I would not recommend them for younger viewers.

Overall, this special is quite special. It does not fall into any singular category, and similarly is not made for one singular demographic. The comedy is entertaining for kids and adults alike, and is sure to leave you thinking about it for quite some time after it finishes.

It’s inspiring, hilarious, and made for everyone to enjoy. Unlike Nebraska, this comedy *is* for everyone.



[HTTPS://THESPOOL.NET/TV/2019/12/JOHN-MULANEY-THE-SACK-LUNCH-BUNCH-REVIEW/](https://thespool.net/tv/2019/12/john-mulaney-the-sack-lunch-bunch-review/)

John Mulaney cheers along with the Sack Lunch Bunch children on the set of *John Mulaney and The Sack Lunch Bunch*. The special premiered on December 24th, 2019, on Netflix.

The Inner Workings of Being a YouTube Creator

By Kade Wiese
Staff Reporter

Since I discovered *YouTube* in 2013, I have been fascinated by the number of different videos and creators that populate the platform. If you watch *YouTube*, you know there are millions of videos you can watch. From educational videos to *Fortnite* gaming videos, *YouTube* has it all.

I wanted to join in and in the fall of 2018, I decided I would make a video and upload it onto *YouTube*.

Little did I know, there was way more to creating a video than I would have ever imagined, and if you’re wanting to join the party too, you need to know these things before posting a video on *YouTube*.

Before I begin, I want to let you know that *YouTube* is quite time consuming. If you

plan to make quality videos, you will need to commit a lot of time outside of just posting the video.

One of the most time-consuming stages in making a video is the planning. Planning includes what the video is about, who the audience is, and what the contents of the video will be.

For my first video, I filmed a video about a week in my life. The purpose wasn’t going to be about my gaming skills or my dog, but simply about how a week in my life is like.

Audience plays a huge role in your video. If the audience is exclusively you and your friends, it can be a fun video with no worries of what is said or done. On the other hand, if the video is for a business project, then the contents of the video should be appropriate and straightforward. The contents of the video should reflect back to

who your audience is and the purpose of the video.

My first video was simply for my friends and family to enjoy watching me make a fool out of myself.

After planning, you will need a camera to film your video. It can be as simple as your smartphone or going all out and getting a nice Canon camera. It truly depends on how high-quality of a video you want it to be.

Once you have a camera, you need to start filming. Depending on what your video is about, you can record whatever you truly want to record.

Alongside the exceptionally long planning period is the editing process. While editing a video, you have the option to make it as elegant as you wish. The editing process includes cutting clips to make it fit all together, inserting intros, music, words, and sound effects.

This process can end up being lengthy or as short as ten minutes. It depends on how sleek you want to video to be.

There are many editing software you can use to edit your video clips on. Some of the more popular editing software include iMovie, Adobe Premier Pro, Final Cut Pro X, and KineMaster. For my first video, I used iMovie which was already downloaded on my iMac. The software is easy to learn, and it guides you throughout your editing process.

If you have an Apple product, iMovie and Final Cut Pro X are your best options. If you are on windows, Adobe Premier Pro is the best option.

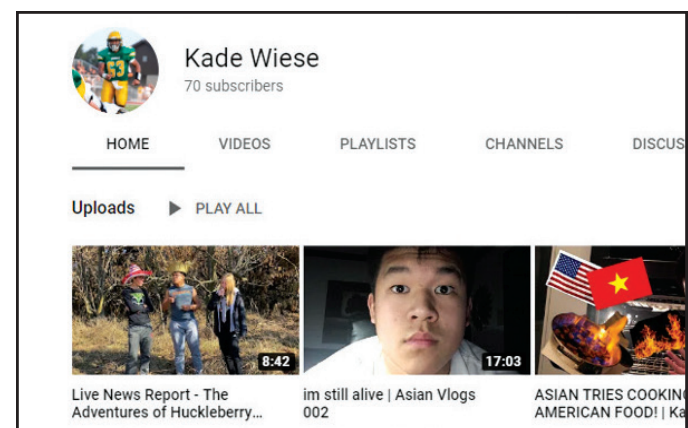
Once the editing is complete, its time to post the video! This consists of titling the video, giving it a simple description, and lastly pressing the upload button. It

takes about twenty minutes to upload, but the wait is well worth it.

Some things to remember are that videos you upload will be online and everyone and anyone will be able to see it, even your parents. Be careful of what you do and say because you never know when your words

or actions can be used against you. The biggest thing to remember is never give out your address or any personal information that weird people can grab a hold of.

If you are not trying to get famous, but enjoy making videos, *YouTube* is a wonderful platform to share your ideas and creativity on.



Above is Kade Wiese’s *YouTube* channel. *YouTube* allows Wiese to share his creative ideas for his videos, and it helps others to experience the creator portion of the platform.



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Wrap-Up
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Rock Bottom

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Students' service shines

By **Kate Smith**
Staff Reporter

The Columbus Night to Shine was a "Walk in the Park." The Night to Shine is a dance for people with special needs ages 14 to 99. Friday, February 7th, was the universal date for the special event sponsored by Tim Tebow. People all over the world gathered to celebrate life and how humans are all made in God's image and likeness.

This was Columbus' second year hosting the Night to Shine. This year, there were 415 volunteers from the community who helped anywhere from setting up, doing make-up and hair, or being a buddy to one of the 187 guests. Lost Creek Elementary School special education teacher Megan Johnson was part of the core team last year and again this year. At the dance, she helped the volunteers that were buddies.

"We started preparing for this year as soon as last year's Night to Shine was over. It started with a lot of reflecting on how it went and how we could improve. We've reached out to our community via Facebook, Instagram, radio ads, and news stories to help spread the word and gain support," Johnson said. "I've also been praying for this event as we get closer, for protection of all involved, for details to fall into place and the night to go smoothly, and for God's word to seep into the hearts of the guests, their families and our volunteers."

As the event approached, volunteers could select to be part of hair and makeup, paparazzi, flowers, or dinner. Most, however, were a buddy to one of the guests for the night. When the date arrived, girls were able



PHOTO COURTESY GINA RENNER

Junior Emily Ferguson shares a moment with her buddy, Kelsey, during the Night to Shine event at 1C Church. This was the second year Columbus hosted the Night to Shine.

to come to 1C Church to get their nails, makeup, and hair done. Next was check-in where buddies were matched up with guests for the event. Scotus senior Liza Zaruba was a buddy to Alia Newell for the second year in a row and plans on volunteering in the future.

"Night to Shine is such a special event for not only the participants but also the volunteers," Zaruba explained. "I feel so blessed I got to be a part of Alia's night. She is an absolute sweetheart and getting to crown her at the end as one of the prom queens is a moment I will never forget."

During the Night to Shine, guests and their buddies were able to walk the red carpet, ride around town in a party bus, eat dinner, receive a boutonniere or corsage to wear, have their picture taken by Goc's Photography, and dance in the 1C worship space. Se-

nior Jayden Heng was a first-year volunteer and was a buddy as well.

"My favorite part of the night was when the song 'I Can Only Imagine' came on. I was dancing with one of the guests, Tyler, and in the moment, it felt like everything around me was so perfect. I felt so much joy fill up inside of me and my smile was uncontrollable, which also matched the smile on Tyler's face," Heng said.

Versatile Support Services and the ARC of Platte County employee Amber Stary is the head coordinator of the Night to Shine in Columbus. Stary works with special needs people and it is a passion of hers. She was the one who initially wrote to the Tim Tebow Foundation to host in Columbus and felt the community needed to have an important event such as this. Stary attributes its success to the willingness of the Columbus community.

"The Columbus community has been extremely amazing for this event, way more than I could have ever imagined or asked for. Without our community, there would be no event. We have raised thousands of dollars. We have 415 volunteers, and that just shows how our community is impacted by this event. Hearing the stories from those who participated last year by volunteering is heartwarming," Stary stated.

At the end of the night, the guests were crowned the kings and queens of the dance by their buddies. The dance concluded at 9 P.M., and the guests walked away with smiles and goody bags while all involved were left impacted and with full hearts.

"It is an honor to get to be a part of the team that brings this event to Columbus. Night to Shine is truly 'something good,'" Johnson added.

New year brings new illnesses to Scotus

By **Kade Wiese**
Staff Reporter

As reports of 70 people with coronavirus being quarantined at Camp Ashland in Nebraska roll in, Scotus has not had to deal with that but other illnesses of its own.

Since the return of the second semester, there have been countless illnesses roaming around Scotus Central Catholic. At least ten students a day have been called in sick since the start of the new year.

Reaching its peak on February 5th, the school recorded 37 students absent because of an illness. Between the days of January 28th and February 7th, there were over 20 students each day.

Office secretary Laurie Hergott stated the office becomes hectic when many students call in sick.

"Keeping up with attendance became a full-time job during the worst days, and sending kids home meant sanitizing pens, doorknobs, phones, and chairs several times a day. My hands were raw from using so many Clorox wipes," Hergott said.

A question frequently asked throughout the school community is how many students need to be ill in order to call off school.

"There are no local or state guidelines for closing schools due to illness, according to East Central Health District in Columbus. Administrators decide whether or not to close their doors," Hergott explained.

According to the office, the most prevalent illnesses that have taken over Scotus has been Influenza A and B. Right below Influenza A and B is the common cold.

Junior Shelby Bridger was gone for a full week in February with Influenza B and strep throat.

"I couldn't really leave my house, and my parents didn't want me to be all over the house getting everyone else sick, so I only left my bed at most two or three times every day," Bridger said.

Alongside Bridger, fellow junior classmate Lizzie Parker was gone for six school days with Influenza B.

"Give up, it's going to happen no matter how hard you try to avoid it," Parker informed.

With infected students missing three or more days, students have accomplished a variety of things while they were absent.

Senior Levi Robertson who was gone for a few days with a fever and sore throat stated, "I sleep most of the time and cry about not getting to see Mr. Brockhaus."

Another senior, Kate Smith, answered, "I usually quarantine myself in my room, sleep, and do not talk to anyone until I feel better."

With the numbers dropping

Robotics rock their debut

By **Liza Zaruba**
Staff Reporter

{ 11, 1, 2 } → L1 :Send(L1)
:Get(X) :Disp X. To many, this series of digits and symbols is simply a mess of gibberish, but for Scotus' robotics team, these numbers are their second language: coding.

On Saturday, February 22nd, Scotus sent their first robotics team to the 2020 University of Nebraska Lincoln CEENBoT Robotics Showcase. The competition was held at the Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum in Ashland, Nebraska. This year's team was comprised of eight seventh graders and two high school students.

"[I do robotics] because my friends do it, and I really like the reaction I get when I tell people I can drive a robot," seventh grader Rebecca Policky explained.

The theme of the competition this year was "Rockin' the 'Bots'", which meant each event included a musical-themed aspect. Depending on the event, a team or an individual may be entered to compete. Junior

Abaigeal Aydt practiced for two months to prepare for the competition.

"I competed in the Musical Time Machine Autonomous Course, which is a course in which you prepare for before the competition. There are several tasks, such as to turn on a switch, pick up musicians, and go to rehearsals. Every single one is essential for completing the course," Aydt said.

Aydt also entered her engineering notebook chronicling her past few months of work for judging. In the end, Aydt reigned victorious, taking home the 1st place prize in the high school autonomous competition.

Seventh grader Caroline Klitz competed on a team of three in a different music event. During this contest, each individual was tasked to maneuver through a course with a floor covered with pictures of different musical instruments.

"I went first and collected three out of the five brass instruments," Klitz said. "Unfortunately, I lost about 15 seconds trying to get



PHOTO COURTESY MELISSA JELINEK

Seventh graders Rebecca Policky and Aubree Beiermann prepare their robots before the competition on Saturday, February 22nd. This was the first year Scotus participated in the University of Nebraska Lincoln CEENBoT Robotics Showcase.

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See **ILLNESS**, Page 2

ROBOTICS

through a passageway.” After one minute, the judge takes the controller from the individual, and the next team member steps up to take their turn. In the end, whichever team makes it the farthest the fastest, thus collecting the largest number of instruments, wins.

“There is a little bit of strategy to get your robots over as many instruments as possible, but then you must stop your robot in a place that will not be a roadblock to your two teammates coming after you,” robotics coach Betsy Rall said.

Brothers Jacob and Owen Rother also did well at the competition, placing 1st in their category among many other teams. In all, the competition hosted over 146 teams spanning 22 different elementary, middle, and high schools.

“Personally, I like seeing the program I work so hard on finally work out perfectly. We did very well [at the competition], especially for our first time. I definitely plan on doing robotics in the future,” seventh grader Owen Rother said.

Hours of preparation lead up to the robotics competition. Practices were held every Monday and Wednesday after school with Coach Rall, and many students also participated in coding club with English teacher Deb Ohnoutka after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

“The most difficult part of robotics was learning to code with my

calculator. Before I was in STEAM class, I would have never thought a regular TI-84 calculator could make a robot move much less in a specific sequence,” Aydt said. “After that new revelation, I began learning the coding language of the calculator. It took some time, but as soon as I learned a little it all came simple and quick.”

With seventh graders making up 80% of this year’s roster, the Scotus robotics team is only beginning, and this new activity has given kids a creative outlet outside the classic boxes of fine arts or athletics.

“[I plan on doing robotics in the future] because I finally found an activity where I don’t feel like I have to prove myself valuable to the team. It’s a chance to compete in something that doesn’t require aggression and strength. It’s exciting and enjoyable as well as nerve-racking and intense,” Klitz said.

Outside the realm of competition, though, robotics teaches individuals real-world skills in regards to technology, which Rall believes to be the biggest advantage to pursuing robotics or STEAM classes.

“In my opinion, technology [and things that can be programmed] are going to be more and more invasive in our personal lives. If each person could learn a little about how these things function, I think we can have technology better enhance our lives. Programming [robotics] is a big part of that,” Rall concluded.

ILLNESS

back down to the lower teens and single digits, Scotus is still cautious about illness spreading.

“It’s frustrating when students come in sick because they didn’t want to miss a particular lab or test or class. Our teachers are great about giving students time to make up missed work, especially when

nearly half the class is out sick,” Hergott asserted.

Students too are working hard to keep illness far away from Scotus.

“Wash your hands after every period, take vitamin C, and get plenty of sleep,” sophomore Chloe Walker insisted.



KADE WIESE/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Office secretary Laurie Hergott helps two students in the office with some information. Students are required to sign out of the office when they are sick or leave with a foreseen absence.

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Prioritizing timing for first phone



By Kade Wiese
Staff Reporter

“Mom, why does he get a phone? I didn’t get a phone until I was 14. He’s in third grade.”

At one point in all of our lives, we have experienced a time when a sibling or a good friend has received something we didn’t receive at the same time as they got

it. For the past decade, that something has been a mobile cellphone.

In today’s society, kids are given cellphones at a much younger age than most high schoolers and college students did when they first earned their cellphone.

I believe kids receiving a cellphone before the age of 13 is a destructive problem and is purely unnecessary.

The basis of having a good childhood is obtaining valuable memories for the rest of your life. Going outside and playing kickball in the empty lot next to your house is where you build genuine relationships and love for people.

Today, children are glued to their tablets, screens, and computers that prevent them from having the childhood most teenagers experienced.

They aren’t going out and socializing with the other kids in their neighborhood and building those vital relationships.

If they are always on their cellphones, they won’t be able to learn positive social skills they will need when they are older. Learning how to communicate and physically interact with other people is something everyone will need to know how to do.

Another reason why kids should not have phones until they are teenagers is that phones or any device that accesses the internet will expose them to multitudes of destructive and hideous material.

The internet is filled with harsh language, sick videos, and tormented reputations, and it is human nature to do and say what we see and hear.

If grade schoolers see or hear the wrong things, it could lead to them acquiring bad behaviors. They will become rebellious and belligerent, start cursing, and may possess the trait of manipulation.

Kids should not have to worry about self-image, how much money they have, or how much they weigh until they are fully developed. These issues can develop into depression because the hurtful words people can say about them. This should become a considerable reason in not letting your kid have a phone before the age of 13.

Lastly, kids can become easily addicted to their cellphone screens.

Addiction is a serious problem and is extremely hard to break. By letting kids have their own phones,

they are in serious danger of addiction. Addiction can leave kids with unhealthy relationships, not getting enough exercise and sleep, and becoming too attached to their cellphones that they ‘can’t live without them.’

I understand parents want to protect their kids’ lives as much as possible and phones can do that with location tracking apps. I also understand that phones make it convenient to contact them and call them when they need something done, but I don’t think parents realize that phones today can do a whole lot more than track and contact people.

If parents truly want a phone to contact their kids with, they should give them a phone that doesn’t have internet with it, like a flip phone. Flips phones are a perfect

device to contact people and are able to call anybody as decent as smartphone does.

For parents out there deciding whether or not they should get their kids a cellphone, remember these things: first, phones are a huge responsibility, and they should be treated with the utmost handling and operating. Next, the internet is filled with a lot of horrific material that your kids should never look into. Cellphones introduce the media, and some the media has the ability to tear your kids down. This can include self-image issues, depression, anxiety, and hurtful content they could relate to.

My last words are be careful with what cellphone you give your child and beware of the dangers it can bring to your kid and even you.

Cheating yourself out of challenges



By Chloe Odbert
Staff Reporter

In the spring of 2019, President Jeff Ohnoutka called a school assembly to announce that in the following school year, students would only be given the opportunity for one study hall.

In the past years, senior year had provided a chance for students to relax in their studies and fill their schedule with elective classes since

they had already completed their required courses. My class was fully prepared to take the easy way out much like many seniors had done in the past. The new rule allowed for less ways to take their education lightly, but some still found a way to do so which I do not recommend.

I cannot think of a single year of high school I chose to enroll myself in classes that allowed me to slack off in my studies. Each year I chose to take the accelerated courses or skip classes such as Math 8 in order to challenge myself. I specifically recall sitting in my kitchen filling out my class schedule preferences during the spring of my sophomore year and trying to plan for my junior year.

I had heard all the horror stories of junior year and had seen the Accelerated

Chemistry packets with my own eyes. Truthfully, I was concerned for my grades as I gazed upon my class registration form. I knew some of my classmates with similar grades to me were choosing to take Chemistry rather than Accelerated Chemistry. This prompted me to want to do the same, but I knew I needed to challenge myself in my junior year. I am so glad that I chose to take the risk and challenge myself in my junior year. Not only was I successful in Accelerated Chemistry, but the challenge I brought upon myself in my junior year later prompted me to continue to hold myself to a high standard for my senior year.

I found myself in the same situation in the spring of my junior year while enrolling in classes for my senior year. During junior

year, Accelerated Chemistry was a breeze compared to my most challenging class, Pre-Calculus. Pre-Calculus was the most difficult class I had taken. I was face to face with the decision of whether to enroll myself into Calculus for the following year.

I did not want to take Calculus one bit. I knew many students who found Pre-Calculus to be challenging were opting out of continuing to Calculus. I knew without Calculus, my senior year would not be stressful whatsoever. I ended up yet again challenging myself and enrolling myself into Calculus and I am thankful so far that I did so. Taking Calculus has been a healthy challenge throughout my senior year thus far.

I believe students should challenge themselves within the classroom. The teachers

at Scotus are here in the mornings and after school to give help to students in need of help. The teachers do not just stop doing that once you are further along in your education, they understand you will need help along your entire journey at Scotus. There are ways to succeed in each grade and class. For this reason, it is important to challenge yourself from the fall of your seventh-grade year all the way until May of your senior year.

Senior year is also the last opportunity to learn in a small community setting. For some who are choosing to attend a large college, it is the only chance for small student-teacher ratios and one-on-one help. You do not need to be a straight A student to challenge yourself within your education. In fact, if you truly are challeng-

ing yourself, you probably won’t be a straight A or A+ student. Challenging yourself may lead to failure, which is undoubtedly scary, but there is no room for growth within your comfort zone. Broadway actress Maude Adams once said, “Do not be afraid of failure; be afraid of petty success.”

Underclassmen should push themselves throughout all of high school. Although taking some of the “fun” classes can make for good memories and high GPAs, filling your schedule with more difficult courses will be more beneficial in the future. It is important to demand more for yourself now while in high school rather than jumping into challenging schoolwork in your first or second year of college. That is not a recipe for success for most people.



AVA KUH/L/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Privileged misconceive poverty



By Brea Lassek
Editor

In Whiteclay, Nebraska, population of 14, four liquor stores thrived for decades. Upwards of 13,000 cans of beer were sold each day, and sales reached \$3 million a year as reported by The Guardian. Who were their customers? The residents of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation across the border in South Dakota, where alcoholism affects

eight in ten families, and one in four children suffer from fetal alcohol syndrome- 25 times the nation’s average.

When the issue was presented in my Street Law class, Mr. Brockhaus asked my classmates and I to place a percentage on who was to blame. To my shock, many of my peers put 100 percent onto the Native Americans. Furthermore, we were asked to address their staggering rates of homelessness and unemployment. Once again, full culpability went to the Native Americans with one student claiming, “They’re just lazy.”

With more privilege often comes less empathy. This is partly due to how sheltered we are through living in a small-town in Nebraska. Scotus provides numerous opportunities to grow academically, athletically, and spiritually; however, the school lacks

exposure to diversity. The school profile reports 336 of the 352 Scotus students are Catholic, and the majority enrolled are Caucasian. Most graduates choose to attend college after their time as a Shamrock.

At Pine Ridge, children born onto the reservation have a low probability of ever leaving. According to the American Indian Humanitarian Foundation, the school drop-out rate is over 70 percent, and most households do not have water, sewage, and electricity. This is the everyday reality for over 19,000 Native Americans reported by the South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations. Due to their impoverished lifestyle, suicide rates at the reservation skyrocketed in the 2010’s. This is the gray area many people overlook.

Whether it be 354 miles

away at Pine Ridge, in the poorest neighborhood in Chicago, or even in our community, poverty ravishes America. According to the Stanford Center of Poverty and Inequality, 21 percent of all children in the United States live in poverty.

I will never fully grasp the strife these individuals endure, and for that, I am grateful. However, privilege should not equate to ignorance; rather, those who are fortunate have the responsibility to identify their privilege as well as understand the conditions which impede others. Some of these include racial and gender discrimination, socioeconomic inequality, and lack of education.

While visiting cities like Chicago, Washington D.C., and Philadelphia, I could not help but notice the presence of the homeless on the streets, benches serving

as beds and tents as shelter. Their lifestyle was a stark contrast from mine back in Nebraska.

The National Conference for Community and Justice defines privilege as “unearned access to resources (social power) that are only readily available to some people because of their social group membership.” Many times, privilege is invisible to those who have it, producing a lack of understanding for people without the same advantages. Although typically having a negative connotation, privilege is not inherently good or bad; it is how one responds to their privilege.

In order to change the narrative, we must utilize our privilege positively. Giving our time and service is essential in doing so as witnessing poverty firsthand builds a personal

connection to the issue.

Although mission trips and service are imperative in combatting poverty, one should not have to immerse themselves in the situation to empathize. Those who are privileged must recognize the humanity behind poverty. Proven by the Pine Ridge example, the poor are often categorized and generally addressed, but through examining individual stories, one is more likely to show empathy. There is more to poverty than statistics and conflicts like the Whiteclay liquor stores. If we understand these people are just that- people- then we will be less likely to judge their circumstances so quickly.

Poverty is not a “them” problem. Everyone- privileged and poor- must work to an end. To do so, the privileged must identify there is an issue in the first place.



Get lost on your way to Mrs. Lahm's science classroom and get a tardy. Lose 5 shamrocks.

Decide to join the 7th grade band and meet new friends from different elementary schools. Gain 5 shamrocks.

Walk on the left side of the hallway, causing a traffic jam and several upperclassmen to glare. Lose 10 shamrocks.

Slip on your way down the stairs. Lose a little bit of dignity and 15 shamrocks.

Play Advanced Warfare in P.E. and steal the flag to lead your team to victory. Gain 20 shamrocks.

Scotus Game of LIFE

Scan the QR code on the left to roll the dice and play the "Scotus Game of Life!" Keep track of your "shamrocks" as you go; the player with the most shamrocks wins. It is your first day of 7th grade. Welcome to Scotus!

Glowups: Scotus edition

THE END Graduation day. After all the ups and downs of Scotus, you realize you will miss this place and these people.

Barely make it to school before 8:15 but still get a parking spot in senior row. Gain 20 shamrocks.

Miss a scholarship deadline. Lose 20 shamrocks.

Lead the student section in your favorite cheer. Gain 25 shamrocks.

Though stressful, the thought of going to college next year is so exciting. Gain 15 shamrocks.

Senior year begins, and you contract senioritis in August. Lose 20 shamrocks.

Take the ACT and your calculator dies in the middle of the math section. Lose 30 shamrocks.



Junior Ben Kamrath gets his game face on in the Scotus dodgeball tournament similar to the confirmation retreat in 2016.



Junior Maddie Blaser performs in an OID at a speech meet. The only difference between now and 2015 is her facial expressions and level of competition.



Senior Liza Zaruba enjoys a meal with her friends like she did in 2014 after joining the one-million-word club.



Senior Tony Chavez went from studying rocks in 2015 to dissecting and examining organisms in anatomy class in 2019.



Seniors Dalton Borchers and Jared Beaver continue to show their friendship going all the way back to 2012.



Teen timeline takes a turn

By Liza Zaruba
Staff Reporter

Today's teenagers are growing up in a much different world than their parents. Societal expectations and new norms are influencing the way teenagers mature. Suddenly the stereotypical 'timeline' dictating when a person should achieve certain life milestones is no longer applicable to the modern teen's life. The root of this change in progression can only be traced back to the changes in society from the past few decades, though, not the teens themselves.

According to an article by CBS News, back in the 1940s and 50s, a person had a 93% chance of doing better than their parents; however, today that statistic has dropped to under 50%. Many factors contribute

to this, but the overwhelming cause for this drop is now the 'essential' need for a college degree.

Student loan debt is making it more and more difficult to pursue a higher education, but without a degree, many worry about the availability of quality jobs. Seventy years ago, that simply was not the case. Still, more kids than ever are pursuing a higher education, which slows down their ability to 'hit' these life milestones of getting married, having kids, and more.

Now more than ever, teens are also growing up in households of divorced families, which impacts the way they view relationships. A Christian website, *Aletia.org*, addresses this issue by pointing out fewer teens are starting to date as early because they look for quality relationships that will last in contrast to the fleeting summer fling. Both women and men alike are also becoming more independent and feel less of a

need to get married as early.

In addition, teenagers today are growing up in a 'cancel culture', where everyday mistakes of celebrities and leaders from decades ago are on full view for the public's scrutiny. It has become overly apparent that teenagers' decisions today will indeed impact their future for tomorrow. Because of this, teens are much less likely to engage in risky behavior, such as underage drinking or smoking.

According to an article by the *New York Times*, teenage drinking reduced 8% from 2002 to 2015 alone. Smoking lessened even more with a 12% decrease in its usage. The stereotypical young, wild, and free teenager is simply not a reality anymore. Everything in teens' lives must go through a filter between their social media posts and the decisions they make on the weekends, which is a large divergence from the way their parents grew up only a couple decades ago.

Society and teen's experiences are not the only factors contributing to the way a teen matures, though. Genetics also play a major role and has been one aspect of development that does not change.

According to an article from the *Raising Children Network*, the human brain is interesting in that it develops from the back to the front, which is why the pre-frontal cortex, the brain's decision-making section, develops last. Instead, a teen relies on the amygdala in the brain to do much of their reasoning. The amygdala, however, is responsible for much of the brain's emotions and instincts, which explains the spontaneous and irrational countenance of teenagers at times.

Still, the effects of the amygdala to exaggerate situations or circumstances in a teen's mind are not only negative. In David Bjorklund's book *Why Youth is Not Wasted*

on the Young: *Immaturity in Human Development*, he says "Children's belief that they know more than they actually do, and are able to do more than they actually can, provide them with positive perceptions of their own skills and their own control. This positive sense of self-efficacy encourages children to attempt things that they would not otherwise try if they had a more realistic idea of their abilities."

Teenagers are idealistic and often impractical, but that naïve optimism for the world fuels exploration which in turn drives progress and innovation. Teenagers may not be growing up the same way as generations past, but the timeline they are now falling into fuels these characteristics for longer. The effects of this are still untold, but it is no secret the future is looking bright with this generation on the horizon.

Play a lead in the musical! Gain 20 shamrocks.

Think you have free time but really you are just procrastinating Chemistry homework. Lose 10 shamrocks.

Learn to function on less than five hours of sleep each night. Gain 10 shamrocks.

Fall asleep doing Chemistry Mrs. Dusel in the morning and handle it. Gain 5 shamrocks.

Welcome to Junior Year! You are officially an upperclassman. Gain 15 shamrocks.

Forget your locker combination. Lose 10 shamrocks.

Impress all your teachers by acing your semester tests. Gain 10 shamrocks.

You survived 7th grade! For that alone, gain 10 shamrocks. Go on to 8th grade!

Leave your sweatpants at the Scotus junior high track meet and only remember when Mrs. Blaser wears them the next day. Lose 20 shamrocks.

After weeks of preparation, you get confirmed. Gain 20 shamrocks.

Finally get to avoid sitting at the back of the student section. Gain 10 shamrocks.

Birthdays bring imbalance

By Sarah Bichlmeier
Staff Reporter

Since I have a late birthday in comparison to my class, I can clearly recall the anxiety I felt as a fifteen-year-old sophomore, waiting for my mom to pick me up from the back of school. It felt humiliating watching all my classmates and even some freshmen with school permits speed by. Because of age differences within a grade, some students can be over a whole year older than their classmates. While age gaps may not seem to be an issue of concern, they can create unexpected challenges for those with out-of-place birthdays.

Those with younger birthdays do not have driving privileges as soon as their classmates, and they also have less time to spend in the nest with their parents. Junior Camille Pelan, who has a July birthday, has experienced the challenges that come with being young. "Sometimes I wish I was [older] so I could go through high school sports one more time, and I also would have an extra year to figure out what I want to do with my life after high school," Pelan said. While some may feel being young is a disadvantage, students like junior Maddie Blaser see the positive aspects. "I never had to waste any of my gas on my friends- they

had to waste theirs on me," Blaser said. Having an earlier birthday comes with some advantages. Students with early birthdays are able to drive before their classmates and can brag about their "superiority." Senior Jayden Heng's birthday is in June of 2001, so she has over a year on some of her classmates. "We can say that we are more mature than everyone. I honestly would have to say that Eric, Kaleb, Dalton, and I are the most mature in our grade!" Heng said. However, being old comes with challenges. People often hold assumptions about why a student is old for their class. Freshman Jasmine Jackson has

experienced the discomfort that comes with having a late birthday. "Everyone always asks you, 'Wow, why are you so old?'" Jackson said. Physical limitations can also prevent older students from reaching their full potential. "Our bones get weaker earlier than others in the class. We have a better chance of getting arthritis," Heng said. Sophomore Grace Mustard has a July birthday, which put her parents in a difficult position when choosing her class. Ultimately, they decided to put her in the younger class. "I've always thought about [being in the class above], but everything worked out the way

it was supposed to, and I am friends with the best people because I am in this grade. Plus, I could drive before all of them," Mustard said. Although having an odd birthday can make a student feel out of place, most would not change the grade they were put in. Like Mustard, junior Lizzie Parker's birthday is also in July, but her parents decided to place her with older students. "I have thought about [being in the class below] several times, and I think being in the class I am in has been good for me. Being younger, I have had to push and challenge myself. Also, I can't imagine not having the friends I do that are in my class," Parker said

Team up with your classmates to beat the upperclassmen during the junior high lock in. Gain 15 shamrocks.

Freshman year: You're officially a high schooler! Gain 10 shamrocks.

Dance the night away at your first high school dance. Gain 15 shamrocks!

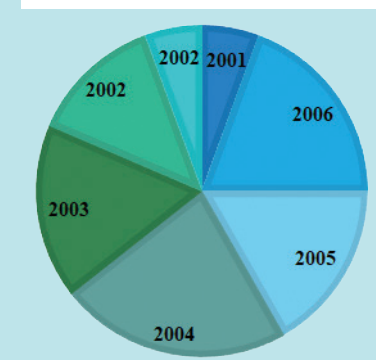
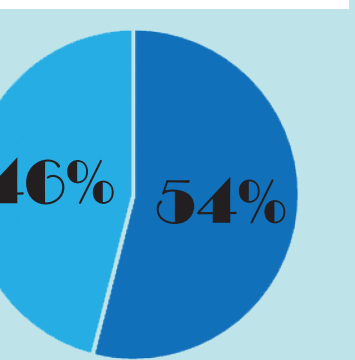
Sit through your first talk about preparing for college. Don't worry, it only goes down from here. Lose 5 shamrocks.

Ms. Mimick gives a pop quiz over the book chapters you forgot to read last night. Drop 10 shamrocks (just like your grade).

A senior says hi to you in the hallway, and you are now a celebrity among the underclassmen. Gain 20 shamrocks.

Help decorate the hallway that wins "best decorated" and earn your class a free dress down day. Gain 25 shamrocks.

Birthdays per Month



Birthdays per Year

2004 has the most

2001 has the least

Why do you love or hate your birth month?



"I like my birth month because I don't have to come to school on my birthday, which is nice, and the weather is always nice for my birthday party."
Levi Robertson, 12



"July is the best month. It is right in the middle of summer. You almost always have good weather on your birthday, so you can spend it outside which is nice! Plus, you never have to worry about school on your birthday."
Lizzie Parker, 11



"An advantage is it is somewhat close after Christmas so whatever I don't get for Christmas, I ask for my birthday. A disadvantage is having school, and I would rather not have school on my birthday."
Kamryn Chohon, 11



"One major advantage of my birthday is it is four days before Christmas, so I get double the presents! One disadvantage is since I have been at Scotus, I have had semesters on my birthday up until senior year."
MaKenzie Enderlin, 12



"I would say some advantages of my birthday is I get gifts from my family and close friends, but a disadvantage is as I get older, the more I need to rely on myself."
Tim Ehlers, 12



"I love my birthday month, especially because the color of the birthstone for October is baby pink. I am one of those girls who has pink on pretty much everything I own, so I feel like I was kind of born in the right month."
Eden Broberg, 10



"An advantage for my birthday is school is usually out. A disadvantage about my birthday is that I share a birthday with my aunt, and sometimes we can't agree on what we want to do to celebrate."
Lily Dohmen, 9



"Yes, I like my birthday month because there is more of a chance to get school off for snow days."
Patrick Cieloha, 9

Decide to try a new activity outside of anything you've ever done, and your life is positively changed. Gain 25 shamrocks.

Get assigned your eighth project of the week. Lose 10 shamrocks.

Dissert frogs in Biology class ruining your appetite for lunch. Lose 15 shamrocks.

Make varsity in your favorite sport. Gain 15 shamrocks.

Sophomore year: you have reached the halfway mark in your time at Scotus. Gain 10 shamrocks.

Help decorate the hallway that wins "best decorated" and earn your class a free dress down day. Gain 25 shamrocks.

Boys bounce back for post-season win

By **Chloe Odbert**
Staff Reporter

After a nine-game losing streak, the Shamrocks ended the drought as Kaden Young made it rain in the play-in game of the sub-district tournament on February 24. Young set his personal career high in Monday's game as he contributed 17 of the team's total 40 points. Young made five three-point buckets over the duration of the game. His effort and scoring are what helped the Shamrocks end up on top according to coach Tyler Swanson.

"It was really important for the game against David City for Young to have a career high. We had a hard time scoring all year, we knew we could keep David City within a low amount of points, but we had to have kids that were able to shoot the ball," Swanson said.

After stopping what seemed to be a never-ending stretch of losses, the Shamrocks returned to Columbus High School the following night, February 25, to compete against third-ranked in Class C1 the North Bend Tigers.

"Going into Tuesday we thought we could win. We

knew we could play with them. I think that was the correct attitude to have seeing the effort we had during the game. Our guys showed up ready to compete," Swanson added.

The Shamrocks fell to the Tigers 54-66 which concluded their season. After the Tigers stole an 8-0 lead over the Shamrocks, they kept a lead of five or more for the remainder of the night. The Shamrocks trailed the Tigers 12-18 at the end of the first quarter, 19-29 at the end of the second, and went into the fourth quarter with a 13-point deficit of 30-43.

The Shamrocks out-scored the Tigers 24-23 in the fourth quarter but that was not enough to put them on top. Senior guard Tyler Palmer tied for second-leading scorer in his final career game with 12 individual points.

"We played well against North Bend in all phases of the game. Unfortunately, we had a few slip ups and sometimes the ball just bounces the wrong way," Palmer stated.

As Swanson stated, the Shamrocks struggled to score on the offensive end of the ball this season. Senior Antonio Chavez, who has been involved in basketball all four

years, agreed the team struggled to stay consistent.

"I think our biggest struggle this season was our battle with consistency. We had a hard time getting good possessions in a row and were not consistent in keeping a lead once we attained it," Chavez explained.

Senior guard Connor Wiehn, who shot 29% from the three-point over the course of the season, agreed with Chavez and Swanson that scoring and finishing games was an issue all season long.

"We struggled to finish games. Many games this year, we had a lead in the fourth quarter, or it was a one possession game and we didn't finish it on top. We had trouble closing out those games and lost more games than we should have this season," Wiehn stated.

Although the team struggled to close gaps and finish games on top this year, the players still found positive aspects to the season.

"If I had to choose one word to describe the season, it would be optimistic. Even though our record did not show it, every day we came to practice, and we worked hard so that we could be the best we could be despite our

record," Palmer stated.

The Shamrocks say goodbye to six seniors from this year's team: Beaver, Dalton Borchers, Chavez, Eric Mustard, Palmer, and Wiehn.

As all good things must come to an end, Wiehn expressed what the Scotus basketball program has given him over his last four years.

"These four years of basketball taught me many lessons, gave me a chance to play the sport I love, and gave me friendships I wouldn't be able to find

somewhere else," Wiehn said. "These four years were all worth it. From being a freshman who was scared to play with the big seniors to becoming a senior and having some of the best moments of my high school career with these teammates through basketball."

Although the Shamrocks completed their season as a 5-19 basketball team, Swanson realized there are bigger things to life and the game of basketball than an overall record.

"The year record wise didn't go as we thought it would. The group of guys we had was fun to coach; they worked hard and never gave up. You see teams that have five wins, they don't play against teams like North Bend by the end of the year and give them a game. That obviously shows the work ethic and effort our guys brought despite our record. They still took pride in what they were doing," Swanson concluded.



Senior guard Tyler Palmer drives past a North Bend defender in his final game on February 25th. The Shamrocks lost to the Tigers 54-66.

Girls finish season with effort

By **Tyler Palmer**
Staff Reporter

The Scotus girls basketball team finished the season just below .500 with an 11-12 record but had quality take-aways from a near district championship season. The team beat Boone Central the

first round of districts and won 41-32. Then they played St. Paul for the sub-district championship and lost in a thriller 38-33.

Junior Camille Pelan had a record-breaking year and was the team's sharpshooter from the outside, leading the team in three-point makes.

"The season didn't end

when we wanted it to, but I think we definitely made our mark. We had some huge wins at the end of the season and almost beat a great St. Paul team," Pelan said.

The Shamrocks are graduating only two senior girls, but the two played a significant role in the Shamrock's success, one of which was

post player Chloe Odbert.

"My career at Scotus was very fulfilling if I had to put it in one word," Odbert said. "From being a part of the 2018 State Championship team to building friendships and relationships I will cherish forever, Scotus basketball has given me more than I could ever thank the program for."

Along with Odbert was Amber Buhman, who started every game this season. Odbert and Buhman were both a part of the 2017-2018 state championship team.

"We definitely had to step up as leaders," Buhman said. "It doesn't take being the highest scorer or having the most steals to be a leader. We lead through going hard every rep and never giving up on a game until the buzzer goes off in the final quarter."

Coach Jarrod Ridder just finished his 10th year coaching and continues to get the most out of his players.

"We have hard-working kids who really care about each other and care about the

success of the team," Ridder said. "Scotus has always been about all the kids showing up together and working hard together. We talk a lot about effort and playing hard for your teammates and that is what we did."

Along with sharpshooter Pelan and the two seniors, Odbert and Buhman, the team relied on many underclassmen such as junior Janae Rusher to fulfill other key roles on the team.

"This season was good; obviously, I wish it had ended differently, but it was so much fun playing my last year of JV and contributing in the varsity games," Rusher said.

The girls played many close games with powerhouse basketball teams such as Guardian Angel Central Catholic, St. Paul, and York. Junior Ava Kuhl was a contributor for all those games.

"Losing to teams such as York, St. Paul, and Humphrey Lindsay Holy Family was not what we wanted to happen and were all winnable

games for our team," Kuhl said. "However, I think because we lost to those teams, we were able to grow as a team in order to win against some other teams we played against."

The girls also won the local Columbus Holiday Tournament, which featured Twin River and Schuyler.

"The Holiday Tournament was our best few games of the season just because we hit shots," Pelan said. "If we would have made shots all season like we did in the Holiday Tournament, we would have added quite a few more wins to our record."

With three starters returning next year, the team is hopeful for the future and looks to come back strong.

"We have JV and freshman girls who will hopefully be able to step in and help with varsity next season," Ridder said. "We have lots of talented girls in our program, and I am optimistic about the season we can have next year."



RACHAEL LAM/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Chloe Odbert dribbles the ball against Kearney Catholic on February 6th. The Shamrocks finished the season with a 11-12 record.

Wrestlers send two to state

By **Janae Rusher**
Staff Reporter

Although influenza, strep, and the stomach flu plagued the Scotus halls for a couple weeks, the wrestlers battled through to districts.

Illness was not the only bump in the road as there were many concussions and other injuries filling the month of February for the wrestlers.

The wrestlers competed at the GICC tournament on February 8th. Only about half the team wrestled at this meet due to injury and illness. Freshman Paul Littlefield placed 2nd in the 113-weight class.

Junior Sebastien Fritz has been wrestling since 7th grade.

"Throughout the season, the team improved by working at all positions to get

better," Fritz said.

GICC was the final meet before districts, which was held in St. Paul on the 14th and 15th of February. Freshman Isaak Liebig has been wrestling since 3rd grade and competed in the 138-weight class.

"I was a little rusty coming into districts," Liebig said. "Personally, I thought I did alright."

As a team the wrestlers placed 11th at districts. For most on the team, this was their last tournament of the year. Sophomore Riley Eickmeier wrestled in the 152-weight class.

"The season had its ups and downs," Eickmeier said. "I am ready to start working to make it to state next year."

Junior Ben Kamrath has been wrestling since 7th grade. Kamrath lost in the heartbreak round and missed

going to state by one place.

"I thought I wrestled well because I made it to the semifinals and wasn't supposed to make it that far," Kamrath said. "That was good even though it had a disappointing end."

Seniors Nick Taylor and Evan Hand qualified for state. They both placed fourth in their weight classes.

"We had a lot of people push themselves throughout the entire season," Hand said. "Some were just a couple seconds away from joining Nick and me at state."

Scotus started a new tradition last year for sending off students to state competitions. This year, students lined the halls to send off Hand and Taylor.

"Being sent off is a lot of fun," Taylor said. "You get to see everyone who is supporting you and hyping you up."

Evan Hand made it to state in the 182-weight class.

"It was really exciting to wrestle at CHI, and I was honored to wrestle there two years in a row," Hand said. "To wrestle in front of a giant

crowd is amazing."

Both Hand and Taylor lost in the morning on February 21st at the CHI Health Center in Omaha.

"It was a great season. I enjoyed being with my team



TANLEY MILLER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Nick Taylor wins a match at the Lakeview Invite. Taylor and senior Evan Hand both qualified for State Wrestling at the CHI Health Center.

Scotus trio sails at state

By Brea Lassek
Editor

Although tested by illnesses, vigorous workouts, and early mornings, the Discoverers weathered the storm to finish their 2019-2020 season. The Columbus High swim team sent three Scotus athletes to the NSAA Swimming and Diving Championships in Lincoln at the Bob Devaney Natatorium on February 28th and 29th.

Leading the Scotus trio was senior Emily Miksch. Going into her final high school competition, Miksch was rated 30th in the 100-meter breaststroke. She had her plate full at state, competing in the 200-meter medley relay, 200-meter freestyle relay, and 400-meter freestyle relay as well.

"My goal going into my last state was to qualify for finals," Miksch said. "Last year, I was only two places away in the 100-meter breaststroke and one away in our relay."

Junior Kaira Dallman

joined Miksch as another leg in the 200-meter freestyle relay. Dallman has swam at state every year since she was a freshman.

"We prepared for state by tapering our workouts and eating healthier," Dallman explained. "We wanted to do everything we could before our last races. State is always the best part of the season."

Dallman and Miksch both shared high hopes for their 200-meter freestyle relay.

"Our saying has always been 'last one, fast one,' so we are hoping that comes true at state," Miksch said.

Panachai "Big" Kongja, a foreign exchange student from Thailand, was the lone Scotus male state qualifier. Throughout the season, he swam in a myriad of events, including the 100-meter breaststroke, 200-meter medley relay, 200-meter freestyle relay, and 400-meter freestyle relay. According to Kongja, his first swim season in the United States had its ups and downs.

"The season did not go so well. I got influenza two weeks before conference, and I had it for a week," Kongja explained.

Unlike other high school sports, swimming does not have a district meet; rather, athletes can auto-qualify throughout the season. Because of this, the conference meet is one of the last opportunities to qualify for state, raising the stakes compared to other regular season meets. On February 14th, both Discoverer teams earned runner-up at the Greater Nebraska Athletic Conference meet in Hastings. Kongja led the boys with a first-place finish in the 100-meter butterfly, and Miksch propelled the girls with her 100-meter breaststroke victory, recording a time of 1:11.27. Overall, there were 39 season-best times swam by the Discoverers.

"I am happy with how conference went, because I got a personal record," freshman Alex Settje stated.

Three days before con-



BREA LASSEK/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior Panachai "Big" Kongja races on February 11th during a duel against Lincoln Pius X at the Aquatic Center. Kongja is a foreign exchange student at Scotus and competed at state this past weekend.

ference, the Discoverers honored their senior leaders at a home duel against Lincoln Pius X. Miksch was the only senior from Scotus this year and earned captain honors. She recently signed with the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

"The whole season, I

was so ready to be done, but now that the end is here, I'm sad about how fast it went," Miksch concluded.

While Miksch says goodbye to the program after four years, the underclassmen will look to make their mark next season. For now, freshmen like Jasmine Jackson are

thankful for what their first year had to offer.

"My favorite part about swim was the meets. I loved the bus rides with my teammates and getting to cheer them on during their races. I am really going to miss the seniors next year," Jackson concluded.

Scotus cheer tumbles into second place



MAKENZIE ENDERLIN/YEARBOOK STAFF

Seniors Liza Zaruba, Brea Lassek, and Jayden Heng perform at State Cheer on February 22nd in Grand Island. The cheer team finished fourth in Gameday and runner-up in Non-tumbling.

By Ava Kuhl
Staff Reporter

The Scotus cheer team every year prepares themselves to compete at State Cheer. Last year the team finished sixth in Gameday and fifth in Side-

line. This year, the team's goal was to score higher.

On February 22nd, the Scotus cheer team traveled to Grand Island to compete at the annual State Cheer competition. Overall, they finished fourth in Gameday and runner-up in Non-tumbling.

"State went better than I could have ever hoped for," senior Jayden Heng said. "I am so proud of these girls and am extremely proud of how they performed on Saturday."

This year, the cheer team competed in two

categories, Gameday and Non-tumbling. Last year, the cheer team competed in Sideline but dropped it to do Non-tumbling instead. In these events, they are judged on sharpness and precision. "State cheer went so well! Both routines looked so good, and I don't think it could've gone any better," senior Haylee Cielocha explained.

The cheer team was confident they had the ability to get first and almost accomplished this goal but received runner-up in Non-tumbling, ending with a score of 80.90.

"The girls on are squad worked incredibly hard, and the judges and fans in attendance recognized that," senior Brea Lassek said. "Even though we did not officially win Gameday, our score before the deduction would be high enough to win both class C1 and class B as well as place 3rd in class A."

The team finished in Gameday with an 85.50, which is the highest scoring in school histo-

ry. The original score was a 90.50, but with a 5-point deduction, for an illegal skill, it dropped them to an 85.50.

"People underestimate what we do," sophomore Eden Broberg explained. "If you would come and watch, you could see how much time and effort we put in trying to get our routines state worthy."

The cheer team practiced every morning, and the hard work that went into choreographing and planning the routines done by the seniors truly showed in Grand Island and their performances.

"It all started in Jayden Heng's basement where the seniors and I choreographed both routines for seven hours straight," senior Kate Smith stated. "Then, we taught it to the squad and had countless Sunday and early morning practices to perfect it."

State Cheer is something all cheer teams look forward to and enjoy performing at. The Scotus cheer team had been looking

forward to this day since last year's state cheer, where they finished fifth in Sideline and sixth in gameday.

"I love every part of it from getting ready the morning of to actually performing to awards. It is such a fun day, and I am going to miss it so much," Ceilocha said.

Overall, the Scotus cheer team is pleased with their results and could not be happier with how they finished at State cheer.

"They truly put in the effort, and it made my last state cheer so memorable," Lassek said, "The team two weeks before state was drastically different from the one that hit the mat. There was a new energy and purpose we all shared. Yes, we would love to be recognized as state champs, but a trophy does not define this squad. Each one of us knows we were a part of something special, and the memories and sense of camaraderie will last far longer than a trophy in a display case."

Scotus flag and dance debuts at state

By Lauren Ostdiek
Staff Reporter

On Friday, February 21st, the Scotus flag and dance team performed at State Dance for the first time in Scotus history. The competing squad consisted of nine dancers, and they performed in the Class C-1 Jazz category.

The team practiced their routine for months before they competed in Grand Island at State Dance.

Senior McKenna Hoefler has been a member of the flag and dance team for four years.

"As a team, we spent months practicing our routine. We practiced the leaps and turns in the routine to get them as synchronized as we could," Hoefler explained. "We also spent many hours cleaning the routine and working on facial expressions."

Along with team practices, junior Lizzie Parker and her teammates worked on their own to make the dance competition ready.

"We have been working

on this dance on and off since last summer. Many of us also had to work individually to get skills for this dance," Parker commented.

This was the first Scotus team to compete at the State competition, which is put on by the Nebraska Coaches Association, sponsored by Varsity Spirit, and run by the Universal Dancer's Association.

Competing at a formal competition was a new experience for the Scotus flag and dance team since only some dancers had competed through their studios prior to the state competition.

Junior Cassie Kouma has competed through Barb's School of Dance for 13 years.

"It was a really new experience because it was a new type of dance competition for some of us and the first competition for many others," Kouma said. "I think we did really well for it being our first year at state."

Competing for the first time created some unique challenges for the team.

"Being the first year of us going to State Dance made it very scary because we

didn't know what to expect. All the other teams had been there multiple times before, so we were at a disadvantage," Hoefler said.

Senior Molly Carstens has been a member of the squad for three years.

"I think if we would have gone in the past years, we would have known what to improve on," Carstens commented. "I think we did the best we could have done."

Scotus' squad placed sixth out of eight teams in their category.

Along with inexperience, the team also battled against illness and injury during the season. Juniors Keira Feehan and Anna Ehlers were unable to compete at state due to injuries.

Senior Jaycee Ternus has been a part of the twelve-girl squad for four years.

"When girls were gone because of sickness or injury, it was hard to clean the dance with missing spots in our formations. Once everyone was healthy, we got the dance to look clean and put together," Ternus commented.

Sophomore Berlin Kluever competed with the



BREA LASSEK/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

The Scotus flag and dance team strikes a pose while performing their Jazz routine at State Dance on Friday, February 21st. This was the first Scotus team to compete at State Dance.

team despite coming down with illness before the state competition.

"The morning before state I found out I had strep, and that night we were supposed to perform our state dance for the first time,"

Kluever explained. "Obviously I did not perform that night, which meant my first performance was at state."

However, amidst the challenges of the state competition, the Scotus dancers are looking forward to having

more experience looking forward.

"This year was definitely a learning curve," Kluever said. "We are excited to come back next year and compete with more experience under our belt."

Band beats on at dinner concert

By Sarah Bichlmeier
Staff Reporter

While band dinner concerts have always been crowd-pleasers, this year they took a new twist. The concert was not only comprised of the traditional fifth grade through senior high band. Instead, three non-band groups were introduced as features for the night- cheerleaders, the flags and dance team, and band alumni. Senior cheerleader Liza Zaruba cheered during the “Hey” song and the Fight song, and she enjoyed the opportunity to perform in front of a new crowd.

“I loved doing the fight song at the end. With the crowd standing, clapping along, the band filling the air with music, and the flags and cheerleaders dancing along, the atmosphere was amazing,” Zaruba said. Alumni band mem-

bers played along with the high school band for three songs- “Barbara Ann,” “Six to Four,” and “We Got the Beat.” A memorable drum solo from 2013 Scotus graduate Craig Ackmann left the crowd and many band members in awe. Junior band member Lizzie Parker appreciated the new aspect alumni members added to the concert.

“[Playing with alumni] was fun! I enjoyed talking to them and getting to hear their idea of what it was like to come back,” Parker said.

Junior trumpet player Josh Styskal also looks up to the alumni.

“It was amazing to see that [the alumni] continued playing after high school and how talented they were on their instruments. I plan to study music in college, so meeting them was inspiring,” Styskal said.

The theme “Game Day” was not only displayed

through the alumni’s performance but in the attire of the band members. Some sported cheerleader uniforms and jerseys, while others wore letterman jackets with Scotus activity shirts.

Although the new performers made this band concert stick out among others, the crowd’s interaction with the concert was even more noteworthy. Senior clarinet player Lauren Ostdiek noticed the energetic atmosphere during the concert.

“My favorite part of the night was playing our pep band songs for the crowd that was there to listen to us. Normally, we just play in the background at home games, so it was special to know that the crowd was there for us. The band had so much fun throughout the entire concert and really played off the crowd’s energy,” Ostdiek said.

Junior flute player Cassie Kouma has been a member of

band since 5th grade and has played at multiple concerts.

“I think this concert was different because of the energy. The students were excited, which helped the audience get excited too. We played songs the audience got to interact with by clapping or singing along,” Kouma said.

Word of the upbeat band concert filled Scotus’ hallways on the morning after the concert, and band members, faculty, and members of the audience seemed to agree that this year’s dinner concert stood out positively. Senior flute and saxophone player Katie Stachura loved the atmosphere of the concert.

“This concert was more laid back and fun! We let loose and played some of our favorite pep band tunes, along with some new pieces. Having the Alumni come back to play with us and the flags and cheerleaders dance and perform just made it all



KATELYN BAYER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Eighth grader Jackson Heng plays his trumpet at the band dinner concert on Tuesday, February 11th. Heng, along with the other band members, sported “Game Day” gear.

the better!” Stachura said.

This year’s dinner concert was not nearly the only success the band has attained. Band director Kristen Cox has not only led the band to superior multiple superior ratings at marching band and district music, but she also

started the jazz and marching band programs at Scotus.

“This was my 25th dinner concert and every part of the concert made me smile and reflect on the years leading up to this point. It has been a terrific journey!” Cox said.

Game night prevents ‘Board’om

By Rachael Lam
Staff Reporter

For the past two years, student council has tried to host game night for the students, but the only winner has

been the weather. Finally, on Saturday, February 8th, student council prevailed and 55 students enjoyed a night of friendship and competition.

“I wasn’t sure if game night was still going to happen when it got postponed,

but I’m glad it went smoothly,” senior Drew VunCannon stated.

Game night began immediately after the boys’ basketball game against Kearney Catholic. All the games were set up along with prizes to

be given out. For those who were hungry, pizza and drinks were also available.

Although there were quite a few different games, there were a few apparent crowd favorites after students played numerous games.

“I played Connect Four, Battleship, Sorry, Jenga, and Spoons. I beat Jared Beaver in Connect Four six times in a row,” senior Levi Robertson stated.

Because this was the first time game night in Scotus history, student council was unsure of what the outcome would be. However, based on feedback, it was a greatly enjoyed event.

“My favorite part about game night is seeing people who you usually wouldn’t see at these types of activities,” junior Kamryn Chohon said.

Game night allowed students of all grades to bond with each other especially with those in another grade, and many students were even

surprised by how much they liked it.

“I wasn’t going to go because it sounded kind of lame on a Saturday night, but I’m glad I went because board games are so underrated. They can be so much fun if you take time for them,” sophomore Grace Mustard shared.

Two of the main events that took place during game night were Family Feud and the pitch tournament. The pitch teams were in pairs and whoever won even received a one-of-a-kind trophy.

“The pitch tournament was good, but I felt cheated out on it because I did not know what was going on,” senior Cole Demuth said.

In the pitch tournament, there were nine teams total and juniors Janae Rusher and Clarissa Kosch became the champions.

“I am definitely a novice pitch player, but I had a lot of fun playing in the tourna-

ment. Clarissa and I figured we would get out the second round and then play different games, but that did not happen,” Rusher said. “We played the VunCannon’s in the finals, and we were very scared because they were very good when they played Lauren Ostdiek and Amber Buhman. Clarissa had no faith in me, and I honestly did not have faith in us. We were very excited when we won, we could not believe it!”

With the success of inaugural game night, student council is not opposed to bringing back the event next year.

“I would want to bring game night back again next year. It was really fun, and I feel like everyone who attended had an amazing night! More people should attend if we have another one next year,” sophomore Emiliano Rodriguez said.



RACHAEL LAM/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Juniors Janae Rusher and Clarissa Kosch hold their pitch tournament champion trophy after winning against sophomore Seth VunCannon and senior Drew VunCannon. 55 students attended game night on Saturday, February 8th.

More winter activity photos



RACHAEL LAM/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Seniors Levi Robertson and Tyler Palmer play an intense game of Jenga during Game Night. Jenga was one of the many games available to students on Game Night.



BREA LASSEK/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior Cassie Kouma and senior Molly Carstens dance at the State Dance competition on Friday, February 21st. The girls placed sixth out of eight teams in class C-1 Jazz.



KATELYN BAYER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Seniors Debanhi Adame-Hernandez and Tim Ehlers play their trombones along with 2015 Scotus graduate Lucas Cox. Alumni joined various sections of the band during the February 11th concert.



JAYCEE TERNUS/YEARBOOK STAFF

Junior Jaelyn Podolak performs with the Scotus Cheer team at State Cheer. The cheer team competed in Game Day and Non-tumbling this year.

Hello, Dolly! brings cast together

By Amber Buhman
Staff Reporter

Mrs. Dolly Gallagher Levi filled the stage in Memorial Hall with her matchmaking skills on February 14th through the 16th. This year's musical, Hello, Dolly! is set in the 1890's in Yonkers and New York City. Dolly, played by junior Maddie Blaser, takes on the task of finding a wife for the cranky, half-millionaire Horace Vandergelder, played by sophomore Luke Przymus. She eventually sets herself up with him and brings several other couples together as well. Junior Janae Rusher played the role of Minnie Fay in the production.

"This year was probably my favorite show I have been in. I am so grateful for the cast and crew who made it amazing," Rusher said.

The cast and crew experienced some challenges throughout the musical season that ranged from late November to mid-February.

"The biggest challenge this season was we had so many seniors last year who played large roles, and we

had to step up and fill their shoes," Blaser said. "Many of us had much larger parts than we ever had before, and it was definitely a learning process."

The group faced another challenge this season, illness. Different people missed every day because they were sick.

"I do not think there was a single practice that everyone was there," Rusher said. "Either crew was gone or ensemble or one of the leads or multiple people were gone. It is super hard to get anything done or get spots for dances and scenes when we are never all there."

The group overcame these challenges and were ready for opening night. Much of the credit for being so prepared goes to the two directors, Laura Salyard and Andrea Lemmer.

"Having two directors definitely made this season different," Przymus said. "It was a lot easier and a lot less stressful."

Lemmer also assisted Clyde Ericson in the One Act production this year.

"This musical season was different from others because we had our assis-

tant director Miss Lemmer," Blaser said. "Miss Lemmer is a great asset to Scotus' drama department. She is very helpful when it comes to diving into our characters and really playing the part."

Lemmer and Salyard helped junior Josh Styskal dive into his role as Barnaby Tucker.

"This year, I personally felt the cast and crew became more of a family than ever before," Styskal said. "Each grade grew closer, and many inner friendships were created and grown."

The cast and crew were led by their two directors and by the upperclassmen. Lauren Ostdiek was one of five seniors who participated in the musical. She played the role of Irene Molloy in the production.

"Musical is such a unique group at school. Throughout our months of rehearsals, everyone bonds, and it is exciting and emotional to finally perform with the cast," Ostdiek said. "I am so thankful for everyone who was a part of Hello, Dolly!"

Another senior was Liza Zaruba who played the role of Ernestina Money.



AMBER BUHMAN/ROCK BOTTOM AND YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Lauren Ostdiek, junior Maddie Blaser, and junior Janae Rusher distract sophomore Luke Przymus from the men in Mrs. Irene Molloy's hat shop. Ostdiek played the role of Mrs. Molloy.

"Even though we had a young and small cast this year, we bonded very quickly and were able to come

together and put on a great show for the community," Zaruba said. "I am so grateful to have been able to partic-

ipate in Hello, Dolly! and to have been a part of three school musicals."



AMBER BUHMAN/ROCK BOTTOM AND YEARBOOK STAFF

Junior Olivia Klug and sophomore Dominic McPhillips wait to board the train to New York. The two traveled in hopes of getting married someday.



AMBER BUHMAN/ROCK BOTTOM AND YEARBOOK STAFF

Juniors Noah Korth and Josh Styskal prepare to head off for New York. They disobey their boss, sophomore Luke Przymus, and close the shop for the day.

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Disney adds more on-screen magic

By **Janae Rusher**
Staff Reporter

According to *CNET*, there are 28.6 million downloads of *Disney Plus*. The Rusher household downloaded *Disney Plus* on the second day after it was released and gladly gives them our money. The anxiously awaited *Disney Plus* was launched November 12th, 2019. The new movie streaming app had an estimated 10 million downloads on launch day.

Disney Plus has movies and TV series, ranging from Disney original princesses to the Marvel Universe. *Disney Plus* has an aspect for every family member. My parents and I like the *Marvel* series and movies, and my sisters enjoy the *Disney Channel* feature.

ly watching all the Marvel movies, and *Disney Plus* has made it much easier. Previously, we attempted to, but *Netflix* only has a few of the movies, and we had to rent the movies from *Amazon Prime*. *Disney Plus* offers the Marvel Universe as well as *Disney Plus* series.

Marvel recently started to release TV series that I could binge all day. Marvel TV shows *Agent Carter* and *Runaways* are two of my favorites, and *Disney Plus* encompasses both the movies and the TV series. Most Marvel movies are PG13 and mostly family friendly, a huge benefit of *Disney Plus*.

I grew up watching Disney's animated movies and knew every song from every Disney princess movie. When I heard *Disney Plus* was going to be released, I was extremely excited. Every movie

has higher picture quality and brightness. I enjoy watching them again because the color is so much better than the old DVDs.

I also found out *Phineas and Ferb* would be on *Disney Plus* as well other *Disney Channel* shows. *Phineas and Ferb* is my all-time favorite childhood show. Every *Disney Channel* original movie from *Hannah Montana* to *Descendants* and *Disney Channel* TV shows like *Dog with a Blog* are included. Currently, *Disney Plus* is adding more to their app and creating movies and series as *Disney Plus* originals.

When opening *Disney Plus* on our TV, we realized in addition to Marvel and Disney; it also contains Pixar, *Star Wars*, and *National Geographic*. According to *Collider*, *Disney Plus* has a selection of over 7,500 epi-

sodes and 500 movies within its first year.

Disney Plus is \$6.99 per month with a seven-day free trial. *Disney Plus* also has a deal with *Hulu* and *ESPN Plus* that is slightly more

expensive but could be beneficial to your family or movie streaming preferences. This bundle is \$12.99 per month.

If you are debating if you should purchase *Disney Plus*, I highly recommend it. With

movies and shows for the entire family as well as the option to get *Hulu* and *ESPN Plus* there are options for everyone to enjoy.



[HTTP://GRMDAILY.COM/DISNEY-PLUS-UK-RELEASE-DATE](http://GRMDAILY.COM/DISNEY-PLUS-UK-RELEASE-DATE)

Disney Plus was released on November 12th, 2019. Today there are about 28.6 million downloads of Disney Plus.

Importance of passion for politics

By **Amber Buhman**
Staff Reporter

When I walk into my house at night after a long day at school, the first thing

I see is the TV turned on to Fox News. Politicians are discussing anything from impeachment to the coronavirus. My ears immediately perk up to the sound of politics. I become enthralled

in the debates and arguments they have.

I plop myself down on the couch and watch until I realize I should probably be doing homework instead. Many people find politics

interesting or entertaining. Others can't stand to listen to people argue and get nothing done. I love learning about and staying up to date with what is going on in the United States and the world around us.

Discussion and debate captivate me. Sometimes I find myself watching the House of Representatives or the Senate on TV. It is so interesting how our legal system and national government work.

I watched the entire State of the Union with my parents, and it was amazing to hear the progress our country is making. Seeing the differences in the two parties' reactions to President Trump's speech was ridiculous. The Republicans could hardly go a few words without standing up to clap, and the Democrats never missed a chance to show their disgust with everything the President said.

Hearing the political analysts talk about what is going on in our government is fascinating. My favorite part about watching is when they go out to ask people on

the street questions about our government. People are clueless. I once saw a video where a guy asked people to sign a petition in support of getting rid of the Bill of Rights. He claimed Obama said we didn't need it anymore. Many people signed it without a second thought.

It's crazy to think so many people don't know the basic events going on around them. People form their opinions based off what famous people tell them or what their parents think. I think watching the news for yourself and forming your own opinions is more beneficial. Just watching the news is interesting, but when you get to take what you learn and form your own opinion about it, that is when it becomes entertaining.

When watching politics, it is important to be able to decipher what is true and what is "fake news." Fake news is all around us. People try to sell us on ideas that scare or trick us into believing something fake. Politics is something high schoolers hear so much about from the people around them but often

don't take the time to understand for themselves. It is so important to stay informed.

I love being able to debate with people. When others know about what's going on in the news, we are able to have conversations about issues way bigger than ourselves. These issues still affect us though. My friends and I might not agree on everything, but we stay informed, so we are able to have conversations, and, yes, sometimes arguments about our country and government.

In my free time, I often watch politics and the news. I find it both entertaining and interesting. The entertainment I get from it isn't from the arguments that our leaders have, but it's from the pure interest in what our country is doing and how they impact us and the world. We should all be interested in the world around us and try to stay informed. When asked a basic political question like, "Who won the American Civil War?" hopefully, none of us would answer, "Asia."



THEWRAP.COM

Fox News, CNN, and MSNBC are three of the main news channels. Fox News gives more of a conservative view, and CNN and MSNBC provide a liberal opinion.

Big Apple Bagels: back and better than ever

By **Kate Smith**
Staff Reporter

Big Apple Bagels finally arrived in Columbus after months of impatient anticipation. The famous bagel shop opened its doors for business on Friday, February 21st, and has been busy ever since.

This is not the first time Big Apple Bagels has been in Columbus, however. In October of 2007, Jeff Gokie's Big Apple Bagels business was bought out by Walgreens. After wanting the business back in Columbus after 12 years, construction for the building started at Parkway Plaza, right off Lost Creek Parkway. Steve Hughes is the manager of the current Big Apple Bagels.

I went to Big Apple Bagels on Monday, February 24th, before school at around 7:15, because I was a little wary of the morning rush. When I pulled up, the drive-thru was quite busy, which was to be expected. Much to my surprise though, the restaurant itself was not that busy, and I found parking easily.

When I walked inside, I was greeted by many happy

workers and several high school students eating breakfast and working on homework. I then proceeded to order their most popular bagel sandwich, the American Sunrise with sausage on a jalapeño bagel. I also ordered their Caramel Decadence, which is like a caramel coffee blended, and three mini muffins for my friends to try. Much to my surprise, my total was only \$10.33, a great deal for students on a budget like myself. I then sat down and waited for my food to arrive. It took less than five minutes for all my food to be brought to me.

The food itself was amazing. The coffee I ordered was pretty sweet, but that is how I like my coffee. The bagel sandwich was hearty and filling. The jalapeño bagel added just the right amount of spice to the overall flavor profile. Even the mini muffins were the perfect, little, quick treat you could just pop in your mouth. I obviously was not able to try everything, but other drink options included soft drinks, juices, and smoothies. Other food options were numerous other bagel sandwiches, a vast assortment of large

muffins and mini muffins, and the famous bagels themselves with your choice of cream cheese. The food I tried, though, has five gold stars from me.

One of the only drawbacks I saw from the new restaurant was how busy the drive-thru was. If you are in a rush and want to get breakfast, either go inside and take it to go or give yourself enough time to wait in line.

Another negative I experienced from the new shop was most of their popular items sell out quickly since it is so busy. I came by after school to see how the afternoon compared to the morning, and when I ordered a muffin, they replied that every single muffin was sold out since they only make them in the morning. This is unfortunate for the customers needing a mid-day pick-me-up, but some foreplanning can easily solve this issue.

Also, for some, the location of the new shop is a minor inconvenience. For me, it took me nearly 15 minutes to get to the store. For students who live on the north side of town, this will not be a problem for them.

Overall, the new Big

Apple Bagels made a stellar first impression. I easily see this shop becoming the new place for students to meet up for breakfast in the morning or where they come after school to work on homework together. Although I will have to wake up 15 minutes earlier to get breakfast, I am excited to try all the delicious foods this new business has to offer.



KATE SMITH/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Juniors Alli Demuth and Kade Wiese quickly stop for Big Apple Bagels before school. The store officially opened for business on February 21st.



PETTING ZOO PG. 6



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Hiemer hikes the political hill



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Senator Bernie Sanders warmly welcomes senior Kyle Hiemer into the arena. Hiemer visited Sanders on March 3rd for a campaign event.

By Sarah Bichlmeier
Staff Reporter

On March 3rd, presidential candidate Bernie Sanders spoke in Chicago, Illinois, regarding income and social inequality and about racial disparity. Avid Bernie supporter Senior Kyle Hiemer was in attendance of the event.

"Bernie has been an idol of mine for years now. I believe he will make a great president in 2020," Hiemer said.

Unfortunately, the event became intense with a breach in security, allowing Sanders to become vulnerable to the opposing members in the crowd. Hiemer not only demonstrated his immense support by attending, but he went so far as to fight off a crazed conservative

from assaulting Sanders. Hiemer received a black eye and several bruises from the encounter but ultimately won the fight.

"Call me a martyr, call me a hero, but I was just protecting the American people," Hiemer said.

Sanders then asked Hiemer to meet with him backstage for a photo-op. Grateful for Hiemer's quick instincts, Sanders asked Hiemer to be a special advisor on his campaign.

"I was incredibly grateful for Kyle Hiemer's bravery - he defended our country indirectly by keeping me alive and well and therefore keeping Donald Trump out of the presidency. I think we could use a man of his character on my campaign," Sanders said.

However, when word reached Sanders that Hiemer refused to give

his money away to his opponents in a recent Monopoly game, he began to question Kyle's loyalty to a socialist government.

"I am once again asking for financial support from my supporters, and if Kyle is not able to keep up, he does not have a place in my campaign," Sanders said.

Senior Amber Buhman, one of Hiemer's opponents in the intense game, recalls Hiemer's insistence for a tyrannical government.

"Kyle refused to distribute his wealth. By doing this, he directly opposed Bernie's socialist regime," Buhman explained.

Because anything can be used against candidates to prove they are not men or women of their word, Sanders was forced to let Hiemer go. However, government teacher Pat Brockhaus reached out to Sand-

ers to insist upon Kyle's loyalty.

"Right, wrong, good, or bad, Kyle defended Sanders' policies, even to the opposition of his classmates and me, and I think that's AWESOME," Brockhaus said.

Brockhaus was able to convince Sanders to let Hiemer back on his campaign, and Hiemer quickly rose to be one of Sanders' top advisors. Because of the intensity of Sanders' campaign, Hiemer will be excused for the rest of the school year in order to travel with Sanders.

"I knew at a young age I was above the trivialness of high school. Helping on this campaign is only my first step into the political arena. I plan to become a senator for New York and working my way up to president of the United States. Vote for me in 2040!" Hiemer stated.

Sack lunches lack (tose in) tolerance

By Lauren Ostdiek
Staff Reporter

In an election year, it is easy to see how divided America can become. Issues like abortion, welfare, and climate change dominate political rhetoric and continually force apart citizens of America.

Because of this, it is more important than ever to learn to empathize with others and accept those who are different. In an effort to be on the right side of history, Scotus' administration has decided to encourage students to become more tolerant.

The most notable change to life at Scotus next year in this regard is the loss of sack lunch privileges.

Scotus president Jeff Ohnoutka recognizes allowing students to practice intolerance in any way, but especially toward lactose, is no longer acceptable.

"Our culture is becoming more tolerant every day, and our students need to as well. As an administration, we decided eliminating sack lunches is an important step," Ohnoutka explained.

Senior Brea Lassek has been lactose intolerant and packed a sack lunch every day for the past two years.

"I'm pretty upset because people like me won't be able to eat very much from the school cafeteria," Lassek said. "However, I understand where administration is coming from: we need to be tolerant, so the school should not encourage intolerance of any kind."

Scotus administration met with Milena Zahraiev, a professor of human relations at the University of Nebraska Lincoln, at the beginning of March to discuss this ongoing issue.

"The first step to learning to tolerate anything is to introduce yourself to the idea, as slowly as you need. In life, this could mean having conversations with people you wouldn't normally talk to, even if it makes you uncomfortable," Zahraiev explained. "For people who claim to be intolerant of lactose, this means drinking milk."

Zahraiev shared a study by Purdue University in 2000 that suggests introducing small amounts of lactose to force your body to learn to break it down.

"In light of this information, we realize there is no longer any excuse to be intolerant," Ohnoutka said.

The decision does not come without backlash though. For students like senior Sarah Bichlmeier, who is lactose intolerant, not being able to bring sack lunches would affect her daily life.

"This rule would ruin my life," Bichlmeier said. "Just learn to tolerate the lactose?" Yeah, tell that to my intestines."

Sociology teacher Pat Brockhaus believes this rule will encourage

See TOLERANCE, Page 2

Modeling agency visits Scotus

By Brea Lassek
Editor

As the Cheetah Girls once proclaimed, "You got to strut like you mean it, free your mind. It's not enough just to dream it. Come on. Come on."

Aspiring models at Scotus can now turn their dreams into reality when Develop Model Agency visits Scotus this spring. The Omaha-based company will host a casting call on Saturday, April 18th, in the Scotus Dowd Activity Center at 2 p.m. The company is scouting local talent to be published in various advertising campaigns in the upcoming fiscal year.

Scotus alum Jessica Lahm kicked-started the school's involvement in the modeling field. While attending the University of Nebraska-Kearney, she ventured into the modeling business, gaining almost 7,800 Instagram followers. After learning her agency planned to launch a new campaign involving area high schools, she recommended her alma mater. Scotus will be the first stop, followed by Lourdes Central Catholic, Lincoln East, and Skutt

Catholic.

"Jessica has always been into fashion, and although we don't have the same style, I am proud of her for bringing this opportunity to Scotus," activities director and assistant principal Merlin Lahm said. "Joan has even expressed interest in getting involved."

To nominate Scotus, Jessica had to select three pictures featuring the school's students or staff. The deciding photo was of her mother Joan Lahm, a science teacher at Scotus.

"When I was growing up, my mom sent in my baby picture to be the next Gerber baby. Obviously, I wasn't chosen, but I think now is my time to shine," Mrs. Lahm said.

Several other members of the Scotus community plan to seize the opportunity.

"Random accounts sometimes comment on my Instagram posts and want me to be an ambassador for their brand, but I've always laughed and ignored them," freshman Emma Lindhorst said. "Now, this could be a serious endeavor I choose to pursue."

Senior Jared Beaver has searched for a creative outlet for years and contacted the agency



JAYCEE TERNUS/YEARBOOK STAFF

Seniors Tyler Palmer and Jared Beaver appear on the cover of Men's Health magazine. The pair will attend the casting call hosted by Develop Model Agency in the Dowd Activity Center on Saturday, April 18th.

as soon as he heard the news. According to inside sources, Beaver left his lawncare job to spend more time building his portfolio. He is confident his luscious locks and stylish glasses will impress the scouts.

"I'm beautiful," Beaver said. "They're blind if they don't pick me."

Senior Connor Wiehn is not as certain, raising concerns regarding his friend's new pastime.

"About a week ago, I walked in on Beav practicing his poses in the bathroom mirror. Then, he called me and asked if I knew how to straighten hair," Wiehn explained. "At first,

See MODELING, Page 2

MODELING



JAELYN PODOLAK/YEARBOOK STAFF

Science teacher Joan Lahm practices posing for the camera. Lahm's daughter Jessica held a major part in bringing modeling to Scotus.

I thought this whole modeling thing was a joke to him, but then he told me he isn't going to college anymore. My radar was going off that something just wasn't right, so I asked Mr. Brockhaus what to do."

Government and social science teacher Pat Brockhaus shared his own opinions after conversing with Wiehn.

"I mean, I never knew what Jared Beaver is doing, so this isn't a surprise to me. I do have to say, wow, I'm excited the agency is coming. I told my wife Barb she

should try out," Brockhaus commented.

All students and staff are welcome, and previous modeling experience is not required. All participants should bring a headshot and resume, and minors are required to sign a parent-release form, which can be downloaded from the Scotus website. The agency recommends models dress as simply as possible so that those casting can focus on appearance rather than distracting clothing or makeup.

Regardless of who is chosen, the casting call is valuable in developing self-confidence.

"As I've gotten older, I've realized the importance of getting out of my comfort zone. Yes, I am a master of physics and calculus, but I need to branch out. A couple years ago I took music lessons, so I wouldn't say modeling is out of the question," math and science teacher Thomas Salyard explained. "I would be open to doing a family shoot."

TOLERANCE

age tolerance in Scotus students.

"There is no debate as to if this decision is right, wrong, good, or bad. If we can't expect our students to tolerate lactose or other nutrients, how can we expect them to tolerate others in our diverse society?" Brockhaus questioned. "This rule is both right and good."

Tolerance is important in personal growth, and we can never grow unless we are uncomfortable.

For Brockhaus, the issue

is black and white.

"It's pretty simple. If I was lactose intolerant, I would just tolerate the lactose," Brockhaus said.

At the end of the day, creating a more tolerant society begins in our schools. By disallowing sack lunches at Scotus, Scotus students and staff will be required to recognize the value of all things on this earth.

"It's true. Lactose are people too," Lassek concluded.



LIZA ZARUBA/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Seniors Brea Lassek, Jayden Heng, and Jacey Clarey react to hearing the news that Scotus will not allow sack lunches next year. The new rule is part of Scotus' effort to increase tolerance among students.

ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

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Parking pushes students to NPPD

By **Chloe Odbert**
Staff Reporter

From construction to rebuilding to senior pranks, parking has been a prominent issue amongst the students and faculty of Scotus Central Catholic over the past two years. The problem is only escalating according to president Jeff Ohnoutka. Ohnoutka called an emergency school board meeting to address the situation.

The meeting was called abruptly on March 17 by Ohnoutka to discuss the complaint calls that have been flowing into the main office according to office secretary Laurie Hergott.

"I was receiving 20 to 30 calls per day regarding complaints of where our students and staff were parking," Hergott explained. "Homeowners from 15th and 16th street as well as 19th avenue were compromising all the phone lines with complaints."

The calls Hergott continuously received made it difficult for parents and other outside callers to get ahold of the school. This made it

nearly impossible to record the students who were calling in sick and refused the school the ability to make important outgoing calls because all four landlines were busy.

Ohnoutka realized the difficulty to make a call on the school line.

"I did notice it was a lot more difficult to make a call over the phone in my office, so I chose to make the calls over my cellphone. Unfortunately, the women in the office did not have the luxury of doing so because everyone was calling the school phones rather than their personal numbers," Ohnoutka stated.

Ohnoutka was unaware of the anger coming from surrounding homeowners until one day he picked up the phone in the main office while Hergott was on her lunch break.

"On the other end of the phone, I could tell the woman was very upset," Ohnoutka explained. "I was unaware the complaints had been coming in for so long, but apparently a student had parked outside of the house on 16th street. This was not the first time, but the caller wanted it

to be the last."

After this confrontation over the phone, Ohnoutka called an emergency school board meeting to discuss what angle of attack the school would take in order to debunk the concerns of surrounding residents.

Ohnoutka knew cutting down permissible parking spots around the school would lead to an overflow of cars. Students would have no place to park in the mornings which posed a problem.

"I reached out to a good friend Jerry Chlopek from Nebraska Public Power District and he was more than happy to allow our overflow students to park in their lot beginning in the fall of 2020," Ohnoutka explained.

After reaching out to contact Chlopek and getting affirmation that all students would have a place to park, Ohnoutka called a meeting on March 17. The school board met to talk about what Scotus would soon do to solve the problem.

"I made the executive decision that in the 2020-2021 school year, parking anywhere other than the spots directly surrounding the building and in the new park-

ing lot will not be allowed," Ohnoutka explained. "It was unfair of us to be intruding on other people's personal property, that is not at all the Scotus way. I am a firm believer this will encourage our students to get to school earlier to study and prepare for the day. Also, walking a couple extra blocks from the NPPD parking lot in the mornings, if needed, will be great exercise for our students."

Ohnoutka has sched-

uled an all-school assembly for May 6, following senior Mass to inform the students of the policy being put in place next fall.

Once the announcement has been made, a 50 dollar fine will be issued to all students and staff who park their car along the road during school hours. The currently reserved student and staff parking spots will be terminated and not up for re-pur-

chase. All students will be given equal opportunity for a close parking spot each day.

"I do not think the students will be thrilled about the idea. I know a lot of them park along the streets during the school day, but they are simply going to have to be timelier while getting to school if they want a parking spot," Ohnoutka concluded.



AVA KUHL/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Students' cars are typically found parked along the road throughout the school day. Beginning in the fall of 2020, this will no longer be allowed.

Students signup for sign language

By **Janae Rusher**
Staff Reporter

As 2020-2021 schedules are being organized, there are new opportunities and ideas being brought up about classes and clubs. Spanish teacher

Jo Moody has been recently inspired to teach dog sign language as well as American sign language.

Canine Articulation Through Signing will be a club starting next year. Mrs. Moody was inspired to create this club when she adopted

her new dog. Her dog, Ana, is deaf, and the Moody's use sign language to communicate with her.

"Ana showed up on my Facebook page in early September," Moody said. "I follow the Humane Society on Facebook and they said

she needed a new home. I instantly fell in love and we adopted her December 30th."

Mrs. Moody will also teach a sign language class along with her Spanish classes. Depending on enrollment for her Spanish classes, there might be combining of periods and teaching in the little theater in order to fit all her students.

There will be "Dog Days" every Friday so students can bring their dogs to class. For this to work, students' dogs will stay in the courtyard with the rest of the animals that will be held there next year until their class period.

Junior Matthew Dolezal recently adopted a new puppy, who he is determined to train using sign language.

"I heard Mrs. Moody was learning sign language," Dolezal said. "I convinced her students in school would enjoy a club that taught them how to speak and train their

dogs using sign language. She said yes and that I could help her in organizing it." Dolezal is planning on majoring in sports news broadcasting.

"Now that I have learned some sign language, I think I would like to further my education in it and minor in it in college," Dolezal said. Moody and Dolezal have expressed their excitement toward this new venture.

"My classes are going to be very large next year," Moody said. "I hope many students will want to take part in this class."

The class will be called American Sign Language as there are many different types of sign language. The club will be called C.A.T.S. or Canine Articulation Through Signing. Mrs. Moody's class will be held during the day and will teach modern sign language that would be taught in any school. The club will be held after school

and in the little theater. Moody and Dolezal are finishing plans for this new activity that will hopefully be open for sign-up in the next couple weeks.

"Mrs. Moody has really inspired me to learn sign language and get good at it," Dolezal said. "As I learn more and more, I find myself enjoying it more than I thought."

C.A.T.S. will be filled with activities for humans as well as dogs. From training to treats Moody promises fun-filled learning for all who want to join.

"You do not need to own a dog to be a part of my club or classes," Moody said. "Just please do not be allergic!"

Mrs. Moody will be organizing a meeting for all those who are interested in the coming weeks and will have class and club sign-up in May.



JANAЕ RUSHER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior Matthew Dolezal shows off his signing skills to his junior buddies. He will be assisting Jo Moody next year with her sign language class and C.A.T.S. club.

New business brings breakfast back

By **Kate Smith**
Staff Reporter

Columbus welcomed many new food businesses in 2020 including Big Apple Bagels, Juice Stop, and Freddy's. Of the three, Big Apple Bagels and Juice Stop have partnered with Scotus to have muffins, bagels, breakfast sandwiches, smoothie bowls, and smoothies available to buy at a 20% discount in the mornings before school. Scotus stopped the hot breakfast program in 2017, which supplied many students with a hearty breakfast.

"I am really happy about healthy, hot meals being offered in the mornings again. After junior high volleyball practice with me, those seventh graders can't be having sugary pop tarts," chemistry teacher and seventh grade volleyball coach Jane Dusel said.

In an effort to bring back the hot breakfast meals before school, Mr. Swanson started buying and

selling Hy-Vee breakfast pizza on Thursday mornings last school year. Many students hoped it would return for a second year, but it sadly did not.

"I wanted to sell pizza again in the mornings this year because it was a hit last year. I just didn't find time between coaching, school, and my family to get it going again," Swanson explained.

Juice Stop and Big Apple Bagels will start selling their food on May 1st of this year to work out the kinks for the upcoming school year. Another advantage of implementing the breakfast program before the 2020 school year ends is that students can give feedback to the restaurants about which flavors of food and smoothies are most popular, lessening waste.

"A taste test is a perfect solution for all the picky eaters in this school like me," junior Shelby Bridger explained.

At the start of the 2020-2021 school year, Big Apple Bagels and Juice Stop man-

agers will drop off food and supplies for the Scotus lunch staff and will start selling the products at approximately 7:30 every morning. The breakfast bar will close at 7:55 before classes start. Students can either pay with cash or Mrs. Adams will scan their card and charge their account, similar to lunch.

"It's actually a super simple solution. Since it is breakfast and not lunch, there is a little more leniency. I would just charge your account for exactly what the meal costs," Adams said.

All leftover items from the morning will be saved and sold at snack break in Mrs. Lahm's room or during lunch. After breakfast, all food and smoothie items go to 50% off the original price. During lunch break, students would have to pay with cash.

"Big Apple Bagels and Juice Stop are what all my student talk about in class, so I am a little nervous for the swarm of people that will come to my room during snack break. I have dealt with HOSA bake sales numerous

times before, so if it's anything like that, I think I can handle it," Lahm explained.

This idea started with Mr. Ohnoutka. He saw the want for breakfast at Scotus,

and with so many new businesses in Columbus, it was the perfect fit.

"Community is a big part of the Scotus Way. What better way to support

Columbus than to have businesses come and sell their products here? Plus, I absolutely cannot refuse Big Apple Bagel's chocolate chip muffins," Ohnoutka said.



KATE SMITH/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Big Apple Bagels offers a vast assortment of muffins, bagels, and breakfast sandwiches. Big Apple Bagels and Juice Stop will begin catering at Scotus the morning of May 1st.

Blood drive bonds brothers

By Rachael Lam
Staff Reporter

On March 20th, adopted brothers Kade and Kaleb Wiese along with their parents, were notified by the Red Cross that they are actually related to each other due to some extremely distant family members.

Kade Wiese is currently a junior and was originally born in Vietnam while Kaleb is just a year older as a senior. Unlike his younger brother Kade, he was born in South Korea.

“Since they were born in different countries and are a year apart, I never would have thought they would be blood related at all when we adopted them,” Gary Wiese stated.

Every year, the Scotus National Honor Society chapter hosts a blood drive headed by NHS sponsor Jane

Dusel-Misfeldt. Numerous students, teachers, parents, and members of the community all come to donate blood to the Red Cross.

The blood drive took place on Tuesday, March 4th, in the Dowd Activity Center at Scotus and the set goal for number of blood units was surpassed.

“This year’s blood drive was definitely a success, and I was happy to see so many people come and donate,” Mrs. Dusel said.

Usually, the Red Cross will only contact its donors if any problems happen to come up after blood reports are done within 2 weeks of the donation.

“I have never heard of anything like this happening in all of the years I have been working at Scotus,” Dusel said.

However, this year, the Red Cross discovered some similarities in their blood

reports.

“I remember receiving the phone call and wondering why the Red Cross was reaching out to me. At first, I thought something was wrong with my blood donation,” Kade Wiese stated.

Although they are brothers, this news still came as a shock due to various reasons.

“I was so surprised and confused when I found out because I thought there was a mistake at first. I was in shock for a little bit, but it settled in after a while,” Kaleb Wiese said.

While having a blood match is not uncommon for most siblings, it was for Kade and Kaleb Wiese as they are both adopted.

“Since Kade and Kaleb are adopted and born in different countries, I don’t think anyone would have ever guessed they were related,” sophomore Zane Beiermann said.



PHOTO COURTESY KADE WIESE

Adopted brothers Kade and Kaleb Wiese pose for their football photo, one of the many activities they participate in together. Recently, on March 20th, they found out from the Red Cross they are blood-related.

Even those who have known Kade and Kaleb for years could not believe the news.

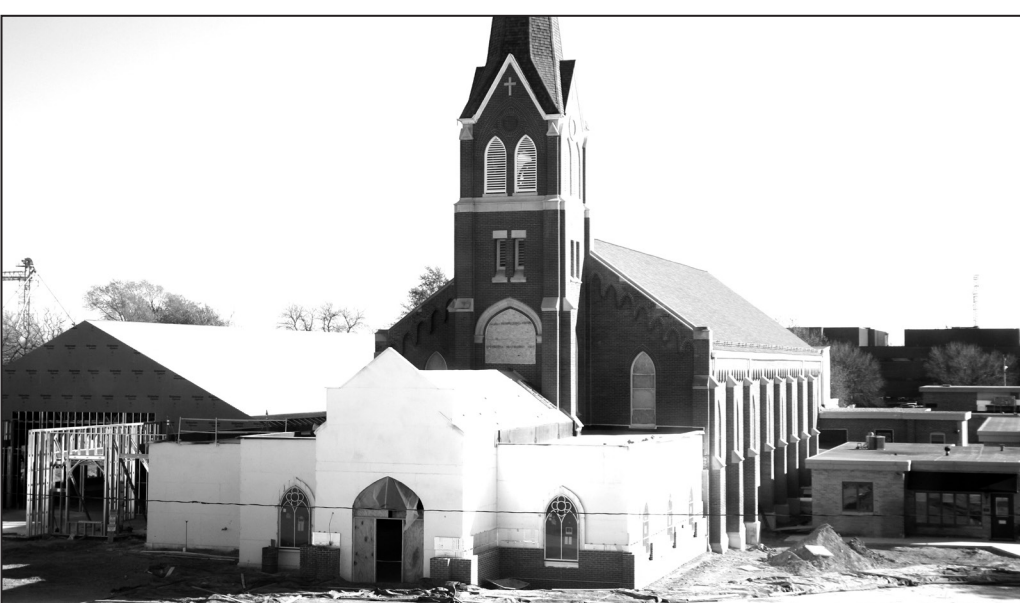
“I have always been close friends with both of them and although they act

so much alike, I never would have imagined that they were even blood related at all,” senior Tyler Vaught shared.

Even though the news was unexpected, in the end, it does not change much in the

relationship between Kade and Kaleb. Just like before, they are still close brothers. Not only does donating blood help people, but you never know what surprises could come from it.

2020 project restart moves graduation



LIZA ZAUBRA/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

St. Bon’s Project 2020 is set to restart in late April. The project restart is due to foundational issues.

By Amber Buhman
Staff Reporter

2020 Project restart moves graduation
St. Bon’s project 2020 has been in full swing since

the summer of 2019. Months of work have been put into it. Unfortunately, St. Bon’s received frustrating news when they realized the foundation of the church and the parking lot must be redone.

Senior Jacey Clarey

attended elementary school at St. Bon’s and is a member of the church.

“It’s super frustrating that the entire project has to be restarted because of a problem that occurred at the very beginning of construc-

tion,” Clarey said.

It is best to pour cement when it is between 50 and 60 degrees. The cement for the church’s foundation was laid when the temperature was below 40 degrees, so problems occurred.

“It was already disappointing that all our all school Masses had to be in the gym, and we had just gotten back to having weekend Mass in the church,” Clarey said. “Now, we’ll have to move back into the cafeteria, and Mass isn’t the same when we aren’t altogether in the church.”

In order to get a clean slate, the work that has already been done must first be taken down. All the progress made thus far will be taken down, and the project will start over at the beginning. The restart has pushed the project back several months, and now, the church will not be completed until 2021.

Senior Lauren Ostdiek also attended St. Bon’s elementary school and is a member of the church.

“It’s unfortunate we didn’t have the foresight to finish Project 2020 in time; although, as they said, ‘hindsight’s 2020,’” Ostdiek said.

The project has been scheduled to restart at the end of April. The construction will cause the church parking lot to be closed again. This loss of parking has led Scotus to the decision of moving graduation to the gym at Central Community College.

“The circumstances with the parking are unfortunate,” president Jeff Ohnoutka said. “Sadly, Central’s gym was already reserved for May 10th, so graduation has been rescheduled for May 17th. Luckily, our graduation date now lines up with Lakeview and Columbus High’s graduations.”

The senior class should

have received an email informing them of the switch in graduation dates and location. The change in graduation date moves the senior’s last day of school to May 8th instead of May 1st, and Senior Mass will take place on May 13th.

“I’m angry. I have been counting down to graduation day since freshman year,” senior Haylee Cielochka said. “Extending our last day of school and graduation dates is discouraging to my class.”

The lack of parking will cause a major issue for students during the school day as well. Luckily, this will not be a problem until the end of April, but parking for the last few weeks of the school year will be a hassle.

“The end result of Project 2020 will be worth it, but the setbacks are disappointing to the seniors at Scotus and all the members of St. Bon’s,” Ostdiek said.

New clubs for next year



CHLOE ODBERT/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior boys pose for a picture for the new Ninja club. Next year, those participating in the club will train once a week to become true Ninjas.



RACHAEL LAM/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Lauren Ostdiek contemplates her next move at the inaugural Scotus pitch tournament. Following its success, she started a card club for students.



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM TEACHER

Seniors Kaleb Wiese, Tim Ehlers, Ryan Brandenburg, and Jared Beaver reenact a Shakespeare play. Next year, Scotus will offer a Shakespeare club sponsored by English teacher Becki Zanardi.



JAYCEE TERNUS/YEARBOOK STAFF

Seniors MaKenzie Enderlin, Chloe Odbert, and Lauren Ostdiek hold their pet toads for the new club starting at Scotus. Starting next year, the Amphibian Club will be open to all.

Coaching keeps Odbert at home

By Kade Wiese
Staff Reporter

Scotus Central Catholic is not letting go of the Odbert family quite yet, at least for another three years.

On March 13th, 2020, senior Chloe Odbert signed a three-year contract with Scotus to become an assistant volleyball coach. She will be joining Janet Tooley and Bree Ackermann as a part of the varsity volleyball coaching staff in the fall of 2020.

"Chloe will be an awesome addition to the coaching staff. She brings a lot to the table that most current coaches don't possess," Tooley stated.

While most of her classmates are planning to begin college at the end of the summer, Odbert is hoping to attend a coaching convention in Lincoln alongside her new colleague Ackermann.

"I am so excited for Chloe to be part of the coaching staff! When I first heard the news, I jumped around

my room and started screaming because I was so happy," Ackermann said.

The two will coach the junior varsity squad together. With Ackermann's collegiate experience and Odbert's knowledge of her former teammates, they plan to help Tooley's varsity squad get back to the state tournament.

"Chloe knows everything about her former teammates including their strengths, leadership skills, and communication skills. Coach Ackermann knows the game extremely well and has great knowledge of how to use each player's ability in the most useful way," Tooley stated.

Athletic director Merlin Lahm believes Odbert's presence will give the athletic department a well-needed morality boost.

"The hour Chloe signed the contract, parents and booster club members were calling the school about how overjoyed they were to hear the good news. The Odbert family has left a huge imprint

on Scotus and having Chloe be a part of the Scotus athletics for another three years is going to have an everlasting mark on the school," Lahm stated.

Chloe has come from a long line of talented and athletic volleyball players. Her sister Andrea was a part of the 2009 Scotus Volleyball Championship team. Two years later, Odbert's second-oldest sister Emmie won the state volleyball championship her senior year.

"The Odbert's have an immense amount of experience in volleyball. Chloe inherits many skills and talents her sisters possessed when they played for Scotus. She has been around the school's volleyball system her entire life and having that experience on the team will help us out a lot," Tooley said.

While Odbert assists the volleyball program, she will be attending classes at CCC to obtain a bachelor's degree in athletic coaching education (ACE) and her master's degree in secondary educa-



AMBER BUHMAN/ROCK BOTTOM & YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Chloe Odbert smiles for the camera as she is decked out in her coach's attire. Odbert will be coaching the JV volleyball team with Bree Ackermann this coming fall.

tion. By the time she receives her degrees, her contract with Scotus will be over.

"We hope at the end of

the three years, Chloe will find her love for coaching and continue to bring the great spirit she encompasses.

We also hope by the time her contract is over, she will sign another five years and take up a teaching spot in our staff," Lahm concluded.



KATE SMITH/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Collin Dreher squats 500 pounds at the state powerlifting meet. Moments later, he was approached by Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, who asked him to be his stunt double in his upcoming Disney movie *Jungle Cruise*!



KATELYN BAYER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Junior Kade Wiese attempts to prevent a fight at homecoming between senior Connor Wiehn and an underclassmen. Luckily, Wiese was able to settle the dispute.

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Courtyard prepares for petting zoo



JANAE RUSHER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

A golden retriever puppy consoles junior Ava Kuhl following a tough day at school. Scotus will be renovating the courtyard into a petting zoo this summer to give students the benefits of working with therapy animals.

By Liza Zaruba
Staff Reporter

It's no secret high school is an extremely stressful time in many students' lives. According to a 2019 study from the Pew Research Center, over 96% of teens identify anxiety and depression as a problem among their peers. This leaves adults and administrators puzzled in how to solve this epidemic.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, Scotus Central Catholic may have cracked the code.

Beginning this summer, Scotus will undertake a complete renovation of the courtyard to accommodate a full-functioning petting zoo comprised of therapy animals. Students will have the option to visit the animals during their study halls or before and after school in hopes of lowering their stress levels.

"We, as a school, always try to facilitate an effective environment for our students to grow and develop," Scotus President Jeff Ohnoutka said. "A major factor in that is being proactive in taking care of their health both physically and mentally, even when that means putting a petting zoo in our courtyard."

Rob Daniels, a custodian at Scotus, will be the mastermind of the project and will be supervising and facilitating the student visits with the animals.

"Leaving maintenance to take over the petting zoo will not be a hard transition. I love working with the kids, and this new assignment allows me to interact with them even more as well as help any who are struggling to manage their stress," Daniels explained.

Daniels has decided the petting zoo will include four Appaloosa horses for students to ride and eight

black and yellow lab puppies. For those students who shy away from animals, a water oasis will also be available to sit around and relax. Tucked in a corner, the peaceful water fixture will compose of multiple streams flowing into a koi pond.

"Along with the animals and koi pond, I am also hoping to add a variety of birds and butterflies to the courtyard to truly make it feel like the wild. Think the butterfly pavilion at the Henry Doorly Zoo – that's the vision!" Daniels said.

Currently, a greenhouse sits in the courtyard, containing plants from Mrs. Lahm's Earth Science class and various hydroponics from the STEAM classes. To maximize space for the animals, Scotus has decided to replace the greenhouse building with a retractable greenhouse roof to enclose the courtyard.

"I've been told the design will form the courtyard

into one, large greenhouse. I'm so excited. I'm already picking out the fruits and veggies for my classes to grow," Earth Science teacher, Joan Lahm said. "Hopefully, when students come down to visit the animals, they can feed them as well or possibly take an apple for the road."

Funding and donations are already lined up for each aspect of the petting zoo. Now there are only five more months until it becomes a reality.

"I cannot wait to see the effects these animals will have on our students," Ohnoutka said. "If all goes well, these furry friends will keep our students feeling excited and supported each time they walk through the doors, and ultimately that's the kind of enthusiasm we strive for as we live out our mission here at Scotus."

Scotus boys show their moves

By Ava Kuhl
Staff Reporter

For years at Scotus, the cheer and dance team has been entirely made up of females. Yes, the cheer team and dance team are amazing at what they do, but the boys at Scotus are ready to challenge that.

The boys at Scotus are forming a cheer and dance team for the first time in Scotus history. Seniors Evan Hand, Levi Robertson, and Connor Wiehn plan to start a team and give guys at Scotus a chance to show their moves.

"Tryouts are April 7th, the day after the girls' tryouts," Wiehn said. "Everyone is welcome to come and tryout, eighth grade through juniors."

The seniors this year sadly will be unable to compete and practice for next year but are happy to help with forming the team and providing their opinions at tryouts.

"If [the senior boys] were able to be part of the team for next year, we would crush the competition," Hand explained. "There is no way we would not go to state and just kill it."

The senior boys are looking for juniors they can



KAMRYN CHOHOH/ YEARBOOK STAFF

High school boys participate and show their moves during the guy/girl dance. From this event, senior boys were inspired to start their own boys cheer and dance team.

pass off the torch to and lead next year's team. Junior Michael Gasper is a junior the seniors believe can accomplish their dreams of taking the team to state next year.

"I know I have some big shoes to fill if I make the team," Gasper stated. "I think I am an excellent dancer and cheerleader, though, so next year I believe we will go to state."

To keep with state cheer and dance protocols, the cheer teams are going to have to battle it out to determine

which team gets to go to state every year.

"I think we will for sure go to state cheer and dance next year and the years after," sophomore Luke Przymus said. "All us guys are amazing dancers, and we always cheer the loudest at games, so why would we not be good at cheer?"

The girls' cheer and dance teams have no fears of the matter, however. After state cheer finishing runner-up in Non-tumbling and fourth in Gameday, and state dance finishing sixth

in Jazz, they are positive the boys have no chance.

"I have faith in our girls to carry on the tradition and go to state cheer," senior Liza Zaruba said. "The boys have no chance against our girls, and I'm sure dance feels the same way."

To determine which team goes to state, the boys' and girls' teams will compete against each other the day before competition and will be judged by three teachers. Art teacher and one act director Clyde Ericson will be one of the judges of the competition.

"I think dance and cheer is true art. It is a performer's job to capture their audience and to feel the performance and that is what I am going to be looking for," Ericson explained.

Another change that is going to occur is at pep rallies, the cheer and dance teams will take turns planning and performing at the pep rally and switch off every rally.

"Pep rallies are going to be insane next year," junior Kade Wiese said. "The guys will definitely be better at the

pep rallies though. We already have a ton of great ideas for next year."

With the year drawing to an end, the junior boys are ready to give it everything they got next year.

"We are going to surprise many next year for cheer and dance," junior Ben Kamarath disclosed. "To be honest I am just excited for the uniforms since we get to have the same ones as the girls. I mean we are going to look astonishing in those skirts."

The boys' cheer and dance team is going to be coached by geometry teacher Zach McPhillips per request of the junior and senior boys.

"I think the boys next year are going to do great," McPhillips said. "It is good for the boys to learn dance and cheer so they can be better at football, basketball, and other sports."

With the boys joining the cheer and dance program, change is bound to occur at Scotus and dance battles are going to break loose.

"I think it is going to be some good healthy competition for next year and hopefully the years following," McPhillips expressed. "I cannot wait to see what the boy's cheer and dance team have to offer for our school and athletics."

Linder furthers faith life

By Tyler Palmer
Staff Reporter

"There is only one thing I love more than coaching football, and that is preaching the gospel." For Scotus students, this is an all-too-familiar phrase said by theology teacher Mr. Tyler Linder. During the 2019 school year, Linder wrote a book called, *My Favorite F Words: Faith, Family, Football*. The book is composed of Linder's thoughts as to what it means to find time for Christ while maintaining an active life in the community.

"I started the book at the beginning of the school year, and I couldn't stop writing once I started," Linder said. "The book means a lot to me, and I believe it is the best way for me, personally, to connect with people nationwide."

On top of writing a 220-

page book, Linder also has been asked to speak at numerous Catholic events such as Steubenville, JC Camp, and other conferences across America.

"When I first got asked to speak in front of thousands of people at Steubenville, I wasn't nervous at all. Preaching the gospel is the one thing I truly love," Linder said.

Scotus president Jeff Ohnoutka has witnessed Linder develop not only as a teacher, coach, and friend but as a saint through his persistent journey to get closer to Christ.

"I've known Tyler for almost a decade now, and every day he gets stronger and stronger in his faith life," Ohnoutka said. "With this new book he has recently written, it proves to me that he is one of the most faith-filled men I've met."

Linder also coaches the Scotus football team and tries

to push his team to be great on the field but also to keep their faith lives up to par.

"I was put into a bit of an imbroglio when I heard Steubenville was the same week as our high school football camp, but I know my team understands Christ is first in my life," Linder said.

Linder's book has not only gone public in Columbus but is a top seller in bookstores such as Barnes & Noble and Divine Youth Christian Store. Although Linder has received plenty of fame and attention from his recent book, he remains humble throughout the process.

"I have been asked to go to some book signings and all that hoopla, but my goal in publishing the book was to touch hearts, and, most importantly, spread the gospel to the everyday Catholic," Linder said.

Although Linder kept the book a secret the whole

school year, some students noticed he had been spending full class periods writing in a "journal" on his desk. Senior Sarah Bichlmeier noticed Linder as far back as October.

"At first I thought it was just a football thing he was writing, but when I looked closer, I saw he had pages and pages scribbled down over his faith life," Bichlmeier said. "It made me confused, but now it makes sense."

After speaking on July 10th in Springfield, Missouri, for the Steubenville Mid-America conference, Linder plans to continue writing and become a full-time professional author.

"My time here at Scotus has been very fulfilling and I have met some great people, but God is calling me to something bigger, and I will be writing many more books in the years to come," Linder said.



TYLER PALMER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Theology teacher Tyler Linder speaks to his students about his published book, *My Favorite F Words: Faith, Family, Football*. Linder will be the main speaker at the 2020 Steubenville Conference held in Springfield, Missouri.

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Journalism students 'Zoom' to success

By Janae Rusher
Staff Reporter

A problem that felt a world away became very real when Scotus students cleaned out their lockers on March 17th, 2020. Some seniors feared the worst and even wore their uniforms for the last time.

Schools across the country closed their doors and began online learning the third week of March to observe social distancing because of COVID-19. Teachers and students alike had high hopes of returning for the last couple weeks in May, but they were informed school will not resume in person until next fall.

Scotus President Jeff Ohnoutka announced school would be closing two days prior to spring break on Sunday, March 15th. This unexpected break gave teachers and staff time to quickly gather materials and plans for the coming weeks that would be taught online. Social science teacher Pat Brockhaus missed the social aspect of being face to face with students.

"The online learning has forced me to learn some new things; you CAN teach an old dog new tricks!" Brockhaus said. "Mrs. Rusher has been a tremendous help and asset for me; I cannot thank her enough."

Assistant principal and technology integrationist Angie Rusher assisted in the task of getting all 354 students online. She also assisted the teachers and staff in developing their classes.

"The first week was like the first week of school all over again," Rusher said. "I am so grateful for the technology we already had in place that made the transition easier. It is a complete change in mindset though, and I believe it will change how we approach education forever."

With the COVID-19 pandemic shutting down schools and spring sports, many students entered the last quarter of the school year disappointed. However, this did not prevent the journalism students from participating successfully in state journalism over a Zoom conference.

State journalism usually includes on-site competitions with qualifiers in categories such as headline writing and news feature writing. This year, only preliminary submissions that were made previous to the coronavirus pandemic were considered, which made for a different state journalism atmosphere. Senior Chloe Odbert has been a member of journalism for two years and placed 6th in Sports News Writing.

"It really wasn't the 'state journalism' experience this year. With everything being on Zoom, not only were we unable to compete, but there was no waiting between competition and awards to build up nerves. Last year being there with the whole group and getting so excited for each and every person whose name was called was the best part. Also, the presentation showed every name right away in a list, but at the actual competition and award ceremony, they go one by one from eighth to first, which adds a lot of suspense while waiting to hear your or your teammates' names called," Odbert said.

Another difficulty the journalism students faced was last year's change of classes, which meant competing against large, competitive schools. Journalism advisor Angie Rusher has taken her journalism students to state for the past twelve years.

"When the state went to three classes instead of two, we essentially moved 'up' a class competing against schools that are much larger than we are, so our 4th place shows we are small but mighty," Rusher explained.

Even with all the difficulties this year's students faced, state journalism produced great excitement, even through a screen. Senior Kate Smith won the Headline Writing category.

"I was so excited for everyone who placed. I had placed last year and hoped to place again, but I did not expect to win. I was so shocked. I think my house shook because I screamed so loud," Smith said.

The other first-place award belonged to senior Amber Buhman in the News/Feature Photography category.

"I was super nervous going into state this year. I had success last year, and I was hoping to repeat that success. I took the camera out so

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Pandemic prevents school return



TAYLOR DAHL/MARKETING DIRECTOR

Head custodian Joe Schoenfelder disinfects lockers in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Students cleaned out their lockers on March 17th, unaware they would not be returning to school to end the year.

Students also have adjusted their routines to fit learning in this new way. Along with the other juniors, Josh Styskal went from doing double-period chemistry labs to asking Mrs. Dusel questions over Skype calls.

"I did not like online classes at first because every teacher used a different platform for learning," Styskal said. "They have been really helpful in helping us, however, and are starting to simplify their plans."

Social distancing has affected students in more ways than online classes. All spring NSAA activities were cancelled except state journalism, which was moved online. Sophomore Eden Broberg experienced social distancing firsthand with her dance classes also being moved online.

"The most difficult part of

social distancing has probably been not being able to see any of my friends," Broberg said. "There are days when I really want to just go grab some coffee or watch Netflix with my pals, and we really can't do that."

The possible effects of the pandemic hit closer to home for some students and not just people over the age of 65. Junior Ashtyn Preister has concerns of her own.

"I have Type 1 Diabetes, and my parents made the decision to keep me home so I can protect myself and not get exposed," Preister said. "It's very difficult and I miss being able to go out and go to work and see my friends, but it's for the best to keep me healthy."

Not finishing the 2019-2020 school year in school is hard for the entire Scotus community, but it

affects the seniors the most.

"This doesn't feel like reality. As seniors, we won't be able to go back to school, which I never thought I would say, but I want school back," senior MaKenzie Enderlin said. "I will miss seeing the teachers and all my classmates before we leave for college."

Three highly anticipated spring activities were recently rescheduled. Academic Recognition Night is scheduled for May 6th. This year a video will be released highlighting senior accomplishments and athletic award winners. Next school year there will be an assembly to recognize students in grades 7-11.

Graduation and Prom will be in June or July depending on the governor's directed health measures.

Four say farewell to Scotus

By Kade Wiese
Staff Reporter

Last year, the Scotus faculty was fortunate to not have any teachers leave or retire, but this year is a different story with four teachers saying farewell.

Scotus' Spanish III and IV instructor Gail Bomar, known by the students as Señora, has been teaching Spanish at Scotus for the past twelve years.

"It has been the icing on the cake, and as long as I could climb two flights of stairs to get to my room, I kept coming back," Bomar stated.

As for retirement, Bomar plans to help her dad, enjoy family time with her grandson and expected grandchild, and hang out with her husband.

"My husband and I both love sports, so we are hoping to get to some more professional baseball fields and follow the Husker athletes," Bomar stated.

Bomar plans to take many of memories from Scotus with her



Julie Blaser

Gail Bomar

Wade Coulter

Pam Weir

including Friday Monopoly games, students sharing and caring for her, support from the administration and staff, and all the activities from sports to drama to music to speech.

"The people are at the top of the list I will miss most from the administration and staff to the teachers and all the other people who help run the school, the parents, and, of course, the students – even the ones I have never had in class. Everyone has made my time at Scotus so special," Bomar stated. "Thank you, Scotus."

Another teacher who has decided to retire this year is Julie Blaser,

Scotus' 8th grade math and Algebra I instructor. Blaser has taught and coached since the fall of 1991.

"At age 22, I had no intention of staying for the next 29 years, but the support of all the parents, faculty, and the administration made my job very enjoyable every single day. Getting a new class of Algebra students every fall made each year special," Blaser said.

Some of Blaser's best memories at Scotus came from the volleyball team and her junior high students.

"The multiple state championships with Coach Petersen and

the rest of our volleyball staff has to be at the top of the list. Another great yearly memory was the junior high overnighter, all night lock-ins with pizza, ice cream, volleyball, basketball, dodgeball, and mat ball tournaments," Blaser stated.

For retirement plans, Blaser hopes to travel with her husband and improve her golf game. She will also continue to help coach the volleyball team this upcoming fall.

"Thank you, Scotus for the many years and memories I will always cherish. Scotus may have

See FAREWELLS, Page 2

FAREWELLS

lost a veteran Algebra teacher, but they gained a very good substitute teacher and volunteer.”

Scotus will not only lose two veteran teachers but also their long-serving counselor, Pam Weir. Weir has been a part of the Scotus staff for 21 years.

After six years of being the junior high counselor, Scotus offered her the sole counselor position of grades 7-12 in 2006.

“I sincerely thought it would be short term,” Weir stated. “Watching each elementary-aged student grow to their graduation was definitely one of the greatest blessings.”

In her 21 years of working at Scotus, she had several opportunities to apply elsewhere, yet she knew Scotus was her home.

“My heart knew it had found its home at Scotus. The teachers, staff, students, and families became a part of the fabric of my life. I needed to stay where I not only was welcomed to pray and share the faith but also was encouraged to do so,” Weir said.

With her retirement, she plans to slow her level of responsibilities and find bal-

ance in her life. She also has grandchildren and wants to spend more time with them.

Lastly, Scotus will be losing American History teacher and girls’ basketball coach Wade Coulter. After working at Scotus for eleven years, he plans to take over as the head girls’ varsity basketball coach at Lincoln Lutheran High School. Coulter’s fondest moments at Scotus are with his students and his student athletes he coached.

“Winning the 2017 Scotus girls basketball camp 4x100 relay is a testament to what old, out of shape, and washed up former athletes can achieve if they are willing to give their all to reach a goal. Then, the 2018 State Basketball Championship run was so improbable and loaded with twists and turns that absolutely will never be forgotten,” Coulter said.

Although he is leaving his hometown, he believes his time here has helped him for the better.

“I think I’m leaving as a better teacher, coach, and, most importantly, person than when I first arrived for which I am forever thankful to Scotus,” Coulter stated.

STATE

many times this year, and I am so thankful it paid off,” Buhman said.

An exciting new addition to Scotus’ state journalism entries this year was including Video Production students. Within the Broadcasting category, Scotus took four places in the top eight. In the Broadcast News Story category, junior Kade Wiese took third place, and senior Brea Lassek placed fourth. In the Broadcast Sports Story, senior Haylee Cielocha placed second, and Kade Wiese took third. Marketing director Taylor Dahl helped students in taping and editing various stories.

“It was very fun partaking in the Video Production class this semester. Mr. Swanson was kind enough to let me sit in class and assist with ideas and techniques when it came to producing, writing, and shooting stories. Preparing students for state journalism was like coaching for me, and I saw drive in many students as we moved along in their specific story,” Dahl said.

Other awards received included the following: Ava Kuhl received 2nd in Editorial Cartooning and 3rd in



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Journalism staff meets over a Zoom conference call to watch the state journalism awards. The conference was held on Thursday, April 23rd, and featured the top eight scorers in each category.

Entertainment Review. Liza Zaruba placed 3rd in Editorial Writing and 4th in Newspaper Layout. Brea Lassek received 4th in Sports News Writing and 6th in News Feature Writing. MaKenzie Enderlin received 7th place in Yearbook Feature Writing, Keira Feehan placed 8th in Advertising, and Sarah Bichlmeier placed 8th in Entertainment Review. The yearbook students also received 5th in the Yearbook Theme Development category.

Senior Tyler Palmer joined journalism class this past school year and placed

5th in Editorial Writing and 8th in Sports News Writing.

“I picked journalism because it was a class I needed to fill up my schedule, and it turned out I really enjoyed writing articles and taking pictures with my classmates. Every day was a new bond created between us, and Mrs. Rusher was always helpful toward me if I ever had any questions. My first year of journalism was great, and I wish I did it earlier because it was hands down the class I looked forward to the most during the school day,” Palmer reflected.

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Angie Rusher

Editor:
Brea Lassek

Staff Reporters:
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Amber Buhman
Ava Kuhl
Rachael Lam
Chloe Odbert
Lauren Ostdiek
Tyler Palmer
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Athletes continue activities

By Ava Kuhl
Staff Reporter

As many seniors wrap up their activities for the final time, some seniors are not quite ready to leave the field or court behind.

The class of 2020 has seven students who have signed and are planning to continue their activities and athletics at the next level.

Senior Tyler Palmer signed to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to play baseball earlier this year.

"I have always loved

competing and playing sports; it has been my dream since a kid to continue to play athletics in college," Palmer said. "I picked Nebraska because no other school really compares to UNL. I have gone on several other visits to high-ranking academic and athletic schools, but no other place has the atmosphere or qualities that Nebraska has."

As the seniors prepare to move on to the next chapter of their lives, they search for a way to not only continue their athletics but to pursue their careers. Senior Emily Miksch will attend the Uni-

versity of Nebraska-Kearney for swimming.

"UNK is close to home, and it provides women's swimming, which is rare, and my major," Miksch stated. "I was planning to continue swimming on my own even if I wasn't going to commit, so I thought, why not? I could at least compete with a team and earn scholarship money."

There have been many students at Scotus in the past who have signed to compete at the next level. Many of those alumni have younger siblings who now attend Scotus and look to do the same.

Senior Chloe Odbert signed to play volleyball for Central Community College in Columbus, following her sister's footsteps of continuing to the next level.

"Volleyball has always been my favorite sport. I grew up watching my sisters compete at the state tournament and go on to play in college," Odbert explained. "I just really wasn't ready to give up something I was so passionate about."

Many other seniors at Scotus signed as well. Kenzie Brandenburg signed to play soccer at Coe College in

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Molly Carstens signed to dance at Midland University in Fremont, Tyler Vaught will play soccer at Central Community College, and Katie Stachura signed to Midland to play softball.

"At first I had my eyes and future set on another school, but after visiting said school, I decided that Midland was a better fit for me, and I couldn't be happier with my decision," Stachura said.

As the Class of 2020 graduates in May, they look to start their own lives and

find their own passions, but they aren't afraid to take others' input on their decisions.

"Prayer and thought are really the only way I could decide where I was meant to be in the fall," Odbert said. "Do not be afraid to let your parents join in your decision-making and be sure you are happy with your choice. Also do not feel pressured to go somewhere simply because your friends and classmates are going way across the country. You need to find where you feel most at home away from home."



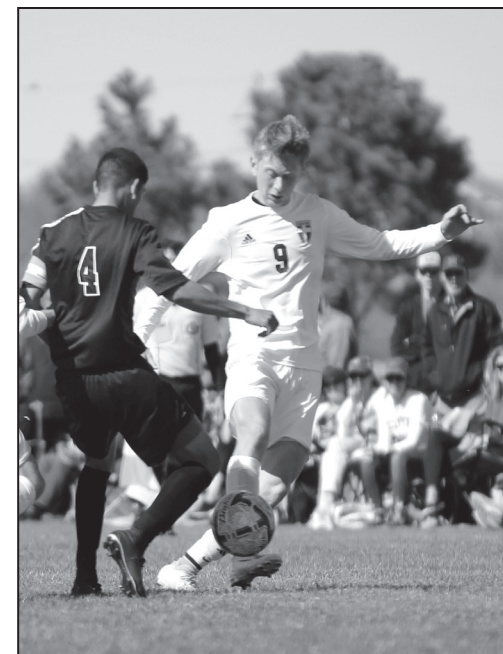
Ava Kuhl/Rock Bottom Staff



Blaney Dreifurst/Rock Bottom Staff



Lauren Ostdiek/Rock Bottom Staff



Blaney Dreifurst/Yearbook Staff

Chloe Odbert will attend Central Community College in Columbus to play volleyball.

Kenzie Brandenburg will attend Coe College in Cedar Rapids, IA to play soccer.

Katie Stachura will attend Midland University in Fremont to play softball.

Tyler Vaught will attend Central Community College and will play soccer.



Brea Lassek/Rock Bottom Staff



Brea Lassek/Rock Bottom Staff



Lauren Ostdiek/Rock Bottom Staff

Tyler Palmer will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to play baseball.

Emily Miksch will attend the University of Nebraska-Kearney to swim.

Molly Carstens will attend Midland University in Fremont to be on the dance team.

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University of Nebraska-Omaha



Sarah Bichlmeier

Major: Psychology
Favorite Quote: "They underestimated me."
 -George Bush

University of Notre Dame



Lauren Ostlich

Major: Global Affairs and Spanish
Favorite Quote: "The more you do stuff, the better you get at dealing with how you still fail at it a lot of the time."
 -John Mulaney

Northwestern University



Brea Lausek

Major: Journalism
Favorite Memory: One time at our lunch table, Kate Smith seriously asked if you can tame wild rice. Yes, you read that correctly.

University of Nebraska-Omaha or Nebraska Wesleyan



Drew VanCannon

Major: Biomedical Engineering
Fun Fact: I'm actually an amazing driver.

Bryan College of Health Sciences



Jayden Heng

Major: Nursing
Favorite Memory: During the Aquinas football game, the lights went out, and instead of sitting there, everyone in our student section took out their phone flashlights and started singing "This Little Light of Mine."

University of Augustana



Deborah Adams-Hernandez

Major: Communication Sciences & Disorders
Favorite Quote: "You are going to live a good and long life filled with great and terrible moments that you cannot even imagine yet."
 - John Green

Northwest Community College



McKenzia Enderlin

Major: Nursing
Favorite Quote: "It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness."
 -Charles Spurgeon

Northwest Community College



Joyce Ternus

Major: Occupational Therapy
Fun Fact: This year I still wore one of my shorts that I first got in seventh grade.

Central Community College



Timothy Ehlers

Major: Biology
Favorite Quote: "This protein shake is going to make me have the body of a Greek God."
 -Coach Krienke



Chloe Odbeck

Major: Radiography
Favorite Memory : Amber Buhman and I thought it was a Team Scotus Day, but it wasn't. We had about ten minutes to make it to my house and back before first bell. It was a close call but such a time. We made it back in record time.
Committed to play: Volleyball



Tyler Vaughn

Major: Criminal Justice
Fun Fact: I'm basically an athletic trainer... just ask Andrew Sheridan.
Committed to play: Soccer

Wayne State College



Emmitt Broberg

Major: Pre-Pharmacy
Favorite Memory: In religion class eighth grade year, Fr. Capadano used to throw his pocket discs at us after we were done with class to have some fun.



Kyle Hiemer

Major: Political Science
Favorite Memory: My most memorable moment from Scotus was when I passed out in Biology and an ambulance was called.



Kaleb Wiess

Major: Early Childhood Education
Favorite Memory: I screamed "JAIL!!" at Cole during lunch. The whole cafeteria looked at our table.



Liya Zaruka

Major: Health Administration and Political and Medical Anthropology
Favorite Memory: Nothing beats the pep rally where the teachers were playing dodgeball, and Mr. Coulter threw a dodgeball into Mr. McPhillips' face.

Midland College



Molly Gardner

Major: Arts Management
Favorite Memory: My favorite memory from Scotus would probably be all the school dances!
Committed to: Dance



Katelyn Stachura

Major: Exercise Science
Fun Fact: I play four instruments, and I am on track of learning a fifth.
Committed to play: Softball

Southeast Community College



Jared Beaver

Major: Surgical Tech
Favorite Quote: "No dream is too big. No challenge is too great. Nothing we want for our future is beyond our reach."
 -Donald Trump



Dalton Borchers

Major: Biology
Fun Fact: I'm the best-looking guy in history to walk the halls of Scotus.



Ryan Brandenburg

Major: Undecided
Fun Fact: There was a 75% chance I could have lost my leg.



Levi Robertson

Major: Law Enforcement
Fun Fact: I'm weirdly obsessed with marine life.



University of Nebraska-Lincoln



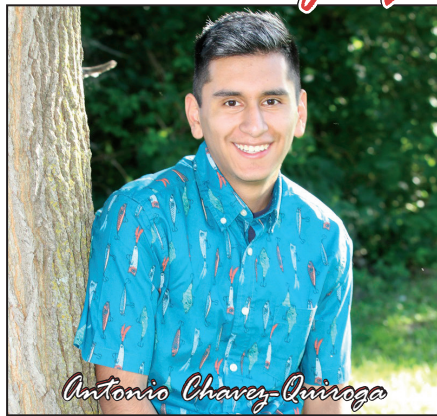
Mariano Aguaduy-Castellanos

Major:

Finance & Economics

Favorite Quote:

"Right, wrong, good, or bad, it is what it is" -Mr. Brockhaus



Antonio Chavez-Quiroga

Major:

Physical Therapy

Fun Fact:

I own 26 pairs of shoes.



Haylee Cueloch

Major:

Advertising or Public Relations

Favorite Memory:

State cheer my junior year. #iykyk



Cole Demmitt

Major:

Wildlife & Fisheries

Favorite Memory:

When we told Mrs. Lahm's new Google Home to say the first thousand digits of pi. That was before she knew how to turn it off.



Evan Harend

Major:

Mechanical Engineering

Fun Fact:

I can say any word or phrase backwards.



Adam Kamrath

Major:

Software Engineering

Fun Fact:

I'm 5' 6" and will be for the rest of my life. :(



Allie Mielak

Major:

Undecided

Fun Fact:

My pinkies are crooked, and on my back I was born with a red circle that they called a "strawberry".



Tyler Palmer

Major:

Athletic Training & Exercise Science

Fun Fact:

I am an avid bowler, and I can play the drums to multiple Luke Combs songs.

Committed to play: Baseball



Eric Mustard

Major:

Pre-Chiropractic

Favorite Quote:

"You know when you try to run up the stairs too fast, slip, and bang your shin on the step, bringing about ungodly pain? That is our senior year." - Me



Amber Buhman

Major:

Chemical Engineering

Favorite Memory:

During a volleyball practice my freshman year, Courtney Kosch didn't understand a drill, so Coach Held explained it to her slowly. He then asked, "Do you understand," and she responded with, "Can you explain it one more time, slower?"



Katherine Smith

Major:

Nursing

Favorite Memory:

Storming the court after we beat Bishop Neumann in the state championship girls' basketball game.

Coe College

Major:

Biology

Favorite Memory:

Seeing all of my classmates grow into such amazing people, even the ones I've only known since 7th grade and the ones who have left, I love them all and I'll miss each person so much.

Committed to play: Soccer



Mackenzie Brandenburg

Central Community College or Northeast Community College

Major:

Elementary Education

Favorite Memory:

Going on the March for Life my senior year. My friends and I had a ton of fun rooming together!



McKenna Hofer

Breighton University or University of Washington

Major:

Business

Favorite Quote:

"Sometimes you have to let go of the picture of what you thought life would be like and learn to find joy in the story you are actually living." -Rachel Marie Martin



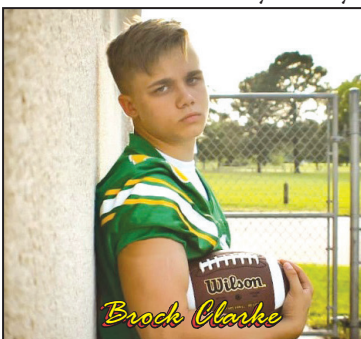
Rachael Lam

United States Marines

Thank you for your service.

Favorite Quote:

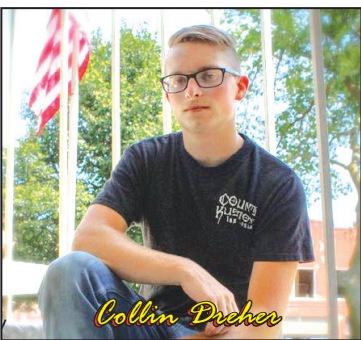
"Tough times never last, but tough people do." -Robert H. Schuller



Brock Clarke

Favorite Memory:

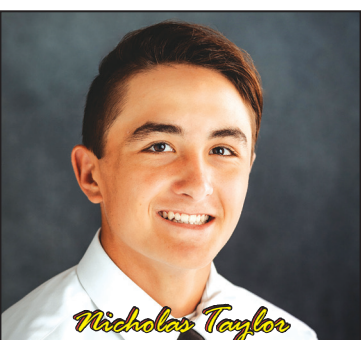
I'll miss seeing all my friends and people that I know every day and saying "sup."



Collin Dreher

Favorite Memory:

Walking through the hallways while the school cheered us on when we were going to state wrestling.



Nicholas Taylor

University of Nebraska-Kearney

Major:

Biology

Favorite Quote:

Tony's talk during Catholic Schools Week.



Jaczy Clancy

Major:

Respiratory Therapy

Favorite Memory:

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the student section at a home football game threw pink powder in the air when the Shamrocks scored their first touchdown, and they won the game.



Samantha Tonviges



Emily Miksch

Major:

Accounting

Favorite Quote:

"That's a joke, kids." -Mr. Salyard or "Everyday!" -Mr. Brockhaus

Committed to: Swim



Connor Wickar

Major:

Biology

Fun Fact:

I had a buzz cut for 14 years of my life.



Senior Sign Offs

Liza Zaruba



Scotus is an incredibly special place. Most of you will not recognize that until many years down the line. However, as a senior, who has walked her final lap as a student through these halls, I can confidently say, this place has stretched, pushed, and transformed me into the person I am today.

Who is that person? Well, I'm still learning that too, but realizing it's okay to evolve and not have it all figured out is half the battle.

I will never forget about six months into my first year here at Scotus. I was confidently strutting down the hallway, as I went on to do for many years to come, and Mr. Ohnoutka stopped me in my tracks. He asked, "Do you always prance around these halls like an elf?" His question verged on a compliment, yet I'll admit it caught me off guard.

It was one of the first moments I recognized I had an identity for myself. Over the years, I slowly transitioned out of being "Drew's sister" or "Dr. Zaruba's daughter" and was finally just Liza. Still, I felt a constant struggle between defining myself and allowing others to do it for me.

If you ask just about anyone in this building to describe me, you can probably expect to get a mix of a few words: loud, extra, smart, optimistic, overly-involved, kind, and maybe a few others. While each of these words are an essential part of who I am, they are not the end. Seven words do not make up a person, yet it was these words that set a standard for who I thought I needed to be.

I spent years trying to be everything everyone expected, only to realize that – news flash! Nobody cares. Each of us holds a microscope to our own lives, hoping nobody will call us on our mistakes or short comings. We neglect to realize, however, that with everyone worried about themselves, there is not enough time nor energy to care about another's minor flaws.

So... Live. Your. Life.

Let this be your contract to freedom. Stop defining the person you are based on people's impressions of you. Neither a moment, a conversation, nor a period of time define the person you are. Only a lifetime can do that, and even then, so many get it wrong.

Realize you are bound to change; you would not be human if you didn't. High school is the perfect time to do it all. Try different activities. Strive to move out of your comfort zone. It's in the difficult moments that we learn the most. Live as loudly or timidly as you desire, but do it for yourself.

If Scotus has taught me anything, it is to strive for excellence relative to me. I don't have to be the best at it all – that's not the point. Life is about showing up, putting your best foot forward, and realizing you will figure yourself out along the way. In the end, it's about the journey.

This is Liza Zaruba, signing off.

Amber Buhman



Why do we do the things we do? This is an age-old question, and there are millions of different answers to it. If anyone would have asked me this question as a freshman, my answer would have been to be honored and credited.

When I first started out, I worked for the credit. I wanted people to look at me as the best athlete, smartest student, hardest worker, and the list continued. I tried so hard to be successful so people would recognize me for it.

In basketball, I wanted to be the player other teams would reference by name in the locker room. I wanted to be the Maggie Feehan or Jordan Chohan, who the coaches rave about years after they have graduated. I realized about halfway through my junior year of basketball this goal would probably never happen for me. I wasn't going to be credited as the best or even as one of the best. I realized if I worked so hard just to please my coaches, parents, and teammates, I would never be gratified. I put more work into basketball than I've put into anything else in my life. Day after day, summer after summer, I put time into being the best player I could be. I knew my work ethic from basketball and my other sports would assist me later on in life when I was well past high school basketball.

I decided to run for National Honor Society officer my junior year. When I received one of the positions, I was so excited to be able to serve the fellow members of NHS. When the Honor's Breakfast for the Mother's Club rolled around this year, they asked for the "senior NHS officers" to give a talk to the students, yet they didn't ask me. Was I upset about this at first? Yeah, of course I was, but I realize now I didn't work hard on my academics to get the opportunity to talk at an honor's breakfast. I worked hard because I wanted to do my best and make myself proud. I know the study skills I've developed will serve me well in the future.

I'm not going to sit here and make a list of my accomplishments for others to read. I know the achievements I have, and I am proud of myself. I realize now I don't need others telling me I've done a good job or raising me on a pedestal to honor my hard work. I worked hard to make myself proud and to best set myself up to accomplish the goals I will work towards in the future, and I believe I've done that.

The decisions you make and the work you do will always be questioned by someone. Ultimately, it is your life. People might judge or think about what you do for a couple minutes, but you live with you decisions for the rest of your life. Do what you actually want to do, and do not be afraid of failure.

People will always try to discredit you or make it seem like you've accomplished less than you have. Do things because you want to do them, not because you want people to point you out or notice you. Be your own hype man.

This is Amber Buhman, signing off.

Sarah Bichlmeier



I know you have probably heard this a million-and-a-half times, so I apologize in advance, but here it goes: high school really does fly by. If you're rolling your eyes already, I get it because not too long ago, that was me. I used to read these articles and think, "No way am I going to miss high school."

Now I'm not going to lie and say that high school was all rainbows and butterflies, and I did not on multiple occasions try to make myself throw up during first period study hall by spinning my chair around so that I could go home sick because that would not be the truth. In fact, my freshman and sophomore years were probably some of the worst of my life. During those two years, I absolutely dreaded coming to school. School has always been a place of great anxiety for me. I've become more extroverted over the years, but during my freshman and sophomore years, I did not want my presence to be acknowledged by anyone, ever.

Although school still often gives me a great deal of anxiety, and I occasionally want to go hide in the asbestos-ridden tunnels for a day, my attitude toward school has majorly shifted since the start of my junior year. Some words of wisdom that Mrs. Dusel gave to my high-strung chemistry class resonated with me, and her advice is something I have desperately tried to incorporate into my life. She said, "You can only stress about the things you can control." Although she meant I should better prepare myself for quizzes so I did not stress out about them, I took the advice differently. I realized I could not control the way that others viewed me, but I could control how I viewed myself.

This attitude shift caused me to begin a quest of reaching out to people as my true self and allowing others to invite me in. I let people who were not always kind to me reach out to me, and in a few cases, they surprised me. One of the most important lessons I have learned in high school is people are always changing and developing, so let them. I certainly do not want to be remembered by the way I acted in junior high, and I'm guessing most people do not. Give someone who was mean to you in the past a second chance—they might surprise you. By the end of my time at Scotus, I had acquired many unexpected friendships- inside of Scotus and out. Even if you do not think you have a place in your class, give it a chance. You'll probably be surprised how much you have in common with some people.

If there is a single piece of advice I can give, it is to always be grateful for your moments with others- the everyday experiences that we so often count down but that add up to make your life what it is. Allow these connections with others to help you develop as a person, and find joy in letting others surprise you. Not every moment in high school will be enjoyable, but by being grateful for every interaction you do have, good or bad, you can make the most out of your short time at Scotus.

This is Sarah Bichlmeier, signing off.

Kate Smith



I walked into Scotus my seventh-grade year with so many expectations, one of them being I was going to have lots of friends and thus be super popular. Almost like when Cady Heron from Mean Girls says, "It's not my fault everyone's in love with me." That was my mindset. It was an awful mentality to have going into some of the most pivotal years of adolescence, but lucky for me, I realized this was not going to be the case early on.

I tried out for cheer in 8th grade and made the squad. I was over-the-moon ecstatic. I thought cheer was going to be a place I fit in, where I could have fun, and I would make tons of friends. While all of that did happen, I remember distinctly not being super close with all the upperclassmen, like the other freshmen girls did my first year on the team. They were on the cross-country team, and I was the only cheerleader who played softball, so schedules never lined up, and I was left out. I was hurt, but I never let it show because then I wouldn't "fit in" or "be cool". This was a common theme throughout high school for me. In a lot of scenarios, I was on the outside looking in. While some Friday nights I would wonder why so and so didn't ask me to hang out or what I did for so and so not to like me, it taught me a lesson most people don't learn until later in life: you do not need everyone's approval.

This lesson was hard for me to understand because I am a social butterfly and like to meet different people. Because of this, I compromised who I was to try to fit in with everyone. I did this so much that when I was by myself, I didn't know who I was on my own. I started to live for other people's expectations instead of my own. The gratification I got by compromising who I was never outweighed the emptiness I felt the second I was alone.

At the beginning of junior year though, I grew out of some old friendships. This made me sad, but it led me to some amazingly genuine people who became my closest friends. I never had to act in a certain way around them, and they accepted me right where I was with all my weird sayings and Khalid obsession. They helped me realize that being a unique individual, with your own set of beliefs, morals, and opinions, makes you an overall stronger person. It was then I realized not everyone is going to like me and sometimes that has everything to do with the other person and absolutely nothing to do with me.

High school has taught me you can't live for the approval of others. You must live for yourself and on your own. You must determine who and what is important to you, and when you're challenged on your beliefs, be strong enough in who you are to speak exactly how you feel despite how it may affect others. Care for the ones who care for you and keep them close. At the end of the day, these will be the people who will pick you up and remind you how strong of an individual you are.

This is Kate Smith, signing off.

Tyler Palmer



The past six years I've witnessed some great events. I have been part of state tournament teams, made my best friends, found my passions, and excelled in athletics. These occasions are great and memorable, but they have not made me into the man I am today. What makes me who I am are the troubles I have had to overcome in finding myself and letting myself be as happy as I can be.

Whether it was losing a close game in football, losing a friend, or failing a test, I have learned to find the positive in every negative. This has led people to see me as "insensitive" because I am always looking for positives even when the situation is as gloomy as losing a whole quarter of our senior year. Air pollution is going down and families are getting closer. Has anyone noticed the gas prices? \$1.20 per gallon! This is attributed to the fact that there is a surplus of gas because nobody is going anywhere- a positive in this dark situation.

Over the past six years, life has thrown me some curve balls. I lost one of my best friend's mom due to cancer. The funeral was sad, and it was one of the few times I have ever seen my friend cry. The tattoo on my chest reminds me of her, to never stop believing, and to never sulk on the negative times.

A few summers ago, I played on a travel baseball team, and it opened my eyes to how many great baseball players there are out there. I lost a few scholarships and turned away a bunch of great schools because of my poor attitude, which was a blow to my stomach, but in the end, I believe it was for the best and was the most prominent change I had in my life. After that summer, my attitude changed; I started embracing pain, embracing negativity, and finding ways not to avoid adversity but to go straight through it.

One of my favorite quotes from ex-Navy SEAL David Goggins is, "Smile at pain, and watch it fade for a second or two." I like this quote because I believe when adversity or problems strike you, you don't have to run away and cry. Rather, smile at that problem, and tell yourself there are way worse problems out there. If you do that, you already diminished half of that problem. Once you have realized you can mentally get through something, the rest of the problem is a breeze.

This end of the school year is going to go down as one of the most remarkable times in American history, and I am grateful for that. This year will be in history textbooks in 200 years. My class will be remembered at Scotus for decades to come. In order to shed light on this situation, it is our duty to be as positive as possible so the underclassmen can see this and replicate it in their daily lives and by taking nothing for granted. It takes a little bit of darkness to see the light, and when the bad times are over, it makes good times even better, and I cannot wait for that.

This is Tyler Palmer, signing off.

Lauren Ostdiek



I have always been a big fan of “dad jokes.” Those terrible, groan-inducing puns sure to get any father chuckling and everybody else rolling their eyes hold a special place in my heart. I have found that sharing a quick joke with just about anybody allows for an instant connection. So, I memorize a few handy one-liners and am not afraid to break them out in conversation.

I have told more than my fair share of dad jokes throughout the classrooms, hallways, and gyms of Scotus because I believe in the value of small moments. Life isn’t easy; in fact, it’s quite difficult, so there is no reason to make it any harder for ourselves. This belief is the reason I brought a dad joke to volleyball practice every day junior and senior year; some days the gym was the last place I wanted to go, but having a silly pun to share would make me excited. It’s why I packed two Oreos in my lunch bag every day I brought a sack lunch, somersaulted to the printer each day in journalism without Mrs. Rusher’s knowledge, and wrote my final paper for American Literature about *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*...and made it a personal challenge to fit as many quotes from *The Office* in another (sorry, Miss Ackermann). If there is a way to bring even a small amount of joy to our everyday lives, why not do it?

These little moments remind us to not take things too seriously, to take the time to laugh and enjoy our beautiful lives, and, most importantly, that we are here together. Although I (and my class) may miss out on big moments I was looking forward to, walking across a stage to receive a diploma does not define my years at Scotus. Rather, they are defined by moments I did not realize were momentous at the time—finding my lost pre-calc book on the volleyball bus, passing sticky notes during Mock Trial, or leading the student section in, “Let’s Go Shamrocks, Shamrocks Let’s Go!”

The relaxed-khaki halls of Scotus also saw me through big moments—ones I like to call “before-and-after moments,” because I was one person before it happened, and another person after. I’ve had several of these throughout high school, each as transformative as the next. Like sophomore year when I made a group chat with some new friends, a heartbreaking late October of my junior year, or when I realized we would not be in school fourth quarter.

After a before-and-after moment, the future feels incredibly uncertain. Everything you envisioned is thrown out the window, and you must learn to adapt to a new normal.

Yes, the future seems scary right now, but I feel no fear when I am zooming with my friends, learning a new song on the ukulele, or finally reading that book I started during Christmas break.

When life-changing moments happen, we choose how we respond. I believe the best way to become a better person after a moment like that is to lean on others and allow them to lean on you. It is easy to become bitter or ungrateful, but my years at Scotus have taught me to always find the joy.

Take each moment, big and small, as an opportunity to grow as a person and to spread joy from your life to others’. Let yourself be happy by choosing to be happy. It may be more difficult, but it is certainly worth it.

Live your life to the fullest, in each and every moment, because there is no way to know what the future holds.

This is Lauren Ostdiek, signing off.

Brea Lassek



It wasn’t supposed to end like this. That’s what I thought to myself when Liza Zaru-ba and I cried at 4 a.m. on the mismatched couches at Tintern. Our senior JC Camp lacked the closure we both needed.

It wasn’t supposed to end like this. Gasping for breath, I sprinted the last straightaway of my cross country career. We had arrived late to the race, and I mentally broke down, failing myself before the gun even went off. After winning a state championship and medaling my freshman year, I have no idea what place I finished in my final race.

It wasn’t supposed to end like this. After hitting the state cheer mat for the last time, my heart sank into my stomach when we earned a deduction for an illegal skill cost us a state championship.

It wasn’t supposed to end like this. I wondered if prom, graduation, state journalism, dance recital, spring activities, and senior mass would happen as I cleaned my locker out 50 days early.

Throughout high school, I lived to reach the lasts. To me, the last opportunities to step on the mat, in the courtroom, and at the starting line automatically equaled the best ones yet—the ones I would tell my children and grandchildren about, the moments that would stand out among my six years at Scotus.

When I met my senior buddy (shout out to Jaimee Beauvais) at 7th grade orientation, I was in awe as she gave me advice to survive the next six years. I wanted to be like her.

I contracted senioritis as a sophomore and spent almost every high school moment waiting for my turn to experience senior privileges. I wished high school away, often viewing virtual college tours until 2 a.m. Having high school end so abruptly made me realize how wrong I was.

While waiting for the lasts to arrive, I did not always make the small moments last. Now, with many final moments stripped away, my favorite memories involve the daily interactions with my classmates and teachers and typical weekends with my friends. I will miss Mr. Brockhaus’ commentary about impeachment (everyday people, everyday), Señora Bomar’s love for Tupac, brainstorm sessions during journalism class, run-through posters before football games, and midnight jumps into the lake.

One night, after two weeks in quarantine, I reached for my journal to the page of my senior year goals. Scanning it, I read, “Do everything for the glory of God regardless of the outcome.”

It’s not a satisfying answer nor the most appealing; rather, it’s the only concrete solution I can grasp onto amidst the hysteria. I never intended to write about my faith in my senior sign-off, but after reflecting on my time as a Shamrock and its end, I couldn’t consciously disregard God’s nudge.

My biggest regret in high school was not wishing away the small moments but failing to recognize God’s presence in all of them. I am not perfect (and far from it). I know how it feels to exclude Him from my life because of distrust in His plans. I can honestly say the times I did so were the worst I have experienced. Thankfully, it is never too late to turn to Him, and He does not expect you to be perfect at it. Pam Perault told me, “He’s not asking you to walk on water. He’s just asking you to walk with Him.”

If there is one piece of advice emerging from these circumstances I can give underclassmen, it is to focus on what is above when you are overwhelmed with what is in front of you.

With tears in my eyes, this is Brea Lassek, signing off.

Chloe Odbert



If I’ve learned anything from walking the halls of Scotus Central Catholic over the past six years, it’s that you don’t have to force the right people to love you. In fact, my people seemed to come into my life at my ugliest and lowest moments of high school.

Lucky for me, God seemed to know what He was doing. He gave me just enough burned bridges, a few heartbreaks, and a whole lot of his best creations, those whom I am blessed to call my best friends.

My story with all these people hasn’t always been a walk in the park, but it has been worth it. Some of the people I seem to spend most of my time with nowadays wouldn’t have been caught dead with me from junior high into my sophomore year. With that being said, we all have changed, we grew up and matured, and when the going got tough, we were always there for each other.

Some of my friendships and relationships I am taking with me as I go were easier than others. For instance, one of the best friends is a sophomore boy. It wasn’t too difficult to convince an eighth-grade boy to be friends with a sophomore girl at the time, but it ended up working out much better than we had planned. We have been through so much together.

Other relationships throughout my high school came and went such as boyfriends and friendships, but, as I said, it is all about the people who were constants. Being myself was never difficult with the ones who stayed. I could finally give up the act and the image I had been creating for so long and be myself, which is where my genuine friendships all are rooted.

I am also thankful I took the time to get to know my teachers and coaches. When you realize they are people too and not all of them are very far out from being exactly where you are right now, you realize they can be pretty cool. In fact, if you are anything like me, you’ll find yourself in your favorite teacher’s room almost every morning.

I am telling you all of this to encourage you to let your guard down a little bit. Throughout high school you’ll experience so many changes, some of which are within yourself and others in those around you. Find the group of people you will be proud to tell your kids their names and all your stories with them as you flip through your old Scotus yearbook someday. Open up to the people who ask you how your day is and want to hear the answer. Don’t be afraid to make memories with them. Drive around with your music all the way up and the windows down late at night, leave in the morning before school to get coffee with them, and make it a tradition to have a movie night or something on the weekends.

You don’t have to force the right people to love you. That’s the lesson I wish I had learned earlier, because the moment I stopped trying to force friendships and relationships, the right ones seemed to enter my life and stay. Scotus has given me many things: knowledge, faith, and more, but I am most grateful for the relationships I have built with people over the years because, unlike most, I know they will only continue to grow in the future rather than fade away, no matter how many miles lie between us.

This is Chloe Odbert, signing off.

Rachael Lam



It seems I blinked, and high school flew by. Thinking back on how many times upperclassmen told me it would pass by fast, I never believed them. While in junior high, I remember wanting to be a senior so badly because it seemed like such a long way to go. However, now that I am so close to graduating, I don’t want to let go. I never thought I would miss wearing my school uniform and walking the halls of Scotus, but here I am. Especially now, as I am writing this in my room and not in the journalism room, I miss all of it so much more.

Scotus has offered me so many opportunities, and the person I will be walking out of here is completely different than the girl I was in seventh grade when I first entered the doors of Scotus Central Catholic. I can still recall the nerves I felt walking into orientation day of seventh grade not really knowing anyone. Little did I know, I would soon enter the most unforgettable six years of my life. All my experiences these past six years have taught me so many valuable lessons I will bring with me into the next chapter of my life.

Growing up, I was always shy and timid, especially with people I didn’t know. Elementary school was easy for me because I only had one class all day with one teacher and the same classmates. During junior high, I found myself crawling into my shell even more often than before, and school soon became difficult as I was constantly afraid of what other people would think of me. High school was a completely different story.

Enduring all of it for about two years, I knew I needed to make a change as I entered freshman year. I was outgoing with the people I was comfortable with, but I knew I needed to get out of my comfort zone. Only by trying new activities would I be able to come out of my shell and show everyone I really wasn’t the shy and timid girl they all knew. I began participating in activities where I would have to put myself out there like musical, speech, one act, student council, and much more throughout the years.

By participating in so many new extracurriculars, I was able to figure out what my interests were in high school, and I began to focus on the activities I really cared about. Not only was I able to open up, but I also met and became friends with so many people who made a difference in my life. Even as a senior, I still talk to and ask for advice from the upperclassmen who have already graduated.

Life is all about trying new activities and meeting new people. Not only was I able to take lessons away from it and make friends, it has also allowed me to build a great relationship with my teachers too. Because of one change I decided to make, it has completely changed my life.

A quote I really enjoy from Walt Disney is, “We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things because we’re curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.” I think this has proved to be true, and I encourage you to try something new because you never know what the ending will be as life is full of unknowns.

This is Rachael Lam, signing off.





“The class of 2020 has grown so much in their level of maturity, leadership skills, and their willingness to step up and help others.”
-Mrs. Tooley



“If you keep God at the center of everything you do, you will never fail!”
-Mrs. Ohnoutka



“I have appreciated their spirit and leadership. Most have taken their role as a senior to be senior leaders. Their spirit was contagious!”
-Mrs. Podliska



“There have been many successes academically and in extra curriculars, but I’ve been inspired by their leadership in helping to strengthen our Catholic identity.”
-Mrs. McPhillips



“The most important attribute of the class of 2020 is how personable and charitable they all are. One thing is for sure, any one of them would kindly give you the shirt off of their back.”
-Mr. Linder



“Keep God in your life because He will always be there to lean on. It’s okay to cry and laugh; don’t take yourself too seriously.”
-Mr. Brockhaus



“Go out and make the world a better place.”
-Mrs. Zanardi



Thank You, Seniors!



“Reach for the stars. There is so much potential in this group -don’t settle for anything less than your best.”
-Mrs. Beman



“When you look at the careers of this graduating class at Scotus, they worked to be the best version of themselves everyday.”
-Mr. McPhillips



“You each have so many talents. I hope that you use them to make our world a better place. God loves you! Congratulations on becoming a graduate of Scotus Central Catholic.”
-Mr. Ohnoutka



“The senior class of 2020 has some really dynamic personalities. It is a class of go-getters and a compilation of fun personalities who have had an impact on every facet of Scotus.”
-Mr. Lahon



“There are so many memories and laughs that I will cherish for the rest of my life. From the joys of college acceptances to the tears of closings, it’s been quite the ride, and I’m so grateful to have a little part of it.”
-Ms. Ackermann



“Trust in the Lord, and He will lead you where He wants you. God has a wonderful plan for you.”
-Ms. Timoney



“I certainly wish that this school year would not be ending the way it is, but it will be a year and class that is not soon forgotten! Keep your faith, make good choices, and enjoy life.”
-Mrs. Daseel

