



# Rock Bottom

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## McPhillips transitions to career counselor

By Kade Wiese  
 Staff Reporter

For the past four years, Scotus has had a goal to improve the future planning of its students. In recent years, the school has been able to achieve a great portion of that goal. STEAM, which was introduced two years ago, allows students to experience aspects of the industry work force.

Still, president Jeff Ohnoutka aimed to make future planning and career finding more available to his students.

“It came down to seeing this as an area of deficiency in our school. I felt we needed to help students create a vision of what their futures could look like,” Ohnoutka said.

At the beginning of the 2020 school year, Ohnoutka presented Scotus’ first-ever career counselor, Bridget McPhillips.

“I think our students will discover characteristics about themselves that would not have happened if we did not create this position,” Ohnoutka explained.

McPhillips moved out of her science room and into her new third-floor office.

problem solver. She is committed to providing the best experience for our students and puts all her effort into doing it. I know she has all the characteristics to make this a huge success,” Ohnoutka stated.

McPhillips now teaches the eighth-grade career class in addition to career curriculum for all grade levels. She also helps students by

setting up job shadowing and internships around the community.

“My passion is wanting to help kids discover more about themselves: their learning styles, their skill set, and their interests. I want kids to learn more about themselves, so they can feel more confident when they leave Scotus,” McPhillips said.

Ohnoutka and McPhillips hope to develop a comprehensive plan for grades 7-12 in Career Education, utilize an online program called Naviance to track student interests, and make seniors feel confident in their next step after graduation.

“Naviance is a college and career readiness program. It’s a cumulation of interest tests, career

assessment tools, scholarships, and college planning beginning in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and continuing through the end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade,” McPhillips explained.

McPhillips, alongside guidance counselor Jill Brichacek, will go to each class and set up the program for each student.

“By the end of the year, all the grade levels will have seen me teaching some type of career curriculum in their classes,” McPhillips said.

Ohnoutka believes this program will be successful only if the students put in the effort to plan out their futures.

“They must be willing to seek help. Students also must be willing to be fully engaged in the process. No one should care more about their future than them,” Ohnoutka said.

In the end, McPhillips wants students to feel confident in what they want to do after graduation knowing Scotus helped them in the long run.

McPhillips concluded, “I am thrilled to serve this school in this capacity. I think this program is something our school needs, and I am glad we have it. I plan to put my full effort into making my position successful.”



Career counselor Bridget McPhillips shows senior Ben Kamrath college degree options. McPhillips began her role as career counselor at the start of this school year.

## Scotus “STRIVs” for excellence

By Grace Mustard  
 Staff Reporter

Scotus has recently joined the world of livestreaming. Striv T.V. has been a nice addition to Scotus technology.

This platform allows the live streaming of any game or other event Scotus hosts. Mr. Taylor Dahl, Scotus marketing director, and the video production class run the technology. This resource has been added within the last few months and has connected people at home who cannot attend Scotus activities. It has been a major contribution since the outbreak of COVID-19.

“Scotus Central Catholic has so much tradition, and hopefully [by]

adding Striv, we can share that tradition and excellence with a larger audience. We also wanted to reach our supporters, donors, alumni, and fans who are not in the area and connect with them,” Dahl said.

Though COVID-19 brought streaming to the forefront, Scotus has been working to add Striv for a year.

“There are so many steps to make the broadcast happen. Making sure the audio and video is pulled into the stream, making sure the scoreboard is created and up to date, and making sure the ads run accordingly. The major thing I was concerned with was making sure we had a strong internet connection in the Dowd Activity Center,” Dahl said.

See STRIV, Page 2



Senior Sebastien Fritz video tapes the Shamrock volleyball team during a home game in the Dowd Activity Center. This video was live streamed on Striv T.V.

## STEAM garden produces

By Joel Schumacher  
 Staff Reporter

Many students and faculty have noticed and even tasted the new STEAM garden added to the courtyard. However, this new addition to Scotus was a plan long in the making.

STEAM teacher Betsy Rall has engineered and overseen the development of the garden.

“We were going to plant a garden on the east side of the practice football field, but then 4<sup>th</sup> quarter came along, and we all got

shut down. Then I was talking with Mr. Ohnoutka, and he said, ‘Why don’t we just do a garden in the courtyard?’ I said, ‘That’ll be great.’ Some of the STEAM three students helped build the frame: seniors Michael Gasper, Ben Kamrath, and Evan Ruskamp. They helped bring the soil by wheelbarrows. Then we got some plants and planted it in May,” Rall said.

By the start of the 2020-2021 school year, the garden was filled with vegetables and has already been providing produce for the Scotus community.

“The way Mr. Ohnoutka and I set it up for the first year was that

some of the staff could come and get some produce if they helped weed and manage the garden.

They could help themselves to it whenever they wanted,” Rall said.

In addition to Scotus, next year Mrs. Rall plans on donating some of the food to those in need.

“Next year, we are hoping to donate some potatoes, onions, melons, and carrots that can last a little longer. This year we planted some things that expire very quickly, so it was difficult to donate fresh produce to

See STEAM, Page 2



STEAM teacher Betsy Rall constructs garden frame with seniors Bryce Foreman, Simon Schumacher, Trenton Hamling, and junior Tim Sliva. The garden frames are now in use for the STEAM garden.



**STEAM**

different groups that need them," Rall said.

In addition to growing food, the steam garden will start somewhat of an Ag program at Scotus.

"My plans for the garden would be to make it more meaningful for students who are interested in Ag. I would like to plant some corn, so we can see the difference between field corn, popcorn, and sweet corn. Then plant a bed of soybeans, so students can see exactly what a soybean is and how we process it. We could grow some wheat, some flax, or whatever else is familiar around here. We can see how processing works and can do some processing on our own," Rall said.

With all the materials needed to grow, process, and deliver produce, a new STEAM shed is being constructed alongside the garden as

well.

"The new STEAM shed is being built. It is 20 feet long and about 5feet 8 inches wide and will sit west of the garden. It will provide space for weed eaters and extra space for STEAM projects. As well as additional storage for the steam program, garden, and for the school," Rall said.

Rall believes the steam garden has been a hit amongst the Scotus community and is a great addition to the school.

Rall concluded, "I think there has been interest in it. I look outside the window and see people picking the tomatoes and eating them, and that's great. We learned a lot this year about the benefits of gardening and growing produce, and that has been very impactful for students and the community."

**STRIV**

Dahl and the video production class are getting the hang of it and are working out the kinks. Making the connection for people at home and the feeling of achievement is what makes the struggle worthwhile.

"I have received a lot of positive feedback from colleagues, parents, and other fans. Probably the best feedback I have received was from a fan who recently moved to Florida; she sent me a direct message stating how happy she was that Scotus now had Striv. That meant a lot to me," Dahl added.

There are high hopes for where

the future of Striv can reach. Senior Laura Bettenhausen, a student in video production class, helped with the Scotus football team's first game.

"I hope to see more coverage of other activities and maybe running commercials done by the video production class," Bettenhausen said.

Since this is such a new addition, there are parts of the program not yet explored. The opportunities are endless with technology like this.

"I watch a lot of streams from other schools to get ideas. Eventually down the road, we would like to

incorporate play by play announcing into our broadcasts. Mr. Swanson and I want to utilize workshops from Striv/UNL to help us get to that level. I'd love to be able to add more students to the Striv program. This is such a cool program to be involved with; students learn so much about journalism, sports media, how to cover an event, technology, how to interview someone, broadcasting, production, and more!" Dahl concluded.

You can find and watch any select home event at <https://striv.tv/channel/columbus-scotus/>.

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*Go Shamrocks!*



TAYLOR DAHL / MARKETING DIRECTOR

(above) Senior video production student Laura Bettenhausen runs the camera at the first home football game, so it could be streamed on Striv.




(left) Senior Trenton Hamling streams the volleyball game through Striv with the help of marketing director Taylor Dahl.



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# The Pros of Bros



By Camille Pelan  
Staff Reporter

Every time I tell someone I live with four brothers, I usually get the same response: "I am so sorry for you!" I always chuckle when people say this. I want to tell

them, "No, I'm actually sorry for you." I am not that rude, though, so instead I usually respond with, "It's not as bad as you would think."

Having all brothers is something I am proud of. My brothers have made me into who I am today, and I would not change them for the world.

First off, as a three-sport athlete, having brothers is a major advantage. If I need someone to play catch with me, rebound for me, or play 1-v-1 against me, I have four willing brothers. My eighthgrade brother is bigger, stronger, and faster than me, so playing 1-v-1 against him has drastically improved my basketball skills.

In some cases, the

aggressiveness of boys can be too much, but that is what makes boys who they are. Their toughness has rubbed off on me, and I am mentally and physically stronger because of them.

My brothers are not as moody or dramatic as sisters would be. Girls can be a lot to handle, especially teenage girls. This is coming from me, a teenage girl myself. I feel bad for my family

sometimes because I can get extremely moody when life is not going my way. My parents are probably glad they only have one daughter.

There is nothing better than siblings of opposite genders giving each other advice. I love giving my brothers tips and pointers about girls. There is no greater feeling than when my third grade brother comes home from school and asks his big sis for advice

*"In some cases, the aggressiveness of boys can be too much, but that is what makes boys who they are. Their toughness has rubbed off on me, and I am mentally and physically stronger because of them."*

~Camille Pelan

about his "girlfriend."

When I need advice about boys, I usually go to my friends or my mom first, but having a male's input is always an added bonus.

One of my favorite parts about living with four brothers is the fact that we ALWAYS have food in our house. I do not understand how boys eat so much. My parents are constantly having to make trips to the grocery store to buy more food. Even though it might not be good for my parents' credit card bill, it is great for me because I never have to starve myself.

I agree, boys can be gross. My brothers eat like pigs, smell like cows, and act like clowns, but those are the things keeping my life inter-

esting. Without my brothers, I would be bored out of my mind and never know what to do.

The greatest part about having four brothers is I have four personal bodyguards. My brothers do whatever they can to protect me at any cost. I am the luckiest sister in the world.

Even though they can be smelly, gross, and rowdy, that is part of the nature of boys. Take the time to appreciate brothers. I know my life would not be the same without having my four best friends by my side.

To all the people without four brothers: I am so sorry for you.

# Leaders don't have to be loud



By Gavin Brabec  
Staff Reporter

"In a gentle way, you can shake the world." These words spoken by Mahatma Gandhi, an introvert himself, expresses we do not have to

be outgoing to change the world.

As I walk through the halls of Scotus, I can see different types of leaders in action. Whether it is a seventh grader helping a fellow classmate on how to do a math problem, or a senior mingling and giving advice to underclassmen, leaders are present everywhere. As a society, we assume great leaders must be outgoing. We would notice the senior being a leader before the seventh grader, but the personality of an individual should not define how great a leader can be.

Great leaders do not require outgoing personalities to help people around them

and be a successful leader.

Introverts are silent but effective. They strive to be successful with quality work and productivity being their focus. Quiet people may seem to others unwilling to talk or unwilling to build a personal connection. An extrovert would be more than willing to talk to anyone and the people around them are aware of this. An introvert may not be the most conversational person in a group of people, but they are great at building one-on-one connections. This gives them a more genuine relationship with each person. A quiet leader has more focus on a situation because they prefer quality over quantity.

Without having the distractions of helping a large number of people, quiet leaders can think through problems more smoothly and not get distracted as easily. They are more focused on themselves. It is not to say they are selfish; rather, they know what to do and can do it efficiently. Introverts are less likely to make snap decisions, which could benefit not only them but the people around them as well. Their gift of creative thinking ensures the best outcome for the people they are leading without anyone having knowledge of it.

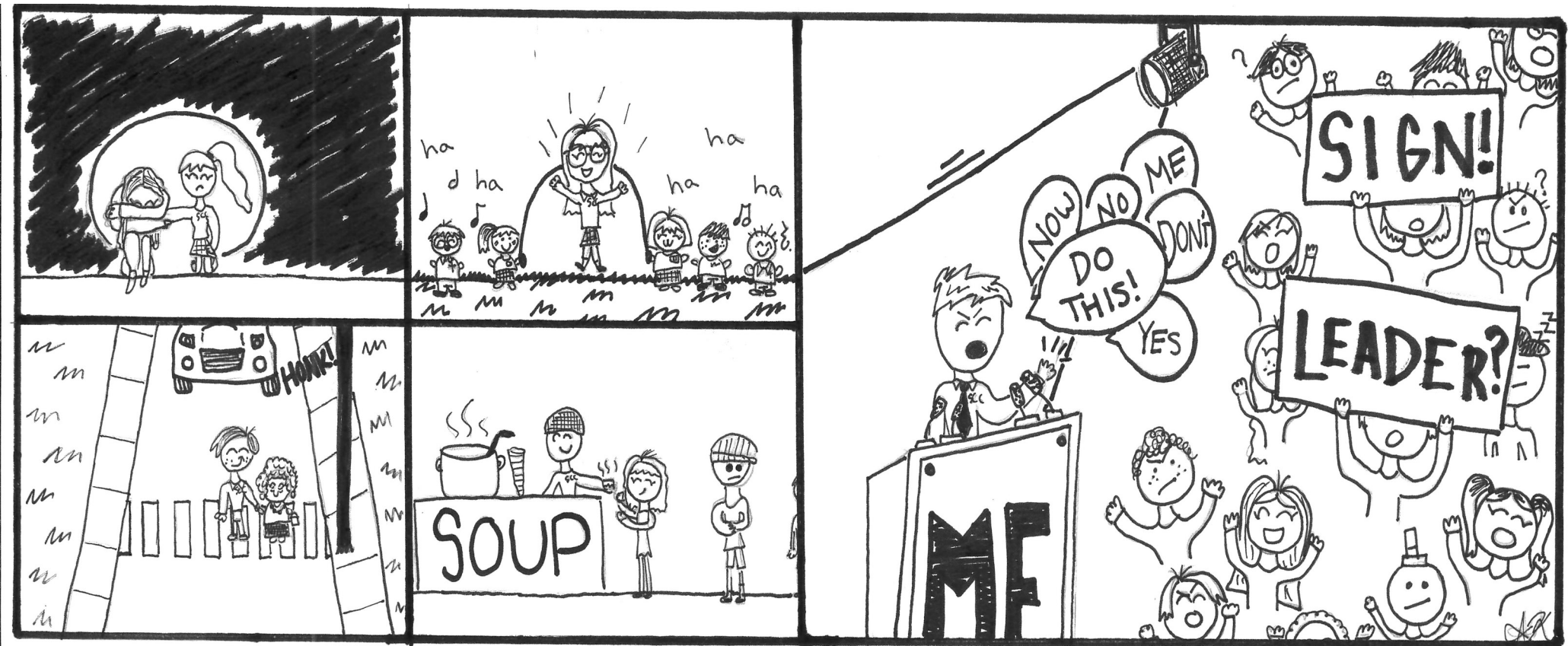
The best leaders may not be the most noticeable ones. According to a *Fast*

*Company* article written by Samantha Cole, American investor, Warren Buffet, one of the richest men in the world, is described as an introvert who takes "careful, thought-out risks." By being a quiet leader, he created a billion-dollar company and gives to charities all over the globe. Many actors and actresses are also introverts. Meryl Streep is a known introvert. However, she has three Academy Awards due to her preparation for each role she performed. She is a role model and inspiration for many actresses. Other notable, quiet leaders are Albert Einstein, Mark Zuckerberg, and J.K. Rowling. Anyone in his or her line of work can be

a quiet leader.

Many of us have a singular vision of what a leader should be. Our society prefers extroverts as leaders because of their effortless connections and natural ability to help people. Extroverts, while under pressure, can make a quick decision, although not a thought out one. While these instances may hold true to most people, this is a social bias that is unfair to the quiet leaders who have just as great of an impact, only off to the side.

The best leaders do not have to be the loudest or most noticeable ones. Any great leader can shine whether it is in or out of the spotlight.



Ava Kuhl / Rock Bottom Staff

# Silence is compliance, protest is patriotic



By Noah Korth  
Staff Reporter

In a country so passionate about patriotism, what are Americans to do when they feel their country is not living up to its promise? Even though some forms of protest can be offensive to many, the right to protest is a fundamental American ideal. Hoping to be a model for all Americans, professional

athletes, particularly NFL players, are protesting during the national anthem. While their protesting has outraged many, they are admirable for exercising their First Amendment right to free speech amidst injustice.

According to *The New York Times*, this form of protest started on August 26, 2016 when San Francisco quarterback Colin Kaepernick remained seated during the national anthem for a preseason home game. "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color," Kaepernick told NFL media. It's no secret that America has a serious systemic racism issue. Injustices against people of color are embedded in the fabric of our society. As a result of oppressive systems installed in the past, people of color are negatively and disproportionately impacted by police

brutality, mass incarceration, housing discrimination, government surveillance, and more. By protesting during the national anthem, Kaepernick was simply trying to bring awareness to these issues. Kaepernick knelt during the national anthem for the first time on September 1, 2016. "Once again, I'm not anti-American," Kaepernick said. "I love America. I love people. That's why I'm doing this. I want to help make America better."

Over time, kneeling or raising a fist during the na-

tional anthem gained traction among athletes across America. The movement soon became highly political. President Barack Obama showed support for the athletes while President Donald Trump condemned their behavior and called for them to be fired. Many suggest that the political backlash led to Colin Kaepernick being blackballed by the NFL. He hasn't played since the 2016

season. The criticism Kaepernick and other athletes have received is entirely undeserved. Peaceful protest should never be discouraged, especially by the President. Protesting is

one of the most patriotic and American principles. President Thomas Jefferson once said, "Dissent is the highest form of patriotism." It takes no effort to sit back and do nothing in times of injustice; it requires great courage to do the opposite.

Furthermore, supporting peaceful protest prevents instances of violence and riots. President JFK once said, "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable." In 2016, the American people chose to ignore Kaepernick and other athletes. Now, in 2020, the United States has fallen into a state of civil unrest following the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer. Many Americans, including the NFL commissioner, have seemingly changed their position regarding peaceful protest. According to *ABC News*, NFL commissioner

Roger Goodell officially apologized for "not listening" to players who spoke out against racism. He concluded by encouraging all to "speak out and peacefully protest."

Many Americans, including President Donald Trump, make the argument that this form of protest is anti-patriotic and offensive to veterans and their families. Regardless of opinions and feelings, the American military does not fight for an anthem; service members fight to defend the rights of American citizens and the Constitution.

Kneeling during the national anthem may seem extreme to some Americans, but we are obligated to do something. Patriotism will not die because of protest; it will meet its end through the apathy in American hearts.

*"As a result of oppressive systems installed in the past, people of color are negatively and disproportionately impacted by police brutality, mass incarceration, housing discrimination, government surveillance, and more."*

~Noah Korth



# Due to COVID-19. . .

BY CASSIE KOUMA

## Water girls take on the field

Many changes come with the start of a new school year, especially when that school year is happening in the midst of a global pandemic. One place extra precautions are being taken is the football field. This year, the football team has added a few new members: the water girls.

Senior Camille Pelan is one of the water girls this year.

“Because of Covid-19, the football players are unable to touch the water bottles. We have to squirt the water into their mouths to

avoid the spread of germs.” Usually, the football players select a water bottle at random from the sidelines and squirt some water into their mouths. However, handing off the same water bottles between all the boys poses a health risk. With the water girls being the only ones touching the bottles, there is less chance of spreading germs.

“We get the boys water or Gatorade when they need or want it. We get them water during timeouts, when they sub, or if they cramp,” senior Ava Kuhl said.

Not only are the girls feel-

ing the satisfaction of helping, they are able to enjoy themselves while doing it.

“Being a water girl allows me to experience the game of football from a whole different perspective,” Pelan shared. “Being on the sidelines makes me feel like I am truly part of the team.”

Senior Janae Rusher said, “The best part is that we get to be with the team and learn more about football. It’s pretty exciting!”

Eighth grader Rebecca Kosch and seniors Kaden Young and Clarissa Kosch also help on Friday nights.



GRACE MUSTARD / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Seniors Ava Kuhl, Janae Rusher, Clarissa Kosch, and eighth-grader Rebecca Kosch stand on the football sideline holding up Scotus towels donated by the hospital. The water girls were a new addition this year due to Covid-19.

## Changes extend to cafeteria



CASSIE KOUMA / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Students eat their lunches in the cafeteria. Among other precautions, everyone had to eat facing the same direction.

It is difficult to be social when social distancing. This is something students have discovered in the lunchroom this year. However, all of the changes found in the cafeteria have been necessary, as explained by Nutrition Services Manager Holli Bettenhausen and Nutrition Services Account Manager Shelly Adams.

“[We learned of changes] from Zoom meetings from the state of Nebraska,” Bettenhausen said.

The most prominent change, one that is visible right away, is the new arrangement of the tables and

chairs. More tables have been added, and students only sit on one side. This means everyone in the cafeteria is facing the same way. In addition, the chairs are farther apart.

The school was given options of how the students could safely eat.

“That was another thing that started from the state. They said to come up with a way to space everybody out [by having] people eat in the gym, people eat outside, [or] people eat in their classroom,” Bettenhausen explained.

At the beginning of the year, students could not grab their own silverware and milk. These items were placed on

the tray then handed to them. Now that restrictions have relaxed slightly, the coolers of milk are back open, and a table of silverware stands for students to take themselves.

“Basically, we’re back to normal other than Mrs. Thompson and myself, if you want something extra, we hand it to you,” Adams said. She also explained the importance of reducing the number of people touching the extra chips, drinks, or other items available for extra purchase.

Each of these changes provides a safe lunchroom experience for the students and helps everyone stay healthy.



“Honestly, quarantine helped me realize how entirely thankful I was to even have an education. It made me realize how hard our school’s staff works to make materials accessible at home for students. I went into quarantine upset, and I ended up feeling happier afterwards.”

11 Eden Broberg



“It was alright; sometimes it was hard to hear and understand the teachers. I did like being at home though.”

12 Tanley Miller

## What was your quarantine experience like?



“My experience with technology was okay during quarantine. There was the occasional miscommunication with my teachers or a bug with my Lenovo, but overall, it worked fine.”

9 Isabel Zaruba



“During quarantine, I watched tons of movies I have seen as well as new ones I have never. This was the only thing I enjoyed.”

11 Grace Sinclair

## Convenience provided by computers

A new form of schooling has emerged from the pandemic. Remote learning became a new norm for the end of the last school year, and the threat of having to return to it continues to loom. To prepare for this possibility as well as limit the spread of germs, each student has been issued a Lenovo computer.

“I like it. I don’t have to worry about them running out of computers in my study hall, and it is a lot easier to do homework at home,” sophomore Brianna Belzer said.

In the past, each classroom and study hall

had its own set of Lenovos. Students would check one out during study hall or take their assigned number in their classes. Eighth grader Olivia Nelsen highlights the conveniences of the new system.

“Having my own Lenovo this year is very exciting because it’s much easier having all of my work on the same computer,” Nelsen said. “The worst part about it is having to remember to charge it at night and bring it back to school the next day.”

There are other challenges that come with the convenience of each student having their own Lenovo. The soph-

omores’ computers failed to come in on time, and there were not enough Lenovo-brand computers for all of them. As a result, some students were issued different types of computers.

Jasmine Jackson, a sophomore, explained, “The sophomores got pretty old computers, at least for now, so technology issues have been present,” Jackson said. “Where are the sophomore computers? It’s a conspiracy.”

The students have taken the setbacks with grace, and many are pleased with the new convenience the personal Lenovos provide.



CASSIE KOUMA / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Students work on homework using their Lenovos during study hall. Each student was issued their own computer this year.

## Cleaning combats Covid-19



ANGIE RUSHER / JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Head Custodian Joe Schoenfelder uses his electrostatic sprayer to sanitize a classroom. Many new cleaning procedures were added this school year.

Several procedures take place behind the scenes to allow for a safe and healthy school day. Students may have noticed some of the changes they directly take part in such as wiping off desks after second and ninth periods. There are also an increased number of hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the school. However, there is much more the staff members, including Head Custodian Joe Schoenfelder, do for the school.

“The biggest change is we disinfect every room over lunch. Sixth period, whenever class goes to

lunch, we’ll go in and spray disinfectant with our electrostatic sprayer,” Schoenfelder explained.

While the electrostatic sprayer is a new addition to the cleaning routine, there are some normal cleaning procedures that have always been around.

“We normally clean the bathrooms once a day, but now we clean them during the middle of the day and then after school,” Schoenfelder said. “We usually clean the high-touch areas anyway, but now we are just doing it more often.”

These are changes that affect the entire school, but

there are other alterations that help the athletes stay healthy. Sports equipment that was not cleaned often is now getting more attention.

“Volleyballs and basketballs now get cleaned every time [they are used],” Schoenfelder shared. “Weight equipment gets cleaned after every time somebody uses it or at the end of every period.”

Each of these new practices help students and staff continue to attend in-person school. It is important for everyone to feel safe from the threat of illness while at school, and the staff makes this safety a top priority.



# New additions to Scotus

BY NOAH KORTH

## New teachers settle into their roles at Scotus



Mr. Jacob Duhey

KAMRYN CHOHN / YEARBOOK STAFF

Mr. Duhey is new to the Scotus English Department. He teaches Literature 8 and English 11. He also helps coach high school football and junior high track. Mr. Duhey's background is a bit different from most of the new teachers. He grew up in Mission Viejo, California, and he went to Juan Hills High School. After high school, he attended Doane University in Crete, Nebraska where he earned a bachelor's degree in English. He also earned a master's degree in English from the University of Nebraska Omaha. In his first few months at Scotus, Mr. Duhey is enjoying teaching his students.

"My students have easily been my favorite part about coming to Scotus," Duhey said. "They've made the transition from teaching college to teaching high school and eighth grade very smooth. It's been a joy to come to class every day and spark their curiosities."

Even though Mr. Duhey clearly has a passion for teaching, it can be difficult to inspire all students to work hard in school.

"The hardest part has been getting all my students engaged," Duhey said. "I want to help all my students. When I have students who are falling behind, I want to be able to do all I can for them. It's not just about the students who are getting great grades or mediocre grades. It's really about helping students who are falling behind or struggling with English. I want to help those students become intrigued, engaged, and ultimately bring up their grades."



Ms. Alex Meyer

NOAH KORTH / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Ms. Meyer is new to the Scotus Social Science Department. She teaches American History I and American History II. She also helps coach high school volleyball and track. Ms. Meyer grew up in Superior, Nebraska, and she went to Superior High School. After high school, she attended the University of Nebraska Lincoln where she earned a bachelor's degree in secondary social science education. In her first few months at Scotus, Ms. Meyer is enjoying the people.

"My favorite part about Scotus is the people," Meyer said. "I enjoyed getting to know the teachers, students, and other staff."

Ms. Meyer grew up in a family of competitive athletes. She sometimes battles with being a perfectionist.

"The most challenging part so far has been organizing everything and balancing my time between teaching and coaching while also keeping time for myself," Meyer said.



Mrs. Dana Ritzdorf

ANGIE RUSHER / JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Mrs. Ritzdorf is the new Scotus Campus Minister, and she teaches Religion 8. She grew up in York, Nebraska and went to York High School. After high school, she attended Northwest Missouri State and earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education. In her first few months at Scotus, Mrs. Ritzdorf is enjoying Scotus' faith-based community.

"My favorite part is finally being able to meet all the students and having a great community of people who share our faith," Ritzdorf said. "Everyone that works here has been really awesome and welcoming, and it's a great community to be a part of."

As Campus Minister, Mrs. Ritzdorf is responsible for helping students grow in their faith. Recently, she had the idea of reserving time for reflection and praise and worship after school Masses. She also organized the class retreats.

"The most challenging part has been everything being so new, trying to figure out how things were done last year, and how to incorporate new ideas of my own," Ritzdorf said. "It's been a challenge trying to figure it all out and balance everything, but it's been a welcomed one. I think I'm growing a lot."



Ms. Jill Brichacek

KADE WIESE / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Ms. Brichacek is the new Scotus Guidance Counselor. She is replacing Mrs. Weir, who retired last spring. Ms. Brichacek also helps coach girls high school basketball and track. She grew up on a farm near Schuyler, and she went to Schuyler Central High School. After high school, she attended Nebraska Wesleyan where she earned a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in coaching. She also earned a master's degree in school counseling from the University of Nebraska Kearney. In her first few months at Scotus, Ms. Brichacek is enjoying making connections with the Scotus community.

"My favorite part about Scotus has definitely been the teachers, staff, and students," Brichacek said. "I also love all the new things I'm learning, and I'm enjoying interacting with everyone around me."

Ms. Brichacek considered doing school psychology, but she chose school counseling because she wanted to be more involved in the process.

"The greatest challenge so far has been trying to adjust from going to school all the time," Brichacek said. "Now, my job is school. I've had to shift the focus of my priorities and manage my time differently."



Mrs. Annie Sokol

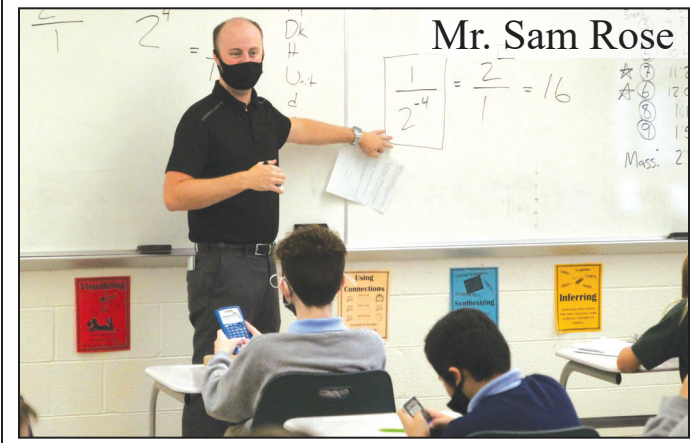
NOAH KORTH / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Mrs. Sokol is new to the Scotus Science Department. She teaches Earth Science 8 and Physical Science 9. Mrs. Sokol grew up in Duncan, Nebraska, and went to Columbus High School. After high school, she attended the University of Nebraska Lincoln and earned a bachelor's degree in animal science and a master's degree in secondary teaching with an emphasis in natural sciences. In her first few months at Scotus, Mrs. Sokol is enjoying getting to know the students and staff.

"My favorite part about Scotus is the smaller atmosphere and being able to know more kids than I did in my previous position," Sokol said. "Also, the aspects of camaraderie and collaboration in the school have been amazing."

This is Mrs. Sokol's 16th year teaching. She previously taught at Columbus Middle School.

"So far, my greatest challenge is having two different curriculums," Sokol said. "I only had one curriculum in my previous position, so having two different curriculums has been tricky for me."



Mr. Sam Rose

NOAH KORTH / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Mr. Rose is new to the Scotus Math Department. Replacing Mrs. Blaser, he teaches Math 7 and Algebra I. Mr. Rose is also an assistant high school football coach and an assistant junior high track coach. He grew up in Louisville, Nebraska and went to Louisville High School. After high school, Mr. Rose attended Concordia University where he earned his bachelor's degree in science and education with a math endorsement. In his first few months, Rose is enjoying the accommodating community at Scotus.

"My favorite part about Scotus has definitely been the people - from the administration to the other teachers to the students to the community support," Rose said. "We just finished up parent-teacher conferences, and everybody's had such a positive outlook toward this year despite everything that's going on. The students have been fairly well-behaved, and the other teachers have been very helpful."

In this uncertain time amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Rose has faced challenges concerning student attendance and teaching a mixed classroom.

"The most challenging part right now has been the same challenge for everybody. Students are missing school, and there's a lot of worry, fear, and uncertainty," Rose said. "Also, there's a mixed classroom of students that are here, students that missed school a couple days who are behind, and students who are gone for an extended period of time. It makes it interesting to work around that, but everybody's been flexible."

## New attendance office improves security and safety

Visitors coming to Scotus this year no longer have to walk the expanse of the senior hallway to get to the office. This summer, the Scotus custodial staff installed a new attendance office by the east doors. The new office shares space with the Scotus media center office. There were several reasons that prompted Scotus to make this change.

"The new attendance office is a safety feature for our school," school president Jeff Ohnoutka said. "First of all, for COVID-19, it gives us a place to isolate people who are sick. It gives them a place to go as they are waiting for a ride. It also provides a safer environment. We have fewer people coming down further into the building because of the new office. It's a safety and convenience feature for our school because of its location to the main doors."

This change did not happen overnight, however. It took considerable effort from Joe Schoenfelder and Rob Daniels of the Scotus custodial staff to make the adjustment possible.

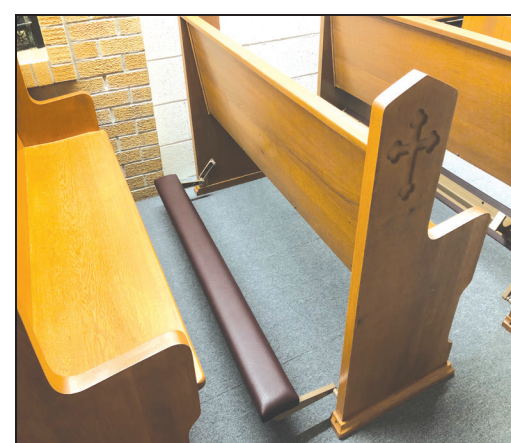
"The greatest challenge we faced was cutting through the cinder block wall and getting the electrical wiring moved to where it needed to be," Schoenfelder said.



The change has been welcomed by all the Scotus staff; office secretary Mrs. Laurie Hergott seems especially pleased with the change.

"We're all getting settled in and used to the changes," Hergott said. "I think it's a great move for security. I'm actually busier now than I was in the other office. For security and COVID-19, it was a great idea."

## Chapel charm restored by renovations



Over the summer, the Scotus custodial staff has been renovating the chapel by the main office doors. The chapel is an indispensable part of the charm and character of the school. Over the last few years, increased usage of the chapel and age have caused it to deteriorate.

"The carpet had become worn because of the increased traffic that had been coming in for perpetual adoration," school president Jeff Ohnoutka said. "Also, the carpet had been in there for quite some time. The pews needed to be restored. Some of them were cracking and showing wear and tear."

After the renovations were complete, the chapel had a complete facelift. It has new carpet and new lighting. Also, the pews have been upgraded; they were refinished by Cliff at Platte Valley Refinishing, and new kneelers were installed. All of the changes to the chapel would not have been possible without Scotus custodian Joe Schoenfelder and his team.

"The greatest challenge we faced renovating the chapel was finishing it in two days," Schoenfelder said. "The chapel was only closed for two days because of Adoration."



# Football experiences it all

By **Janae Rusher**  
Staff Reporter

The Shamrock football players have had a taste of many different games this season, including big wins, big losses, and nail biters. The Shamrocks are fighting through this roller-coaster of a season. The Shamrocks' record is 2-4 so far this season with 3 regular season games left.

The team's practices started off limited this summer due to the Coronavirus, but it has given the seniors the opportunity to lead. "I think all of the senior players have stepped up and shown the underclassmen how Scotus football works," senior offensive lineman Simon Schumacher said. "We really try to lead as a collective unit. We are not a loud group, but we lead by playing hard on every snap."

The Shamrocks took a hard hit competing against former state champion Wahoo High the first game of the season. Losing 0-40, the

Shamrocks needed a boost to get through the coming weeks.

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, the boys came back swinging against Omaha Concordia. They beat the Mustangs 61-0. Junior Garrett Oakley is a captain on the football team this year.

"It felt really good to get our first win of the season, especially after a tough game at Wahoo," Oakley said.

The next week, the Shamrocks faced adversity while playing Aquinas. With a struggle to score, the Rocks lost 6-21 to the Monarchs.

"Aquinas is a well-coached and very disciplined team that we fought with until the end of the game," senior Bryce Foreman said. "Playing a tough team like them made us better and more prepared to play Battle Creek."

The 3-1 Battle Creek team gave the Shamrocks a slow start to the homecoming game. The Shamrocks finished the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter with an onside kick that then produced a touchdown making

the score 26-27, Battle Creek.

"We struggled to stop their run game in the beginning," senior captain Kade Wiese said, "but then we made a few plays and gained a lot of momentum to finish the game."

This exciting moment came to a quick end when the Shamrocks failed to finish the play for 2 points to win the game.

The Rocks competed away versus West Point Beemer losing 27-53 then beat North Bend last Friday 48-28 in a thrilling game.

In the third quarter the Shamrocks gained energy from multiple touchdowns and exciting plays. This energy boosted them into the fourth quarter and a win.

The Shamrocks will compete against Schuyler this Friday, Boone Central on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and will finish with Lakeview on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to end their regular season. The Shamrocks are looking for a hopeful end to their regular season to set them up well for post season play.

"Our varsity guys



GRACE MUSTARD / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Senior quarterback Evan Bock wards off a defender during the first game of the season against Wahoo High on August 28<sup>th</sup>. The Shamrocks lost to Wahoo but went on to beat Concordia 61-0 the next week.**

are coming into their own positions, and they are understanding their roles and responsibilities on the team, but we still have room to

improve," head coach Tyler Linder said. "We need to take every game one at a time and focus in on our jobs. By the end of the season, we want to

be able to look in the mirror and say that we became the best football team that we could become."

# Girls' golf surprises the competition

By **Emily Ferguson**  
Staff Reporter

The Scotus girls' golf team is back in action this season; however, unlike previous years, there are several new faces on the team. With

thirteen members on the team and only one senior and two juniors, the Shamrocks have several underclassmen on the team this fall. However, despite the usual challenges of a young team, the Scotus girls' golf team has risen above these challenges and

has had a successful start to their season.

The golf team's season started on September 1<sup>st</sup> at Quail Run, and, since then, the girls have not placed lower than fourth as a team at any meet. The team has had a busy and eventful season

with a golf meet almost every three days since the start of the season. With so many meets and a young team, the girls have had several opportunities to improve their game.

"Our varsity this year is very new and fresh. I think most of us, including myself, struggle with consistency in scoring. It literally depends on the day," junior Alaina Dierman said.

The Scotus girls' golf team's best meet so far this season has been the Lakeview Invite on September 10<sup>th</sup>. On this rainy and cold September day, the Scotus girls beat the weather and the competition by placing first overall at the meet. They ended up beating the second-place team, West Point-Beemer, by 12 strokes. Freshman Cecilia Arndt has been the leading scorer on the team and has placed in the top five at every meet so far this season.

"My favorite meet so far was the Lakeview Invite because that was when, as a team, we placed first. It was a rainy and gross day, but it was super fun to get the win

and trophy," Arndt said.

Arndt led Scotus in scoring with a 77 and placed second at the meet overall. The rest of the team was right behind Arndt with Alaina Dierman scoring an 80, senior Jaelyn Podolak 100, junior Abee Hutchinson 104, and

sophomore Ella Nahorny 114. The Shamrocks have had a successful start to their season, but the girls still have their eyes

on the prize: state. With many individual goals still to be met and a team goal to make it to state, there is still work to be done.

"Individually, my goal for this year is to break at least one of the school records. As for team goals, we want to go to state as a team and win districts," Arndt stated.

Arndt is well on her way to achieve this goal after placing first at Conference on

September 26<sup>th</sup> and leading the Shamrocks to a first-place victory.

A few days later on September 30<sup>th</sup> at the Shamrock Invite, Arndt placed first overall at the meet with a score of 74. Arndt's score tied Scotus's current school record for 18 holes, set by Jacy Gasper's in 2011. The Shamrocks received runner-up overall at the Invite.

Girls district golf is scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup>,

and state is scheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. With two big meets right around the corner, the Scotus girls' golf team will be preparing and practicing hard. However, the girls are excited to work together to hopefully achieve their goal as a team.

"The team is really close this year. Coach lets us have a lot of fun at practices, but also makes sure we are working on our game," senior Jaelyn Podolak said.

*"Individually, my goal for this year is to break at least one of the school records."*

~Cecilia Arndt



CHRISTINA OAKLEY / YEARBOOK STAFF

**Freshman Cecilia Arndt putts at the Quail Run Invite on August 31<sup>st</sup> as a crowd of spectators cheer her on. Arndt is the Shamrocks' lead scorer, and she placed 1<sup>st</sup> at Conference on September 26<sup>th</sup>.**

# Young tennis boys look to improve

By **Vijay Wemhoff**  
Staff Reporter

The Columbus high co-op tennis team has been off to a good start this season.

Sophomore Nick Zoucha in his second year with the tennis team, which is a lot of experience compared to most of the first year Scotus players.

"We have a good season so far; I have seen lots of improvement in the new guys," Zoucha said.

Sophomores Bohden Jedlicka and Ted Fehring and freshman Frank Fehring are all on the varsity team. Jedlicka and Frank Fehring won their doubles match against Elkhorn 5-8 on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

"Doubles matches take communication and understanding with your partner at all times," Jedlicka said.

The Scotus JV have four sophomores in tennis this year. Sophomore Blake Wemhoff said his most challenging

match was the JV Invite.

"I've worked on better communication with my teammates," Wemhoff said.

Sophomore Ted Fehring and his partner Landon Hastreiter won their #2 doubles match against Lincoln Northeast at the Columbus Invite on September 5<sup>th</sup>.

"Every match challenges us to do better, whether we win or lose," Fehring said.

Sophomore Alex Zoucha said that the Lincoln East/Elkhorn high meet was the most challenging for him.

"It is nice to combine with Columbus High because we aren't playing the same C-1 schools," Zoucha said.

Nick Zoucha said that the most challenging meet was the first match they had because some of the guys are inexperienced and new to the team, so it was rough at first.

"I like combining with Columbus High because you get to meet people from other schools," Zoucha said.

So far there have been 10 meets played this tennis

season. Jedlicka has seen the most success in doubles earning wins against players from Norfolk, North Platte, Fremont, and Alliance.

"[The most enjoyable part about tennis] is the people and the trips out of school to play tennis," Jedlicka said.

The boys travel with Columbus High to a lot of out of town meets that can be a little far away sometimes, but most feel it is worth it.

"The best part of tennis is that you are part of a team, but it is an individual sport," Nick Zoucha said.

Most of the players chose tennis as a back up for football, but they are enjoying it all the same.

Nick Zoucha said, "We have pretty young team that will be very experienced by the time we are seniors."

The tennis boys play tonight at Norfolk High.

Jedlicka concluded, "It is a great sport, and if you don't like the sport you are in, play tennis! "



LAURA BETTENHAUSEN / YEARBOOK STAFF

**Sophomores Alex Zoucha and Blake Wemhoff confer about their match before it starts on September 11 at Pawnee Park. Zoucha and Wemhoff are two of the six sophomores that play tennis this year.**



# Shamrocks race toward state

By Ava Kuhl  
Staff Reporter

After finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> last year at state for girls and 9<sup>th</sup> for boys, the cross-country team looks to make another state run this year. Even with Covid-19 being another hurdle to jump this year for athletes, the cross-country team still has high hopes.

Scotus's first meet was a dual against Columbus High School on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Scotus girls finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, and boys won with all four senior boys finishing in the top 6. Senior Michael Gasper finished 6<sup>th</sup> overall.

"This year is different because the top 4 runners always finish so close together, and we are all seniors," Gasper said.

The following week, the Shamrocks went to the Boone Central Invite. The boys finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with the senior boys still top medalists, and the girls finished 7<sup>th</sup> overall. Freshman Serena Swiatek is a new addition to the varsity team this year.

"The Albion meet stood out to me the most," Swiatek explained. "On the final stretch, my legs carried me all the way to the finish line."

The girls have been facing adversity this year after losing many seniors. They also did not have senior Olivia Fehringer for the first few meets due to an injury before the season.

"We have had some injuries that have arisen in the team," Fehringer stated. "We also have lost a lot of girl runners from the last year, so we are still figuring out how to perform with our team this year."

On September 10<sup>th</sup>, Scotus participated in the Wahoo Invite. The girls finished 4<sup>th</sup> out of 13, and the boys finished 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 14.

"Wahoo stood out to me because our first to fourth runners' times were only twenty-four seconds apart," Gasper explained. "Mr. Lahm just always wants it under one minute."

The Shamrocks competed in their home meet, the

Scotus Invite, on September 17<sup>th</sup>, with a great run having the girls finish 3<sup>rd</sup>, and boys finish 2<sup>nd</sup>. Senior Benjamin Juarez Mendez has been in cross-country for the last four years. He finished 14<sup>th</sup> at the meet.

"Lutjelusche (Scotus Invite) stood out the most," Mendez recalled. "The parents were very supportive. Also, a lot of runners ran their best times on the course, which is very uncommon."

With some new runners this year making a big impact on the cross-country team, the Shamrocks are looking to push forward with high expectations. Newcomer senior Ross Thorson has been impacting the team in more ways than one.

"This is my first year going out," Thorson said. "We are a solid team and have a good chance of doing really good."

The Shamrocks went back to Boone Central on September 25<sup>th</sup>. The boys got 1<sup>st</sup>, and the girls finished 2<sup>nd</sup>. Senior Emily Ferguson



VUJAY WEMHOFF / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Ross Thorson runs the Lutjelusche course finishing 9<sup>th</sup> at the Scotus Invite on September 7<sup>th</sup>. The boys finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and the girls finished 3<sup>rd</sup>.

finished 10<sup>th</sup> at the race.

"Everyone on the team competed well at Boone," Ferguson said. "Almost everyone ran a personal best!"

The following week the

team competed at the UNK invite. Scotus girls finished 9<sup>th</sup>, and the boys finished 1<sup>st</sup>, hopefully previewing success in the post season.

"I am still really looking

forward to districts and hopefully state," Ferguson stated. "This will be my first year ever running at districts, and I hope both the boys' and girls' teams qualify for state."

# Volleyball rallies against tough schedule

By Camille Pelan  
Staff Reporter

Despite the tough schedule starting off the first half of the season, the Scotus volleyball team has done nothing but fight and battle through

the challenges.

The Shamrocks started off the season with a winning record of 8-7, including some big wins and close losses to good teams.

"The front end of our season has been as competitive as it's been in awhile,"

head Coach Janet Tooley said.

The Shamrocks opened up on August 27<sup>th</sup> with a 1-3 game loss to Kearney Catholic, who currently holds a record of 20-3. Scotus bounced back with a 3-0 sweep against Omaha Concordia on

September 1<sup>st</sup>.

"We have the ability to be great," senior Anna Ehlers said. "We just have to take our talent and practice and put it all together into the games."

The Rocks placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at the annual Columbus Scotus invitational. They lost to Norfolk Catholic, who is currently ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in Class C-2. Scotus then beat Hartington Cedar Catholic in the third-place game.

The main focuses for the team this year are finishing and maintaining consistency.

"Our goals this year are to finish games and not take any plays off," senior setter Kamryn Chohon said.

The Shamrocks achieved this goal in the five-set thriller win against Wayne on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

"We started out strong in the first set, then we dropped off our game, and we had to battle back every point to win that game," junior Grace Mustard said.

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, the Shamrocks went 2-2 on the day at the Bellevue East Invite with two wins against Norfolk and losses to Fremont and Lincoln High.

"We have played not only some top teams, but some teams that are really playing well this year," Tooley said. "Lincoln High was off to a record start when we played them, and Fremont is off to one of the best starts they've had in awhile."

The Shamrocks swept David City Aquinas in three sets on September 17<sup>th</sup> and then beat Lincoln Christian on September 24<sup>th</sup> in four sets. On September 29<sup>th</sup>, the Rocks lost to Columbus Lakeview, who currently holds a record of 16-3.

Even though the Rocks still have a tough upcoming end of their schedule, they are confident in their ability to get wins.

"We are the underdogs for most of our matches this year," junior Makenna Sve-

hla said. "We want to prove people wrong and get those unexpected wins."

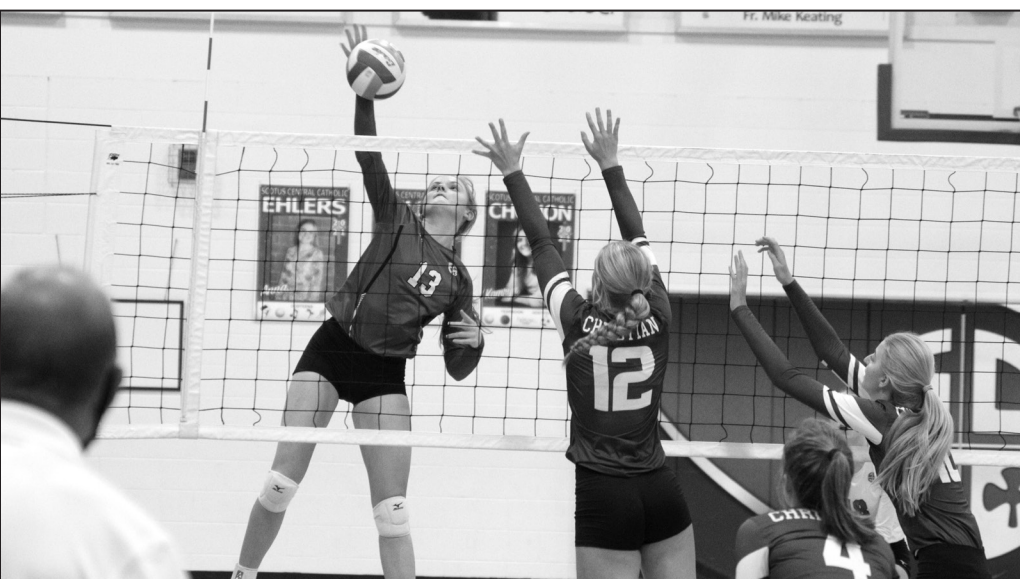
With the season already being halfway over, the Rocks have high hopes for the end of their season.

"If we just work together and work hard, we could get far," senior Tanley Miller said.

The Rocks still have to play some tough teams, including Grand Island Central Catholic, Bishop Neumann, and Hastings St. Cecilia, but they are ready for the challenges.

"Obviously, the goal is always state," junior Kate Maguire said. "We have to be able to overcome challenges and obstacles in order to get there."

The Shamrocks placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the Columbus Chamber Tournament this past weekend, and they play in the Centennial Conference Tournament tonight against Omaha Concordia and Wahoo Neumann.



JANAE RUSHER / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Anna Ehlers hits the ball on September 24<sup>th</sup> in the home match against Lincoln Christian. Ehlers is one of four seniors who were honored before the Shamrock win against the Crusaders.

# More photos from fall sports



KATE MAGUIRE / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Seniors Jake Heesacker (46) and Alex Novicki (50) and junior Devon Borchers (25) make a tackle during the homecoming game on September 18<sup>th</sup> versus Battle Creek. The Shamrocks lost by one point finishing 26-27.



KEIRA FEEHAN / YEARBOOK STAFF

The Shamrocks celebrate winning a point in the home match against Wayne on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The Rocks beat the Blue Devils in five sets.



CASSIE KOUMA / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Jaelyn Podolak tees off at the Quail Run Invite on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Jaelyn is the only senior on the Scotus girls' golf team this season.



AVA KUHL / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Shamrock girls' cross-country team starts their run at the Scotus Invite on September 7<sup>th</sup>. The girls finished 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Invite, and had four girls finish in the top 20.



# Covid couldn't mask homecoming fun

By Kate Maguire  
Staff Reporter

Because of COVID-19, activities have been cancelled or postponed across Nebraska. Homecoming is just one of those activities. The CHS homecoming was pushed all the way back to November while other schools are not even having a homecoming at all.

Scotus homecoming, however, was on schedule. The dance took place on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 8 to 11PM. It was a night full of curiosity and excitement. Scotus president Jeff Ohnoutka oversaw the COVID-19 guidelines and procedures for the dance and discussed them with the student council.

"I think it was important to have the dance now while we felt that we can for sure. It would have been easy to wait and maybe we wouldn't have to wear masks, but you just never know what the future holds," Ohnoutka said.

The dance was not without a few changes, however. Masks being the most obvious alteration.

"We contacted the East Central District Health Department, told them what our plan was...they were fine with it as long as we wore masks," Ohnoutka said.

Students had mixed feelings about wearing masks the whole night but knew the importance of wearing them.

Freshmen Alexandra Chavez took part in her first high school dance.

"I wished we didn't have to wear masks because mine kept falling off while I was dancing, but I know we are trying to keep everyone safe," Chavez said.

Senior Josh Faust played in the Friday night football game the night before the dance. He was crowned homecoming king following the game.

"I didn't mind wearing a mask at homecoming because I am used to wearing them anyway," Faust said.

Another change that was

implemented this year was the move from the cafeteria to the gym. Ohnoutka felt there would be better spacing in the gym and would not require any movement of tables. Not all students were happy with the move.

Junior Luke Przymus has attended homecoming in the cafeteria the past two years.

"I prefer the cafeteria because it feels like we're all dancing in one big group, not in a bunch of little ones [like in the gym]," Przymus said.

As always, homecoming king and queen were announced following the football game on Friday night. The 2020 homecoming queen was Tanley Miller and the king was Josh Faust.

"I remember talking to Ben Kamrath about how cold I was, and then they announced that I won, and I was shocked to say the least," Miller said.

The students hope to return to the dance floor in December for the Winter Ball, hopefully not in masks.



ANGIE RUSHER / JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Seniors Shelby Bridger and Tanley Miller dance with junior Garrett Oakley in the middle of the dance circle. Several dance circles were formed at the dance where some students went in the middle while everyone else would cheer them on.



ANGIE RUSHER / JOURNALISM ADVISOR

A group of students throw their hands in the air as they sing and dance to a song. The dance was held in Memorial Hall this year rather than the cafeteria.



ANGIE RUSHER / JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Junior Abee Hutchinson along with senior Cassie Kouma dance in sync to "Wobble Baby." Several songs like "Wobble Baby" were played at the dance where all students could dance the same to the song.



ANGIE RUSHER / JOURNALISM ADVISOR

King and queen Josh Faust and Tanley Miller pose with the rest of the candidates. Front row left to right is Camille Pelan, Shelby Bridger, Clarrisa Kosch, Faust, Miller, Kade Wiese, and Jaelyn Podolak. Back row is Ross Thorson, Evan Bock, Ben Kamrath, Maddie Blaser, and Michael Gasper.



KAMRYN CHOCHAN / YEARBOOK STAFF

Homecoming king Josh Faust and queen Tanley Miller pose for a photo following Friday's football game. This wrapped up homecoming week, and all that was left was the dance on Saturday.



KAMRYN CHOCHAN / YEARBOOK STAFF

Seniors Nic Shultz, Grant Neville, and Evan Ruskamp cheer on the homecoming candidates at the pep rally. The homecoming candidates were paired up and performed a dance together at the pep rally.



TAYLOR DAHL / SCOTUS MARKETING DIRECTOR

Students walk through the junior hallway on their way to class during spirit week. The juniors went with a Shrek theme and won for best hallway.



# Ritzdorf redefines campus ministry

By Gavin Brabec  
Staff Reporter

At the start of this school year, students were greeted with many new faces at Scotus. One of them is the new advisor of Campus Ministry, Mrs. Dana Ritzdorf.

Campus Ministry oversees retreats and faith-based activities that help the school grow in their faith. Mrs. Ritzdorf has one main goal for the students of Scotus during her first year as the Campus Ministry advisor.

"My goal would be that our group can encounter Jesus more deeply... and can really be disciples in the school," Ritzdorf said.

Ritzdorf said this year is a learning year for her as she begins to navigate the roles of Campus Ministry and implementing past activities and expanding them to help the students encounter Christ even more.

Campus ministry has been a growing organization at Scotus over the past few years. It has attracted past

members and many new members. Senior member Maddie Blaser has been a member of Campus Ministry for four years.

"I think Campus Ministry is a great way to help the other students at Scotus grow stronger in their faith. It allows us to dive deeper into our faith at school."

In her first year in her new role, Mrs. Ritzdorf is making some additions to Campus Ministry to make it more successful.

"While there are no big changes yet, I have implemented four committees and four committee leaders, which is a little different from previous years," Ritzdorf said.

Her changes have been giving students a larger responsibility in Campus Ministry. The four committees are Spirituality, Retreat, Teens for Life, and Special Events.

"I am on the retreat committee, which I think will be a blast!" junior member Ruby Martinez said.

Students have a more active role as committee leaders. Senior Emily Ferguson is the Spirituality committee leader.

"Each committee has special tasks to complete, and at the end of every meeting, we come together as a group and make plans based on each committee's goals," Ferguson explained.

Campus Ministry is also in charge of the class retreats. Members volunteer to work at the retreats to ensure their success.

"I think the retreats have gone well so far. I plan on getting feedback, so I can adjust the retreats. [This way,] students can have the best experience possible," Ritzdorf said.

The first retreat they conducted was the senior retreat in August. Blaser found the retreat was successful and a great time to bond with her class.

"Our retreat was awesome! We were able to swim and we got to go on the high ropes! Our class got much



TANLEY MILLER / YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Matthew Dolezal balances on a canoe as seniors Simon Schumacher, Joel Schumacher, and Brennen Frewing guide it through the water at the senior retreat. The seniors had a beautiful day for their time on the water.

closer and grew in our faith!" Blaser said.

Blaser also gave a talk to the seventh graders at their retreat.

"I got to give a talk

which was a very rewarding experience for me. Seeing the seventh graders grow in their faith and get to know each other was awesome!" Blaser added.

Senior member Clarissa Kosch is on the Spirituality Committee.

"Leading our school in faith is both a blast and a privilege!" Kosch said.



KADE WIESE / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Clarissa Kosch leads a small group discussion of seventh graders at the 7<sup>th</sup> grade retreat. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade retreat was held during the day and put on by Campus Ministry.



TANLEY MILLER / YEARBOOK STAFF

Seniors Tanley Miller, Shelby Bridger, and Michaela Kresha jump into the lake at the senior retreat held at Timberlake Retreat Center. In addition to swimming, they also had Mass and a high ropes course.

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# New *Mulan* movie loses old charm

By Cassie Kouma  
Editor

Imagine having to pay \$29.99 on top of a \$6.99 monthly subscription just to watch one movie. Well, there is no need to imagine because this is a reality for anyone who wants to watch the new *Mulan* movie on Disney Plus. Disney recently decided to bypass theaters and instead chose to release the new live-action movie directly to the Disney Plus streaming service. However, potential viewers are wondering if the movie is worth the price.

While the remake of *Mulan* paid tribute to some of its original themes, the movie did fall short by leaving out some famous Disney signatures. One way in which the new movie fell short was in the decision to cut out Mushu's character.

Mushu was *Mulan*'s faithful companion throughout her journey as well as a comedic relief. He was a tiny yet spunky dragon who managed to get himself appointed by *Mulan*'s ancestors to be her protector during the war. The choice to cut him out was ultimately the wrong one. Every Disney princess deserves her funny companion, and *Mulan* should have been able to keep hers.

While Mushu was taken out, there was another character who was added in. The main villain in both movies has a falcon, but there is a twist in the new movie. The falcon is actually a woman who, among other powers, has the ability to shapeshift. She has channeled her strong chi, a term used to refer to energy, to become a strong warrior. This falcon-woman and *Mulan* have many encounters in the live action movie, and both come to re-

alize the similarities between them. This new character raises questions about why Disney felt the need to remove the talking dragon yet add a shape-shifting falcon.

Another change in the 2020 version was the lack of musical numbers. All the incredible songs *Mulan* sings are absent in the remake. One of the best parts about *Mulan* is the music, yet the catchy tunes such as "I'll Make a Man Out of You" and "A Girl Worth Fighting For" are all absent.

However, the new movie did pay tribute to one song. At key points, a person watching the new *Mulan* movie might notice an instrumental version of "Reflection" playing in the background.

Fortunately, there was one main theme that did not change between the animated and live-action movie: *Mulan*'s strength. She had



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**Disney's live-action remake of *Mulan* was released on Disney Plus September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Pictured above are the original and new movie posters.**

always been one of the most powerful female characters in the Disney franchise, and she still is. *Mulan* overcame fear by choosing to go to war in place of her father. This was done while disguised as a man, and no one was the wis-

er. *Mulan* managed to keep up with and even surpass her fellow soldiers, all of whom were men, in both movies.

Some may say the new *Mulan* movie is more modern and mature because of the decision to leave out a talking

dragon and music numbers. Others may say it lost some of its nostalgic charm. Overall, the live-action *Mulan* is a great new movie for Disney fans to watch, but they should go in expecting major differences from the original.

# Fuego: fresh food fast

By Kade Wiese  
Staff Reporter

Ordering off a Mexican food menu can be a struggle. Often, the words in their

menus are words that many aren't familiar with. There is also much to choose from, and it will hurt one's brain thinking about what to and what not to order. Sometimes, the food they put in your

food isn't always what you want. Luckily, there is a new place in town that will make your Mexican cuisine a better experience.

Across from Wendy's and next to Subway sits

Fuego Mexican Grill. There, you can find a lovely, family-run business with a goal to serve you.

Based on the famous Mexican restaurant chain Chipotle, Fuego offers a variety of options to choose from, and the menu is surrounded by what you want.

The number one reason why it is so good is you get to choose what you want. From a big corn tortilla to a small flour taco, you get to choose. Fuego also offers bowls for those who are not looking for a calorie-filled meal. Their fresh vegetables and homemade meats make up a small fraction of the ingredients you can choose from. You name it, and Fuego probably has it.

Another aspect that makes Fuego a good place for the people of Columbus is their speed. Looking for a quick meal for your lunch break? Fuego has your back. Looking for a post-game meal, but mom wants you

home by 10:30? Fuego is the place to choose.

Here is how it works: Walk into the Mexican aroma-filled building and smile at the happy owners. Say "hi" to them and walk up to the counter. Look up at the menu and tell them if you want a burrito, tortilla, quesadilla, tacos, salad, or a bowl. Then, choose the meat, rice, beans, and vegetables you want. Afterward, decide what delicious homemade salsa you want and determine if you want to spend another \$2 on guacamole. Finally, pay and fill up your drink.

Within three minutes, you have successfully made your own style Mexican meal. Your mom will not be mad, and you have plenty of time to take a nap before your lunch break ends.

Lastly, you get more bang for your buck. Compared to Chipotle and other taco trucks in Columbus, their prices are quite similar. What separates them from

their competitors is the portions. Chipotle and Columbus trucks do not give you nearly enough food to feel satisfied.

Fuego awards you one great serving of their outstanding food for a low price. I am forced to take home half of my meal because they give me so much food, and that's coming from a big football eater.

Fuego does not disappoint, and they currently rank in the top 5 Mexican restaurants in Columbus with an astounding rating of 4.8 stars out 5 stars.

Even if you do not like Mexican food, you must try Fuego. Their name is becoming popular in town, and I want you to become a part of something big.

Soon, they will grow into an exceptionally successful business, and I do not want to say, 'I told you so,' but watch, it is going to happen.



KADE WIESE / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**A family of three stand in line as they order their burritos at Fuego Mexican Grill in Columbus. Fuego is located south of Wendy's and next door to Subway.**

# Streaming ruins movie tradition

By Ava Kuhl  
Staff Reporter

The smell of freshly popped popcorn fills your nostrils, and displays of candy fuel your childish imagination as you buy a ticket to a new movie at your local theater. Fun, colorful carpet leads you to your theater, but as you sit down, you realize you are the only one at the showing for a movie critics have been raving about. Then you remember it is also streaming at home.

Movie theaters have been a timeless tradition for generations to provide fun first dates, family getaways, and even time to yourself. However, with the invention of streaming platforms at home, movie theaters are becoming an idea of the past.

Streaming platform companies such as Disney Plus, Hulu, and Netflix have been on the rise even before Covid-19.

Most people enjoy the idea of watching new movies from the comfort of their own homes. According to The New York Times, Disney Plus has gained at least 50 million paid subscribers during the five months of quarantine. Hulu has around

30 million in its years of streaming, and Netflix has a grand total of 167 million. However, during quarantine, movie theaters have been doing the opposite. One of the biggest movie theater companies, AMC Theaters, has lost between 2.1 and 2.4 billion dollars according to CNN. At this rate with movies going only on streaming platforms and not even showing in theaters, it would not be wrong to say theaters might become extinct.

Theaters should be showing new movies instead of them just being streamed at home. People should go to a theater because there is nothing that can replace the theater experience.

When thinking about going to a movie, the first thing someone probably thinks about is the popcorn. From experience (since I work at the local theater in Columbus), something about movie theater popcorn draws people in. I have even had customers tell me they only come for the popcorn and extra butter. During the pandemic when the movie theater was closed, we did popcorn sales to earn revenue, and they were a hit.

Another reason to come to the movies, especially since quarantine, is it is an



AVA KUHL / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Senior Katelyn Bayer sells tickets to a family at Center 7 Theaters in Columbus, NE. Quite a few Scotus students work at the theater including Bayer, senior Ava Kuhl, and junior Audrey Sprunk.**

excuse to leave the house. Everyone has been cooped up in their houses, but now with theaters opening back up, why not take an evening alone or with some friends to go to the theater and have a change of scenery?

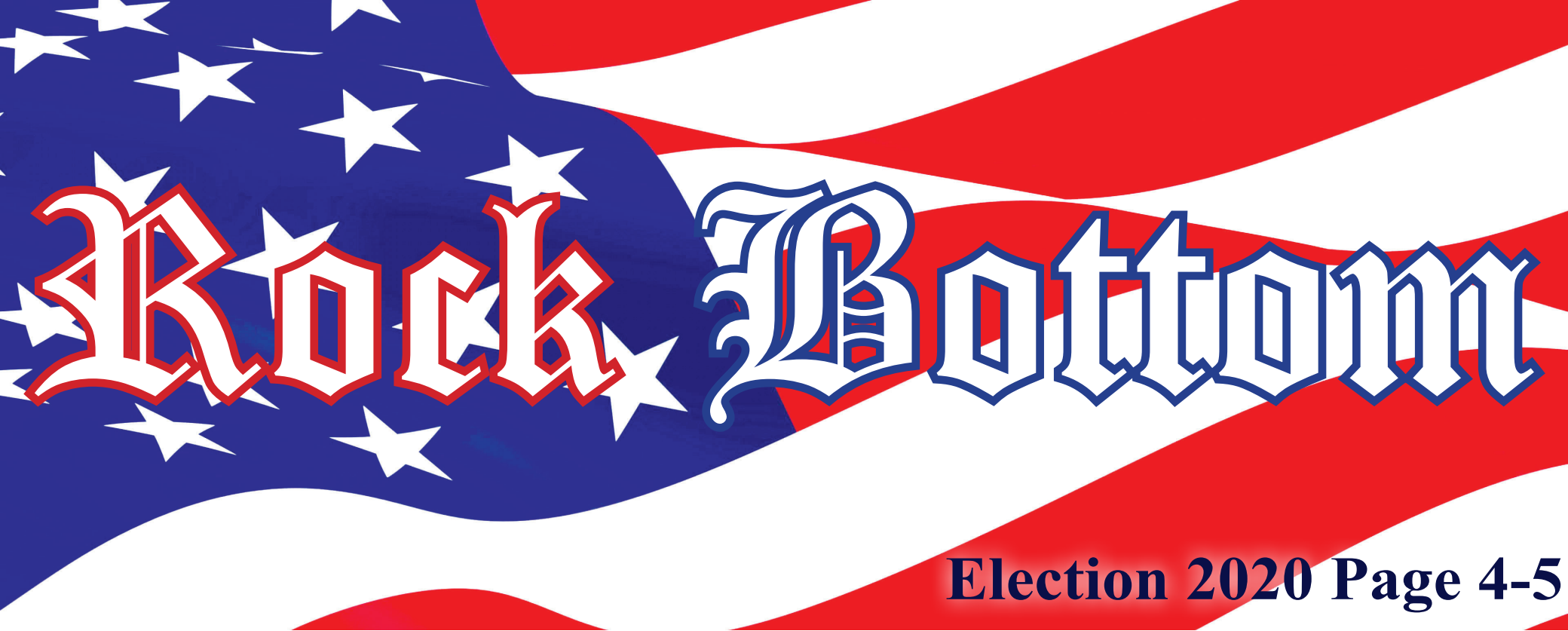
I do agree it is easier to watch a movie at home; it costs less, and at home the

pause button exists, but it does not change anything. Anyone can watch a movie at home and not have to deal with other people, but they might not actually watch the movie. There are far too many distractions at home. At the theater, it is just them watching a movie. As for cost, streaming platforms are

starting to charge for certain movies. One example would be the new *Mulan* on Disney Plus. It cost \$29.99 when a movie ticket, in Columbus at least, only costs \$9. I have nothing against the pause button, but if one pays to watch a movie, not having a pause button almost forces one to wait and watch the whole

movie. Movie theaters may be a dying art, but they are something people still enjoy. Without theaters what would you do on date night or a chill Friday with friends? So, go to a movie theater and enjoy a good movie, but don't forget the soda and popcorn.





# Students give voices to the voiceless

By Emily Ferguson  
Staff Reporter

According to the Guttmacher Institute for pro-choice research, 2,362 babies aborted a day, 98 aborted every hour. These startling statistics are what motivated students at Scotus to participate in the Life Chain.

On Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 130 Scotus students and members of the community lined the sidewalks on the corner of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Highway 30 for the Life Chain. The Life Chain is a national pro-life event held on the first Sunday of October, which enables people to peacefully gather and protest abortion. Angie Rusher, the sponsor for the Teens for Life at Scotus for the past four years, understands the impact and importance of every person in the fight against abortion.

“The Life Chain is a regular, organized way for us to stand up for the unborn. It is easy to go about life day to day, and even though we are pro-life, forget to do our part. Our prayer and demonstrations need to be intentional if we are going to have an impact,” Rusher said.

This year, Scotus students set a new record having 130 students attend and participate in the Life Chain. In past years, Scotus has only had about 40 to 70 students attend the Life Chain. The impressive number of students did not go unnoticed, especially by people who have attended the Life Chain for several years. Eighth grader Abby Schumacher has attended the Life Chain for the past three years and was amazed by the number of Scotus students who attended.

“The Life Chain impacted me personally this year by giving me a better view of how strong our school is. I was very surprised at how many students showed up this year! It is fantastic to go to a school that thinks abortion is terrible and disrespectful to human life,” Schumacher stated.

Each year, the Life Chain brings together hundreds of pro-life members in the Columbus community to stand united as one against abortion. For several students at Scotus, including seventh grader Josie Rother, this was their first time participating in the Life Chain, and they were shocked by the number of people who are pro-life in the community.

“I was amazed by how many people honked, waved, or showed support to us during the Life Chain. I didn’t think that so many people in Columbus supported pro-life,” Rother said.

However, not everyone in the Columbus community is pro-life, and there were a few people who gave their disapproval of the Life Chain. Sophomore Emma Lindhorst realized this fact after attending the Life Chain for her first time on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

See LIFE CHAIN, Page 2

# Chau’s Challenging Choice

Chau (Lily) Nguyen sacrifices going home in order to finish her senior year at Scotus.

By Camille Pelan  
Staff Reporter

In 2014, there was a record high of twelve foreign exchange students attending Scotus. Since 2014, Scotus has averaged about seven foreign exchange students each year. Due to a global pandemic, Scotus Central Catholic has only one foreign exchange student this school year. Her name is Chau Thi Minh Nguyen, or Lily, as many Scotus students know her.

Due to COVID-19, the government forced foreign exchange students to make a choice this sum-

mer whether to stay in the United States or go back home. Nguyen is the only returning Scotus foreign exchange student who decided to stay in the United States.

“My family and I struggle a lot, but they respect my decision,” Nguyen said. “At the summer, I start to get nervous and want to go home, but my country close the border, and I have no chance to go home.”

Fortunately for Nguyen, she was a foreign exchange student last year and is now much more comfortable with being at Scotus.

“Last year, I didn’t talk, I was quiet, I was terrified, and just want to fly back,” Nguyen said. “This

year, I have friends, they love me and I love them too. I also love the teachers, especially Mrs. Dusel.”

Nguyen was born and raised in Vietnam by her parents, Vinh and Anh Nguyen, and she has two siblings. She is currently living with her host parents, Alex and Kayla Heard, and their two children. Despite the tough situation the pandemic has put Nguyen in, she feels it has helped her grow closer to her host family.

“It was a very uncomfortable experience, but it helps me grow more and more,” Nguyen said. “Making decision, accept the risk, and know that my host family loves me a lot more than I think, and I

love them too.”

Because of COVID-19, Nguyen is still not able to travel back to Vietnam to see her family, so she relies on social media for communication.

“I call my family through social media. Some weeks, I call them everyday, but some times, three times a week to tell them about my life and make sure with them that I am okay, so they don’t feel worry.”

Her favorite part of being at Scotus is the wide variety of activities Scotus offers.

“You take video production; they’ll give you opportunity to take the camera. You’re senior, you’re interested in medical field, you want to improve, you can join in HOSA. You like act, join One Act.”

Since Nguyen came to the United States in late August 2019, she has gained a great amount of knowledge about this country.

“Since I come here, I start to care, start to ask about the history in the U.S. and what’s going on right now,” Nguyen said.

Through Nguyen’s experience at Scotus, she has made many valuable friendships, and she is grateful for everyone at Scotus who has helped her grow in her knowledge and faith.

“Through this, I want to say thank you to all people at Scotus. Thanks for showing me about God, prayer, and amazing people around God. Thanks for giving me strong faith in myself, teaching me and welcoming me to Scotus family.”

After high school, Nguyen plans on majoring in nursing and attending Central Community College for two years before transferring to the University of Nebraska at Kearney.



TANLEY MILLER / YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Lily Nguyen sits on the dock at Timberlake during the senior retreat in August. This summer, she was the only foreign exchange student who chose to remain in the United States due to COVID-19.

# Job shadowing fosters future plans

By Kade Wiese  
Staff Reporter

With the availability of having a career counselor this year, students at Scotus can set up job shadowing through the school.

Career counselor Bridget

McPhillips, believes having job shadowing through the school will give the students more opportunities to go and see what different jobs entail.

“Students have an idea about what they will want to do in the future, but until they go and see the daily routine of that specific job, they may not know if it is some-

thing they would enjoy,” McPhillips said.

With McPhillips solely taking on this job for the school, her time is now spent setting up job shadowing and helping students find interests in careers.

“I do all the hard work in regard to setting up job shadowing opportunities. I figure out what

companies allow job shadowing, the times and dates when they can go, and help them prepare what to ask and what to look for at the job shadow,” McPhillips explained.

With the opportunity of having someone like McPhillips help students with their future careers, the accessibility of obtaining a job shadow has become trouble-free.

“Setting up a job shadow is simple. Students just have to tell me their interests in a career, either in email or in person, and I’ll take it from there. The importance of having this opportunity is huge, and as a school, we are here to support you,” McPhillips said.

Since the start of the school year, ten students from the senior class have used this opportunity to go on several job shadows. Senior Ben Kamrath, who is hoping to follow a career path in agriculture, recently job shadowed at Central Valley Ag in Monroe to see what it was like at their grain elevator.

“I thought it was cool to see how all of the machines and employees worked together and how



TAYLOR DAHL / MARKETING DIRECTOR

Senior Olivia Klug is shown how computers at Central Valley Ag control droppers that release grain into rail carts. Klug is one of ten seniors who have gone on a job shadow this year.

See JOB SHADOW, Page 2



## LIFE CHAIN

"The Life Chain made me recognize that not everyone is going to agree with what you believe, but you must stand up for what you believe is right," Lindhorst said.

Since 1973, when the Supreme Court passed Roe v. Wade, which made abortion legal in the United States, over 61.8 million abortions have occurred in the United States alone according to the All American Life League organization. This number only includes medical and surgical abortions and does not include the estimated 610 million chemical abortions which have been occurring since 1963.

"It is so important we protect those who cannot protect themselves. The unborn are facing a mass genocide like we have never seen. We must stand up for our beliefs and speak up for the babies," senior Maddie Blaser stated.

The Life Chain is only the beginning for students at Scotus. Students will have several other op-

portunities this year to be witnesses against abortion and to stand up for life.

"We are currently participating in the 40 Days for Life Rosary. Also, since the archdiocese has decided not to attend the March for Life this year, we are hoping to schedule a day for students to pray at an abortion clinic this year. We are also hoping to attend the Nebraska Walk for Life in January," Rusher stated.

Unfortunately, Scotus students will not be able to attend the March for Life this year due to the coronavirus. This is disappointing for students, especially for Blaser who has attended the March for Life for the past three years. However, the desire in her for an end to abortion remains.

"It is very important to stand up for those who can't stand up for themselves. It is vital we protect the most vulnerable members of our society," Blaser said.

## JOB SHADOW

much technology actually goes into it," Kamrath said.

Senior Kamryn Chohon had a rather different job shadow that took place right here in town. She job shadowed Whitney Swanson at the Columbus Middle School to see what her life as a speech-language pathologist was like.

"My favorite part about the job shadow was watching her interact with her students and seeing how much of a change she is making in the students' lives," Chohon said.

McPhillips, who has only been doing this for four months, is already seeing some positive feedback and hopeful beginnings in some of her students, one of which is senior Simon Pichler.

"I job shadowed at Sandhills Global and took a tour of their campus to find out what I'd be doing in the future," Pichler said. "Without Mrs. McPhillips, I would have never known about the opportunity at Sandhills. Her father has recently

piloted the internship program I got into, and without her amazing help, I would have trouble finding a job right out of college."

This year, the administration has given the seniors and juniors two days to miss school to job shadow. This equates into eighteen full class periods.

"Technically, students can miss more than two days. For example, many of the students who have gone on a job shadow have only gone for a couple of periods. This still gives them about twelve to fifteen class periods to go on more job shadows. In turn, that's three more opportunities to go to other job shadowing opportunities," McPhillips explained.

Sophomores and freshmen, on

the other hand, only receive one day of job shadowing, which equals nine class periods.

"The sophomores and freshmen still get to take part in the opportunity to job shadow around town. The difference is they don't get as much time as the upperclassmen do," McPhillips said.

If you are wanting or hoping to go on a job shadow, email Mrs. McPhillips or visit her office in room 315.

"Reach out. You don't know what you don't know. The job shadowing experience will be positive in some way. You will get a better idea of what you want to do, or you will cross things off your list you won't want to do."



JOEL SCHUMACHER / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Juniors Chris Adame and Nick Ehlers participate at the Life Chain on October 4<sup>th</sup>. This year, Scotus students set a new record having 130 students attend the Life Chain.

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# Shamrocks rank their patriotism

By **Janae Rusher**  
Staff Reporter

Being a patriot can mean more than having a flag flying and following politics. The word patriot has a different meaning to many of the students at Scotus.

On a scale of one to ten, students ranked themselves around 6.5 on a school wide survey, 10 being most patriotic. This is because they either follow politics closely, do not agree with politics, or they love the freedom America gives.

"I definitely consider myself patriotic," junior Eden Broberg said. "I think that we are all beyond blessed to get to live in the beautiful country of America. We have so many rights and freedoms most countries are not allowed to have. It is amazing."

Many students agreed with this statement, but senior Noah Korth took his patriotism in a different direction.

"In many ways, America

paved the way for modern government," Korth said. "It inspired nations to become democratic. However, America is not the greatest country in the world; it has consistently failed to live up to its promise. The beauty of America is it continues to grow and develop."

Patriotism does not only affect the upperclassman, but it affects everyone as well as seventh grader Ryan Allen.

"I care a lot about my country," Allen said, "and I am very involved in politics. I am this way because I care about how my family, my faith, and my life are influenced by my country."

Scotus is full of patriots. In the past, many students have entered the military right after graduation and this year senior Sebastien Fritz will begin bootcamp for the Marines after he graduates.

"The Marines impact my patriotism," Fritz said. "I plan on serving this great country because I love the United States, and I want to protect it."

Alum Bryan Littlefield entered the military after graduation in 2018. Sophomore Paul Littlefield is his younger brother.

"I am patriotic because every single freedom we have was afforded to us by the sacrifice of others," Paul Littlefield said.

The military has done so much for the United States and the freedom of its people. Many students are proud to live in the land of the free like junior Tyler Stuart.

"Having a love for your country and enjoying where you live is vital to living as an American," Stuart said. "Who wouldn't want to be proud of where they come from? We are born and raised American."

Students such as junior Nathaniel Eisenmenger are glad to live in a free country, but they did not rank themselves high on the patriotic list for their own reasons.

"It depends on how you define patriotic," Eisenmenger said. "I don't go running around everywhere



RUBY MARTINEZ / YEARBOOK STAFF

Seniors **Janae Rusher, Shelby Bridger, Tanley Miller, and Kamryn Chohon** show off their patriotic spirit during homecoming week. Out of these four seniors, only Shelby Bridger was old enough to vote in the 2020 presidential election.

with an American flag jumpsuit, but I believe that this country and it's people deserve to have the freedoms of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

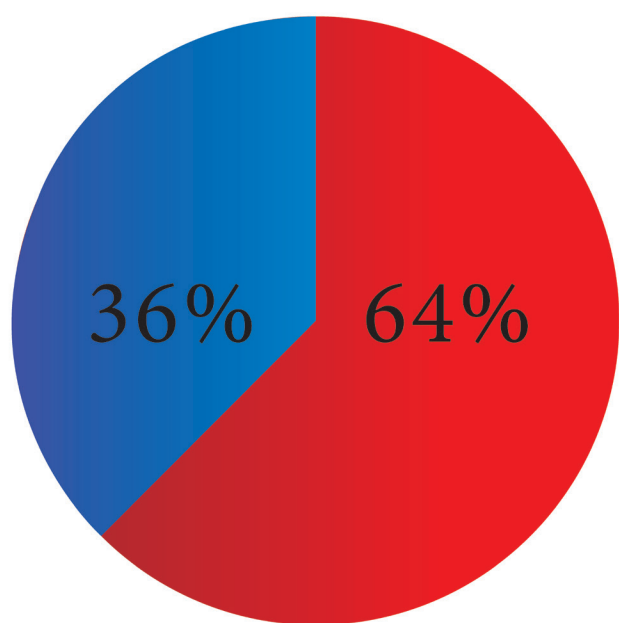
Even though only a small

percentage of Scotus can vote, students still appreciate their country and the freedoms they are given.

"I love my country," senior Ben Juarez said. "There are opportunities that

I am fortunate to have just by being in the United States. In other parts of the world, there are many underprivileged individuals who would rather be here than their home country."

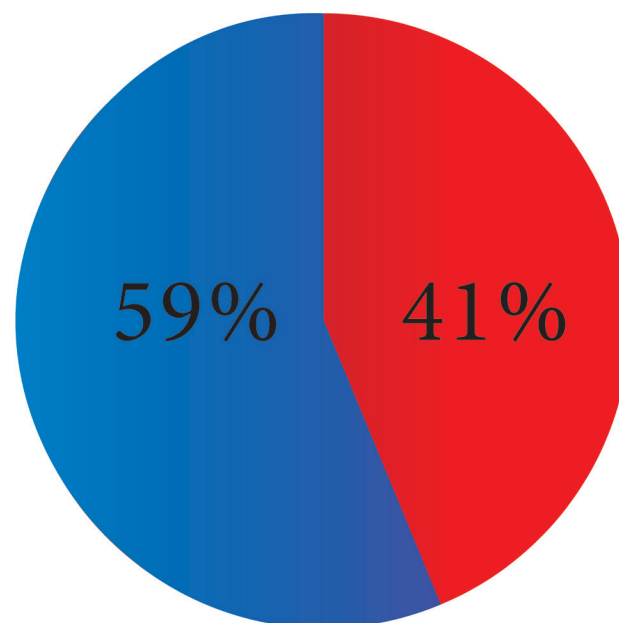
## Presidential Debate



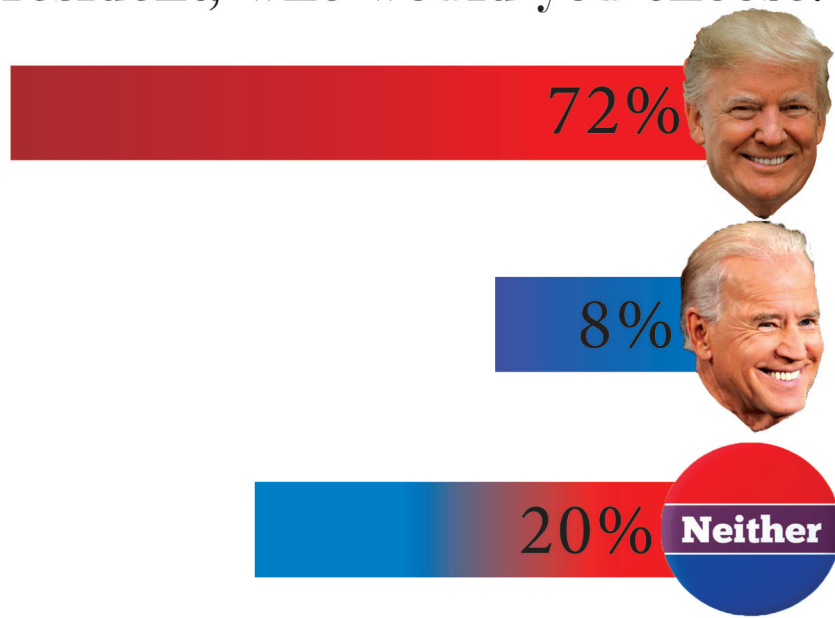
### Did you watch the debate?

■ Yes  
■ No

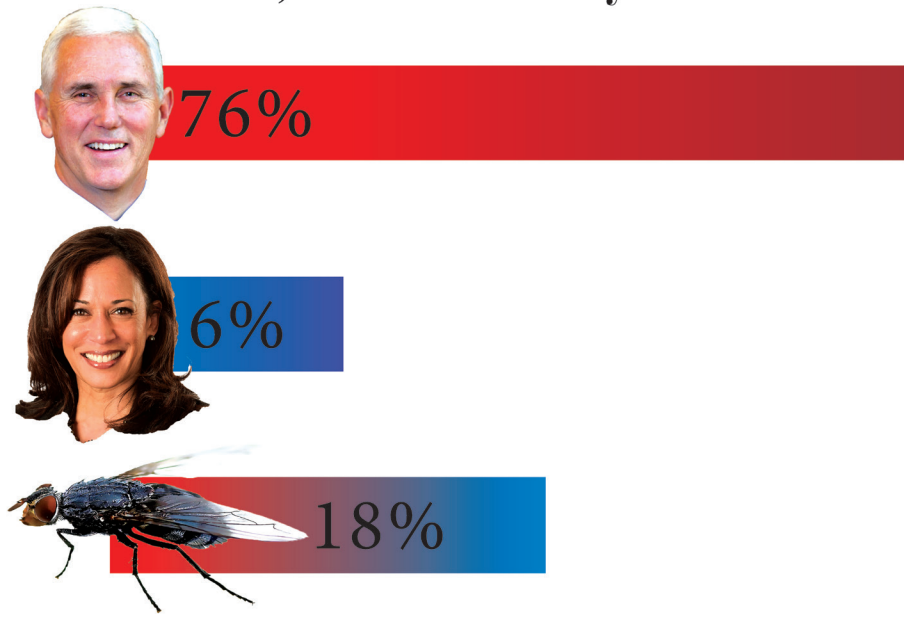
## Vice-Presidential Debate



If you could vote for a President, who would you choose?



If you could vote for a Vice President, who would you choose?



# Historically Close Elections

By **Ava Kuhl**  
Staff Reporter

And the 2020 president of the United States is...still unknown.

This year's election with President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden is a close one. However, this is not the first time something similar to this has happened. Throughout presidential history, the presidential candidates have had close outcomes leaving the country wondering who would lead the United States.

### Jefferson vs. Burr

The first time the election was close was the election of 1800 with Democratic-Republican Thomas Jefferson versus Democratic-Republican Aaron Burr. Back then, whoever won the election was president, but whoever placed second became the vice president. The political parties were Democratic-Republicans and Federalists. The 1800 election ended with a tie between Jefferson and Burr, thus having to be sent to the house of representatives. After months, Jefferson was declared president with Burr as vice. Many people saw this moment portrayed in the Broadway Musical *Hamilton* written by Lin-Manuel Miranda.

### Adams vs. Jackson

The election of 1824 with incumbent Democratic-Republican President Andrew Jackson and, son of former President John Adams, Democratic-Republican John Quincy Adams made history. William Crawford and Henry Clay were also in the running. Jackson dominated the popular vote, however, he was a few short of the majority vote in the electoral college. When no candidate wins a majority of the electoral votes, the House of Representatives votes for the President. Adams won in the end with the help of Henry Clay, allegedly, making Jackson the first president to win both the electoral and popular vote but lose the presidency.

### Cleveland vs. Harrison

The election of 1888 was corrupt and filled with questions. Incumbent Democratic President Grover Cleveland took the South with voters, and Republican Benjamin Harrison overtook the North and West. Because Cleveland had won the South, the popular vote was secure, but he lost in the electoral college 223-168. However, four years later, Cleveland returned and beat Harrison becoming the first president to serve two nonconsecutive terms.

### Truman vs. Dewey

The 1948 election in which Democratic President Harry S. Truman defeated Republican Thomas E. Dewey left the country dumbfounded. Truman went to bed that night thinking Dewey had beaten him. Even the *Chicago Daily Tribune's* distributed a paper with the famous headline "Dewey Defeats Truman." However, to everyone's surprise, Truman won by a comfortable lead leaving even Dewey confused and shocked.

### Bush vs. Gore

Elections ran smoothly for the next few decades until the election of 2000 with Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Vice President Al Gore. On the election night it was already close in three states: Oregon, New Mexico, and Florida. Gore won both Oregon and New Mexico, leaving Florida to decide the presidency. After a recount, Bush was declared the winner, and Gore sued saying not all the ballots were counted. In the end, Bush won the presidency.

### Trump vs. Clinton

What some say is the most surprising election was the 2016 presidential election. Contrary to the polls and what many believed, Republican Donald Trump beat Democrat Hillary Clinton even though Clinton dominated in the popular vote. However, Trump won in the electoral college 304 electoral votes to Clinton's 227, thus leading him to be the current President of the United States despite the odds.



# Teachers judge the election

By Kate Maguire  
Staff Reporter

The current election is a hot topic right now even though only 5% of the student body can vote. However, the teachers and staff are all able to vote and shared some of their views on this election.

School secretary Laurie Hergott summed up what many staff members said: politics have been reduced to nothing more than the candidates insulting each other and people starting fights over who is a better candidate.

"I'm tired of the candidates' personal attacks, name calling, disrespect for each other as candidates, and current or former government officials talking over each other. It's unfortunate that we've allowed the leadership of our country be reduced to what amounts to nothing more than a school yard fight," Hergott said.

Many staff members agreed elections are no longer over what is best for the country, but, rather which candidate can make their opponent sound worse. Theology teacher and head football coach Tyler Linder believes the same as Hergott.

"People at one time debated ideas. Now we have reality TV shows where the candidates get their reputations set on fire, and the one who comes out with the fewest burn marks wins," Linder said.

Staff members believed there were few deciding factors of who wins the election this year. Development director John Schueth felt this factor was quite straightforward.

"Very simple, which party will get enough of their voters to actually vote. It's a shame how many U.S. citizens do not exercise their right to vote," Schueth said.

According to *pewresearch.org*, only around 56% of Americans casted ballots in the 2016 election. That percent could decrease even more this election.

Not only is the number of voters who turn up an important factor, but so is social media. Social media influences elections in many ways.

STEAM teacher Betsy Rall noticed social media produces questionable allegations.

"Negative advertising has been proven to be effective, and it must be sorted. Much of what is said in negative ads needs to be questioned," Rall said.


Journalists on social media publish pictures or news without context. This causes people to immediately support or dislike a candidate. Elections focus more on candidates' personal or private lives rather than their intentions for the country.

Teachers and staff not only shared their thoughts on this year's election, but also elections of the past. Many staff members' most memorable elections were the first ones they could vote in. Religion teacher Kelly Koranda remembered her first elections, the 2008 elections, vividly.

"They were the first ones I could vote in. I remember I was in college, and I had to order an absentee ballot because I was out of state. I called my parents to ask them about some of the candidates and issues on the ballot, and I remember my mom wouldn't tell me any answers to my questions because she thought it was important for me to do my own research. I was frustrated at the time, but it was a great lesson in taking the elections seriously, to research each issue and candidate, and to think about how each issue fits into my own beliefs," Koranda said.


Guidance counselor Jill Brichacek summed up what many people are thinking about who will win this year's election between Joe Biden and Donald Trump.

"Whoever proves they are the lesser of the two idiots [will win]"




**MR. OHNOUTKA,  
PRESIDENT**

*[I would choose] Mr. Ohnoutka because he is awesome.*  
**Jacob Melliger, 11**



**MRS. JOHNSON,  
TEACHER**

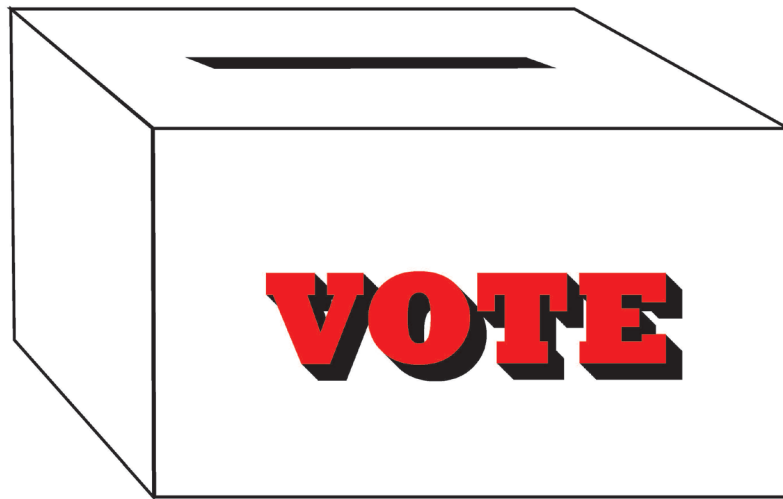
*I would pick Mrs. Johnson because she would initiate around the world for test reviewing in every classroom.*  
**Sofia Karges, 8**



**BENJAMIN  
JUAREZ  
MENDEZ,  
SENIOR**

*[I would choose] Ben Juarez because he is very informed on politics, and he has a lot of good ideas. He would take everyone's opinion into account and make our country great.*  
**Maddie Blaser, 12**

## Who would you choose from Scotus for President?





**CONOR ZOBEL-  
STEVENS,  
FRESHMAN**

*I know this sounds prideful, but I would recommend myself. I believe in a land without judgement except the judgement of God. This world has lost hope. We don't need to make America great again. We need to make ourselves greater so we can make America GREATER. We must stand for our beliefs. If we don't stand for our flag, then we have lost sight of who we are. So, let's show the people what America was made to be.*  
**Conor Zobel-Stevens, 9**



**TYLER STUART,  
JUNIOR**

*[Tyler Stuart] has been preparing to be president since he came out the womb.*  
**Zane Beiermann, 11**




**MIKE KRIENKE,  
7<sup>TH</sup> GRADER**

*I would pick Mike Krienke. I would pick him because he knows how to basically do anything. He is probably the only person who doesn't play games. He always works hard, helps others, and is a good sport whether he loses or not.*  
**Jameson Cieloha, 7**



**JASMINE  
JACKSON,  
SOPHOMORE**

*If I could choose one person from Scotus to run for president, it would be Jasmine Jackson. If you look at the sophomore class, we have some great candidates, but Jasmine has the charisma and organizational skills to put together both quite the campaign team and presidency. She is against abortion, and her actions would be greatly influenced by the Catholic way of teaching.*  
**Mark Buhman, 10**



**MR. MUSTARD,  
TEACHER**

*[I would choose] Mr. Mustard. He knows what is best for all of us.*  
**Isaac Dreher, 10**

# Brockhaus prepares generation of voters

By Emily Ferguson  
Staff Reporter

On the second floor of Scotus in room 206, a voice can often be heard at the beginning of each class period saying, "Good stuff today people, good stuff." This is Scotus's senior class Modern Government teacher Pat Brockhaus's classroom, and the discussions have been heating up with the presidential election right around the corner.

Mr. Brockhaus's thrilling and lively government class is one of the most unique classes at Scotus. It is a room where the atmosphere is always filled with discussion and debate about relevant topics happening in the world and America today.

"I love how deep we get into real American politics. There is no other class I've had before that is like it," senior Brennan Frewing said.

With the presidential election being a major topic this year, Mr. Brockhaus is focusing on teaching his senior government class about each candidate and the unique voting process this year. This was quite important since several members of the senior class were eligible to vote for the first time on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

"I want my students to be knowledgeable," Brockhaus stated. "It is hard now with social media because you get bombarded with so much stuff, so many political ideas and viewpoints. What are you supposed to believe? One side says this, and the other side says this. I want them to cut through the nonsense and get to the heart of it."

Every day at the beginning of class, Mr. Brockhaus goes through CNN's "5 things to know" for the day. This helps him inform his students about the election, mail in voting, and events that are happening around the world and in America. For many students in the



EMILY FERGUSON / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Government teacher Pat Brockhaus describes specific roles of the government to his class. Brockhaus teaches social sciences to juniors and seniors including government to the senior class.**

senior class, until they stepped into Mr. Brockhaus's classroom this year, they had never been interested in the election or what is happening in America.

"If it wasn't for Mr. Brockhaus's Government class, I would have no clue about what is going on politically in the United States right now," senior Camille Pelan said.

"I report, you decide." This is Mr. Brockhaus's motto when it comes to informing his students about each of the presidential candidates. Mr. Brockhaus believes it should be up to his students to decide whom they will vote for based on their own opinions and beliefs.

"I am not a big fan of either candidate, but there is good in each of them. My job is to give my students the information, and then we will yell and scream about it, and

they will make the final decision. In the end, it is their decision," Brockhaus said.

Several of the seniors, including Ava Kuhl, are thankful Mr. Brockhaus does not favor one candidate over the other and gives his students plenty of information about each candidate.

"Mr. Brockhaus has taught me to see both parties for the election. He never shows or is biased towards a particular party, and that helps me understand the election more," Kuhl said.

During the last few weeks in Government, the seniors have been watching the presidential and vice-presidential debates. This has helped the seniors to listen to each candidate's promises and ideas and to discuss and debate the points of each candidate.

"It was interesting watching the debates as a class because different people gave their input with different perspectives," senior Joel Schumacher stated.

Hopeful soon, America will have either the same or a new president in office. However, many seniors are considering a third option for president besides Trump or Biden: Mr. Brockhaus. Despite this, Mr. Brockhaus is not interested in leaving his job at Scotus and becoming president.

"No, I would not like to run for president, mainly because of the media. Some of the things I believe in are not media favorites. I am pro-life and not a big fan of the death penalty. If I was president, my Catholic faith would definitely be involved, and I do not think that is wrong," Brockhaus stated.



# Improvement impacts football

By Gavin Brabec  
Staff Reporter

After hard-fought wins and tough losses, the Shamrock football season has drawn to a close. Throughout the season the team learned to work together and communicate out on the field. They finished with a record of 4-5.

After the North Bend victory on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Shamrocks competed away against Schuyler on October 9<sup>th</sup>. With many touchdowns and a strong defense, they secured a huge win. Scorers included junior fullback Devon Borchers and senior quarterback Evan Bock with two touchdowns. Junior tight end Seth VunCannon, sophomore junior varsity quarterback Trenton Cielocha, and sophomore middle lineman Isaak Liebig all scored one touchdown. The big lead allowed the junior varsity to receive some playing time on the field. The final score was 55-15.

“Going into the Schuyler game, we had the confidence we needed to execute our

offense and defense well enough to pull off a win,” Borchers stated.

The Rocks then went on to play Boone Central at Memorial Stadium on October 16<sup>th</sup>. They led a decisive victory over the 3-4 team. Borchers showed his dominance on the field again with a total of 212 rushing yards and three touchdowns. The defense had three interceptions with junior wide receiver Garrett Oakley catching two of them.

“Against Boone we forced turnovers and established our run game which caused us to win the game,” senior wide receiver and defensive back Josh Faust said.

Moving on from the Boone Central win, the Shamrocks played their rival the Lakeview Vikings on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at Memorial Stadium. Bock was the lead scorer of the night scoring all three touchdowns. Borchers achieved 1,000 rushing yards during the game. With a struggle to defend against the Viking offense, the cold night ended in a loss with a final score of 20-28. Although it

was not how they wanted the season to end, there were some key takeaways from the game.

“Understandably we were disappointed in the loss, but we are not disappointed in our kids. They fought incredibly hard. The disappointment the boys had at the end of the game told me everything about this group. They care about Scotus football, and they care about playing as a team,” head coach Tyler Linder said.

This year was coach Jacob Duhey’s first year at Scotus and first year as an assistant coach for the football team. Before every game, he gave motivational speeches to the guys to get them excited for the game ahead. He helped coach the whole team but more specifically the running backs.

“The athletes really sparked a fire in me that I didn’t know was ready to be sparked since the last time I stepped off the field. We formed an identity for ourselves and stopped holding onto the previous seasons’ successes,” Duhey said.



GAVIN BRABEC / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Junior fullback Devon Borchers runs the ball in the Boone Central game at Memorial Stadium on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The Shamrocks defeated Boone Central 41-20.**

Now that the season has come to an end, the team looks back on their performance and how they improved over the course of the season.

“I think our underclassmen helped us to improve over the second half of the season. They helped prepare us during the week and

played key roles on Friday nights,” Faust stated.

Another factor influenced the improvement of the team as the season went on. They grew a closer bond which improved their game.

“We gained chemistry and found what our weaknesses were and tried to play through them,” junior wide

receiver Chance Bailey said.

Borchers concluded, “Our season did not go exactly how we wanted, but we have to learn from it and come ready to work and prepare well in the off season. We had some rewarding moments and took note of things to improve on for the next season.”

# Cross country finishes with mixed emotions

By Noah Korth  
Staff Reporter

The boys’ and girls’ cross country teams had varying expectations for themselves as they ran at the

district and state competitions this year. However, prospects do not always come true, especially in cross country.

The outcome of districts was bittersweet for the boys as they placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and fulfilling for the girls as they placed

3<sup>rd</sup>. Senior Michael Gasper led the boys’ team at state, placing 8<sup>th</sup> individually at the district meet.

“We expected to qualify for state as a team fairly easily,” Gasper said. “Our goal was to win our district, and

we knew that it was achievable.”

Even though the boys knew their goal was reachable, they were surprised and disappointed when Pierce overcame them at the district meet.

“We ended up losing to Pierce by four points,” senior runner Ben Juarez Mendez said. “They ran very well that day. Although we were not satisfied with our results, it motivated us to beat them at state.”

In contrast, the girls’ team was pleased with the results from districts after they placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and qualified for state. Senior Olivia Fehringer led the charge for the girls, placing 4<sup>th</sup>.

“My goal for districts for the team was qualifying for state. We did just that,” Fehringer said. “My goal as an individual was placing top five in our district. I placed 4<sup>th</sup>, so I was happy about the results.”

Regardless of goals met and failed, both teams earned a coveted spot at the Class C state meet in Kearney. This

time, the boys were hoping to redeem themselves.

“My expectation and the team’s expectation for us at state was to get top five as a team,” senior runner Ross Thorson said. “A main goal and very reasonable goal for us was to bring home a trophy by placing 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>.”

Likewise, the girls were ready to give it their all at the state meet. Senior runner Emily Ferguson had especially ambitious goals for herself.

“My goal for state was to run my fastest 5k ever,” Ferguson said. “This was my first time running at state and also my last meet, and I wanted to leave it all out on the course.”

Despite the momentous determination of both teams, they did not get the overall results they were looking for. Perhaps this was due to the nasty weather; the runners had to work around a chilling high of 35° F in addition to high winds. The boys’ team placed 7<sup>th</sup> at the state meet, and they were a mere twelve points away from clinching second place. Gasper was

the top Scotus runner for the boys, finishing in 19<sup>th</sup> place. The girls’ team finished in 11<sup>th</sup> place. Their top runner was Fehringer, who finished in 16<sup>th</sup> place.

“I am bittersweet about my performance at state,” Fehringer said. “I broke the Scotus record on the course, but I was one away from placing. I was happy for the team because all of us girls ran our best times on the course, but the results were not what we wanted. State was cold and windy, but we tried to fight against the odds.”

Even though the teams did not quite meet their expectations for themselves at the end of the season, the seniors are still taking away important lessons the sport has taught them.

“Over the past six years, cross country has not only made me a better runner, but it has also shaped who I am today,” Juarez said. “It has taught me hard work and discipline and has helped me build long-lasting relationships.”



AVA KUHLL / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Scotus runner senior Olivia Fehringer maintains a steady lead in front of a group of girls at state. Fehringer broke the Scotus record on the course and placed 16<sup>th</sup>.**

# Girls’ golf grows together

By Joel Schumacher  
Staff Reporter

With the 2020 season under wrap, this year’s girls’ golf team finished a run at state despite being a young group of golfers.

Being comprised of mostly sophomores and freshmen, Jaelyn Podolak was the sole senior along with juniors Alaina Dierman and Abee Hutchinson as the only varsity returners.

Leading the way was head coach Tanya Niedbalski, who thought the team performed well under difficult circumstances.

“We had our ups and downs throughout the short season. One of the ups was winning the Lakeview Invite where we shot a 361. Winning the Centennial Conference Tournament shooting a 372 was big for us as well as qualifying for the State Tournament. Some downs were the cancellation of the Fullerton Invite because of COVID-19 and losing Alaina Dierman

for the Scotus Invite and Districts because of COVID-19 quarantine,” Niedbalski said.

The Shamrocks understood district play was a critical challenge for potential post season play. A challenge that was undertaken by a team dominated with new players missing one of its veteran players.

“Districts was a concern for us; not having Alaina, playing on an unfamiliar course, and having only one player with postseason experience caused some tense moments. Our main concern was whether our play was strong enough for state. We weren’t thinking about winning at this point. We just wanted to qualify for state,” Niedbalski said.

Despite the adversity, Niedbalski was excited and realistic about the opportunity of competing at state.

“We didn’t really go in with a lot of expectations. We wanted to play well of course, but three of the five girls had never played at state before, so this was all new

to them. I thought our team placing was respectable. We had bounced around between 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> places all day on day two. It wasn’t our best performance of the season, but we didn’t fall apart or give anything away. We gained valuable experience for next year as four of the five golfers [will] return.”

With such a young team competing in the state tournament, Niedbalski said freshman Cecilia Arndt was a bright spot throughout the 2020 season.

“Cecilia came with her game face on and was ready to play every meet. She showed by example what hard work can accomplish. She tied the school record of 74, set by Jacy Gasper her senior year, at the Scotus Invite.”

Arndt agreed with her coach’s assessment of her 2020 performance.

“I think the season went really well; I medaled in all of the meets and the team really bonded throughout the year.”



TAYLOR DAHL / MARKETING DIRECTOR

**The Shamrock golf team poses for a picture after completing the Quail Run Invitational. Pictured here are (top row) Ella Nahorny, Samantha Johnston, Emma Lindhorst, Lauren Houfek, Makenna Barels, Cecilia Arndt, Abee Hutchinson, Jaelyn Podolak, Alaina Dierman, (bottom row) Kaitlyn Fleming, Kalee Ternus, Shay Smith, and Olivia Ehlers.**

Senior golfer Jaelyn Podolak also believed team bonding was a constant experience throughout the season.

“The golf season went very well, and I am so proud of everyone on the team because we all improved

our game as the season went on! [I] loved everyone on the team and how we all got along and helped each other out through the whole season.”

In conclusion, Niedbalski said the future looks bright

for the Shamrock golf team.

“We have all but one of our players returning next season. With time put in over the summer months practicing and playing, we have the opportunity to see success on the golf course next year.”



# Shamrocks fight until the end

By Cassie Kouma  
Editor

Despite the ups and downs of the season, the Shamrock volleyball team persevered until their last set. The girls faced challenges such as injuries, COVID-19 illnesses, and skilled opponents.

Junior Grace Mustard played both outside and right side during the season.

"We had people out for weeks at a time which forced different people into different positions causing us to change line ups just about every week," Mustard said.

Through all of this, the girls played on. The Centennial Conference Tournament brought the Shamrocks both successes and short comings. On October 8<sup>th</sup>, they had wins over Bishop Neumann and Omaha Concordia.

Junior Kate Maguire

was the starting libero for the Shamrocks.

"We blocked really well and kept the ball in play by hitting smart shots. We also passed really well which helped us run a multiple offense," Maguire stated.

The Shamrocks then lost to Archbishop Bergan 0-2 on October 10<sup>th</sup>. They were also beat by Kearney Catholic 1-2, but the tournament closed with a 2-0 win against Hastings St. Cecilia.

The Centennial Conference Tournament was followed by a handful of individual matches. October 13<sup>th</sup> resulted in a 1-3 loss to Grand Island Central Catholic who ended the season with a record of 24-3. The Shamrocks then lost to Bishop Neumann 0-3 on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Another defeat of 0-3 occurred on October 20<sup>th</sup> against Hastings St. Cecilia, a team with a 23-9 record.

A high stakes game

against David City brought a 3-1 win for the Shamrocks on October 26<sup>th</sup>. This victory allowed the team to stay in the Subdistrict C-1 Tournament which would wrap up the volleyball season. The next day, on October 27<sup>th</sup>, the Shamrocks fought to keep their season going. They faced off against Lakeview, a team with an impressive 25-5 regular season record.

"We didn't show up scared even though we were the underdogs," junior Makenna Svehla, a defensive specialist for the outside hitters, explained.

The Shamrocks fought hard during the first set with a close outcome of 30-32. After that, the two rival Columbus teams had three more close sets.

"Some calls didn't go our way, but we kept playing and knew we needed to put up a good fight," Svehla said.

The score of the second

set was 23-25. The Shamrocks then won the third set 25-23, but Lakeview won the final set with a score of 20-25. This was an unexpectedly close game considering how well Lakeview's season was going.

"One thing that helped to battle such close sets with Lakeview was the momentum we had from the night before playing David City. We had such high energy, and we were having fun," Mustard shared.

This loss ended the season for the Shamrocks with a 12-13 record.

"We played our hearts out. Our effort was there, we just didn't finish," junior Chloe Walker, an outside and middle hitter, said.

Looking back, senior outside hitter Tanley Miller remarked, "I was very proud of us and our season. We had a lot of ups and downs, but we got through them."



KEIRA FEEHAN / YEARBOOK STAFF

**Senior setter Kamryn Chohon serves the volleyball during the Shamrocks' final game against Lakeview. The Shamrocks lost in a close battle that lasted four sets.**

# Softball girls end the season with a swing

By Vijay Wemhoff  
Staff Reporter

The softball girls season had many difficulties this year. From being healthy to having to quarantine for two

weeks.

Senior Camille Pelan has been on the softball team for two years. She was a captain both years, and she plays left field.

"We overcame a lot of adversity this season, including injuries and having

two weeks off because of COVID-19," Pelan said.

Junior Halle Langan has been on the softball team for two years now. She plays second base and is a pitcher.

"The most memorable game was Lincoln North East. While I was pitching

that game, one of the girls batting hit a foul ball. The end of her bat broke off and almost hit me," Langan said.

The team won six games this season. They had even more games they felt they played great and worked hard in.

"The most memorable game was when we beat North Platte in one of the Lincoln tournaments. We beat North Platte in extra innings. We played our hearts out, and it was our best game of the year. North Platte ended up placing second at state, and we beat them. That just shows how good we were when we played our best," Pelan said.

Junior Callie Backman is in her first year of softball. She plays first base. Even though it is the end of the season, the juniors still have another year to keep improving.

"The season didn't go the way we wanted it to. We have diverse struggles to fix before next year, but I feel it was not a bad season. We just

need to find gaps in the fields with our hits," Backman said.

The team was quarantined at the beginning of September and had to cancel three games. After being quarantined, the team had to get back on track, but there were struggles that came with it.

"Our biggest struggle was consistency. We would have a few good innings in a row, and then we would have one rough inning that would cost us the rest of the game. Our record does not define who we are as a team. It is always tough playing Class A teams because most girls are one-sport athletes who only focus on softball," Pelan said.

The girls improved a lot this year from last year. Before having three games get canceled, they had won four games in a row. One of the games that was canceled was Lincoln Northeast, and they ended up beating them later in the season.

"One of the biggest improvements this year was definitely our trust in each

other," Backman said.

The team was constantly looking for things to improve and work on throughout the season.

"The team improved most on our wins from last year. We won two games last year, and this year we won six, which is a vast improvement. Also, we did not get run ruled as much as we did last year, and we could compete with Class A teams," Langan said.

The softball girls worked hard this season and made many improvements from last year. They ended their season on a good note.

"I am proud of how hard we worked as a team this season. Even though we did not get as many wins as we would have liked to, we were constantly fighting to prove who we were and never gave up. We competed with some top teams. We even beat the Class A state runner-up. I would not have wanted to take on this season with anyone else," Pelan said.



KEIRA FEEHAN / YEARBOOK STAFF

**Senior Camille Pelan looks to catch a pop fly in a game against Lincoln Southeast at Gerrard Park. The Discoverers played a double header and lost both games with scores of 5-15 and 2-17.**

# More photos from fall sports



GAVIN BRABEC / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Junior Garrett Oakley carries the ball down Memorial Field in the Boone Central game on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Oakley had two interceptions during the game.**



AVA KUHL / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Scotus runners Michael Gasper, Nicolas Schultz, Ben Juarez Mendez, Caleb Schumacher, Ross Thorson, and Jude Maguire prepare to start the Kearney course at state. The boys' top runner was Gasper, placing 19<sup>th</sup>.**



KATELYN BAYER / YEARBOOK STAFF

**Juniors Grace Mustard and Berlin Kluever and senior Tanley Miller celebrate winning a point against Lakeview. The Shamrock volleyball team ended the season with a 12-13 record.**



KEIRA FEEHAN / YEARBOOK STAFF

**Junior Halle Langan pitches the ball to her opponent in a game against Lincoln High. The Discoverers played a double header and won both games 16-5 and 10-0.**



# Harvest season hits home

By Grace Mustard  
Staff Reporter

Whether you value the beauty, or wonder when there will be anything to look at other than green crop, driving outside of any Nebraska town you will find endless fields, so it is no surprise harvest season is such an important time.

Many Shamrock students and their families are involved in and even depend on this time of year. Harvest season can vary beginning in September and usually ending in late October or early November. This year it ended in October for most families.

Depending on how involved an individual or their family is, the time spent in the field varies. As Scotus students, many help in the field after school or on the weekends. All this work can take a toll on family time.

Senior Kade Wiese and his family farm land five miles north of Clarkson, Nebraska.

“When I go out there, I usually spend about fifteen

hours out on the field. My dad is harvesting about seventeen hours a day, six days of the week. Then on the seventh day (usually Sunday), he maybe works about six hours,” Wiese said.

All this time working has many effects on family life. Many students do not see family members because of the long hours in the field. Eighth grader Callen Jedlicka and his family farm land north of town near Leigh, Nebraska.

“The best part about harvest is when I am out there, I get to stay late and hangout with my cousin,” Jedlicka said. “The worst part about harvest is my dad is not home till very late every night.”

Despite the hours in the field, not all effects are negative. Some families gain more time together working. Junior Jacob Melliger grows corn and soybeans, raises cattle, and more on their land southeast of town.

“Harvest makes me spend more time with my dad and grandpa, and the little

kids come to ride with me,” Melliger said.

In the farming community, there are common themes and a certain “buzz” about the progress each year.

“It was a very dry year this year. We had an amazing planting season, but the harvest season came early and was not what we hoped for,” Wiese added.

The lack of moisture in the land had major impact in this year’s harvest. Other news has been how good the yield was if the land was kept watered.

Although it happens every year and can be time-consuming for many, it is usually exciting for those involved. Senior Ben Kamrath has farmland twelve miles southwest of town where they grow corn, soybeans, and raise livestock.

“I am always excited about harvest. There is nothing better than sitting in a tractor all day and running the grain cart,” Kamrath remarked.

Harvest is a family



PHOTO COURTESY JULIE KREIKEMEIER

**Freshman Eli Kreikemeier poses with his family in their combine. The Kreike-meiers farm land south of Columbus.**

event, and some families even have traditions along with it. Some involve food or an annual task they carry out. Freshman Eli Kreikemeier and his family farm land south of town.

“My grandma makes homemade meals every day

and brings them out to us,” Kreikemeier said.

Scotus guidance counselor or Jill Brichacek grew up on a farm north of Schuyler. She makes a trip home almost every weekend during harvest season to help out.

“Harvest is kind of

just like the closing chapter of a very long season of working hard and preparing everything. You get that end result, and whether it’s what you wanted or not, you learn something from it,” Brichacek concluded.

# Screeners tackle COVID-19

By Kate Maguire  
Staff Reporter

“This whole pandemic is a scam and a joke.”

Senior Kade Wiese was told this while screening people for COVID-19 at the YMCA. Apparently, it’s not an uncommon phrase that is

heard while screening.

“People are either paranoid of the virus or think it doesn’t exist,” Wiese said.

Wiese is one of a few Scotus students who screen around town on the weekends through the hospital. He has been a screener for roughly four months dating back to July. Some locations screen-

ers are positioned at are the YMCA, hospital, doctor’s office, courthouse, and BD construction.

Wiese screens at the YMCA on Saturday and the hospital on Sunday. Screening is a new job that was instituted because of COVID-19.

People who work any-

where or have gone to the doctor recently have probably experienced being screened. Senior Janae Rusher has been a screener at the YMCA since August. She explained what screening consists of.

“We ask three to four-questions regarding exposure to COVID-19 and symptoms people might have, then we take their temperatures,” Rusher said.

Screeners have all experienced screening a high temperature or someone answering “yes” to one of the questions. When this happens, they are trained on how to handle the situation.

“If someone answers yes to a question, we have a follow up question. Every question has a follow up question such as the question, ‘Have you taken any fever reducing medication in the last 12 hours?’ If they answer yes, we ask them if it is for chronic pain or something unrelated to a fever. Hopefully, they say it is normal, and then they are free to go,” Rusher said.

Screening is not a job people can just walk into. Screeners need to be calm in a situation when someone answers “yes” to a question

or be prepared for people to react to them. Senior Olivia Klug has been screening at the YMCA and hospital ER entrance since July.

“One time a person yelled at me and then started crying,” Klug said.

Senior Maddie Blaser has been a screener since July and screens at the YMCA on Saturdays and at the employee entrance at the hospital. She shared a similar experience where someone yelled at her while she was on the job.

“I have had someone yell at me about how COVID-19 is all a joke and how the government is training us to be used to getting scanned all the time. He also said we were ruining the development of our children by forcing them to wear a mask because they can’t see facial expressions. He called face masks muzzles,” Blaser said.

People aren’t constantly coming in and out of the buildings so this allows for the screeners to have some down time.

“My coworkers and I have a competition where we see how hot we can get our hands. I hold the record with a temperature of 106.4 degrees Fahrenheit!” Wiese

said.

Even though screeners may enjoy playing games and having down time when they are not busy, they understand the importance of their job.

Brennan Frewing was a screener from April to August. He, along with fellow senior Josh Faust, were part of the first set of screeners. Frewing explained that being a screener has made him more aware that the job helps maintain a healthy environment.

“It has definitely made me realize how important it is for these companies to keep their workers healthy. If one worker contracts COVID-19, then a whole shift might not be able to work for a while causing the business to lose a ton of money,” Frewing said.

The hospital is still advertising for screeners. The only requirement is the person must be at least seventeen. However, there is an intense physical and health test a person needs to go through to get the job. The test is done through the hospital, and a person must be in decent shape and health in order to be a screener.



KADE WIESE / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Senior Maddie Blaser screens a young basketball player on her way into the YMCA. Screening was a new job that was instituted because of COVID-19 to help maintain a healthy environment.**

# Jobs bring escape for students

By Janae Rusher  
Staff Reporter

Students at Scotus are involved in many extracurricular activities, but they are also involved in their own jobs. Students have jobs at Hy-Vee, daycares, the hospital, restaurants, and many other places.

In a survey, students gave their jobs approximately a 4-star rating out of five, and some would go as far to say they love their jobs. Senior Ava Kuhl works at the Columbus movie theater.

“I love my job!” Kuhl said, “I am fascinated with the movie industry and knew they had flexible hours. Plus, you get to go to movies for free; who would not love that!?”

Kuhl works at the movie theater with senior Katelyn Bayer and junior Audrey

Sprunk. Scotus students work in many different environments. Senior Lizzie Parker works at Saint Isidore’s Daycare.

“I enjoy working with the kids at the daycare,” Parker said, “but I don’t love the hours. The daycare is only open until 5:30, so I typically only work an hour or an hour and a half each day.”

Finding good hours is hard when Scotus students are involved in so many extracurriculars as well as having homework. While senior Keira Feehan loves her job at Runza, she has seen the bad side of having a job in high school in her own life.

“Some of the cons are having to give up time and activities to work and having a flexible schedule for the company to work around,” Feehan said. “Depending on where you work, some of the shifts can get long as well, and being scheduled the night

before a big test or when you have a lot of homework can be stressful.”

Many students have found having a job will help time management skills but can be overwhelming at times. Senior Michaela Kresha is a C.N.A. at Brookstone Acres and has been for a year.

“I like working during the school year because I have extra money to do things,” Kresha said, “but it can be stressful. If I pick up a shift on a weeknight, I will not get home till late to finish homework. Then it can be hard to balance my life, but overall, I like my job.”

School itself can be overwhelming at times, and it is nice to have an activity in your off season. Junior Alaina Dierman works at Scooters.

“The main pro of having a job during school is it gives me something to do other



JANAIE RUSHER / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Senior Gillian Brandt fills out an online shopping order at Hy-Vee. Brandt is one of over twenty Scotus students who work at Hy-Vee.**

than school,” Dierman said. “I love being able to work before school too because I get to start my day doing something I love! The only con I would say is the aftereffects of being tired, but, honestly, I

would be tired anyway!”

While jobs are tiring, they can be helpful for students’ futures, can be a way to do something they enjoy, and can be a way to make new friends. Senior Nick

Schultz works at Evan Troffholz Turf Management.

“I love my job,” Schultz said, “I am able to enjoy the outdoors, and I like what I am doing.”



# Shamrocks serve the community

By Ava Kuhl  
Staff Reporter

Service is an important concept most people are taught from an early age. When we are little, we are taught to help those in need and give back to the community.

At Scotus, it is required for students to collect a particular amount of service hours before they graduate.

Many seniors this year have contributed by doing some sort of service project for the community, anything from a blood drive with the American Red Cross to painting the walls of Scotus.

The American Red Cross has helped students obtain their service hours at Scotus. Senior Ben Kamarath, and many other seniors, have helped coordinate blood drives. Volunteering for blood drives has taught students the ins and outs of how a blood drive works.

"I hosted a blood drive with Kade Wiese and Ben

Juarez. It was fun, and we had a very productive blood drive," Kamarath said. "We had to call lots of people and coordinate with the American Red Cross. I would recommend doing it [as a service project] for underclassmen."

Some juniors this year have already started their service projects. Junior Emiliano Rodriguez is one of the students helping Mrs. Cox for his service project.

"This year I am working on a service project for band. I cut out pep band music for next year's freshmen," Rodriguez said. "I did the band service project because, one day in class, Mrs. Cox said she needed help with pep band music, and my friends and I decided to help with the project."

Some service projects are used to prepare students for what their futures may look like. Senior Kaden Young helped athletic trainer Andrew this fall as an athletic trainer assistant.

"For my service project, I became Andrew's aide

for football games and for some winter sport activities," Young explained. "I went to the football games I could and helped along the sidelines wherever help was needed. Whenever there was an injury, I would run onto the field with Andrew to learn how to deal with the specific injury that had taken place."

A few students go beyond the call of service and do many service projects. Senior Clarissa Kosch has done three in total throughout her years at Scotus. One of her service projects is helping and being the co-president of the Shepherd's Program.

"For my service project, I am a co-president of the Shepherd's Program along with Shelby Bridger," Kosch said. "We meet with Mrs. Ohnoutka several times [throughout the year] along with staying in communication with Mrs. Ritzdorf in order to organize some events we want to do [for the seventh graders]."

Students try to incorporate their talents into their service projects. Senior Keira



ANGIE RUSHER / JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Junior Kate Maguire shares a donut with seventh graders Kate Hendricks, Sydney Stuart, and Josie Rother. The Shepherd's Program put together a breakfast for the seventh graders to talk to the upperclassmen on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Feehan is doing a mural on the third floor for the STEAM lab.

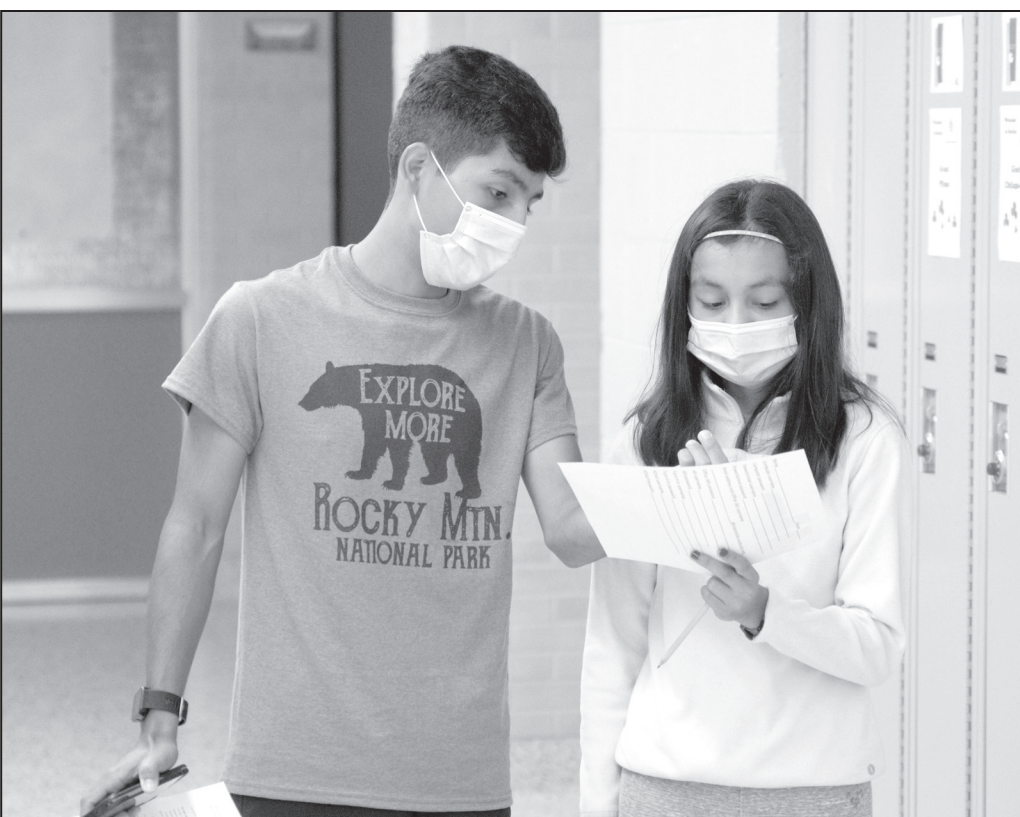
"There is a lot of planning that goes into art projects, and working with others can be challenging and rewarding," Feehan said. "I also like that I am creating a

large piece of art and leaving my mark on Scotus."

As students look for ways to complete their service projects, they also give back to the community from which most were raised.

"Service projects are great! I have been a part of

three, and each has been rewarding in a different way," Kosch stated. "I encourage students to do at least one, and do a project you enjoy and are interested in. This way the project doesn't even feel like work."



ANGIE RUSHER / JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Seventh grader Brisa Juarez Mendez gets her schedule sorted with the help of her brother, senior Benjamin Juarez Mendez. Scotus students, organized by the Shepherd's Program, helped show incoming seventh graders around school on August 5<sup>th</sup>.



AVA KUHL / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Keira Feehan displays a picture of the mural she created on her iPad. Feehan is painting a mural on the third floor for the STEAM lab for her service project.

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# Celebrity legacies live on

By Gavin Brabec  
Staff Reporter

From wildfires in Australia, murder hornets in America, and a global pandemic, 2020 has brought many unfortunate events to our lives. Along with those tragedies, the untimely passing of iconic and influential celebrities profoundly impacted many lives.

We were ushered into the new year with the sudden death of basketball legend Kobe Bryant. Black Panther fans were shocked with the news of the passing of the lead Chadwick Boseman. Musician Eddie Van Halen was the most recent of the three, succumbing to cancer in early October.

Celebrities leave a profound impact on many peoples' lives throughout the world. The influence they have is present while they are alive, and their legacies live on after their passing.

During the span of his 20-year basketball career, Kobe Bryant left a great

impact on the game of basketball and influenced many lives around the world. On January 26<sup>th</sup>, Kobe, his daughter Gianna, and eight others were killed in a helicopter accident in California. In his outstanding basketball career, he received many awards including four NBA most valuable player awards and two Olympic gold medals. Off the court his presence in the community was prominent. He spoke to young children at events across the country, spreading positive messages and words of encouragement. We remember Kobe Bryant as a Laker giant. He should also be remembered for his charitable acts and speaking to youth. Kobe Bryant told them they can do anything they set their minds to and defy any odds.

Black Panther was a block-buster movie at the time of its release, making over a billion dollars at the box office and creating a movement for black actors and directors in Hollywood. The lead of the film, Chadwick Boseman, played the

role of the Black Panther. He inspired many children around the world as a superhero. Unfortunately, and unbeknownst to the general public, he had cancer and succumbed to it on August 28<sup>th</sup> of this year. Boseman's death was yet another tragedy to mark 2020. However, his legacy lives on in his work. By being a person of color and playing a superhero in a black-dominated Marvel movie, he influenced many children by teaching them anything can be done despite the color of your skin.

Eddie Van Halen led a life of rock and roll as a world-famous guitarist and band member of Van Halen. He is most known for his guitar solo in Michael Jackson's single "Beat It" and his hit song "Jump." His pioneering spirit invented a new guitar technique called tapping. In 2007, Van Halen was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. It is easy to dismiss Van Halen as any old punk, rock and roll artist, but by doing that, we would disregard the legacy and rep-



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**Celebrities Kobe Bryant, Chadwick Boseman, and Eddie Van Halen all passed away in 2020. Fans mourn their loss during this tragic year and carry on their legacies.**

utation of one of the greatest guitarists in rock and roll. His legacy lives on through his music as it has inspired and continues to inspire many guitarists to this day.

Along with any person, celebrities make mistakes

they are not proud of. However, they grew as people and found themselves in the kind works they performed. We should remember them for the positive roles they played in our society.

Deaths of celebrities

greatly impact any group of people that were fond of them. Kobe's basketball fans, Chadwick's young movie-watchers, and Eddie's future guitarists all have one thing in common. They carry on their positive legacies.

# Nebraska needs Husker football

By Camille Pelan  
Staff Reporter

"Goooo! Biiiiig! Reeced! Go Big Red!" "There is no place like Nebraska, Dear old Nebraska U!"

These are the types of chants ringing not just inside of Memorial Stadium on Saturdays in Lincoln, Nebraska during the fall, but ringing throughout the whole state of Nebraska.

This year, it did not

look like these cheers would be sung or heard due to the spread of an unfortunate virus known as COVID-19.

On August 11<sup>th</sup>, Nebraska football fans heard the worst news their ears could possibly endure: no Nebraska

football this fall.

At first, this news was meaningless to me. I am a 17-year-old senior girl. Why should I care about Husker football?

There were many people I knew, specifically men, who were not happy with this decision, and my little brothers were devastated. I did not understand why it was such a big deal. It is just football, right? Shouldn't the players and coaches at Nebraska be the only ones upset with this decision? Plus, Nebraska football has not had much success in the past few years, so I did not realize why so many people were upset.

Then it hit me. One September Saturday evening, I began to realize what I was missing.

I was sitting on my couch with nothing to do and nothing to watch on TV. Then and there, I realized that, whether I wanted to admit it or not, I missed Husker football.

Husker football is the one activity that brings the state of Nebraska together, whether it involves having Husker football parties with

friends or simply watching Husker games in the living room with family.

Husker football in the fall is also a big part of Nebraska students' college experience. On Husker football gamedays, the streets and parking lots near Memorial Stadium are lined with college students and Husker fans tailgating. Without Husker football in the fall, Nebraska students are left with nothing to entertain them on Saturdays.

Along with Nebraska college students, the whole state of Nebraska is also left with nothing to anticipate on Saturdays. It is not just about the football game itself, but it is about the excitement Nebraska football creates throughout the state.

Nothing beats Nebraska football parties. The endless amount of food, the sea of red, and the constant screaming cannot be beat. There is nothing better than hearing a group of old men shouting at the refs on the TV acting as if the refs can actually hear them.

After realizing how much the state of Nebraska

would be affected without having Husker football, it made me realize why so many Nebraskans were upset with the decision of cancelling fall Husker football.

Fortunately for all Nebraskans, though, this all changed about a month later.

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, the Big Ten reversed its decision and decided to move forward with a nine-week, nine-game fall season.

This decision was monumental for the state of Nebraska. Husker football is back!

The Huskers played their first two away games against Ohio State and Northwestern, and they play their first home game of the season this weekend against Penn State.

During the game this Saturday, take a moment to sit back and take in all the valuable moments Husker football is providing. Maybe, just maybe, if you are listening close enough, you may even be able to hear the chants and cheers ringing from Nebraska fans at Memorial Stadium celebrating the return of Husker football.



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**Head Coach Scott Frost leads the Nebraska football team out of the tunnel walk before a game last season. Frost was born and raised in Nebraska, and he played football for the Huskers in 1995.**

# The Haunting of Bly Manor brings new life to the horror genre

By Noah Korth  
Staff Reporter

Every year, spooky season introduces a new slew of frightening television shows and movies. With so many clichés and redundancies, fans of the horror industry are constantly searching for fresh content that meets their expectations. I, for one, am a horror snob, and I am particularly selective about the terrors I choose to haunt my dreams.

*The Haunting of Bly Manor* is the second installment in Netflix's *The Haunting* anthology series. Its predecessor, *The Haunting of Hill House*, instantly became a favorite among both audiences and critics. Horror fans have waited with bated breath for the second installment in the series, and it was finally released on October 9<sup>th</sup>. After a binge-watch session full of jump-scares, dread, and intense emotions, my

frightened and moved heart can testify that *The Haunting of Bly Manor* has successfully continued the legacy of the series in taking the horror genre to a new level of creativity and depth.

The main plot of *The Haunting of Bly Manor* is set in 1987 England. However, the show's narrator (Carla Gugino) tells the story to a wedding party 20 years later in 2007.

The narrator begins with the introduction of an au pair from America named Dani. Dani moves into Bly Manor in England hoping to make a difference in the lives of two orphans whom she was hired to care for. Dani quickly becomes acquainted with the residents and staff of Bly: housekeeper Hannah (T'Nia Miller), chef Owen (Rahul Kohli), gardener Jaime (Amelia Eve), 10-year-old Miles (Benjamin Ainsworth), and 8-year-old Flora (Amelie Bea Smith). It does not take long before Dani realizes that a malevo-

lent presence walks the halls of Bly Manor. The Lady of the Lake is the main poltergeist who haunts Bly, and her mysterious nature is perhaps what makes her so unsettling. The ghost's unnerving backstory is not revealed until late in the season.

Some of my favorite aspects of this series are the creative choices creator Mike Flanagan makes to give the ghosts more personality. In horror, poltergeists are often reduced to stereotypical demons or monsters.

In contrast, Flanagan dedicates entire episodes to provide depth to his supernatural characters. For example, in the penultimate episode of the season, audiences are subjected to the dark history of Bly Manor and its ghostly residents. Also, the ghosts of Bly do not always make their presence on screen obvious. Even in the most lighthearted scenes, hidden ghosts are sometimes positioned in the background. It takes a trained eye to notice such haunting

details.

There is something about this series that sets it apart from any horror creation I have ever watched. Beyond the horror, there are underlying themes and dynamics that captivate audiences to feel something besides a startle after a jump-scare. In both seasons of the series, grief was a particularly strong topic of importance. However, in *The Haunting of Bly Manor*, I noticed an overwhelming theme of love. After completing the season, I found that it was truly love that trapped so many souls to the confines of Bly Manor. When the narrator finishes telling the story to the wedding party, the bride corrects the story's genre. She tells the narrator that it is not a ghost story, but a love story.

Whether searching for a fright, a romance, or a good cry, I strongly recommend audiences challenge their perceptions of horror and watch *The Haunting of Bly Manor* on Netflix.



[HTTPS://WWW.IMDB.COM/TITLE/TT10970552/](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10970552/)

**In the poster for *The Haunting of Bly Manor*, the faceless poltergeist known as the Lady of the Lake hauntingly glances at the camera with Bly Manor in the background. The backstory behind the main ghost of Bly is not revealed until the penultimate episode of the season.**



# Rock Bottom



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## Winter Ball loses to COVID-19

By Joel Schumacher  
Staff Reporter

COVID-19, the world-wide pandemic, has altered the lives of Americans for months now. Social distancing and quarantine orders have caused the cancellation of many events taken for granted in an ordinary year. Because of health concerns, the winter ball, a dance many students look forward to every December, has sadly been cancelled for 2020.

This last fall, Scotus Central Catholic was able to hold a homecoming dance. There were masks and health precautions; however, students were able to let loose and enjoy themselves on the dance floor. Many students may have suspected that having another dance, as the pandemic has spread throughout the Columbus area, would be unlikely. Their suspicions were confirmed when Scotus cancelled the scheduling of the event in early November. School administration made unfortunate but appropriate decisions in response to updated statewide health mandates. School president, Jeff Ohnoutka explained the mechanics behind the decision-making process.

"We decided to cancel the dance during the first week of November. It was in response to the new direct health measures that were announced by the governor limiting indoor gatherings to 25% capacity. The new and developing situation of coronavirus in Platte County helped influence that decision," Ohnoutka explained.

The decision to cancel the dance is not exclusively up to Scotus administration and officials.

"It all depends on the current direct health measure. As a school when we are a member of the Nebraska Department of Education or the Archdiocese of Omaha, we run the risk of opening us up to some problems if we would go rogue and have our own dance. If we were our own entity, it would perhaps be different," Ohnoutka said.

School administration understands the importance of school dances to the Scotus community and especially the students.

"It's disappointing. We never want to cancel a dance or event that students are looking forward to. We do not enjoy being placed in that position because it is an unpopular decision when you need to cancel things that students enjoy," Ohnoutka added.

Many Scotus students are disappointed that the winter ball is cancelled this year. Sophomore class officer Jasmine Jackson gave her input on the cancellation of the event.

"The news of the cancellation was depressing because it's nice

See **WINTER BALL**, Page 2

## Scotus rises to the pandemic challenge

By Noah Korth  
Staff Reporter

Although Scotus has nearly made it through an entire semester without shutting down due to COVID-19, it was a rocky road to get to this point. With the weather beginning to turn cold, COVID-19 numbers spiked at Scotus in the past weeks.

The most dramatic rise happened shortly after Halloween. The week of October 26<sup>th</sup>, there were not many students in remote learning; according to assistant principal Angie Rusher, there were less than 10. However, in the two following weeks, the school saw huge surges. The peak was the week of November 9<sup>th</sup> with over 50 students in remote learning and approximately 20 more gone from school. However, the majority of cases were not due to students testing positive; most students were quarantined because of exposure to a parent or family member who tested positive. Senior Ashtyn Preister was one such student.

"My dad went to the doctor because he wasn't feeling good, so they decided to run a rapid test on him," Preister said. "It came back positive, and my mom also tested positive two days later."

One of the reasons COVID-19 is sneakily hazardous is that most people who contract the virus never experience symptoms. They go about their day spreading the disease unknowingly. According to Test Nebraska, approximately 75-80% of patients with COVID-19 either have no symptoms or only have minor ones. For those who do experience symptoms, the effects can be detrimental. Sometimes, they can even be unique depending on the individual. 8<sup>th</sup> grader Lily Humphrey struggled with rare symptoms.

"I had quite a bit of symptoms, and I was surprised when I started getting painful aches similar to heartburn in my ribs and on the sides of my torso," Humphrey said. "It was actually quite worse than I anticipated."

While students are quarantined, they are expected to participate in class via Microsoft Teams video meetings. The goal is to keep students from falling behind in their classes. However, the transition into remote learning is not easy for all students.

"The biggest challenge has been students making up work while they are gone," Rusher said. "Some do great, but others really struggle when they are gone from school. That is why it is really important to stay in school. If the majority of our students can come to school, we need to keep meeting in person."

Whether it be because of easier learning, activities, or a genuine desire for human connection, most people at Scotus want to keep going to school in person. Although, remote learning does have its perks. Junior Halle Langan struggled making up chemistry labs when she returned to school, but she found a silver lining in being quarantined.

"The best part about quarantine was staying in my pajamas all day without anyone noticing," Langan said.

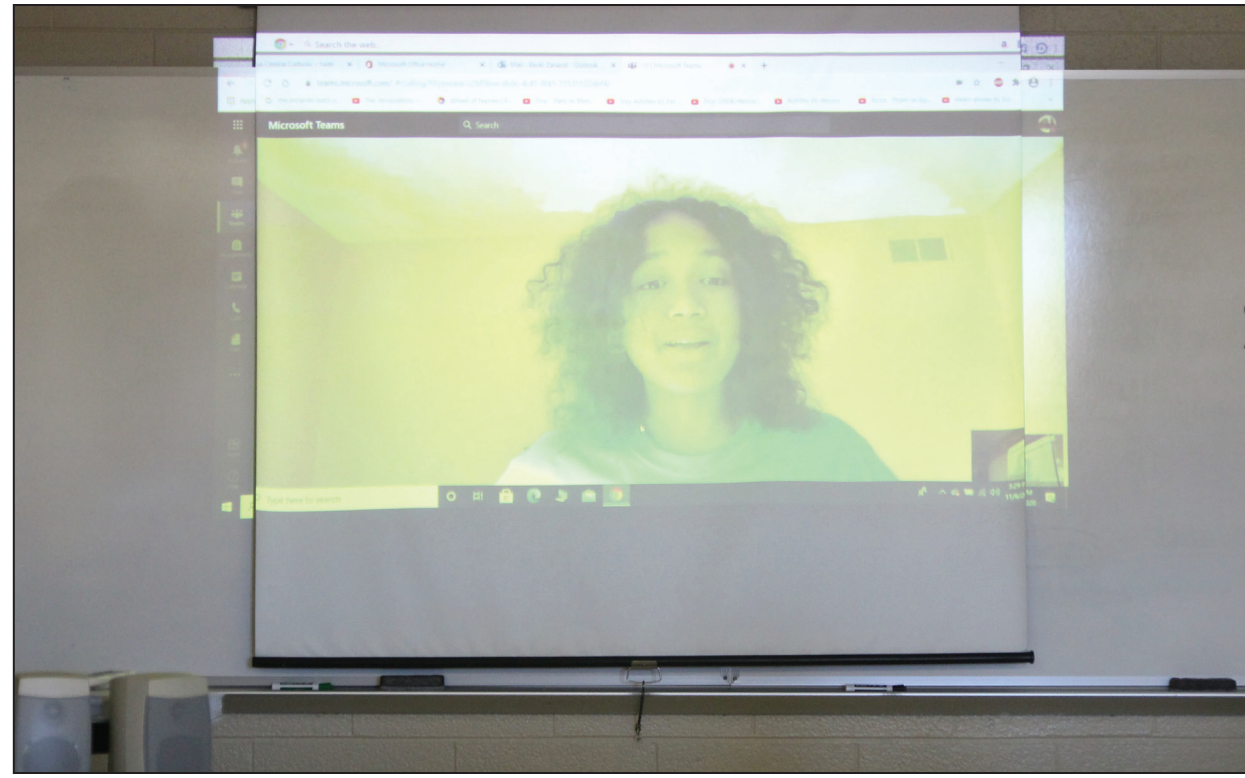
After coming back from Thanksgiving break, the number of students remote learning decreased significantly. Before Thanksgiving, there were about 30 students gone from school. After returning from break, the numbers dropped to the low twenties. However, for this trend to continue, everyone must continue following safety guidelines such as wearing a mask. 7<sup>th</sup> grader

Adelaide O'Neill was quarantined after showing symptoms. Luckily, she tested negative for COVID-19.

"A mask can save someone's life and yours if you wear one," O'Neill urged. "Also, getting quarantined is not fun; you miss out on activities, school, and seeing your friends."

Most people can agree that although preventative measures are tedious, they are necessary because they keep students and staff learning and working in the place they love.

"The best situation is for us to be in school," Rusher said. "Wearing masks is not fun, and teaching in person and with remote learners is not ideal, but we are going to make it to Christmas with in-person learning for our students, and that is a huge win for our school community."



RUBY MARTINEZ / YEARBOOK STAFF

Scotus sophomore Jasmine Jackson gives a presentation in her English class while remote learning. Jackson enjoyed some aspects of quarantine, such as eating tacos everyday for lunch and working at her own pace.

## Band beats COVID-19 measures

By Camille Pelan  
Staff Reporter

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the past year has been all about facing challenges and adjusting to them with a positive mindset. These challenges have specifically impacted school athletics and activities. One specific activity that has had to make numerous adjustments because of the pandemic is band.

Since the pandemic began last school year, the Scotus Central Catholic high school band has had to face many difficulties.

"Starting back in March, we didn't get to have the District Music Contest, we didn't get to have our concert, and we didn't get to play for graduation," band director Kristen Cox said.

These challenges have continued throughout the 2020-2021 school year. There was talk of

possibly not even having band class this year. Fortunately, though, with a plethora of new adjustments, band was able to continue.

"Some new protocols that the Band has put in place to keep our students here at Scotus safe are that we are wearing special masks designed for each instrument as well as putting bell covers on our instruments," senior trombonist Madison Wittwer said.

Another big adjustment for the high school band is having to practice in the gym due to limited space in the band room. According to senior trumpeter Josh Styskal, practicing in the gym has its highs and lows.

"It is nice to not feel cramped, but the band does phase sometimes, meaning we are not all playing at the same tempo," Styskal said.

For Cox, teaching in the gym is much different than in the band room. She believes that despite some of the challenges it has



CAMILLE PELAN / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Freshman Kaitlyn Fleming plays her flute through her band mask during first period high school band class in the Dowd Activity Center. Wearing band masks and having band class in the gym are two adjustments band had to make due to COVID-19.

created, it has allowed her to build relationships with her students she never would have made while in the band room.

"We would be crunched in the band room. I would never be able to get up to the second, third, and

See **BAND**, Page 2



## WINTER BALL

When everyone dresses up and vibes. It's disappointing because, as a sophomore class officer, I wanted to plan it," Jackson expressed. The sophomore chocolate sales fund will still be used, according to sophomore officer Ted Fehringer. "The winter ball being cancelled wasn't as big of a deal as homecoming or prom in my opinion even though it is still a fun dance. The sales from the chocolate will carry over for prom and homecoming for 2021," Fehringer explained. Even though the winter formal cannot be held this December because of COVID-19, other dances, including the all-important Prom, still have a chance for the 2020 school year. "The type of dance is what is important. Prom only has juniors

and seniors which gives it a better chance. With the winter ball having all the high school including outside dates, it can have up to 300 people for one dance. That is where we run into issues," Ohnoutka said. In the face of this pandemic, Scotus is working to supply as normal of a year as possible. "I think if we can manage to have two of the three dances this year, prom and homecoming, that would be a success. Last year, we had all of 4th quarter cancelled because of this virus, so I'm grateful for the extracurriculars we have had, but it all comes down to following DHM mandates," Ohnoutka explained.

## BAND

fourth rows, so I would not be able to talk to those kids," Cox said. "Even though I'm running around the whole gym, I feel that I get to see and talk to everybody more, and I am able to feel a connection with every student." Unfortunately, the high school band is unable to play at parades, the annual Scotus Craft Boutique, and pep band for the athletic teams in the gym. However, the band was fortunate to get to play pep band at football games. Many high school band students, including sophomore trombonist Ally Wemhoff, were grateful for this opportunity. "Even though it was extremely cold, it was fun to have some form of pep band," Wemhoff said.

According to senior flutist Anna Ehlers, despite the difficulties and challenges band has faced this year, she is thankful the band is given the opportunity to play. "You have to make the best of what you are given, and I'm glad we are given the opportunity to at least play this year," Ehlers said. "I know it sucks, and it's not what we want, but at least we are learning music and having a band class." Cox is proud of how her students have responded to the difficulties and challenges this year has brought. She is also grateful for how these adjustments have strengthened the band as a whole. "Overall, the biggest thing is unity," Cox said. "Everybody

recognizes the blessings of being in person and in school and that our school is allowing us to continue to have band. Everyone is grateful for that and willing to work together." Even though it looked different with a limited audience, the band was fortunate to be given the opportunity to display their hard work in their annual Christmas concert last night. "Trying to figure out how to make the concert possible took a lot of brainstorming and cooperation from many folks," Cox said. "We have all learned to find a new path and accept things that are out of our control."

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*Go Shamrocks!*



CAMILLE PELAN / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF  
Trumpeters Nate Wemhoff, Carson Czarnick, Camille Cox, and Nathaniel Eisenmenger play their instruments with bell covers on them during a high school band class. Bell covers are one of several adjustments that had to be made in order to continue band due to COVID-19.

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# Small decision, big impact



By Emily Ferguson  
Staff Reporter

“Beep. Beep. Beep. Beep. Beep.” Ugh... You roll over in bed to turn off your 5:30 a.m. alarm. It’s a Monday, and you have to be at school by 6:30 am for weights.

However, instead of turning off your alarm, you press snooze and fall back asleep. This is a typical scenario for most of us in the morning. Every day when your alarm goes off, you are faced with your first decision of the day, to either turn off your alarm, get out of bed, and seize the day, or press snooze and reject the day for a little while longer. This small decision may seem insignificant, but this choice will determine whether you are late to weights or stressed about getting yourself ready, which will affect your attitude for the remainder of the day.

We all make several decisions each day that to us seem natural; however, these small decisions have a bigger

impact than we think. So often in life we are worried about big decisions we will have to make, such as where we will go to college and our career. These decisions are important, but it is often the small decisions we make each day that will make us happy and change the world.

Happiness is a choice, and we can all choose to be happy. However, our decisions can either strengthen or weaken our happiness, for example, deciding to stay up late and watch a movie on a school night when you have a mountain of homework to do. Even though the movie was amazing, it caused you to stay up late to finish your homework and feel tired the next day. Now all you want

to do is sleep, and you are miserable during school. Your decision to watch the movie had a major impact on your happiness. If you would have decided to go to bed and save the movie for the weekend, you would have been much happier at school. Small decision, big impact.

The quick decisions we make each day may seem insignificant, but they can have a huge impact on others. For example, you walk into school and hold the door open for the students behind you. Once everyone is through, you close the door and keep going on with your day. However, the next day, one of the students whom you held the door open for yesterday is now holding the

door open for others. Your decision to hold the door open left an impact on this student, which inspired them to pay the kind deed forward. Imagine, what would happen if this student inspired someone they held the door open for to do the same, and the cycle continued. Small decision, big impact.

Most of us have been told from a young age that God should always be first and at the center of our lives. However, life often gets busy and stressful, and we begin to push God farther and farther down our list until he is toward the bottom. Yet, having a relationship with God is the one person in life who will make us truly happy. Making a small decision each

day to spend time with God, whether that is praying for five minutes, going to Mass, or praying a rosary, will have a big impact in your life. You will be happier, and you will start to truly live your life for Christ. Small decision, big impact.

Every day you are faced with decisions, big and small, that will have a big impact on your life and the world. Your decisions can lead to happiness and make the world a better place if you are willing. “Beep. Beep. Beep. Beep,” goes your alarm again. What will you do? Will you get up and seize the day, or will you press snooze and resist the day a little longer? What will your first decision of the day be?

# Don't put this off till tomorrow



By Ava Kuhl  
Staff Reporter

“I’ll do it in five minutes; I have plenty of time.” “It’s not due till Friday, and it’s only Tuesday; I’ll do it tomorrow.” “I’ll study in study hall right before.” These are

common phrases anyone who has procrastinated has said when putting off tasks.

Whether it’s writing a paper the night before it’s due or studying for a test the class period before, these are all acts students, at one point or another, have fallen victim to. It’s easy to put something off until tomorrow, but by the time tomorrow arrives, it can often be too late.

There are ways to prevent procrastinating and breaking this habit.

The first step in tackling procrastination is to recognize you are procrastinating. Procrastination is defined as, “to put off intentionally and habitually,” according to Merriam-Webster Dictionary. I’m sure everyone can think of one thing they are putting off right now. It could

be studying for a chemistry test that’s this week or cleaning your room you promised your mom you’d clean two

days ago or writing an article about procrastinating that is due tomorrow... everyone procrastinates, but in order to fix the bad habit, you have to know it’s a bad habit that should be broken.

The next step is to determine why you are procrastinating. There could be a multitude of reasons someone could be procrastinating. According to Piers Steel in his

book titled *The Procrastination Equation*, procrastination occurs because of this simple equation: motivation= expectancy x value / impulsiveness x delay. This equation illustrates our lack of motivation determines our level of procrastination. Some common reasons people procrastinate could be

because the unwillingness or disliking towards a task, fatigue, lack of organization, fear of failure or success, fear of imperfection, poor decision making, or because of an underlying health condition such as

ADHD.

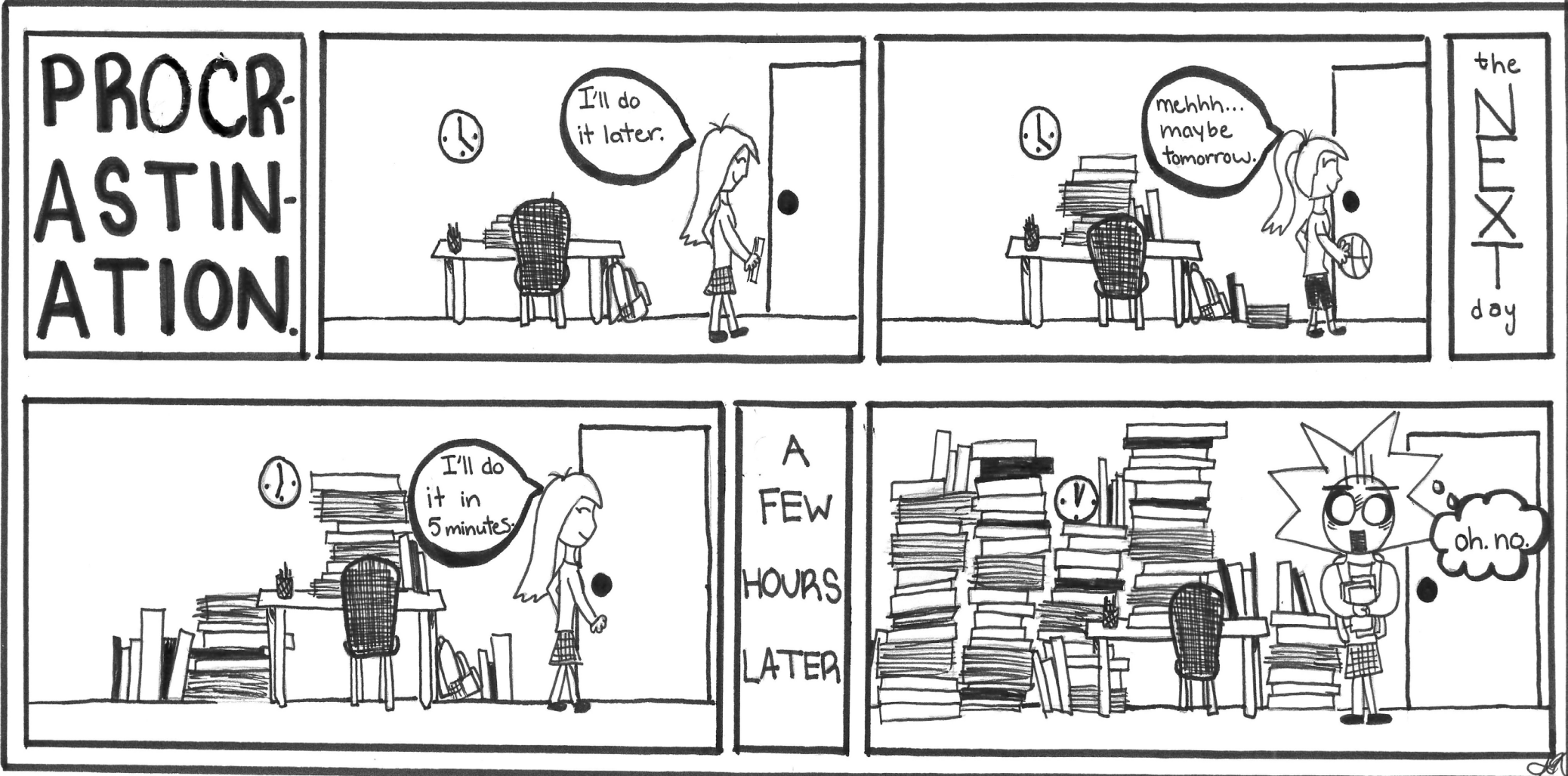
The third step is to find strategies against procrastination that work for you. Everyone functions and performs differently. It is hard to say what strategy is the best because it varies between people. Some strategies include rewarding yourself when you accomplish your goals, forming a to-do list to stay organized, minimizing your distractions as much as you can, or getting the hardest thing done first in order to have something fun and easy to look forward to.

The next step is to set a plan to tackle procrastination. It is important to communicate your plans and goals with others so they can hold you accountable. Then you need to adopt a strategy that best works for you, slow-

ly implement it into your routine, and create a plan of attack to conquer your procrastination.

The final step is simple: follow through with it. You cannot break a habit overnight. It takes time to remove an old habit. It will take time to overcome procrastination, but with support from others, a plan, and a “can do” attitude, breaking the habit should be a hop, skip, and a jump away.

Procrastination is something everyone struggles with, but it is something anyone can overcome. So don’t put these strategies off till tomorrow; who knows when it will get done then.



AVA KUHL / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

# Engage in the world around you



By Vijay Wemhoff  
Staff Reporter

“Hey, are you listening?” You have most likely heard this when you are with friends or family while you are on your phone at a family gathering or hanging out with

friends. Often, we find ourselves constantly checking our phones and not noticing the world around us. It is important to take time to put your phone down and engage in the world around you.

When checking the screen time on my phone, I average about ten to fifteen hours a week. Its redundant. I know people who are up to twenty to fifty hours a week of screen time on their phone. Parents ask what do teens even do on their phones? Our generation would answer with Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram, Twitter, and, most of all, the new game Among Us. One of the apps people are addicted to is TikTok. I cannot express how many hours people are on that app. I myself am guilty of scrolling on

TikTok for many hours when I have nothing to do.

I think it’s nice to go out and put your phone aside and try to do something that’s worthwhile. Spend time with your family. You can do many new exciting activities without your phone. You could learn a new talent, try to figure out a Rubik’s cube or play guitar, go hang out with friends and make up a new game to play. Make plans to go see a movie or drive around with friends. Maybe even take a mini road trip. If you don’t have a job,

go get one.

The other day I was with my cousin at Broken Mug getting coffee, and I looked around. I noticed that there were many people there, but everyone was on their phones. I feel like when people go out to get lunch or hang out to talk and catch up with someone, they shouldn’t have their phones out.

I have found myself getting so caught up in my phone I don’t pay attention to everything around me at times. There are many times I have hung out with my

friends, and one of them will ask if I just heard what they said. At the time, I just say, no, sorry I was on my phone. When I’m with my friends now or even with family, I try not to be on my phone because I have time at home to do that.

There are many times I’ll be at home and my parents want to watch a movie or play cards. My favorite part about hanging out with my family is we leave our phones in a different room. Our parents try to encourage us not to be on our phones. When you are with family, try to set aside your phone and strike up a conversation with your parents or siblings. I try to do that often, especially with our crazy schedules.

Our generation has basically everything on

our phones. Whether it be communication, online shopping, work, or just anything in general. Sometimes we think we need our phones for everything. Truth is, we do not need our phones for everything. Yes, it is nice to have an easy way out of doing tasks on an everyday basis, but our generation is so addicted to phones.

In conclusion, phones are not horrible, but we should take the time to set them aside from time to time and enjoy the world around us. Who knows, you might find something amazing in this world that you never knew about!



# History behind Christmas traditions

By Noah Korth  
Staff Reporter

Every Christmas season, families and friends celebrate the holiday in various ways. People decorate their yards and houses with nativity scenes and lights, eggnog is served at Christmas parties, and cheerful Christmas music is played in shopping malls. Part of what makes the Christmas season so special are the traditions that accompany it. However, people rarely question where these traditions came from or why they participate in them. Particularly interesting are the origin stories of Christmas trees, Christmas carols, and mistletoe.

Christians might be surprised to learn that many Christmas traditions

originate from pagans. Perhaps the most iconic Christmas custom, the Christmas tree, is one such tradition. According to *Why Christmas?*, branches of evergreen fir trees have been used for thousands of years by pagans to decorate their homes during the winter solstice as a reminder of the approaching spring. Also, the Romans decorated their temples with fir trees to celebrate the Roman festival of Saturn in December. Christians adopted the tradition because the tree's triangular shape represents the trinity, and its vitality in the harsh winter is a symbol of eternal life made possible by Christ. Modern Christmas trees originated in western Germany during the 16<sup>th</sup> century as Christians began bringing the trees into their homes and decorating them with

apples, nuts, and gingerbread. Electric tree lights were popularized in 1895 when President Glover Cleveland decorated the White House tree with lights because his young daughters liked them.

Similar to Christmas trees, Christmas carols started as a pagan tradition; they were sung at Winter Solstice celebrations thousands of years ago in Europe as people danced around stone circles. According to the *Online Etymology Dictionary*, the word "carol" comes from the French

word meaning "to dance in a ring." They used to be sung to celebrate all four seasons, but only the tradition of singing them during winter has survived. After early Christians started celebrating

*"However, people rarely question where these traditions came from or why they participate in them. Particularly interesting are the origin stories of Christmas trees, Christmas carols, and mistletoe."*

~Noah Korth

Christmas around the time of Winter Solstice, they came up with Christian songs to sing instead. Composers all over Europe started to write Christmas carols, but the songs were not popular in most countries because they were sung in Latin. In the 1640s, the Puritan era began, Christmas celebrations ceased, and Christmas carols were only sung in secret. They did not resurface until the Victorian era when many new carols such as "Good King Wenceslas" were written.

Mistletoe is a plant that grows on a variety of trees that can be traced back to the ancient Druids. In early traditions, it was used to bring good luck to houses and ward off evil spirits. The first Christians in Western Europe tried to ban mistletoe from being used to celebrate Christmas. However, just like Christmas carols, many practiced the tradition secretly. The tradition of kissing under the mistletoe was not first recorded until 1784 in a British musical. It was popularized in 1843 after illustrations of kissing under the mistletoe were published in *A Christmas Carol*. Origin-

nally, the custom was to pick a berry from the mistletoe before kissing and to stop kissing once all the berries were eaten. Don't plan on kissing any strangers under the mistletoe this holiday season, though; COVID-19 doesn't have a heart for romance.

These and many other Christmas traditions have surprising origins dating back to ancient times – even before Christianity. Regardless, people all over the world celebrate with them today. The magic behind Christmas traditions is they bring people together. When families decorate their trees, choirs go caroling, and couples share kisses under the mistletoe, they all take part in beautiful customs that have survived through generations of people.

**Christmas Traditions**

- Isabel Zaruba**, Freshman: "Every year, my family gets together the night before Christmas to exchange stupid gifts, ranging from Justin Bieber toothbrushes to Elsa ball caps. You never know what you could possibly get when you show up to our White Elephant."
- Jaelyn Rodolak**, Senior: "Mine would definitely be when my whole family gets in their PJs, puts hot chocolate in to-go coffee mugs, drives around looking at Christmas lights, and listens to Christmas music. Let me tell ya, it's a blast, especially when my dad starts singing at the top of his lungs."
- Mark Buhman**, Sophomore: "My favorite Christmas tradition is going to our church's Christmas Eve service and then heading home to eat chili. The reason this is my favorite Christmas tradition is because there's nothing like chili after a good Christmas Eve service, the cold, dark weather outside, and inside, the warm, cozy feeling of chili around the table."
- Ben Merrill**, Senior: "Every year for Christmas, my family and I go to my grandma and grandpa's house to celebrate with them. There are a lot of people in our family, so it is a huge party, and we have a lot of fun."
- Adrianna Kush**, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: "My favorite Christmas tradition is waking up at eight in the morning, opening presents, going to Church, and then watching movies until we go to my grandparents' house."

JANAE RUSHER / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

# History brings life to holiday characters

By Gavin Brabec  
Staff Reporter

The winter season is here. Homes are filled with holiday decorations and Christmas spirit. Santa Claus, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, the Elf on the Shelf, and many more holiday figures are present.

We decorate our homes and see this Christmas décor all over town. These Christmas characters' origins are just as jolly as the characters themselves. They originate from far and wide and end up in our homes every year.



If you are on the nice list, Santa Claus comes to town from the North Pole on Christmas Eve. However, the tale of Santa Claus comes from a much different part of the globe. Santa Claus, otherwise known as Saint Nicholas, originates from a small town in Turkey in 280 A.D. Saint Nick was known for his generosity, piety, and helping the sick and poor. His life story has evolved into what many of us know to be as the present-day Santa Claus. Tales of Saint Nick's good deeds mirror the act of gift-giving during the Christmas season. The lure of the Christmas season is strengthened by the image of Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

Jack Frost will sure be nipping at your nose if this cold weather continues, but the tale of Jack Frost finds its roots in warm Scandinavian and Anglo-Saxon traditions. Although debated on his true origins, all folklores depict Jack Frost as the keeper of the winter season. In Finnish folklore, he controlled the weather and kept comfortable weather conditions for the reindeer. In Japanese tales, he is the keeper of frost and dew. His first name, Jack, is not known to have a specific reason, other than "Jack" meant "guy" in 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century. Now when Jack Frost is mentioned, we can picture him spreading wintry cheer during the Christmas season.



Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer does not derive from the North as we may know, but rather a department store marketing campaign in 1939. Copywriter Robert L. May was asked by a Chicago department store owner to create a poem and book to hand out to children during the holiday season. At first, May's creation of the underdog reindeer story was not well-received by the owner. This was the first of many struggles for May as his wife died, he fell into debt, and he became a single father. As years passed and Rudolph took off, his brother-in-law created the Christmas classic we all know and love. May's luck turned for the positive, and as for Rudolph, the rest went down in history.

Sitting atop in many places throughout our homes this season is an Elf on the Shelf. Our little elves not only make toys but report our behavior to Santa every night. The nature of this Christmas tradition dates back to 2005, but the beginning of elves in Christmas dates back much earlier. Elves became tied to Santa Claus in the 1823 poem "The Night Before Christmas." Since then, writers have taken the idea of Santa's elves, and it has grown into the Santa's helpers we know them as today. Modern movies such as "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Elf" show the evolution of the Christmas elf from the poem they were created from.





# SCC Students' Christmas Wish List



Christmas is a time of year full of joy, family time, Jesus, and giving. Of course, giving also comes with receiving, which is perhaps many people's favorite part of the holiday. People generally receive gifts such as shoes, clothes, gift cards, and toys. Nothing ever too extravagant. But what if money was not a problem? What would be someone's top gifts they would ask for? After surveying the student body, they responded with several ideas of what they would want.

Many students claimed they would want an animal or pet. A dog was the most common animal wanted as well as horses. A guinea pig and hedgehog were wanted as well. But if money isn't a problem, why not go as far as to ask for a monkey, elephant, or lion for Christmas like some students wanted? Might need to have quite a big backyard for those animals though. Someone even wanted a sloth, whom they would name Jerry.



One of the top asked for gifts was a game console or gaming set up. In fact, many electronics were insisted on. Students wanted a new laptop, air pods, apple watch, or a phone. The more advanced technology like an oculus or virtual reality headset were also high on the list. Might as well throw in a drone while students were at it.

Obviously, if money was not a problem, some students were either going big or going home. Normally, a luxurious car is something only a celebrity would inquire or, more accurately, could afford. With no money limit, students were asking for cars such as a Lamborghini, Corvette, or a Tesla. Similar to a car, a couple students went for a private jet, which they would fly to their new private island. Travel was a big convenience many students desired. Having endless amounts of money would allow someone to travel anywhere they wanted like Greece, Paris, or Costa Rica.



While some students went big with their gift ideas, others just asked for simple everyday items. Clothes were common requests because who doesn't need more clothes? Shoes and socks were wanted as well to go along with the new clothes. A big warm blanket was on the top of quite a few students lists for when they snuggle up to watch a nice cheery Christmas movie.

A few students asked for gifts that would benefit others and the greater good. Food for the starving and an end to world hunger were made a point in two students' lists. With the current pandemic, a cure for the coronavirus was asked and wished for. Some students just asked for more time with their family while another asked for love and happiness to everyone. Several of the upper classmen asked for college tuition so their parents and themselves would not have to pay for it.



Students came up with some especially specific and particular gifts. A Ted Fehringer portrait was one that stood on what made a student's list. The only thing one girl asked for was a boyfriend. Finally, one student came up with a very intricate gift of an exact duplicate of the Statue of Liberty except bigger and with her face on it containing a water park inside.

## When does Christmas start?



**By Camille Pelan**  
Staff Reporter

One of the most controversial topics this time of year is the ongoing debate of when to start celebrating Christmas. After Halloween? After Thanksgiving? December 1st? On Christmas? All-year round?

The answer to this question varies between each person and each family. The problem arises because the holidays of Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas are all within a two-month span. Some people, like senior Laura Bettenhausen, believe Christmas begins right after Halloween.

"The Christmas season starts the minute Halloween is over. You have to stretch it out as long as you can because it seems to fly by!" Bettenhausen said.

Others, like junior Adriana Cieloha-Carreto, think celebrating Christmas after Halloween is way too early.

"I can't stand when stores start putting up Christmas stuff the day after Halloween. It drives me nuts!" Cieloha-Carreto said.

Thanksgiving is the holiday that often seems to get disregarded because many people are already in the Christmas spirit by the time Thanksgiving hits. 7th grader Josie Rother believes Christmas should be celebrated no earlier than Thanksgiving.

"[I believe the Christmas season begins] after Thanksgiving because you don't want to take the glory away from Thanksgiving," Rother said.

Senior Katelyn Bayer also agrees the holiday of Thanksgiving should be celebrated before people begin preparing for Christmas.

"I think the Christmas season starts right after Thanksgiving," Bayer said. "I know a lot of people think it begins right after Halloween, but I believe we have so many things

to be thankful for, such as family and friends."

The beginning of December is another common time to begin celebrating the Christmas season.

According to sophomore Daniel Cline, each month has its own holiday, and the month of December is "reserved" for Christmas.

"[I believe the Christmas season begins] after Thanksgiving on December 1st at midnight on the dot because October is spooky season, November is Thanksgiving, and December is Christmas," Cline said.

For many students, like sophomore Ted Fehringer, it is difficult to get into the Christmas spirit until the stress of school is over.

"[I believe the Christmas season begins] after semester tests because it officially starts Christmas break," Fehringer said.

Since Christmas is on December 25th, some people believe Christmas should not start until

around the actual date.

"[I believe the Christmas season begins] Christmas Eve and ends on midnight Christmas day," senior Simon Pichler said.

Almost everyone begins celebrating the Christmas season, listening to Christmas music, and putting up Christmas decorations months before Christmas, but their Christmas spirit seems to die down after Christmas day. Senior Clarissa Kosch believes it should be the opposite.

"Christmas should be celebrated more after the holiday than before," Kosch said. "Christmas is hyped up, and then I feel like the Christmas season is not utilized, which is rather unfortunate. I mean Jesus has finally been born. Let's rejoice!"

There are also others who maintain their Christmas spirit all-year round. 7th grader Sydney Stuart finds herself celebrating Christmas many times throughout the year.

"Christmas never ends or starts; all year is Christmas. You will find me listening to Christmas music and drinking hot chocolate in July," Stuart said.

Oftentimes, the first snow is one of the first indications that Christmas is near, and it tends to put many people in the Christmas spirit.

"In my opinion, Christmas season seems to begin after the first snow (only if it's no earlier than October). The Christmas season feels just so much more magical when there's snow on the ground," 8th grader Caroline Klitz said.

Regardless of when Christmas is celebrated, it is important to remember Christmas is the time of year to celebrate an important part of the Christian faith: the birth of Jesus.

"Christmas should remind us to be kind and selfless," 7th grader Elizabeth Stoner said. "After all, this is the day, thousands of years ago, that Jesus was born."

## A time to be grateful

By Grace Mustard  
Staff Reporter

In the hustle and bustle of busy life, it is easy to get wrapped up in the stress of it all. It is important to take a step back, remember why God has placed us here, and thank Him for the many blessings we receive daily.

The Thanksgiving holiday is the perfect time to do this, but has Thanksgiving dwindled to being all about overeating, sleeping, and football games? Of course, we are thankful for a week off school, but do we pause to be truly thankful for what God has provided us? This time we are given should be spent working together to prepare meals and enjoy family's company.

There is much to be thankful for this year including health and the ability to have some normalcy attending school and participating in sports or other activities. Finding the little things to be thankful for throughout the day will lead to noticing more important gifts in life.

This year, especially, I have noticed everything is about Christmas. Christmas music is already playing in stores, Christmas shopping ads are plastered everywhere, and the Christmas decorations are out at the beginning of November! These are examples in society; surprisingly, many of these same occurrences can be seen inside homes. I am not excluding myself from this group though. The Christmas decorations are already up in my house, and I will indulge in some "Mistletoe" by Justin Bieber while sniffing my cinnamon scented candles, but Thanksgiving is too important to be looked over. There is nothing wrong with celebrating Christmas, but if Thanksgiving is looked upon as a meal and a football game, the whole point of the holiday is missed.

The Thanksgiving holiday is only a week long, but gratitude should be expressed all year round. If the only time we take to count our blessings is four days out of the entire year, then it is no wonder America is in the shape it is. Even the first Thanksgiving celebration was multiple weeks long involving prayer and thanksgiving. When school is not in session, it is easy to skip prayer because there are other activities occupying our focus, and sometimes the only prayer given up is the fancy one around the table at Thanksgiving dinner. It does not have to be a long, fancy proclamation with everyone around, but those times throughout the day offering thoughts up to God are needed.

Even though Thanksgiving is already over, instead of all this time thinking about Christmas, it can be treated as an extended time to spread gratitude.



# Coaching staff brings new faces

By Grace Mustard  
Staff Reporter

Added to the many new changes put into place this year are new faces to the winter sport coaching staff. Wrestling and the girls' basketball team needed replacements this 2020 season.

Coach Tyler Linder, theology instructor and head football coach at Scotus, is taking on a new role this season as head varsity wrestling coach. Linder knew he could tackle the challenge with his experience with wrestling in high school.

"I knew I wanted to be a coach when I was twenty. I had just finished my time as an athlete, and I knew I wanted sports to be a big part of my life. I volunteered as a junior high football coach and fell in love with helping young people succeed," Linder said.

The tradition of excellence and the foundation Scotus is built upon is what attracted Linder to teach and coach here.

"I love coaching because you get to see the devel-

opment of young people in a capacity you typically don't see inside the classroom. Whether that is on the football field or on the mat, seeing the transformation of kids is amazing," Linder concluded.

The Scotus girls' basketball team needed more than one replacement. There were openings for both assistant coach and freshmen coach this season. Coach Mike VunCannon took over the assistant varsity position after former coach Wade Coulter took a girls' basketball head coaching job at Lincoln Lutheran.

"I assist Ridder with the varsity and coach the junior varsity girls. My duties include basketball fundamentals, defensive fundamentals, and game planning for opponents," VunCannon said.

VunCannon is not a new face to Scotus as he was the assistant coach for the boys' basketball team before this year. Besides coaching, he also substitute teaches at Scotus during the winter when possible.

"Coaching is just like teaching. We teach an

extracurricular activity that hopefully helps our students learn life lessons through the experience of competition that undoubtedly can be applied later in life, no matter what paths may be taken," VunCannon added.

VunCannon realized coaching was for him at a young age. His father was also a teacher and coach. He was always around athletics and loved the environment he was surrounded with.

"The most rewarding part of coaching to me is the relationships and bonds formed between teammates and between coaches and players. We are all competing and working together to accomplish common goals," VunCannon concluded.

Coach Jill Brichacek took over the role of head freshmen girls' coach this season. Coach Jarod Ridder, girls' head varsity coach at Scotus, was helped by his father in coaching the freshmen teams for many years. Due to COVID-19 and other health reasons, the executive decision was made for him to step down this year.

"I always felt a calling to



HALLE LANGAN / YEARBOOK STAFF

**Coach Mike VunCannon draws a play during a time-out of the girls' JV game against Hastings Saint Cecilia. This is his first year coaching girls after coaching boys' basketball for 11 years.**

coach because of the lasting impact other coaches have had on me, not only in my athletic career but also in my personal life. I cannot imagine my life right now without sports in it," Brichacek said.

Brichacek is also the new

guidance counselor at Scotus and will be coaching track in the spring. The opportunity to work at Scotus is what led her to coaching, and she was impressed with the talented athletes in the class Scotus competes in.

"Not only is it rewarding to see an athlete improve in their performance, but it is most rewarding to see an athlete use athletics to become a better human being," Brichacek concluded.

# Potential motivates girls' basketball

By Gavin Brabec  
Staff Reporter

Returning from an inconsistent season, the girls' basketball team is ready to

bring their all and fight to win games. The season began with practices on November 16<sup>th</sup>. They will compete in seven games before Christmas.

Senior guard Camille

Pelan is a returning starter for the team. With state on her and other seniors' minds, the team's skills must be shown on the court.

"I am excited to get out and play games with my

teammates, especially my fellow seniors," Pelan said. "We have waited so long for this season, and we are ready to show everyone what we are made of."

The girls' basketball team is focusing on their strengths for the upcoming season. Experience and a new pace are the main focuses. With five returning seniors who have had playing time, the team has experience to boost its potential.

"One huge strength we have is seven of us played a lot of varsity last year. We already know how to play with each other, and I think we will improve quickly, especially once we start playing," senior post Janae Rusher said.

The Shamrocks played a slower pace last season to slow the other teams down on the court. This year they plan to do the opposite in hopes of improving the outcome of the games.

"Looking back, as a team we are really looking to

improve on going at a much faster pace this year. We are trying to run the ball more and push ahead to beat the defense down the court and get more shots up," senior guard Ava Kuhl said.

The new basketball season was met with two new coaches. Coach Mike VunCannon and coach Jill Brichacek are both assistant coaches. They are bringing a new dynamic to the team in their coaching and personalities.

Junior post Grace Mustard said, "The new coaching staff has been awesome. Coach Brichacek and coach VunCannon both know a lot about basketball, and they apply it positively to the team. Their energy has helped us grow as a team."

The girls' first game of the season was on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> against returning state champions Hastings St. Cecilia. They defeated the number three 45-32. Ava Kuhl was the lead scorer with 12 points.

"We played with focus and intensity right from the start, and we made them work for every point they scored. In the second half, we cleaned up our ball control and slowed down our offense to get better shots," Mustard said.

The team hit the road to play Guardian Angels Central Catholic in West Point on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. The girls struggled on turnovers and lost 43-56.

The team traveled to Grand Island on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> to play Grand Island Central Catholic. The second home game of the season takes place tonight against Concordia.

Pelan concluded, "We have the potential to accomplish some incredible things this season as long as we give it our all and play as though every game is our last because, especially this year, we never know when it will be our last opportunity to step on the court."



HALLE LANGAN / YEARBOOK STAFF

**Senior guard Ava Kuhl dribbles the ball away from a St. Cecilia player on December 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Dowd Activity Center. Kuhl was the lead scorer of the night with 12 points.**

# Boys basketball looks for more scorers

By Janae Rusher  
Staff Reporter

This year has been full of uncertainties, and basketball was an activity that could have ended before it started. On Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, the NSAA officially announced that this basketball season would go on but with restrictions.

The boys' basketball team started practice November 16<sup>th</sup>. COVID-19 has put this season into perspective because the boys never know when they will have their last game or practice. Sophomore Trenton Cielocha is on varsity for the first time this year.

"I am excited to just be able to play," Cielocha said. "I thought this season was going to get cancelled."

While this season is full of unknowns, the team is looking to the future with goals for the season. Senior guard Kaden Young is one of two seniors leading this year's team.

"We think we will be able to win more games than

in recent years," Young said. "We hope to end the season with a winning record."

Many of the boys have the same goals, such as having a winning record, but they also have personal goals. Chance Bailey is a junior on the team.

"My personal goal for the season is to be the best teammate I can be to make us successful," Bailey said.

There are only two returning starters on this year's team. Junior post Garrett Oakley is one of them.

"Our energy this year is really contagious," Oakley said. "This helps us have fun. We bond together well, and our leadership is getting better."

The boys' first game was against C2 Hastings St. Cecilia on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Shamrocks lost 35-41 to St. Cecilia. Senior guard Josh Faust was the leading scorer with 24 of the 35 points scored by the Shamrocks.

"We have been working a lot on our defense and ball pressure, and I think our guards did a really good job

defensively last night," head Coach Tyler Swanson said after Thursday's game. "We need to work on our offense, and we need to find some scorers to go along with Josh. If we can find some guys who can consistently score and get our totals up in the fifties, I think we will have a chance to win a lot of games."

The boys played away on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> against Guardian Angels Central Catholic in West Point. The Shamrocks beat the GACC 61-42. Faust is the other returning starter this season and the team's leading scorer.

"To be successful we need to have more guys score points and make plays," Faust said. "We have a lot of guys with little experience, but I think they will step up and find their roles on both offense and defense."

The boys play Concordia today and will play Pier, West Point Beemer, and Humphrey Lindsay Holy Family in the next week.



CAMILLE PELAN / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Senior Josh Faust looks to pass against Hastings St. Cecilia on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Faust was the leading scorer with 24 points.**



# Wrestlers return home

By Kade Wiese  
Staff Reporter

With a bunch of new faces appearing in the athletic department this year, a familiar face will be taking on the wrestling program. Theology teacher and head varsity football coach Tyler Linder has recently become the new head high school varsity wrestling coach.

"I saw the opening position as a valuable opportunity to not only help the wrestling program but also the school," Linder said.

Linder, who was one of the founders of the wrestling program at Scotus back in 2010, said it's a big deal to be able to rejoin the staff and give back to it.

"I would like to see it continue to grow and be successful. I would've hated to see no one take on the

role and result in not having a wrestling program at all," Linder stated.

With only eleven wrestlers this year, Scotus won't have a full fourteen-man roster.

"I personally want to maintain our current roster and even add a few more guys on to the roster as the wrestling season continues," Linder said.

Even though the wrestling program has small

numbers, Linder is focusing on improving the wrestlers individually.

"I know we won't have the roster to be a real competitive dual team this year, but I know we can make our practices extremely competitive and intense. You can't have a great team without having a great practice," Linder stated.

Besides having a new head coach this year, the wrestlers will have to continue to work with change. Usually, like the rest of the winter sports, the wrestlers would have practice after school, but this year, they have had to wake up early every morning and be ready to stretch in the Memorial Hall by 5:55 a.m. This is also the first time in four years the high school wrestlers have practiced on school ground; previously, they had wrestled at the National Guard Armory, ten minutes away from Scotus.

With COVID-19 still going on and cautious recommendations being set by the NSAA, the Shamrocks will be competing in fewer tournaments and more duals this year. Two duals have already been canceled, and Linder knows no meet or dual will be set in stone.

"We know meets, duals, and tournaments are going to be different this year, but at the end of the day, once weigh-ins are done, we have to treat it as if it were a normal competition and leave everything out on the mat," Linder said.

As a team, the Shamrock wrestlers have a common mindset this year: improve and get to state.

Freshman Spencer Wittwer, who wrestles at 195 pounds, said, "Two of our team goals we have this year are to get everyone to state, or at least some of us, and focus on making ourselves and our teammates better."

Senior Ben Kamrath, who wrestles at 170 pounds, wants to have a winning dual record by the end of the season.

"Individually, I want to make it to state this year, but as for the team, I want us to compete harder and win more duals," Kamrath said. "In previous years, we have struggled to be that winning dual team."

Kamrath is one of the four senior wrestlers Linder is looking to as a leader on the team this season.

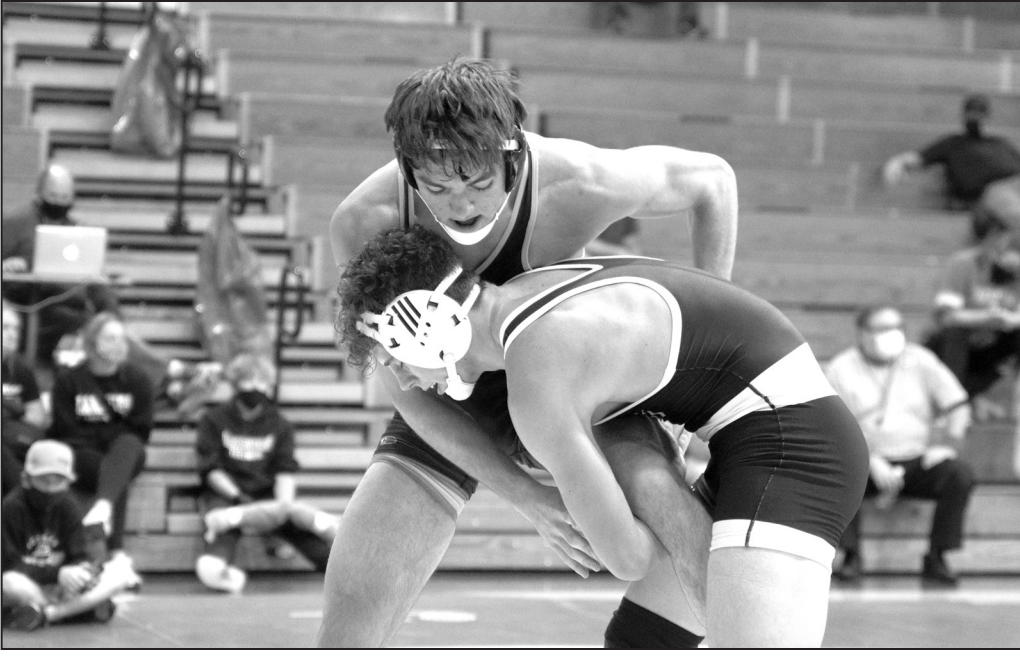
"The guys who have

the wrestling experience are always going to be your leaders. Wrestlers like Ben Kamrath, Sebastien Fritz, and Riley Eickmeier have been to meets before. They have been in that locker room, they have been in those tight matches before, they know the technique, the drills, and the routines, and those are guys I am looking to as the leaders on this team," Linder said.

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, the Shamrock wrestlers competed at the Lakeview Invite. Junior Riley Eickmeier placed third in the 160-pound weight class, senior Ben Kamrath placed fourth in the 170-pound weight class, freshman Spencer Wittwer placed fourth in the 220-pound weight class, senior Grant Neville placed sixth in the 152-pound weight class, and senior Sebastien Fritz placed sixth in the 195-pound weight class.

Last Friday, on December 11<sup>th</sup>, the Scotus wrestlers travelled to Raymond Central to wrestle them in a dual.

As for the rest of the 2020 year, the Scotus wrestlers are planning to attend the Logan View Invite on December 19<sup>th</sup>, and plan to dual Adam Central on New Year's Eve.



TAYLOR DAHL / MARKETING DIRECTOR

Senior Ben Kamrath works to get out of a potential takedown. Kamrath placed fourth in the 170-pound weight class at the Lakeview Invite.

# Dallman leads young swimmers

By Kate Maguire  
Staff Reporter

The weather is getting cold, which means the swimmers are putting on their caps and diving right into the season. This year there are only four Scotus swimmers competing for the team with Kaira Dallman as the lone senior.

Dallman has been swimming competitively one way or the other for ten years. She competes in the 50 free, 100 free, and relays. With this being her last year of high school swim, Dallman has set some high goals for herself.

"My goals are to make it to state in an individual meet event, get a medium to low 26 seconds in my 50 freestyle, and break one minute in my 100 freestyle. I am very close to those two times, but sometimes it's hard to drop even the slightest of time," Dallman said.

To help prepare the swimmers to drop their times by getting faster, the swim team does two-a-days all season. Most all the swimmers dread this part about the

season.

"Having two-a-days the whole season is horrible. I strongly dislike it. On Mondays and Fridays, we have to be in the water by 5:30 a.m. The water is always so cold at that time of morning. Then on Tuesdays and Thursdays, we have dryland. Morning swim practices aren't easy either, they take a lot out of you, and then you still have to go to school then practice again," Dallman said.

When Dallman refers to dryland practices, she means, as anyone could guess, workouts out of the water and on the hard ground. These dryland practices consist of abs like flutter kicks and planks to help swimmers get a stronger core.

With all the practices during the year, the swimmers get very close. One tradition they have the night before each meet is having a meal together.

"The night before each meet, we usually have a spaghetti dinner so that we can carb up. We have sides like bread, fruits, veggies, and dessert," Dallman said.

Of course, with the

pandemic, these close-knit dinners might not be able to happen as often or with as many swimmers in one place. The coronavirus also has affected some of the usual attended meets throughout the year.

"Some of the bigger meets have already been cancelled [because of COVID-19]. This doesn't bother me, but it does mean that we will probably end up having way more practices than meets. Also, as of now, only one parent is allowed at a meet," Dallman said.

Dallman hopes, with her years of high school swim experience, she can take on more of a leadership role this season.

"I am going to help out whenever and wherever I can and do it to the best of my ability. I am also going to try and stay positive no matter the situation," Dallman said.

Some new faces joined the swim team this season like freshman Mary Faltys who has been swimming competitively for three years. This will be her first year of high school swim, however.

"It's all new to me, but



BREA LASSEK / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF 2020

Senior Kaira Dallman competes in the breaststroke at a meet at the Aquatic Center last season. Dallman is one of only four Scotus swimmers on the CHS team this year.

all the remaining swimmers [from last year] are helpful and encouraging, which makes it all easier," Faltys said.

The swim team competed in their first meet in a dual against Fremont at the Fremont YMCA on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The team lost

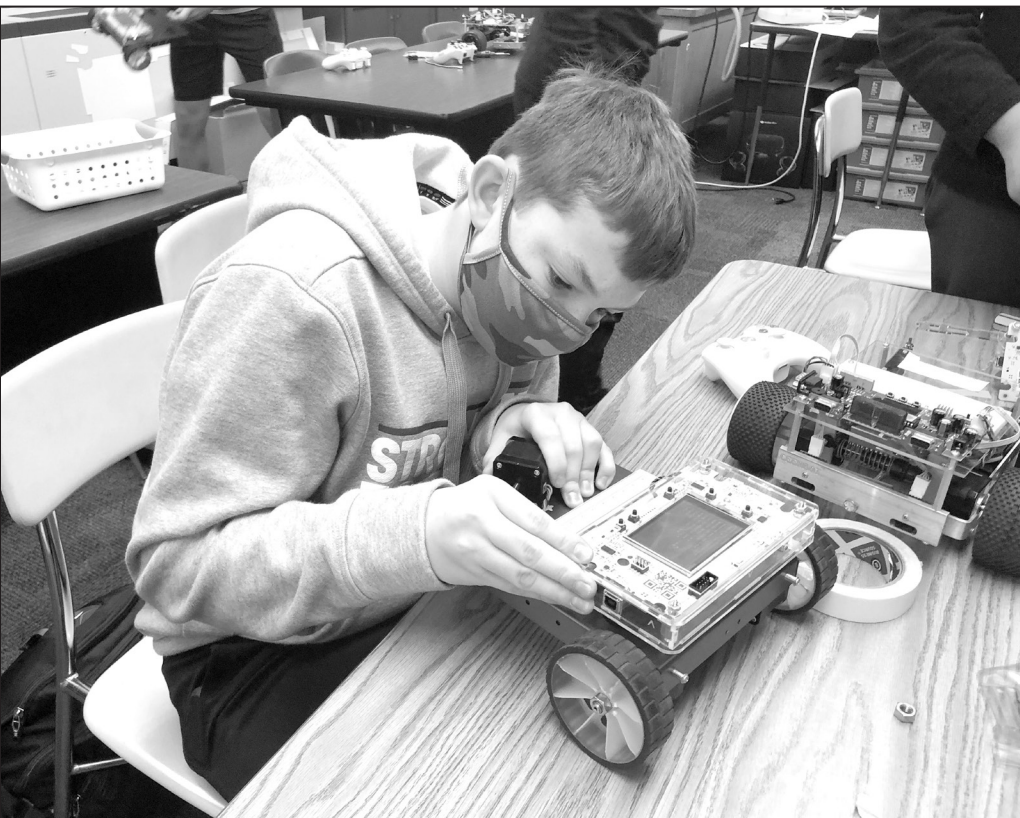
the dual but had two swimmers swim secondary times and a couple more swimmers place in the top three of their individual events.

Conor Zobel-Stevens, a freshman joining the team this year, sums up what the team means to him.

"I found more than just a

team of water athletes I found a people; MY PEOPLE. It just says we don't care who you are or where you came from. You are welcomed onto the team. Even if you think you're going to drown, you have your people holding you up," Zobel-Stevens said.

# Extra photos from winter activities



AVA KUHLL / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Eighth grader Callen Jedlicka works on fixing his CEENBot at a robotics practice. Robotics meets Mondays and Thursdays after school and Friday mornings.



CAMILLE PELAN / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior Garrett Oakley goes in for a layup in the first game of the season. The Shamrocks play tonight, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at home against Concordia.



# Robotics builds team

By Ava Kuhl  
Staff Reporter

Last year the Scotus robotics team made their debut with limited numbers and high expectations. This year the team has 19 students in total, 17 junior high and two high school students. 8th grader Rebecca Policky is a returner this year.

"I'm looking forward to having fun!" Policky said. "My expectations are the same I had last year, which were: this should be fun, and I get to learn about what I might want to do in the future."

Robotics club was started by STEAM teacher Betsy Rall. The team was small with a total of ten students, but they still competed in Ashland, Nebraska for the 2020 University of Nebraska Lincoln CEENBoT Robotics Showcase.

"The students who were in robotics last year have been asking me since the start of school, 'when are we having robotics,' and so we

just got started the last couple weeks with new members coming," Rall explained. "At the moment we are working on learning how to program, how to drive, and how to use the CEENBoTs."

The robotics club introduces students to the world of coding and technology in a new and innovated way. 8th grader Evan Jelinek is a returner to this year's team.

"I joined robotics because I did it last year and had a blast! I am looking forward to building a robot with my friends and doing competitions," Jelinek stated. "The robotics club teaches students to code and design a robot to fit the needs of the competition."

With new CEENBoTs and updated technology, the robotics team is learning how to adapt and rebuild.

"The learning curve is pretty steep for us at the moment. Our goal will be to learn how to use those [CEENBoTs]," Rall said. "We are going to start coding in Python this year, which is a very current coding lan-

guage, and I think the coding background some of our students have will allow them to be successful this year."

After having one year underneath them, the team looks to compete again this year. 7th grader Emily Young is new to the team this year.

"We will compete in the Nebraska Robotics Expo 2020 Event, February 22," Young remarked. "I am looking forward to the competition; even if it is virtual, I still want to do it."

With hopes to compete in the spring, the robotics club strives to improve and prepare for their competitions, welcoming any students who want to try it out themselves.

"There are a lot of activities here at Scotus, but I think robotics provides another interesting, different type of group that is not a mainstream," Rall said. "It's not athletic, it's not band, it's kind of academic. So, there are some students who enjoy it."



Ava Kuhl / Rock Bottom Staff

STEAM teacher Betsy Rall helps 7th grader Peter Faltys with his CEENBoT during a robotics practice. The robotics team practices in preparation to compete in the Nebraska Robotics Expo 2020 Event in the spring.

# Groups fund Christmas gifts

By Emily Ferguson  
Staff Reporter

The Christmas season is in full swing at Scotus, and students are busy finding ways to give back to others and the community during

this season of giving.

Since November, Scotus has been providing students and staff with several activities to participate in to help those who are in need. These events have included No Sock No Shave November, NHS candy canes, and the

Giving Tree. All the money raised from these events will go to the Columbus community or other organizations, which will be used to help others. 7th grader Sydney Stuart participated in many of these activities at Scotus and recognized the importance of

giving to others, especially as Catholics.

"I think giving is very important to do as part of our faith because it shows we care about others and we are following the golden rule," Stuart stated.

During the month of November, student council hosted No Sock No Shave November. This is an event where students and staff can pay to wear any style of socks and sandals every day to school. Also, boys do not have to shave if they participate. Over 90 students at Scotus participated in this event, including senior Ava Kuhl.

"My favorite thing is seeing all the fun and amazing socks some people have around school. Also, seeing some of the guys actually grow facial hair is so funny," Kuhl said.

Students participated in No Sock No Shave November not only to raise money for the Simon House, but also to embrace the opportunity of not having to follow some of the school's dress code rules. Junior Halle Langan embraced this opportunity.

"My favorite part is not having to worry about get-

ting fined for my socks and wearing any shoes I want," Langan said.

Junior Chance Bailey enjoyed not having to shave during the month of November and not getting fined by teachers for his facial hair.

"I participated in no shave because I wanted to see how good of a beard I could get," Bailey said.

Students and staff at Scotus also had an opportunity to participate in the NHS candy canes event during the first week of December. National Honors Society members went around school selling Christmas candy slips for 50 cents to the students and staff to purchase.

"It was a little difficult finding people to sell to, but my brother helped me get a few sales, which was helpful," sophomore NHS member Hailey Steffensmeier said.

People bought from an NHS member then wrote a Scotus student or staff member's name on the slip, which will be given to them on Friday, December 11th. Students and staff will then get to see who bought them candy by looking at the slips

in their bag.

"I love giving candy canes to my friends because it is a small way to show someone that you appreciate them," senior Maddie Blaser stated.

Finally, the last event students and staff could participate in at Scotus was the Giving Tree. The Giving Tree was an event hosted by campus ministry where students and staff chose a paper ornament from the Giving Tree, bought the item written on the ornament, and then returned the item unwrapped back to school. All the items bought for the Giving Tree will be given to kids in the Columbus community who will not be receiving anything this Christmas, except a present from the Giving Tree. Junior Grace Mustard participated in this event and understands how important the giving tree is and how thankful people should be for all they have.

"I think it makes people put in perspective how blessed we really are. Some of these gifts we provide are the only thing someone might receive," Mustard stated.



Cassie Kouma / Rock Bottom Staff

Juniors Allie Baumert and Regan Sucha organize Christmas candy slips early Tuesday morning for NHS. On December 11th, every student at Scotus received a piece of candy from anyone who bought them a Christmas candy slip.

# Campus ministry spreads Advent cheer

By Vijay Wemhoff  
Staff Reporter

Campus ministry is doing many activities to prepare for the Advent season. These activities include the Giving Tree, putting tags on people's lockers with a quote or bible verse, hot chocolate, and Christmas sweater day for the last day before the semester ends.

There are 33 members in campus ministry. Each of these members are doing different tasks to bring positivity to school.

"I love organizing the life chain and planning retreats. I also love helping the rest of the school prepare for Jesus' birth," senior Maddie Blaser said.

Each member of campus ministry receives about 10 to 11 people to pray and make Christmas tags for. Everyone in the school receives one, so everyone knows they are being prayed for.

"My favorite Advent activity for campus ministry

is putting the tags on the lockers for the students. It is good to let others know that you are praying for them," senior Emily Ferguson said.

With the stress of school and the end of the semester coming up, giving and receiving notes of encouragement is calming.

"I put a note saying I prayed for them. I know people who write more, but I find comfort in the simplicity," senior Simon Pichler said.

There is so much joy in helping with Advent. The whole school goes to Mass and Penance in preparation for Advent.

"I like helping with Advent. It gives me a reason to push myself to really reflect on my personal faith and to be an example for others," junior Eden Broberg said.

While every student has busy schedules, Campus ministry takes the time to pray for everyone in the chapel during the Advent season.

"I encourage campus ministry team to go and pray in the chapel during a study

hall when they have the chance. We also encourage the students not in campus ministry to participate," campus minister Dana Ritzdorf said.

They also do a Giving Tree for the people who don't have gifts. Students grabbed a tag off the tree and brought gifts back.

"My favorite Advent activity is the Giving Tree. Everyone deserves to get something for Christmas, even if it's something small. Anyone can participate, and it is a great way to spread Christmas cheer," junior Camille Cox said.

There were 30 to 35 gifts purchased for the Giving Tree. The gifts go to the teenagers in the community who are in need.

"I love helping with Advent, it is my favorite liturgical season. It is such a fun and joyful time to prepare for Christmas. It also is another cool opportunity to give to others in need," Ritzdorf said.

The theme for each week



Vijay Wemhoff / Rock Bottom Staff

A campus ministry student places a Christmas Advent tag on someone's locker. Campus ministry put a tag on everyone's locker during the Advent season letting them know they were prayed for.

of Advent is hope, love, joy, and peace. Thursday, December 16th, Campus Ministry is giving out hot chocolate in between periods. They also

encourage everyone to wear Christmas sweaters.

"Campus ministry works extremely hard and puts in a large amount of thought into

everything that is done. We want everyone to be included and to spread joy during this Advent season," Cox said.



# One act finds district success

By Cassie Kouma  
Editor

When it comes to competing, sports teams like volleyball, basketball, and football are usually the only ones who get to face off against other schools. The fine arts, especially theater, are often lacking in these opportunities. However, there is one place an aspiring actor or actress can go to fulfill their competitive side: one act.

The 30-minute production this year was *Macbeth*. Scotus art teacher Clyde Ericson has been the one act director for three years and was challenged with choosing the script.

"[One problem is] finding a story that's worth telling because there're a lot of bad stories out there. There are good stories, but they're hard to find," Ericson said.

*Macbeth* is a 17<sup>th</sup> century classic written by William Shakespeare.

"It's lasted the test of time because it's a tragedy talking about corruption, power, and greed. It has some really dramatic, powerful moments, and we have the

right kids to make it happen," Ericson said.

Junior Luke Przymus had the lead role of Macbeth. This was his first year participating in one act.

"I like the competition to it. I'm a competitor, and it gives me an opportunity to display certain skills and to be a part of a team," Przymus said.

The team aspect is easily formed during one act. Senior Maddie Blaser had the role of Lady Macbeth.

"[I like] being able to interact with people from other grades and get to know people I wouldn't have known," Blaser said.

With many different participants and viewpoints, it can be challenging to decide the best way to portray a scene.

"I think with all these different people and all these different ideas, sometimes they can conflict. But I think that can also be a benefit because you can create something even better," Przymus said.

There was one person in particular who brought something new to one act this year. English teacher Melanie

Mimick was the assistant director for the first time this season.

"She [has] been a part of the speech team, and she's really made a positive difference on our production," Ericson said.

Mimick was not the only one who provided valuable insight this year. Many of the seniors made an impact during this season of one act.

"They're a good group. They're great leaders, and they work so hard. They have a lot of great input that they have included with our ensemble. I can't sing their praises enough," Mimick said.

In addition to the new assistant director and the leadership of the seniors, there was another factor that altered one act.

"Well, this year obviously masks are kind of hindering a lot of things because it's hard to hear and understand what we're saying," Blaser said.

The importance of wearing masks during practice was emphasized by the handful of students who were quarantined throughout the



JANAE RUSHER / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Witches played by juniors Kyanne Caspersen and Zoe Euteneuer, senior Clarissa Kosch, and junior Roxanne Beshaler manipulate Luke Przymus, who plays Macbeth. All five of these actors earned awards throughout the season.

season. The first three performances were cancelled due to COVID-19 illnesses.

The actors finally competed on November 21<sup>st</sup> at the conference competition, and the team earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place with Przymus being named the

Centennial Conference Best Actor. Scotus one act also got 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the Archbishop Bergan Invite. The season ended with the impressive title of runner-up at the district competition.

"The end of the one

act season brings me a lot of sadness but also a lot of pride," Blaser said. "Our performance at districts was our best of the year, and I could not be happier with how we ended our season."



JANAE RUSHER / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Maddie Blaser acts out her lead role of Lady Macbeth. One act live streamed their home performance at Scotus on November 29th over Striv.



ANGIE RUSHER / JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Sophomores Kavan Splittgerber and Mark Buhman listen as King Duncan, played by senior Josh Styskal, makes an announcement. Scotus received the runner-up title at the district one act competition.

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# Xbox Series X vs PlayStation 5

By Kade Wiese  
Staff Reporter

“Are you going to buy the new console when it comes out?”

This question has been asked frequently since the reveal of the new Xbox Series X and PlayStation 5 consoles. Both companies had teased around the idea of a new console to their gamers late last year but had not yet announced it until earlier this year.

The revealing of the new consoles was a huge deal in the gaming community because the companies had not released a new generation of consoles since November of 2013 with the Xbox One and PlayStation 4. Between 2013 and now, both companies came out with advanced and modified gaming consoles, but not modified enough to be considered ‘new-gen.’

There are many components to consider when buying one of these consoles. Let’s begin with Microsoft’s Xbox Series X.

The Series X stands 11.8 inches tall, 5.9 inches wide, and 5.9 inches long. It weighs about 10 pounds, and visually, it is a black rectangular

prism. The Xbox Series X was engineered for speed and performance packing in fast CPU and GPU numbers.

Microsoft’s Xbox Series X comes with a 4K ultra-high-definition Blu-ray player, along with Dolby Atmos audio, and a high dynamic range up to 8K. Combined, they make playing video games extremely realistic and intense.

One of the best features included in the Series X is the backward compatibility. With this feature, Xbox players will be able to play thousands of games spanning back to the Xbox One, Xbox 360, and even the original Xbox.

As for the controller, Microsoft changed noticeably little to it. In fact, they kept the same design from the Xbox One but only added a share button and extra traction to obtain better grip.

Microsoft’s Xbox Series X comes with 1 TB (terabyte) of storage and has a starting price of \$499.

While Microsoft focuses more on the power

and speed of its consoles, Sony continues to focus and rely more on pushing exclusives out for the PlayStation 5.

With a whole new facelift, the PlayStation 5 stands quite larger than the Xbox Series X. It is about 15.4 inches tall, 4.09 inches wide, and 10.24 inches long, making it the largest gaming console ever made. The PlayStation 5, too, is about 10 pounds.

Nico Pino of TechRadar describes the shape of the new PlayStation 5 as having “almost Alienware-esque, space-age design to it with a black centerpiece and a rounded white top and bottom.”

Not only did the PlayStation 5 receive a facelift, but it also gained speed too. Although it isn’t as fast or mighty as the Xbox Series X, it still brings some impressive numbers to the table. Like the Xbox Series X, PlayStation 5 also comes with a 4K Blu-ray player, 8K gameplay, immersing gameplay audio, and realistic graphics.

Sony wanted to redesign everything, so they changed the controller, too. PlayStation 5 now comes with the new DualSense wireless



VIDEOGAMESCHRONICLE.COM

**Sony’s PlayStation 5 and Microsoft’s Xbox Series X were released this year in early November. These are the first redesigns of the gaming consoles since the release of the PlayStation 4 and Xbox One in 2013.**

controller. According to Sony, the DualSense offers immersive haptic feedback, dynamic adaptive triggers, and a built-in microphone, all integrated into one iconic design.

One place where the PlayStation 5 was outperformed by the Xbox Series X is in the backward compatibility department. Unlike the Xbox Series X, PlayStation 5 users can only play games going back to the PlayStation

4. Sony’s PlayStation 5 comes with 825 GBs (giga-bytes) of storage and has a starting price of \$499.

When it comes down to deciding what console to buy, consider these thoughts:

If you want faster and smoother gameplay, more storage, backward compatibility back to the first-ever console, and a console that is boring to the eye, buy Microsoft’s Xbox Series X.

If you want extremely realistic graphics, more console exclusives, and a console that will stand out and appeal to the eye, buy Sony’s PlayStation 5.

In the end, both consoles offer high-end quality and performance, and comparing the two is basically comparing apples to oranges: two great consoles, with two different approaches to gaming.

# Documentary exposes social media issues

By Cassie Kouma  
Editor

Lately, every notification I receive on my phone unsettles me, I am extra conscious

about the amount of time I pause on each Instagram post, and I cannot help feeling as if I am being watched during every moment I spend on social media. I feel this way because it is true. My online activity, along with everyone

else’s, is being constantly watched by software that is probably even smarter than I am. This unease was sparked after I viewed a movie called *The Social Dilemma*.

The purpose of this Netflix documentary is to

expose people to the software behind their most used apps. The reason why no teen can stop themselves from scrolling through Instagram and TikTok for hours is because those media platforms were designed to grab viewers’ attention and hold onto it. *The Social Dilemma* is an unsettling must see for anyone who uses social media, which means it is a must see for pretty much everyone.

Throughout the movie, there are many scenes showing former employees and creators of big tech companies such as Google, Twitter, and Facebook being interviewed. They discuss the ways the decisions of a handful of people impact billions of technology users. The people behind these platforms admit to the addictiveness of the development techniques.

An engaging aspect of *The Social Dilemma* is the family that is portrayed.

Actors play the parts of a typical family, each of whom is affected in some way by technology. Insecurities that often stem from social media are shown by the youngest sister. The middle child, a high school boy, struggles with the inability to put his phone down and participate in the real world. The oldest sister sees the hardships her siblings are going through and tries to help them. She advocates for a lifestyle not dependent upon technology, but she struggles to get this message across to those she cares for. It is easy for any viewer to identify with at least one of these characters, and following their story provides breaks from the technical side of the movie.

Other scenes represent the pursuit to addict users to social media in a creative way. An actor plays the parts of three aspects of an algorithm: engagement,

growth, and advertisement. This method personifies the program and helps viewers understand its purpose to grab peoples’ attention, generate new users, and sell products. One quote from the movie startlingly sums up the goal of this technology. It says, “There are only two industries that call their customers ‘users’: illegal drugs and software.”

Some people may believe social media has few downfalls. It connects users and provides a platform to interact with others. However, these people are denying the real addictiveness nearly everyone is affected by.

If you feel a constant pull toward your phone, *The Social Dilemma* will explain why. If you do not think you have an addiction, this movie might open your eyes and show the ways in which you could be mistaken.



IMPAWARDS.COMTVSOCIAL\_DILEMMA\_XLG.HTML

**The Social Dilemma is a 2020 Netflix documentary. It covers topics relating to the addictiveness of technology.**

# Internet podcasts upsetting the mainstream media

By Joel Schumacher  
Staff Reporter

We’ve all been lied to. Whether its Fox News, CNN, or MSNBC, the mainstream media has had a hold on how Americans get their slanted news for far too long. They all have their agendas they want to force into our brains.

Too bad for them, their days are numbered. With new podcasts and talk shows coming in on untraditional outlets such as YouTube or Spotify, Americans are now breaking the ideological eco chambers of the news media and embracing free and open thought on the internet.

Internet podcasts are outpacing traditional news media, and it’s not that close.

Look for example to CNN’s primetime pinnacle *Anderson Cooper 360*. *Anderson Cooper 360* averages about two million viewers on a typical night while popular podcasts, such as Joe Rogan’s *Joe Rogan Experience*, will get up to 11 million views with guests like Kanye West or Neil Degross Tyson on a regular basis. Big media is running scared as more and

more viewers, especially young people, no longer have cable TV let alone watch the news. Sixty-one percent of millennials have switched from cable to online streaming such as Netflix or Hulu (“Death of Cable,” Murphy). One can only think that among Generation Z, the margin will only grow.

The switch away from traditional media to podcasts is very beneficial to society at large. To those who are willing to listen, entertainment, humor, and education will all be added to their psyches.

Traditional media such as CNN and Fox News do little to educate and expand the minds of the American populous. CNN panders to liberals and Fox to conservatives. In fact, things have gotten so bad that objective journalism hardly exists anymore. However, podcasts, like *The Rubin Report* by Dave Rubin, frequently entertain famous liberals and conservatives in free and open debate without any interference or judgement. Liberals and conservatives get to discuss their ideas openly in a setting

where each view is given the same level of credence. Furthermore, in many podcasts, the topics discussed are not political. Popular podcast *The Sunday Special* by Ben Shapiro will frequently feature cross-faith dialogue with religious leaders such as Bishop Barron or Ravi Zacharias. This gives an opportunity for conversations that go beyond the political spectrum but are educational, nonetheless.

However, one of the best qualities of podcasts is they can have no topic or debate at all. Some of the best podcasts consist of random conversations that diverge into the topic of conspiracy theories and other outlandish views. This is especially entertaining when celebrities are the ones wearing the tin foil hat. In the *JRE* podcast, technological legend Elon Musk will be talking about his electric cars one minute and the next about how he believes the whole universe is likely just a simulation. People get to see multiple sides and opinions from very notable celebrities. It allows for viewers to see that celebrities are complex

and hold sometimes very controversial opinions, not much different than normal people. Podcasts, such as *The Sunday Special*, *JRE*, and *The Rubin Report*, are changing the landscape of educational entertainment forever.

Internet podcasts do much to unite millions of people from very different walks of life. It brings Americans together over unique conversations ranging from mixed martial arts to extraterrestrial life instead of dividing each other over mundane political differences. They show that Americans have much more in common than different. It shows that ordinary people do not just fit into the box of left or right. But mostly, it shows that an ordinary, unscripted conversation among individuals is a lot more entertaining and educational than a traditional newscast. More and more viewers should make the switch from the mainstream media to podcasts on the internet. Society would be greatly benefited from it.



WORDONFIRE.ORG

**Catholic apologist Bishop Robert Barron sits down with Ben Shapiro for an episode of *The Sunday Special*. The podcast features various apologists as one of its most frequent types of guests.**





# Rock Bottom

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<https://scotuscc.org/rock-bottom-newspaper/>

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## Packing the ‘Bear’ Essentials

By Grace Mustard  
Staff Reporter

It was three o’clock in the morning on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 when Greyson Bear Scott’s mom woke him up in the pitch black of the Alaskan winter. The small creek next to their family home on Mt. Rapinski was roaring as it turned into a raging river swallowing whatever was in its path. Everything from rocks and trees to vehicles and nearly the home occupied by their neighbors and two children was swept away or suffocated in mud. “You would think we lived next to a gushing waterfall instead of the stream outside our window,” Scotus alum Candice Mustard-Scott described. “There was no use exploring what was going on outside because I couldn’t see my hand in front of my face in the dark, torrential rain.”

The sun eventually rose only for them to realize the road leading to their home on the opposite side of the creek had been completely washed away by water. The water depths eventually grew four to six feet deep and nearly forty-five feet wide at the bottom of the mountain. “When the creek water lowered, we had to cross it by foot. I had to carry my little sister, Ella, on my back to get her across,” Greyson Scott said.

In the midst of this chaos, they received news that houses had been destroyed by mudslides on a mountain nearly two miles from their

home, and six people were missing. Southeast Alaska was ravished with three tropical storms and a hurricane in a period of five days. There were nearly twelve inches of rain falling in twenty-four hours after weeks and feet of snow in Haines, Alaska. The weather continues to cause uncertainty in their hometown as the geological team attempts to assess the damage, risk, and next possible slide.

“We could only pack what we could carry on us, but I made sure to pack the most important thing, my Ps4,” Greyson Scott joked.

Once they arrived at the center of their 1,800-person town, the Red Cross was doing their best to assist those in need of medical care, shelter, food, and clothes. Twenty-four hours later, the Scott family decided it was best to leave their town via ferry to Juneau then a flight to Seattle with the destination of Columbus, NE to stay with their Uncle Chris Mustard’s family.

“We will remain in Columbus until this summer when the research and risk of the spring-thaw is better understood,” Candice Mustard-Scott said.

Greyson began the second semester at Scotus, and his little sister, Ella, is at St. Bon’s. Their dad, Heath Scott, was 3,000 miles away at the time of the initial mudslides at a federal training in Georgia. He is Chief of Police in Haines and remains there to help the city rebuild physically and emotionally.

“It’s hard being away from my dad, but our city needs him. We call and FaceTime, and he plans to



PHOTO COURTESY GRACE MUSTARD

**New student Greyson Scott (far right) and sister Ella Scott (bottom left) pose with the Mustard family in Alaska two summers ago. The Scotts were evacuated from their home due to mudslides and are attending school in Columbus this semester.**

come here for a visit in the spring,” Greyson Scott said.

Even through the disastrous few months they have endured, they did not let it stop them from focus-

ing on the silver linings. Greyson is enjoying time with cousins, basketball with his new team, and is looking forward to track season.

“My family and I always joked

they wanted me to come to Scotus for varsity sports, but now I’m here a little early getting a taste of the Shamrock life,” Greyson Scott concluded.

## Alumni seminarians grace students with advice

By Noah Korth  
Staff Reporter

Recently, students and faculty might have noticed two familiar faces walking the halls. Scotus alumni Isaac Ostdiek and Caleb Kosch returned home from St. John Vianney

Seminary in Minnesota and spoke to religion classes about growing in their faith and pursuing vocations.

Both Isaac and Caleb started their second year of seminary in 2020. Like most Scotus graduates, they have many fond memories of their years at Scotus.

“There was this one time in Mr. Linder’s class that we all thought

we would be a bunch of pranksters,” Ostdiek recalled. “So, [Mr. Linder] left for a few minutes, and we quickly turned all of our desks around so they were facing the back of the classroom.”

Ostdiek and Kosch were not just “pranksters” in their time at Scotus. They also took advantage of their faith-based education by seizing opportunities to grow closer to God. Both seminarians were active participants in Campus Ministry, Teens for Life, and several retreats like Steubenville and JC Camp.

“Scotus prepared me for life in the seminary by giving me the opportunities to be available for amazing retreats where we got to learn more about Christ,” Kosch said. “We also had Christ in the tabernacle at school. Overall, [Scotus] really prepared me for a life of prayer.”

While Scotus definitely had a hand in helping Ostdiek and Kosch pursue their vocations, both seminarians started thinking about going into seminary before they even started high school. Kosch first felt God’s call in second grade during one of Father Dell’s Masses, and Ostdiek’s a-ha moment happened in eighth grade.

“I was just falling asleep one night, and the thought of being a priest popped into my head,” Ostdiek remembered. “I thought about celebrating Mass, celebrating weddings, and being there for the big moments in everyone’s lives –

but also being there for the more mundane [moments].”

Some people picture seminary and imagine a mysterious place far away from home. In reality, the seminary is simply a community of men discerning their call to the priesthood. Daily life for seminarians entails seeking God’s will, praying in common, and celebrating the Eucharist together. Seminary is unique from most colleges because of its vast array of religious opportunities.

“It’s not the normal college experience, but [my favorite part about college is] having the tabernacle and the adoration chapel right on the first floor of our building,” Kosch said. “Having that accessibility to the sacraments and being able to go in there whenever we want and spend some time with Christ is just beautiful.”

The discernment process is not the same for everyone. For some, God’s call echoes in their heart. Others might have to search a bit deeper. For those considering the priesthood, reaching out to pastors or the vocations director, Father Roza, would be beneficial.

“[My advice is to] pray,” Ostdiek said. “Ultimately, your vocation is a calling from God. You’ll find happiness in developing your relationship [with Him] and trying to find out what He wants for you and where He wants your life to go.”

## Sinclair finds second home

By Kate Maguire  
Staff Reporter

At the start of the 2020-21 school year, administration at schools around the country were forced to decide, based on their community’s guidelines, whether to have school in person or online. Mater Dei Catholic High School in San Diego, California made the decision that all their students would be online for the first semester as San Diego was in a red zone for COVID-19.

Junior Grace Sinclair, who attended Mater Dei, felt it would benefit her more to learn in person rather than virtually. So, she made the hard decision to travel to Nebraska from California to continue her education in person.

“Due to schools being shut down because of COVID-19, my school was online the whole first semester, and they are still online this semester. My cousins [Max and Lily Lancaster] came to visit during the summer and suggested I go to Scotus because they were going back in person. After discussing with my parents, we decided it would be a great experience,” Sinclair said.

Having her cousins and other familiar faces in town made it easier for Sinclair to adapt to life in Columbus.

“I think already knowing many people made it much easier adjusting to a new school. I think also visiting Columbus over the past years to see my family made it easy to be in a new town,” Sinclair said.

See Sinclair, Page 2



TAYLOR DAHL / MARKETING DIRECTOR

**Alumni seminarians Isaac Ostdiek and Caleb Kosch pose in Scotus’ senior hallway. After returning home from St. John Vianney Seminary in Minnesota, Ostdiek and Kosch spoke to students in religion classes about considering and pursuing vocations.**



Sinclair

Sinclair noted that Scotus has a few differences from the school she attended in California. "Scotus is a lot smaller than my other school including the size of the campus and the number of students. Another difference is my school in California had a different schedule. We had block schedules where there were fewer classes a day for a longer time," Sinclair said. "At Scotus, I'd say everyone knows each other, but at my school in California, not everyone knew each other. I'd say the people are similar, but here at Scotus people are a little more friendly." During her time here, Sinclair has been living with the Lancasters, who have freshman, Max, and seventh grader, Lily, while Sunny Lancaster is the bookkeeper here at Scotus. Lancaster recalls how it

was decided that Sinclair would stay with her family. "I think Grace decided to stay with us this school year because she knows my family well. Despite our geographical distance, we have a close relationship with her and her family," Lancaster said. "For as long as I can remember, Grace has come and spent a week with us every summer. My family also spends a week at her house, and we have occasional trips in between where we get together, so I think it was a natural fit for her to stay with us. And it's convenient that I'm already coming to Scotus every day!" Lancaster recalls how it was an adjustment with Sinclair living in their house, but it has been a blessing having her around. "The biggest adjustment was just getting her set up so she had

her own space that she could make her own, but really, she is a great, responsible, and motivated kid so having her with us has been easy! COVID-19 provided this unique situation, and it's been a blessing," Lancaster said. "She has had the chance to spend a lot of extra time with our extended family, and I love seeing how she's gotten closer with my kids. When she went home for Christmas break, our house felt different, like something was missing, so we were glad to have her back for the second semester!" Sinclair will be returning to California for her senior year, but she appreciates her time here in Columbus. "It's definitely a new experience living in a small town, but I enjoy it," Sinclair said.



PHOTO COURTESY SUNNY LANCASTER

Scotus bookkeeper Sunny Lancaster and cousin Grace Sinclair pose for a photo. Sinclair has been living with the Lancasters and attending Scotus during her time in Columbus from California.

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# Books allow for an escape



By Kate Maguire  
Staff Reporter

loved a book thinks: books allow people to journey into and imagine a whole other world.

A nice aspect about reading is any person can get drawn into a good book. There are books for every kind of preference and personality. There is fantasy for those who want to get away from the real world, crime or mystery for those who love suspense, romance books which will raise the expectations of a relationship, nonfiction for those who live for the truth, thrillers which will have readers unable to set the book down, and many more genres to choose from.

Books create a whole new world to envision and project a movie in the reader's head. Onlookers

see someone huddled in a corner with their face buried in the pages of a book, while the reader sees themselves walking down the hallways of Hogwarts Castle or training at Camp-Half Blood with Percy Jackson.

Reading is a way to block out the craziness of the real world. A good book can have the effect where someone will sit down to read a chapter or two but end up reading for hours as each chapter ends with the reader needing to know what happens next.

Reading can be hard to spark interest in at first. People will argue that they don't have enough time to read or they can't find a good book. There are a few tricks that can help someone begin

to enjoy reading.

First, find a book about a topic which interests you. Whether it is history, magic, or sports, there is a book for everything.

Some people particularly do not like or want to scan and process words as their eyes cover the page. So, audio books are a suitable alternative for these kinds of people. The tone and accents of the narrator for the book will help the listener get drawn into the story.

Books are often better than their movie creations. So, a great way to get swept away by reading is to watch a movie, and if the movie is good, the book will be even better as it goes into more detail and has more scenes.

Reading not only takes

you to another world, but it can also benefit your health. Stress is common in today's technological and hectic world. Reading, according to *weareteachers.com*, reduces stress by 68%. It helps slow the heart rate and relax the muscles.

Reading fully engages the mind and its imagination allowing the reader to let go of his/her worries. According to *readingpartners.org*, "Any activity that possesses meditative qualities in which the brain is fully focused on a single task is proven to reduce stress and enhance relaxation."

Reading has other health benefits other than reducing stress. It will help a reader prepare for a good night's rest as well as help alleviate

depression symptoms.

Plus, according to *healthline.com*, reading books could even help you live longer. A retirement study following 4,000 adults for 12 years discovered that those who read, lived around 2 years longer than those who didn't read at all.

Reading books for fun will help raise a student's score on the ACT. It helps improve memory and will give reader's an easier time putting together ideas to solve a problem or seek out an answer in a paragraph.

American novelist George R. R. Martin sums up what reading does for a person, "A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one."



Ava Kuhl / Rock Bottom Staff

# Everyone should work for a farmer



By Kade Weise  
Staff Reporter

homes.

One of the only places where anyone can truly learn these principles is in a farm setting. Farming is a job that does not stop giving. It is a demanding job that comes with many different lessons that can be kept and used for the rest of your life.

I believe everyone should work for a farmer at least once in their lifetime.

Working on a farm teaches you what hard labor truly is. You are constantly on your feet and are regularly outside. Summer days are blazing, humid, and dry. Winter days are cold, frigid, and icy. The farm doesn't care if it is hot or cold outside, there are jobs and chores that need to be done; there is no way to avoid them or get around them. Hard work is required on a farm. If you are not

willing to work, the farm will not survive.

Farming teaches you to become an excellent listener and an effective communicator. The difference in putting gasoline into a diesel engine instead of diesel is enormous. One little word can change the whole situation. If you don't listen to what is asked of you, you could cause great amounts of damage, loss of precious time and money, and endless stress. The importance of listening is extremely important when working on a farm and carries on to other aspects of life. Communicating is equally as important as having keen listening skills. Good communication will save you hours of work and will help your coworkers or boss help you when you are stuck in a problem.

Working on a farm

forces you to become an efficient problem solver. Everyday, you will face new challenges, and, often, you are by yourself. The farm is constantly changing, and if you're stuck on a problem for too long, it will cause even worse long-term effects that you will then have to fix in the future. Having good problem-solving skills will also make you use the resources you have around you. You won't always have to tools you need, so you will have to compromise and find different methods of fixing a situation.

You learn how to be responsible on your own. Animals are not able to feed and clean themselves, broken machinery won't fix itself, cornfields won't be harvested by themselves, and fences won't put themselves up. The

different jobs and tasks on the farm will require one to be self-reliant. The farm is your source of income, and however much work you put in, determines how much money you will have at the end of the year. Everything you do on the farm plays a key role in your success and is why you need to be responsible.

It might seem that the farm setting is quite dangerous, and people shouldn't choose it as a job. Fun fact, farming teaches you how to be safe and work around dangerous environments. Farming shows you how to watch out for your surroundings and double-check everything to make sure nobody is in the way and nothing gets damaged.

Some also say that farming will not make you much money, and it is a poor man's

job. I am here to tell you the claim is false. Much of the money earned from farming is put back into the farm for better equipment, more livestock, and technological improvements. Although one may not be paid a great deal, the lessons learned, and skills acquired will always outweigh any worth of money.

I suggest going out in the country and find a farmer to hire you. You will learn much more working on a farm than you ever will working at a job in town. You will acquire life skills many don't possess and will be able to use those skills wherever you go. The life lessons that are discovered while working on a farm will always stay with you and will ultimately make you a better person.

# Postmodernism stands against Jesus Christ



By Joel Schumacher  
Staff Reporter

gossip about your neighbor. It is right to take pride in one's own work. It is wrong to steal or take credit for something done by another. All these lessons we have undoubtedly been taught imply that there is a right way of conducting yourself in the world.

Postmodernism is a 20<sup>th</sup> century philosophy which proposes there is no such thing as good or evil. Everything is relative because everything is meaningless. There is no grand, overarching narrative to life. There is no truth. There are no lies. Any person can do what they want and not have to worry about breaking any moral law. Moral law does not exist because everything exists randomly; individuals, society, and the universe are all viewed as random and relative. This philosophy is insidiously taking over this country.

The problem is the universe and human behavior are

not random and relative. The universe has a creator, and behavior is indeed underneath a law. There is a way of truth and honor and moral courage. Conversely, there is a way of deception, mischief, and cowardice. These innately human values all stem from the creator who is perfectly good and holy. We all know the truth: there is good and there is evil. Since we ate from the tree of "the knowledge of good and evil," we have lived with the effects of good and the effects of evil. However, we are living in a culture that is denying that obvious and biblical fact.

The most evident space where postmodernism runs

rampant is social media. Rampant immorality is on display in one scroll through the public stories on Snapchat. God teaches us that there is a proper place for sex

between a man and woman in a marriage covenant. Snapchat, Instagram, and the proponents of post-modernism teach us that such a

notion is ludicrous, outdated, and bigoted. Many members of our generation are acquiescing their Christian values and are adopting the belief of postmodernism through their moral actions. What are the effects of such a transition? Well, the bible would contend the effects are severe.

Biblically speaking, whenever a society substi-

tutes the Word of God for the corrupted and subjective beliefs of human beings, evil grows to permeate the land. It is beyond interesting to me that the Bible predicts or prophesizes about postmodernism. 2 Timothy 3: 1-5 reads as this: "But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people."

What makes this passage relevant is that Timothy is referring to the "Church" or to those who would identify themselves as Christian. This passage is a perfect paral-

lel to what is happening in our culture. A society once overflowing with Christians following Jesus Christ for hundreds of years has transitioned away from the Truth to its own conception of moral relativism. In the face of this, we must hold firm to our Christian foundation as, "One nation under God." If not, a continued reading of Timothy indicates that circumstances in that world, not just this nation, will get much worse. However, there is still hope if we turn away from the lies of postmodernism and our own sin and turn to the one Truth of Jesus Christ, who is the Word of God. "Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

*"Many members of our generation are acquiescing their Christian values and are adopting the belief of postmodernism through their moral actions."*

~Joel Schumacher



# February

## TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

### WHAT IS DATING VIOLENCE?

Dating violence is a pattern of abusive behaviors used to exert power and control over a dating partner. Types of abuse can include physical, sexual, and emotional/verbal abuse.

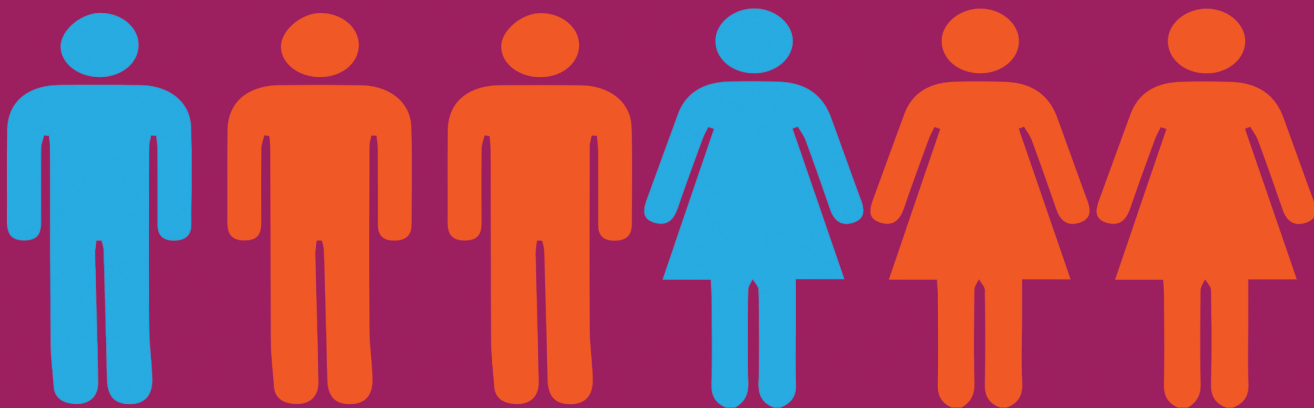


1 IN 10 high school students

HAS BEEN PURPOSEFULLY HIT, SLAPPED, OR PHYSICALLY HURT BY A DATING PARTNER.

### 1 in 3 Adolescents

IN THE U.S. IS A VICTIM OF PHYSICAL, SEXUAL, EMOTIONAL, OR VERBAL ABUSE FROM A DATING PARTNER.



### Recognizing Red Flags

- ♦ PARTNER WANTS RELATIONSHIP TO MOVE QUICKLY.
- ♦ PARTNER DOES NOT HONOR BOUNDARIES.
- ♦ PARTNER IS EXCESSIVELY JEALOUS.
- ♦ RELATIONSHIP SEEMS "TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE."
- ♦ PARTNER HAS ENTITLEMENT ATTITUDE.

### "Why don't you just leave?"



### Victim Blaming



It is common for people who have not experienced dating violence before to wonder why the victim does not just leave the relationship. However, ending an abusive relationship is far more complex than a normal break-up. While it is important to recognize the warning signs of abuse, one of the most genuine ways to help a victim is to empathize with them and realize the difficulties of their circumstance. No matter what, always remember to refer, refer, refer!

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP A VICTIM?

**BELIEVE**  
Tell them that you believe them and their side of the story.

**AFFIRM**  
Let them know that whatever they are feeling is okay, and it isn't their fault.

**SUPPORT**  
Be supportive, listen, and tell them you will be there for them.

**EMPOWER**  
Lift them up and reassure them they are not alone.

**REFER**  
Guide them to resources that can help.

### CENTER FOR SURVIVORS

IF YOU OR A FRIEND HAS EXPERIENCED DATING VIOLENCE OR SEXUAL ASSAULT, PLEASE TALK TO AN ADULT OR REVOLUTION MEMBER. WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

24 HOUR CRISIS HOTLINE (800)-658-4482 OR CALL (402)-564-2155  
WWW.CENTERSURVIVORS.ORG  
3103 13TH ST, COLUMBUS, NE



# Revolution impacts Columbus community

By Camille Pelan  
Staff Reporter

February is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. Dating violence is a difficult topic to discuss, but it is a common issue in the world today.

Fortunately, the teenagers of Columbus are lucky to have a group of fellow teenagers in their community specifically dedicated to teaching about these issues, promoting awareness, and being a helpful hand to those in abusive relationships. This group is known as Revolution, which is through the Center of Survivors. It is led by Abbie Tessoroff and Taylor Amsler.

“Revolution is a group of teenagers from all three high schools in Columbus doing peer-to-peer education on the topics of dating violence, sexual assault, and bystander intervention,” freshman Revolution member Neve Pavlik said.

Pavlik is one of fourteen Revolution members from Scotus Central Catholic. Revolution is active within the Columbus community to spread teen dating violence awareness.

“Some activities Revolution does within the commu-

nity include small classroom presentations, volunteering at community events such as parades, and real-life situation theater presentations,” senior Revolution member Kade Wiese said.

Along with parades, Revolution attends Columbus Days, Play Days in the Park, and events at Ag Park to get involved with children in the community through activities, such as face painting and playing games. They also do Christmas Caroling in nursing homes and businesses.

“Being involved in community activities is a great way to make ourselves known,” senior Janae Rusher said. “We want to be available and recognizable to everyone in the community so that victims of dating violence know where to get help.”

However, due to COVID-19, Revolution has not been able to participate in many of these community activities. Revolution is also unable to perform their theater presentations this year. Previously, Revolution theater members would travel to different schools across Nebraska and perform a real-life dating violence scenario, but, due to COVID-19, they do not have this opportunity.

Janae Rusher and junior Luke Przymus are two Scotus Rev-

olution members involved in theater. Even though they are unable to perform this year, Przymus still believes theater is a big part of Revolution.

“Doing theater for Revolution gives us an opportunity to make a change for so many people and to open their eyes to problems that they may not have seen before,” Przymus said.

Because dating violence is common in the world today, the members believe Revolution is a great resource to help those in the Columbus community who are impacted by an abusive relationship.

“I am in Revolution because dating violence is a big problem, and I have seen it happen in real life,” freshman Jude Maguire said. “It is important to help the people who have been abused and scarred by their significant others.”

Most importantly, Revolution wants victims of abusive relationships to know nobody is alone. There is always someone wanting to help, whether it is a Revolution member or simply a trusted adult.

“My advice for someone in an abusive relationship who is scared to seek help would be to not be afraid and to find someone you trust that you can talk to,” senior Emily Ferguson said. “I am in Rev-



PHOTO COURTESY ABBIE TESSENDORF

**Scotus Central Catholic Revolution members pose for a picture during one of their monthly meetings. Each member has been taught and trained on how to properly help anyone who has experienced dating violence. Front row: Chris Adame (11), Emily Ferguson (12), Janae Rusher (12), Kate Maguire (11), Jude Maguire (9). Back row: Kade Wiese (12), Bohden Jedlicka (10), Joanna Rusher (9), Neve Pavlik (9), Jasmine Jackson (10), Noah Korth (12). Not pictured: Jack Faust (10), Garrett Oakley (11), Luke Przymus (11).**

olution because I want to be a voice for those people who feel like they have none, and I want to be there for people who are struggling.”

Oftentimes, it is difficult to get help, but junior Garrett Oakley believes the Revo-

lution members at Scotus are always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone experiencing dating violence.

“It’s not always easy to seek help, especially when you don’t know them, but here at Scotus, I feel like

we are all pretty close, so hopefully you can come talk to us,” Oakley said. “I would love to support anyone who is in need, so please do not be afraid to seek help.”

## Proactive programs



GRACE MUSTARD / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Juniors Chloe Walker, Kate Maguire, director Tlali Garcia, juniors Audrey Sprunk, Makenna Svehla, and Grace Mustard pose for a picture during a BHR meeting. BHR, Building Healthy Relationships, is a program available to students during school on Tuesdays in the fall.**

By Cassie Kouma  
Editor

When it comes to navigating relationships, teens in the Columbus community are fortunate to have several resources available to look toward for guidance. Two such programs are Theology

of the Body and Building Healthy Relationships.

Theology of the Body is a summer program hosted by Brent and Carmen Melliger. The purpose of this 10 to 12 week long course is to teach teens about God through the study of the human body.

The Melligers began leading these lessons about

a decade ago. Their hope is to educate teens on how to develop good relationships from the start instead of having to react to the aftermath of a harmful relationship.

“Brent and I had been praying a lot about the pro-life part of our life, and I had been taking a lot of teens to the abortion facilities to pray.

It just felt like the last-ditch effort all the time,” Carmen Melliger said.

During Theology of the Body meetings, teens watch videos and hear talks about a range of topics such as marriage and discerning vocations.

“There’s a lesson on dating and dating with a purpose,” Brent Melliger added.

With 20 to 30 teens who participate in the group each summer, there are many opportunities to hear from peers about their own thoughts and experiences. Senior Josh Styskal has done Theology of the Body for three years.

“Everyone struggles with sin,” Styskal said. “Prayer and fellowship help with our relationship with God.”

Over the course of the program, teens build trust between one another, and this sense of fellowship is formed. The discussions also increase in quality and become more fruitful as the group grows closer.

“I think the most important thing isn’t the lessons themselves, but it’s the teens that gather. They see other

teens that are striving for the same goal and to love people correctly,” Brent Melliger said.

While Theology of the Body is offered during the summer, students also have a way to learn about relationships during the school year. Building Healthy Relationships, or BHR, is held during school days in the fall. Students are excused from one or two class periods on Tuesdays to meet with the director, Tlali Garcia, from the Center for Survivors.

“In BHR meetings you talk about all types of relationships [from] abusive to healthy. You learn what to look for in bad relationships, also known as red flags,” junior Audrey Sprunk said.

One goal of BHR is to help teens be aware of the unhealthy traits people often experience within relationships. They are also taught about different forms of abuse.

“Emotional abuse happens just as often as physical abuse in relationships, and they are both equally as serious,” junior Makenna Svehla said.

These lessons learned in BHR take on practical purposes. Students are able to recognize the signs of unhealthy relationships in the people around them.

“I look out for my friends more now and make sure they are always treated right,” Svehla said.

Both Theology of the Body and Building Healthy Relationships provide a safe space for teens to discuss and learn about relationships. By taking advantage of these programs, teens are developing proactive approaches as well as learning how to identify when something is not right.

“It doesn’t matter where you’ve been or what you’ve done; you were made in God’s image and likeness. You are good, [and] really all that matters is what you do from this point on,” Carmen Melliger concluded.

Signup for BHR opens during orientation at the beginning of the school year, and information about Theology of the Body can be found in church bulletins in the spring.

### WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ON DATING IN HIGH SCHOOL?

“I believe dating in high school isn’t as important as some people believe it to be. That doesn’t mean it isn’t important at all. It just means it varies from person to person. It can teach you what you think is important in a relationship.”

**Mauricio Velasco (10)**

“I think dating in high school can be a good thing. If you both really care about each other enough and wish the best for each other, you can manage a healthy high school dating relationship.”

**Eden Broberg (11)**

“Why would you need a relationship in high school when you can work instead, buy a boat, and take all your female friends who you are not dating on it?”

**Zane Beierman (11)**

“I believe dating in high school is very important because it shows someone what they want in a relationship. Dating also usually leads to meeting new people and being more social. Although dating in high school might not last, the point of dating is to figure out what kind of person you want to be around forever.”

**Jake Heesacker (12)**

### WHY DO YOU THINK HAVING FRIENDSHIPS IS IMPORTANT IN HIGH SCHOOL?

“Why I think having friendships is important in high school is because everyone is kind of in the same boat. We all face the same struggles and challenges in high school, and it is good to have friends you can relate to and get through challenges together.”

**Jordon Skipton (12)**

“Friendships are important in high school because you are changing significantly every year. They help you understand who you are becoming.”

**Evan Ostdiek (10)**

“Friendships are important in high school because it can be tough navigating your life through all the aspects of high school by yourself. Friendships give you an outlet to talk to about difficulties, and you can lean on them when you need.”

**Jasmine Jackson (10)**

“I think having friendships builds your character. Who you hang out with and how much time you spend with them affects how you’re going to act, so you should have friendships with people who are kind and like the same things as you.”

**Sydney Quinn (11)**

### DESCRIBE A FEW OF THE MOST IMPORTANT QUALITIES YOU THINK A RELATIONSHIP SHOULD INCLUDE?

“I think the most important qualities a relationship should include are honesty, trust, and communication. Everyone should earn and keep each other’s trust because if you fully love or care for someone, having their trust is important. Relationships need to communicate problems, or it may become toxic.”

**Ava Cremers (10)**

“A few important qualities of a relationship are mutual trust, common goals, and good attitudes. These three qualities create a safe environment where each person can feel free.”

**Matthew Gokie (9)**

“A relationship should include qualities such as communication and respect because good communication will keep you and your significant other on the same page, and respect will keep both people feeling comfortable in the relationship. Communication, or lack thereof, can complete or ruin a relationship. If your significant other does not respect you, they should not get the right to your heart.”

**Janae Rusher (12)**



# Swim team strokes toward state

By Emily Ferguson  
Staff Reporter

Two-a-days. Almost every sport has a week of these brutally early morning practices followed by another practice right after school. However, what if two-a-days lasted all season? This is the daily reality and commitment for three Scotus students as members of the swim team.

Swimming is often forgotten when it comes to winter sports. However, swimming can be one of the most difficult sports, physically and mentally, when it comes to both practices and meets. Yet, all of the Scotus swimmers' hard work at practices seems to have paid off as times continue to decrease with every meet.

"I think the season has started off well for the team because we have dropped a lot of time and earned qualifying times," freshman swimmer Mary Faltys said. "As a team, we want as many people to qualify for state as

possible."

Several swimmers on the team have already achieved the goal of qualifying for state, including Scotus senior Kaira Dallman. Dallman has been swimming competitively for over ten years and is the only senior at Scotus on the swim team.

"My most successful meet this season so far was the home meet against South Sioux because I received a secondary time for state," Dallman said.

The swim team won the dual against South Sioux City, and Dallman received a secondary time for state in the 50-meter freestyle with a time of 27.12 seconds, just beating the 27.53-second requirement. However, this time does not guarantee that Dallman will compete at state, but the odds are in her favor.

"A goal for myself would be to keep dropping time, which is pretty difficult," Dallman stated.

Dallman knows this goal is not impossible as

her times continue to inch closer and closer to qualify for state in her other events. Dallman is less than one second away from receiving a secondary qualifying time in the 100-meter freestyle, and Dallman's 200-meter freestyle relay team has already met their goal of qualifying for state with a secondary qualify time.

"Already getting two secondary qualifying times for state has felt good. Now I feel like I can focus on getting a secondary in my 100-meter freestyle," Dallman stated. "My goal in the 100-meter freestyle is to get at a minute or under."

Not only has Dallman improved and reached several of her goals already this season, but so have Faltys and sophomore Alex Settje. Both Settje and Faltys had a fantastic meet on Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> against Hastings. Faltys and Dallman's 200-meter freestyle relay team placed first at the meet. Dallman also placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 50-me-



KATELYN BAYER / YEARBOOK STAFF

**Senior Kaira Dallman competes at the South Sioux City meet at the Aquatic Center on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Dallman received a secondary qualifying time for state in the girls 50-meter freestyle event at the meet.**

ter freestyle and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 200-meter freestyle relay. Settje placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 100-meter breaststroke and 4<sup>th</sup> in the 100-meter freestyle relay. Even with all the team's success so far this season, they are still working to reach their goals and improve.

"Our team's goals are to

work on faster times and technique," Settje stated.

As the swimmers continue to work hard and push toward state on February 25<sup>th</sup>, they are also looking forward to spending quality time with their teammates. Dallman, Settje, and Faltys all agree swimming is amazing; however, their favorite part is the

people.

"I love the friendship on the team; we all encourage each other to get better. Without the teammates I have, swim would not be as much fun," Faltys said.

The swim team's next home meet is Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at the Aquatic Center versus Grand Island.

# Girls' basketball aims to finish strong

By Joel Schumacher  
Staff Reporter

Anyone who has followed the Shamrock basketball team has seen a solid unit throughout the season. The unit plays exceptionally well when firing on all cylinders. However, the season has come with both its challenges

and successes.

The Columbus Holiday Tournament is an annual challenge and measuring stick for the Scotus basketball program. The girls' basketball team started out with an impressive win over Twin River. Senior starter Camille Pelan explained the feeling.

"The win against Twin River was a great way for us

to start off after a long Christmas break," Pelan stated.

The win against Twin River led the Scotus girls to a fierce matchup against the cross-town rivals the Lakeview Vikings. The Lakeview girls' team narrowly edged the Shamrocks 46-50. Senior starter Ava Kuhl expressed her disappointment in the outcome.

"Not finishing first in the Holiday Tournament was tough, but it has definitely helped us grow as a team and seek improvement all around," Kuhl said.

In a great bounce back win, Scotus girls crushed a steady St. Paul team the following week. Kuhl saw the game as a good indicator of the team's ability.

"Our win against St. Paul helped us show that when we communicate, work together, and play solid defense, we can beat anyone," Kuhl said.

After beating St. Paul, the girls went on to play a stout York team. The Shamrocks fought hard but still came up short. York beat the Shamrocks 33-55.

"York is an undefeated Class-B team. They outbounded us and were a very athletic team. They are one of the top teams we will play all year," Pelan explained.

Following that loss, the team was focused on getting back in the win column. However, mental errors affected their play too much in a 41-53 loss to Bishop

Neumann. Senior starter Janae Rusher explained the mistakes that led to the defeat.

"When we played Neumann, we struggled with our offense and with turnovers. We needed to have more intensity on the offensive and defensive end. As a team we have seen each other tap into the intensity we need to be an extremely competitive team," Rusher said.

Following Neumann, the girls would go on to face a traditional rival in Norfolk Catholic. Scotus was able to narrowly defeat the knights 48-44 in an overtime thriller.

"We wanted it more than Norfolk Catholic. This game taught us the importance of perseverance. If we play together as a team, we are hard to beat," Pelan said.

After Norfolk Catholic, the Shamrock girls were posed to play the Lincoln Christian Crusaders on a Friday; however, because of weather concerns, the game was postponed until Saturday. Kuhl did not see that fact as much of a problem.

"Playing on a different day than planned like we did for Lincoln Christian was no different than any other game. We just got another day to physically and mentally prepare, and we proved last Saturday we were ready," Kuhl confidently said. The Shamrocks defeated Lincoln Christian 43-31.

As the girls' basketball team reaches the final stretch of the season, Pelan confidently expects success, especially in the latter half.

"I am excited to see our hard work pay off as the end of the season approaches. We are learning how to play together which will help us hopefully end the season strong," Pelan concluded.

A big win over Fremont Bergan led them into the first conference game. They defeated 6<sup>th</sup>-ranked Lincoln Lutheran in a big upset 29-20 on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

The win over Lincoln Lutheran gave them confidence to continue in the conference tournament against Wahoo Neumann in Lincoln on January 29<sup>th</sup>.



CASSIE KOUMA / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Senior Camille Pelan shoots a three pointer on Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> against Fremont Bergan. The Shamrocks beat the Knights 44-36.**

# Wrestlers overcome small roster

By Camille Pelan  
Staff Reporter

From morning practices to new coaches to practicing at Scotus, the wrestling team has done nothing but tackle new adjustments. Another challenge the Shamrocks have had to adjust to is the small roster.

With only ten wrestlers on the roster and 14 available weight classes, it brings about many difficulties, especially when it comes to duals. Since four weight classes are left open, the Shamrocks automatically start down 24 points.

"Due to our lack of depth, we knew at the beginning of the season that we wouldn't be a fantastic dual team," head coach Tyler Linder said. "However, we knew that we would have a tremendous amount of potential in individual tournaments and looking for individual success."

Throughout the season, Linder and coach Rod Boss have instilled in the wrestlers the confidence to strive to reach their fullest potentials.

"The season has been a long battle of always trying to be the best you can be," senior Evan Ruskamp said. "You are always trying to be a better you and always trying to reach past your limits."

At the Logan View Invite on December 19<sup>th</sup>, the Shamrocks placed 11<sup>th</sup> out of 15 teams with junior Riley Eickmeier placing second and senior Ben Kamrath placing fourth by forfeit due to hitting his five-match maximum for the day. Kamrath then turned around and went a perfect 5-0 in the Wood River Holiday Duals on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, which helped ignite a spark into the Shamrocks.

"Starting off the year the way that Ben did helped set in motion the way we want not only Ben to wrestle, but the way we want the 2021 team and the future Shamrocks to wrestle," Linder said.

Scotus ended up placing sixth at Wood River with a 2-3 showing. The Shamrocks then lost their last home dual of the season on January 7<sup>th</sup> against Schuyler. Kamrath went 8-0 on the night, and Eickmeier and freshman

Spencer Wittwer each also added wins for the Shamrocks.

The Rocks then wrestled at the Fremont Bergan Duals on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Kamrath and Eickmeier picked up head-to-head wins along with six other Shamrocks picking up forfeit wins to defeat Bergan 48-24. Scotus then lost to Elkhorn, Fort Calhoun, and Millard North.

"We definitely got the full spectrum at the Bergan meet," Linder said. "It showed us what we are capable of doing but also how much further we have to go as a group."

On January 18<sup>th</sup>, the Shamrocks traveled to Syracuse and placed fifth. Eickmeier and Kamrath both claimed gold along with Ruskamp placing second. Sophomore Paul Littlefield and senior Grant Neville each also added wins resulting in bronze for Littlefield and fourth for Neville. These successes for the Rocks are largely credited to the improvements they have made over the course of the season.

"We have gotten more physical and are taking



NOAH KORTH / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Junior wrestler Riley Eickmeier attempts to pin a Schuyler opponent during the last home match of the season on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Eickmeier was one of two Shamrocks to place first at the Syracuse Invitational on January 18<sup>th</sup>.**

risks," Kamrath said. "This has helped us find a few more wins and has helped improve our practices."

Scotus lost in a dual against Class-C No. 2 Aquinas Catholic on January 21<sup>st</sup> with Kamrath as the only Shamrock to come away with a win. However, four Shamrocks placed in their respective weight classes during the Centennial Conference Tournament on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Neville placed fourth, Littlefield placed third, Eickmeier placed second, and Kamrath placed first.

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, the Shamrocks faced Lakeview in a dual. Kamrath and Eickmeier were the only Shamrocks to come away with wins, along with a forfeit win for freshman Gabe Gassen.

As the end of the season draws near, Linder is excited to see how the Shamrocks

will perform at districts and, hopefully, the state tournament.

"Ideally, I would like to see a few of our guys make it down to the state tournament in Omaha, but we have to wrestle well at our districts to do that," Linder said. "In order to wrestle well, we just have to have confidence and keep the faith. I like the direction that our guys are headed in."



# Boys' basketball battles tough competition

By Ava Kuhl  
Staff Reporter

The Shamrocks played in the Holiday Tournament December 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> after having the tournament delayed one day due to weather. After playing Twin River on Wednesday and Schuyler on Friday, the Shamrocks took it home with a huge win. Jackson Heng is a freshman this year and a contributor to the varsity team.

"The plan was to win the Holiday Tournament but take it one game at a time," Heng explained. "It felt awesome to know we have won a tournament."

The following Tuesday the Shamrocks played St. Paul who is 12-1 and lost 42-65. They then turned around the next week to play Norfolk Catholic who is 9-3 for the season. Senior Kaden Young

is one of the two seniors for the team this year.

"I would say Norfolk Catholic impacted us the most even though we lost," Young said, "because even though we lost Garrett [Oakley], and we had to learn to play without him, we were forced to make in game adjustments and did pretty well with it."

After losing Oakley to an injury, the Shamrocks played Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> against Lincoln Christian, a game that was originally scheduled for Friday. They lost 49-59 even though the game was close all the way through.

"Going into Lincoln Christian, we knew they were going to be one of the most talented teams we play all year," senior guard Josh Faust said. "We were looking forward to the chance of beating a great team."

The Shamrocks played Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> against North Bend, losing 53-76. With only one day to prepare, the Shamrocks then played Boone Central. The next day the Shamrocks faced Archbishop Bergan. Both games were played at home, and both ended in a loss.

The following week the Shamrocks had planned to play David City Aquinas for their first round of the Conference Tournament on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, but due to two days of snow and ice, all Conference Tournament games were postponed. The Shamrocks played that Wednesday and lost to Aquinas 35-51 in the playoff round of the Tournament. They then played that Friday against Bishop Neumann.

"We hoped to play well at Conference and make a run deep into the tournament,"



KAMRYN CHOHN / YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Josh Faust looks to finish at the rim against Norfolk Catholic on January 12<sup>th</sup> in the Dowd Activity Center. The Shamrocks' lost 53-63.

Faust said.

The Shamrocks play Friday at home against Bishop Neumann again with high

hopes.

"I look forward to home games because student can come now," Young said. "We

also haven't won a home game in almost three years, so every home game is a chance to break that curse."

# Winter activities train athletes



KADE WIESE / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior Nick Ehlers cheers on sophomore Jamison Kush as he deadlifts 345 pounds. The powerlifting team is preparing for their first meet of the year at Peru State on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

By Gavin Brabec  
Staff Reporter

Many Scotus athletes do not participate in a winter sport. During the off season,

they need an activity to keep them in shape and train them for the next season.

Powerlifting, winter conditioning, and winter volleyball are activities athletes can join to strengthen their ability

to play.

Powerlifting has grown at Scotus over the last few years. This season there are thirteen students partaking in the activity. They practice on Mondays, Tuesdays,

and Thursdays after school. Senior Kade Wiese has participated in the powerlifting program for three years.

"I went out for powerlifting this year because I want to continue breaking state records and win state back-to-back as an individual. I am hoping to improve my lifting maxes and win state again. I am excited to see what our team can accomplish," Wiese said.

Despite the obstacles many activities face with COVID-19, powerlifting is still attending two meets this year. Both are held at Peru State College in Peru, Nebraska. The first meet is February 15<sup>th</sup>, and the state competition is on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

"I am doing powerlifting because it is a lot of fun just to see how much you can do. We are preparing for our two main meets, and I am hoping to crush all of my old maxes," junior Nick Ehlers stated.

Powerlifters focus on

improving their strength and increasing their maxes to compete effectively at their meets. Junior Adriana Cieloha joined powerlifting two years ago to try something new and now has new goals for this season.

"I am hoping to squat three plates, which is 315 pounds. My current squat max is 275 pounds," Cieloha said.

Some volleyball players who are not in a winter sport are playing in a winter volleyball league to continue to work on their skills. Every weekend in January, Lakeview hosts girls who want to improve their ability.

Junior Makenna Svehla said, "I am doing winter volleyball because it allows me to get reps in the off season while others are not. It helps keep us in shape and the coaches are very flexible with times. Consistent practice strengthens the team for the next season."

Scotus offers a winter

conditioning program for athletes who play in fall and spring sports. Junior Chloe Walker participates in winter volleyball and winter conditioning.

"I do winter conditioning for volleyball. Our fall season depends on how we work in the off season, so we can compete better. It can be difficult to wake up in the morning some days, but I feel better after working out," Walker said.

Soccer players are also taking advantage of winter conditioning as they prepare for their upcoming season. Junior Ruby Martinez will play soccer in the spring.

"I am involved in winter conditioning so that I can be in better shape for the soccer season. I hope to get my hip strength back before the season," Martinez said. "Working out in the morning makes me feel so much better the rest of the day and better prepared for the season ahead."

# More photos from winter sports



TANELY MILLER / YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Ben Kamrath looks to take down a Schuyler opponent on senior night in the Dowd Activity Center on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Kamrath was the only Shamrock to place first at the Conference Tournament later in the season on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.



LAURA BETTENHAUSEN / YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Janae Rusher dribbles past a Boone Central defender. The Shamrocks beat the Cardinals 38-18 on January 21<sup>st</sup>.



KATELYN BAYER / YEARBOOK STAFF

Sophomore Alex Settje breaststrokes to the finish at the South Sioux City meet on January 9<sup>th</sup>. The swim team won the meet against South Sioux City 215-81.



KAMRYN CHOHN / YEARBOOK STAFF

Sophomore Trenton Cielocha holds the ball during the Scotus vs. Norfolk Catholic game on January 12<sup>th</sup>. The Shamrocks lost to Norfolk Catholic 53-63.



# Students walk for life

By Cassie Kouma  
Editor

Since 2009, students from Scotus have traveled to Washington D.C. to attend

the National March for Life. The first group to make this pilgrimage included only six students, but the numbers have continued to increase to be between 35 and 45 students.

This year, the Archdiocese of Omaha made the choice not to take a group to the nation's capitol. This decision was based on concerns regarding COVID-19 exposure from people who

come from all over the country. However, there was still an opportunity for students to defend life, one that took place right in Nebraska. Several members of the Scotus community attended the Nebraska Walk for Life held in Lincoln on January 16<sup>th</sup>, including eighth grader Rebecca Policky.

"This was my first year, and I thought it was awesome being able to be with so many people wanting the same changes as me," Policky said.

While this was Policky's first year attending, students such as Mark Buhman have gone in the past.

"This was not my first time attending the Walk for Life. I actually try to go every year with my family," Buhman said.

Before the walk started, Mass was held at St. Mary's Catholic Church nearby.

"One thing I really want to stress is that a big part of being a devout, faithful Christian is to be pro-life," Buhman said.

After Mass, thousands of people gathered at the state's capitol and marched to

the UNL Newman Center to protest abortion. Once it was over, keynote speaker Sarah Zagorski gave a talk in the Newman Center.

"The moment that stood out the most for me was just when we started to walk. I didn't know so many people were there. I thought it was amazing seeing so many other people," Policky said.

Before the walk started, speakers such as Governor Pete Ricketts and multiple state senators addressed the crowd. These speakers emphasized the importance of taking a stand and persevering through difficulties. They acknowledged the long journey the pro-life movement is on and explained change does not happen overnight.

While Nebraska has many pro-life representatives who are willing to speak out, other politicians throughout the country want to keep abortion legal.

"I went to the Walk for Life to make a statement to people in power," seventh grader Carter Sucha said.

"I hope one day so many people attend that abortion is

abolished."

The pro-life movement began in 1973 when the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court case legalized abortion. Since then, small victories have been won, but abortion remains largely available in the United States.

A police presence served as a reminder of all the riots and nonpeaceful protests that have been occurring throughout the country lately. A justified fear of unrest hung in the air, but the Walk for Life went smoothly and without conflict.

The importance of peace was emphasized during the speeches as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was quoted saying, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

This statement serves as a reminder to all those who attended the Walk for Life.

"It was inspiring that so many people want to give a child the right to life," Sucha said. "It was a wonderful experience, and I hope more people attend."



CASSIE KOUMA / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Emily Ferguson and eighth grader Jordan Kouma walk to end abortion in front of the Nebraska State Capitol. The Walk for Life began at the capitol and ended at the UNL Newman Center.

# Teachers experience new stage together

By Vijay Wemhoff  
Staff Reporter

Teachers at school share a close bond and many experiences together. This year many teachers at Scotus are sharing the joy of being grandparents for the first time together. There are seven first time grandparents and soon to be grandparents. President Jeff Ohnoutka and English teacher Deb Ohnoutka are the grandparents of a little baby boy born January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

"I am extremely excited to be a grandparent! It does not make me feel 'old' as some people would expect. I look forward to watching our family grow, sharing and starting family traditions with our grandchildren, and making lots of memories with them," Mrs. Ohnoutka said.

Most people have a fancy way of telling the news to their mom or dad about being grandparents, whether it be taking them out to

dinner and announcing it or making them T-shirts saying, 'Grandma' or 'Grandpa.' Media Center specialist Cathy Podliska is a grandmother of a baby girl. She was born November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

"We found out Easter 2020. We have a family tradition of hiding baskets with treats for everyone, adults included. My son hid plastic eggs in his house with all our family's names on them. We each had to find our own egg, then everyone was to open them at the same time. Inside the egg was Easter candy and a slip of paper, mine said 'Grandma!'" Podliska said.

It is exciting news to hear about being a new grandparent, but even more exciting to hear if it is a boy or girl. Pat Brockhaus teaches Psychology, Sociology, and Modern Government. He is the grandparent of a baby boy named Barrett Brockhaus. Barrett's parents are 2013 graduates of Scotus,

Brennan and Allison (Smith) Brockhaus.

"We have a boy, Barrett Joseph Brockhaus. He was born March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. He is now 10 months old, and I am amazed how fast he has grown and the things he can do," Brockhaus said.

These teachers give out great words of wisdom in the classroom and outside of the classroom whether it be to their students or to their children. The advice a grandparent gives to a grandchild, son, or daughter can be passed down to generations after them. Sophomore English teacher Becki Zanardi is the grandparent of a baby girl. Her daughter, Regan, named the baby Penelope Clare. Penelope was born November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020.

"My daughter is a planner, so we told her to throw that out the window since she is a mom. There will be ups and downs, and as soon as she figures out how to handle

one phase, it will be over and there will be something new to figure out," Zanardi said.

Life with COVID-19 can be rough because people cannot particularly see their kids or their grandchildren. During these times phone calls, letters, and Zoom calls are of mass importance. Assistant principal Merlin Lahm and science teacher Joan Lahm are grandparents to their daughter Jessica's baby boy named T.J. Finely. T.J. was born December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

"COVID-19 did not have an impact from me seeing my grandchild except we could not go to the hospital to see him when he was born," Mrs. Lahm said.

Band director Kristen Cox is patiently waiting for the arrival of her grandchild, a baby boy. The baby is expected to be here May 11<sup>th</sup>.

"I think it will be a wonderful experience. It will also be a joy watching

my kids love their child. I cannot wait to be a grandma! I have already started my first

project. I am making the baby a blanket," Cox said.

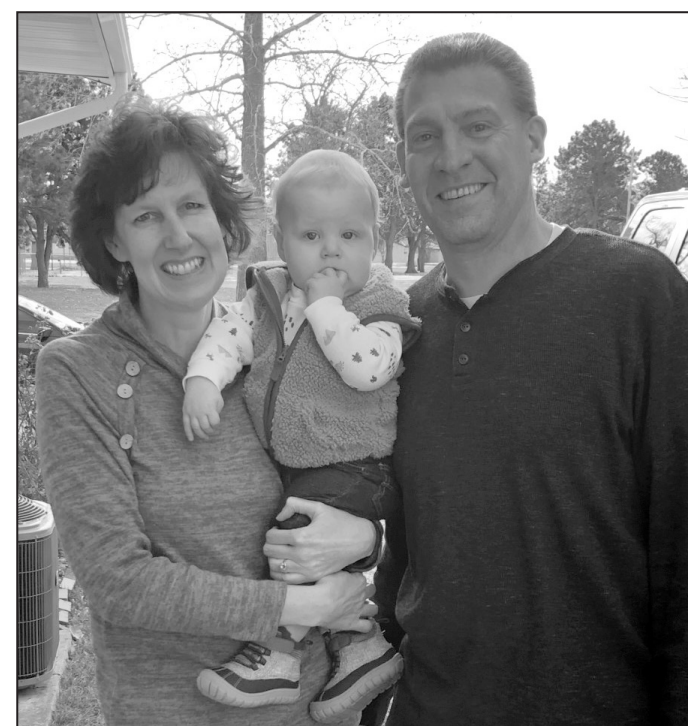


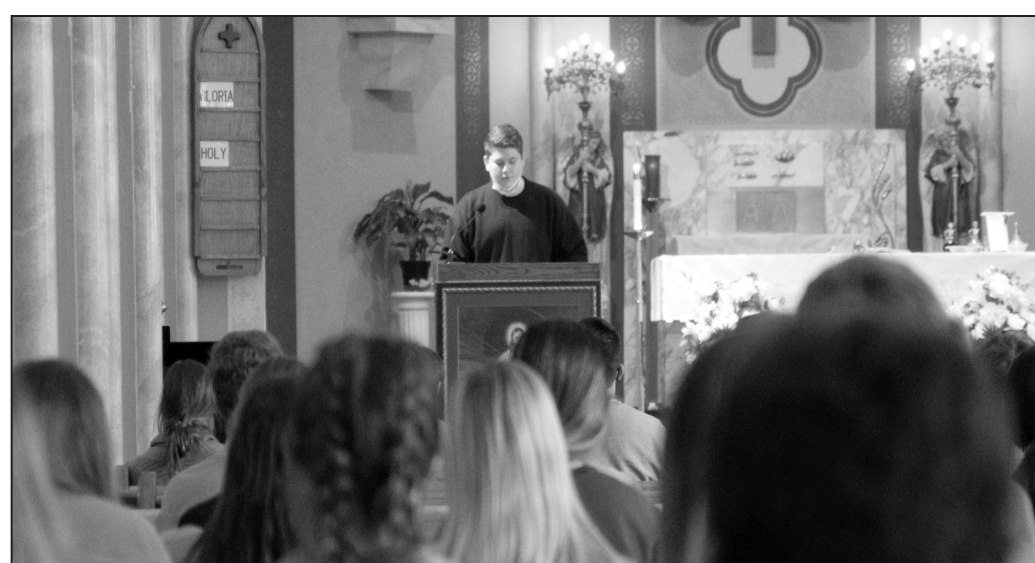
PHOTO COURTESY BARB BROCKHAUS

Social Science teacher Pat Brockhaus and wife Barb hold their grandchild Barrett. Barrett is the son of Brennan and Allison (Smith) Brockhaus, 2013 graduates of Scotus.



ANGIE RUSHER / JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Juniors Kyanne Casperson, Grace Mustard, and Ashley Steiner listen to what Gavin Brabec has to say about a witness in their mock trial Zoom call. Because of COVID-19, mock trial held its regional competition from the media center.



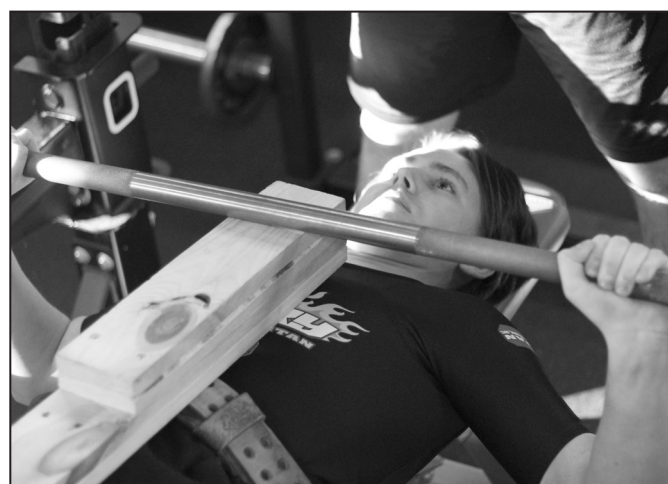
ANGIE RUSHER / JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Senior Ben Merrill reads the responsorial psalm during Mass at St. Bonaventure. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors attended Mass on January 21<sup>st</sup> while junior high and freshmen were at Rock Talk in school.



CHRISTINA OAKLEY / YEARBOOK STAFF

FBLA members pass around their gifts for their annual gift exchange. FBLA held its 2020 Epiphany party on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.



KADE WIESE / JOURNALISM STAFF

Junior Jack Ryan benches 145 pounds at a practice in the weight room after school. Benching is one of the three lifts that powerlifters do in competition.



DANA RITZDORF / CAMPUS MINISTER

Senior Emily Ferguson, junior Abee Hutchinson, senior Cassie Kouma, and junior Jacob Melliger pose for a picture after the Life is Very Good Rally.



# Speech avenges lost opportunity

By **Janae Rusher**  
Staff Reporter

COVID-19, the pandemic that ended so many athletes' seasons last spring also ended the speech team's chances at medaling at multiple events at state. The speech team did not get to perform at districts because the NSAA and school shut down the day before the competition was supposed to take place.

This year the many returning speech team members came back with a fire to compete. The team has set high goals for this season which resulted in the team's first meet at Pierce going extremely well with eight of the team's eleven events placing. Senior Noah Korth placed first in Serious Prose.

"Speech is my favorite season because factors like set, costume, and makeup don't affect outcomes," Korth said. "Success in speech is solely determined by the speaker's talent and drive."

Korth also placed first in Varsity Oral Interpretation of Drama with four of his

teammates at the Pierce meet. He and his team performed *Macbeth: A Tale of Darkness*. Senior Maddie Blaser was also a part of the OID.

"To be successful this season as a team, we need to focus on getting better every week," Blaser said. "It is easy to stick with what you've always been doing, but constant improvement is always important."

Blaser also competes in a duet with junior Luke Przymus. Their duet finished second at Pierce. Przymus and Blaser also performed a duet last year that was successful throughout the season.

"My favorite part is seeing different speeches progress into something that can compete at a higher level," Przymus said.

Senior Laura Bettenhausen performs varsity Entertainment.

"Because of COVID-19, we cannot watch others perform unless the judge allows," Bettenhausen said. "Some may like this, but I personally like having an audience."

While speech team members were not perform-

ing their own speeches, they used to watch each other perform. This year, there is more free time in between speeches. Watching other people's speeches was one of sophomore Jasmine Jackson's favorite parts of speech season. Jackson placed fourth in JV Entertainment at the Pierce meet.

"Everyone on the speech team is a part of a family," Jackson said. "Even though it is stressful, it is also fun. I love listening to other speeches because it's interesting to see what everyone else has conjured and created for the season."

This year the bar is set high for specific members of the team. Several seniors and juniors competing at the varsity level have the goal to get to state. Junior Chris Adame is part of the Varsity OID that placed first at Pierce, and he also placed individually in JV Humorous Prose.

"My goal for this season is solely to make it to state speech," Adame said. "It sounds ambitious, but if everyone goes out there and wants to get better, we can do it."



AUDREY SPRUNK / YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Maddie Blaser and junior Luke Przymus perform their duet at the Scotus Invite on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Blaser and Przymus won Duet Acting.

The speech team hosted and won the Scotus Invite on January 23<sup>rd</sup> with five varsity and eight JV speeches medaling. Two varsity speeches placed first: OID,

*Macbeth: A Tale of Darkness* and Duet Acting with Blaser and Przymus. With help from individual placings and another varsity OID placing fourth, the Shamrocks came

out on top, winning the invite for the first time since coach Melanie Mimick has coached the team.



AUDREY SPRUNK / YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Emily Ferguson presents her Informative speech about *Star Wars*. Ferguson placed third at the Scotus Invite.



RUBY MARTINEZ / YEARBOOK STAFF

Junior Chris Adame acts out his Humorous Interpretation at the Scotus Invite. Adame is also a part of the *Macbeth: A Tale of Darkness* OID.

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# Who doesn't love Baby Yoda?

By Emily Ferguson  
Staff Reporter

Friday night is my favorite night of the week. Not only because it is finally the weekend, but because on Fridays a new episode of *Star Wars: The Mandalorian* has finally arrived.

*The Mandalorian* is a *Star Wars* series that was released on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019, to Disney+. The series focuses on one of the galaxy's greatest bounty hunters named Din Djarin, also known as the Mandalorian or Mando, during the period after the fall of the empire at the end of the *VI Star Wars* movie, *Return of the Jedi*. Mando is sent on a special mission to recover a rare and pricey bounty. However, once Mando encounters the bounty, Baby Yoda, Mando decides to go on a new mission and help return Baby Yoda to his kind.

*The Mandalorian* series is not necessarily known for

its storyline, which is rather predictable in my opinion, but instead the characters, specifically, Baby Yoda. Baby Yoda comes from the same alien species as the original Yoda from *Star Wars*, but is about 850 years younger. Baby Yoda steals the show with his cuteness, toddler-like comedic relief, and growing ability to use the Force.

Another aspect of the series that makes *The Mandalorian* unique is Mando and Baby Yoda's special bond. At the beginning of the series, Baby Yoda is only a bounty Mando must return to his kind. However, as the series progresses, the audience sees their relationship start to change. Mando becomes almost a father figure to Baby Yoda, and they start to care for and protect one another.

*The Mandalorian* series has several unique main and minor characters who all play a major role in the plot. Even though the storyline of each episode in the series is rather repetitive, the series

does continue to bring back old characters from past episodes. Many series usually forget about minor characters after the episode they are in, but *The Mandalorian* is unique and brings them back again. The audience gets to watch every character develop and grow, for better or for worse, and does not have to wonder what happened to the character or their purpose.

Furthermore, *The Mandalorian* showcases several major characters from other *Star Wars* movies and series. Having one of your favorite Jedi masters or villains appear on *The Mandalorian* makes the series more exciting and entertaining. Plus, it gives the audience a deeper back story on some of their favorite *Star Wars* characters.

The only downfall of *The Mandalorian* is how predictable the plot of each episode is. Mando and Baby Yoda always go to a planet, encounter a problem on the planet, help the locals solve the problem, and then fly to

a different planet in search of Baby Yoda's species. The characters and obstacles in each episode are always different, however, the basic storyline is the same.

*Star Wars: The Mandalorian* is a must-see series for *Star Wars* fans or for anyone who loves action, character development, and an inseparable duo. *The Mandalorian* recently finished its second season, and a third season is on its way. However, season three of *The Mandalorian* is not supposed to come out until December 2021. This is because Disney is currently working on spinoffs from *The Mandalorian* creating *The Book of Boba Fett* and *Ahsoka*, which will also be released in December 2021 to Disney+.

For everyone who has not seen *The Mandalorian*, sit back, relax, and get ready to be taken to a galaxy far far away. For everyone else who is already watching *The Mandalorian*, let the waiting begin!



[HTTPS://WWW.IMDB.COM/TITLE/TT8111088/](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt8111088/)

**Star Wars: The Mandalorian was released to Disney+ on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The series follows the story of a bounty hunter named Mando as he helps Baby Yoda find his species.**

# Clouds inspires with message

By Vijay Wemhoff  
Staff Reporter

What if I died tomorrow? What if I were diagnosed with a terminal cancer? What if I had a short amount of

time to live? What would I do?

These questions and thoughts have been going through my head ever since I watched the movie *Clouds*. The movie is based off the true story of Zach Sobiech, a

teenage boy diagnosed with osteosarcoma cancer. He later finds out his cancer is terminal. It is a sad story but a strong message. He went after his musical dream. He knew that he did not have the longest life, and he decided

not to wait to write songs.

I think people should watch this movie because it is a beautiful story that inspires people to live for today because they might not have tomorrow. It makes me question my everyday actions. It makes me feel motivated to take on every day with a smile. Zach goes after his dream to make music. It is never too late to start.

I think people should watch this movie because the music was inspiring. The songs "Clouds" and "Fix Me Up" were the two songs that stood out the most in the movie. His most famous song was the song "Clouds." It is a beautiful song and was his way of saying goodbye to the people around him. In total Zach made nine songs. I think watching and listening to these songs explain some of Zach's story. His songs

were great ways of remembering him.

The characters in this movie did an exceptional job to explain Zach's story. I think everyone who played a part in this movie did well. It is so heartwarming and beautiful to see people come together and work. When I watched this movie, I noticed not everyone has a long life. The characters did great explaining life and the hard times. I can say the characters who played Zach and his family did a prominent job explaining the importance of having family and friends support you in times of trouble. In the movie it showed what Zach had to go through and how he and everyone around him felt.

The storyline of this movie is also significant. Everyone who Zach had loved and who supported him was

in the movie. It is so inspiring to see God had a plan for Zach's life. There were hilarious and sad parts in the movie. I would say the story was told in a beautiful way. The movie has many valuable lessons of life. It honestly made me cry. It was a way of saying everyone in your life who is important will be there for you no matter what.

Now, if you watch the trailer, you basically get most of what you need to know about the movie. It is a sad, mushy story in all reality. This does not mean you shouldn't watch it. I highly recommend watching this movie. It had many inspiring messages to the audience.

In conclusion, I would recommend watching this movie. Make sure to bring a box of tissues. It was a sad and beautiful movie to watch but a great true story.



[HTTPS://WWW.HOTSTAR.COM/IN/MOVIES/](https://www.hotstar.com/in/movies/)

**Clouds is the inspiring story of Zach Sobiech, a boy who made his last days count. The movie was released on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 on Disney+.**

# Streaming services compete in media market

By Gavin Brabec  
Staff Reporter

Many teenagers with a couple hours of downtime turn on Netflix to binge their latest show or find a new movie. With Netflix dominating the streaming service market, other media giants sought new opportunities in the industry.

The leader of streaming services is still Netflix, pulling in the highest number of subscribers. However, other platforms such as Disney+, Hulu, Amazon Prime Video, and Apple TV Plus are quickly rising in the market and are fierce competitors to Netflix.

Netflix rose to popularity

in 2007 and took the streaming market to new levels. Throughout the years, they have produced several hit shows including *The Crown* and *Stranger Things* and hold major movies such as *Moonlight* and *Easy A*. Netflix has also lost some of its biggest hits including *Gossip Girl*, *Friends*, and *The Office* to other streaming platforms in the last year.

Netflix offers a monthly subscription ranging from \$8.99 to \$17.99. The least expensive, \$8.99 per month option, is the basic plan. 193 million viewers around the world subscribe to Netflix. The grandfather of all streaming platforms should be a first choice for viewers because of its high quality and original shows.

Disney+ offers Disney

fans many of their productions. Along with childhood favorites including *Suite Life of Zack and Cody* and *Good Luck Charlie*, Disney+ holds the Marvel and *Star Wars* franchises on their platform.

The platform launched in November 2019 and has a monthly cost of \$6.99. To compete with Netflix, Disney+ has been producing its own library of original content. *Star Wars* fans are reveling in the new hit show *The Mandalorian*. The success of Disney's streaming service is apparent in their number of subscribers, 86.8 million. Disney+ is well worth the low price to experience the nostalgia of childhood.

Hulu is a desirable option for people who would rather binge TV shows over movies. Hulu holds content such as *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, and *This is Us*. Hulu

provides service for 38.8 million subscribers. Subscriptions range from \$5.99 per month to \$70.99 per month. The least expensive option includes full access to all of Hulu's on demand programs and is ad-supported.

Walt Disney company owns the majority share of Hulu and offers a bundle with Disney+. It is a Netflix alternative with more TV series; however, Netflix offers a larger library for only a few more dollars a month.

Amazon has created their own on-demand streaming service as well. Amazon Prime Video, or Prime Video, launched in 2006 as a streaming and rental service. Prime Video can be purchased as a subscription alone or included in an Amazon Prime membership. Amazon Prime Video costs \$8.99 per month. Amazon Prime is a strong competitor in the streaming

service market with a similar cost to others and many original TV programs.

150 million subscribers enjoy the many titles Prime Video holds. *Parks and Recreation*, *Yellowstone*, and *Game of Thrones* are all offered in Amazon Prime Video's subscription or in Amazon's rental service. Amazon Prime Video is more limited in programs compared to Netflix and Hulu but makes the rental option a considerable choice.

Along with Amazon, Apple has designed their own on-demand streaming service. Apple TV Plus launched in November of 2019 and is not a huge part of the streaming service conversation. At \$4.99 per month, however, the low cost makes one look into the possibility of purchasing a subscription.

Apple TV Plus is for the people who are seeking fresh and original content. *The Morning Show*, a drama series starring Jennifer Aniston, Reese Witherspoon, and Steve Carell, is one of its highest acclaimed series. A film starring Tom Hanks titled *Greyhound* is another one of Apple TV Plus's biggest hits. If on the search for original shows, Apple TV Plus is a strong option.

New platforms are providing a fresh take on the media industry. As millions of people around the world cut the cord to cable television, the right streaming service to subscribe to is an important decision.

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# Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic

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Columbus, Nebraska 68601

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## Campus ministry provides Lenten guidance

By Vijay Wemhoff  
Staff Reporter

As the school wraps up winter, campus ministry has special events and activities planned to help the school. As the school journeys through Lent, they find ways to spread God's love and grow closer to him during this time. Senior Emily Ferguson is part of the campus ministry spirituality team.

"The campus ministry team this year is raising money for the Bethlehem Pregnancy Center. We are encouraging students to do Eucharistic adoration during Lent and not to have snack break on Fridays. We are also offering a Lenten small group for anyone interested," Ferguson said.

During Lent people think of ways to grow closer to God and help those around them, such as helping with a local fish fry, praying with or for someone, and even raising money for others. Freshman Mary Faltys is in her first year of campus ministry spirituality team.

"We can grow spiritually as a school when we do more activities together to strengthen our faith," Faltys said.

Campus ministry had students go to Omaha on March 1<sup>st</sup> to pray outside Planned Parenthood. They toured the mobile pregnancy center. The pregnancy center has an ultrasound machine, and the students saw Mrs. Koranda's baby on the machine. After, they went to the St. Cecilia Cathedral to attend daily Mass.

"Even though it was the right decision for our school, it was a great disappointment not being able to take a trip to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life this year. During that trip, many students would say the most impactful part was praying at the abortion clinic. This trip to Omaha lets our students still have that experience, but it also shows them that abortion is not something that just happens in far-away places; it is close to home in Nebraska. I am pleased our students who are most passionate about this cause can still have the experience," teens for life sponsor Angie Rusher said.

There are many activities people enjoy doing such as stations of the cross, going to Confession.

See Lent, Page 2

## Speech success paves way for state

By Camille Pelan  
Staff Reporter

Success has been a key word when referencing the Columbus Scotus 2021 speech season. The Rocks have placed as a team at every meet this year with the most notable being named the Centennial Conference Speech Meet champions.

The success of the team is not shocking, though. With the end of the speech season being stripped away in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the team knew they would have to step up this year.

"We are all putting a lot of energy and love into the things we are presenting and performing this year," junior Zoe Euteneuer said.

Scotus traveled to Schuyler on February 6<sup>th</sup> to compete in the Schuyler Invitational. The Shamrocks placed third as a team with several tournament champions. Emily Ferguson placed first in Informative, Maddie Blaser and Luke Przymus placed first in duet acting, Chris Adame placed first in Humorous Prose, and Maddie Blaser, Noah Korth, Chris Adame, Zoe Euteneuer, and Luke Przymus placed first in their Oral Interpretation of Drama. Several other medalists contributed to the third place finish as a team.

"I think we're all improving greatly in every event," junior Roxanne Beshaler said. "With each speech meet, we all get better and better."

The Rocks then had almost two whole weeks off before competing in back-to-back speech meets at



KEIRA FEEHAN / YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Noah Korth and juniors Zoe Euteneuer and Christopher Adame-Hernandez control junior Luke Przymus during their OID, *Macbeth: A Tale of Darkness*. The group placed first at their home Centennial Conference Competition on Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Lakeview and Aquinas. The Rocks placed second as a team in the Lakeview Viking Voyage Tournament on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

At Lakeview, several tournament champions contributed to the second place team finish. The varsity OID, Blaser and Przymus' duet, and Ferguson's Informative speech all placed first. Tournament runner-ups included the OID performed by Beshaler, Josh Styskal, Nathaniel Eisenmenger, and Stephanie Hoenk, Korth in Serious Prose, and Styskal in Informative.

"Most of us have been working on the fine details and cleaning up mistakes," Korth said. "In speech,

details can be the difference between first and second place."

The Rocks then turned around the next day and placed second in the Aquinas Invitational on February 20<sup>th</sup>. The duet performed by Przymus and Blaser was the only entry to place first overall. The varsity OID and Korth's Serious Prose performance both placed second. Once again, there were several other medalists who added points to the team's total and helped Scotus receive second place.

"Every single member of the team is important," Styskal said. "Having more events place allows us to earn team awards."

The Rocks competed in the Centennial Conference meet held on February 27<sup>th</sup> at Scotus and won the meet for the first time in 18 years. Champions included the varsity OID, the Blaser and Przymus duet, and Emily Ferguson in Informative. Ten other events medaled.

As the season winds down with only districts and state left, the Shamrocks are excited for what is in store.

"Our team has gained a lot of confidence, and our goal is to just finish the season doing the best we can," Blaser said. "Our hope is to make it to, and possibly medal, at state."

## Shamrocks shape the way for saving lives

By Cassie Kouma  
Editor



KATE SMITH / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF '20

Junior Alaina Dierman donates blood at last year's Scotus blood drive. Dierman has helped coordinate two blood drives this year, which collected a total of 56 units of blood.

Over the past year, Scotus students have contributed toward potentially saving 738 lives. Since last March, six blood drives have been held within the Scotus community. A total of 246 productive units of blood were collected, and each unit has the potential to help three people in need. Senior Madison Wittwer is one of the eleven students who helped coordinate blood drives.

"I chose to help with a blood drive initially to save some lives among the many lives that have been lost due to COVID-19," Wittwer said. "Coordinating blood drives is my way of giving back to the community as I know people in the community that would have died had they not received a couple units

of blood."

Many blood drives have been canceled this year, and it has been more difficult to get donations during the pandemic. Some tasks given to the student volunteers were screening donors as they walked in and sanitizing tables and chairs. Junior Alaina Dierman helped with drives in May and August.

"I checked people in and took temperatures," Dierman said. "We went through all necessary protocols to make sure everyone donating was safe."

In addition to everything that needs to be done the day of, there is plenty of work in the weeks leading up to a blood drive. One important step is finding a location such as the St. Isidore and St. Bonaventure Elementary Schools to hold the drive. Other vital aspects of preparation are finding people to donate and sending out reminders. Senior Liz-

See Blood Drive, Page 2



Lent

praying a rosary or divine mercy chaplet, and even just opening to others more during the season of Lent.

“My favorite Lenten tradition is fasting on Fridays when we all unite our sufferings together with Christ. It is a unique sight to see God so clearly working through everyone during Lent, especially on Fridays,” junior Camille Cox said.

People can struggle with giving up certain items for Lent, such as

Netflix, social media, desserts, pop, candy, and many more. Lent is a time to grow more spiritually into faith. Scotus provides Penance services for students and faculty. They are also raising money for the Bethlehem House for anyone who needs it.

“Invite Jesus into your decisions about what you are giving up. Reflect on how you can give the most glory to God. Show Him how you love Him more than what

you gave up. Also remember God’s mercy if you fail, there are always new beginnings with Him,” Campus minister Dana Ritzdorf said.

Overall, the Lenten season gives the students and staff a chance to dig deeper into their faith and grow closer to God.

“I think that everyone can really grow spiritually during Lent. People need to be open to their faith,” junior Eden Broberg said.



TAYLOR DAHL / MARKETING DIRECTOR

Father Jim Heithoff places ashes with a Q-tip on senior Este Lesiak’s forehead for Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday was the first time celebrating Mass as an entire school in the church this year.

Blood Drive

ize Parker helped recruit 40 donors. “Recruiting donors is definitely a challenge!” Parker said. “The number one reason people say they don’t donate is because they were never asked, so it was super important for us to reach out to as many people as we could in order to get donors!”

One important member of the Scotus community who contributes to the blood drives is chemistry teacher Jane Dusel. She is the sponsor of National Honors Society, the group that coordinates the annual Scotus blood drive. Dusel began

her involvement in 2003, and NHS joined her two years later.

“The only way to get blood to those people in need is for people to donate blood. Blood can’t be made in a lab,” Dusel said. “I believe it is important, for those who can, to donate blood.”

Dusel visits other classes to talk about the blood drive each year and encourages students to sign up to donate. She also helps NHS students connect with the Red Cross if they are interested in coordinating a drive.

“The Red Cross is such a

fantastic organization that helps so many people. Getting students to be donors and/or drive coordinators gives them a way to give back to their community, to perform a service, and help those who are ill or in accidents,” Dusel said.

The annual Scotus drive has become a tradition dating back to 1974 when retired biology teacher Mr. Younger hosted it. This year, it is being held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and around 140 students, teachers, and members of the community are signed up to donate.

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Go Shamrocks!



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# Finding joy in the little things



By Janae Rusher  
Staff Reporter

At our house, we always say, "There are good days, and there are bad days." The bad days can range from doing poorly on a government test to playing terrible in the basketball game, but there are always good days too. The good days can be amazing, best day of your life days, but they can also be just okay days. Finding joy in everyday life is difficult, but when searching for joy in the little moments, little words, and little actions, it can make an okay day go from a four to a ten.

It is important to find joy in the little adventures throughout every season of life. This year, I started a new adventure of being a 'water girl' for the football team. From road trips with the other girls to talking with the boys, I had more fun than I could have ever imagined.

I had the opportunity to be a part of a team with a unique job that was new and exciting. I was able to find joy in all the conversations, jokes, experiences, and relationships I made throughout the season because of this little adventure.

There are also some not so fun adventures: the losses, the stupid fouls, and the bruises. It is more important to find the good in these moments than it is in the already happy ones. Find joy in these bad adventures by remembering the locker room when getting ready before a game, the bus ride, and the word coach spelled wrong on the board. Find joy in the screen recording from Hudl on loop of you getting punched in the face. Find joy in the crazy thing some girl said during the game because she was a little psychotic. Find joy in all these little moments because they matter. The world is not going to end because you lost one basketball game or failed one Pre-Calc quiz. Life must go on.

When you get to be a senior and still have not had a date to homecoming, ask some random boys from Mount Michael to come and be you and your besties' dates. When you must figure out how to pay for college, find fun ways to get scholarship money like being a part of the choir even though you are not going to be a music

major. When you do not get the part you want, help the people around you to enjoy theirs. When you are having a bad game, pick up the person who is playing for you because they are getting the job done. Be excited. Be excited for every accomplishment even if it is as simple as doing your homework, or it is as big as deciding what college you want to go to.

When one bad thing happens, it is easy to dwell on it for days, weeks, and months. Shaking off the bad or making the situation less negative is easy when you look at the good that came from it. COVID-19 qualifies as a bad day, week, month, or year, but lots of good also came from lockdown. If I look at my time at home, I can think of numerous occasions that COVID-19 was better than it seemed. I found joy in the many family nights and the puppy snuggles, as well as finishing the renovation on our house that would have never gotten done without lockdown. The joy that came from the smallest parts of COVID-19 goes unnoticed too often.

Find joy in the activities you get to participate in this year that many students still do not get to be a part of. Build relationships with the underclassmen at practice when you are just chilling together. Laugh about the plays that somehow worked

in the game. Giggle about the plastic silverware you get at lunch that is almost impossible to eat with because the fork prongs are bent in such weird directions. Lastly, find joy in God and joy in the world he created for us. This world is beautiful even on the

rainy days, and we can find the joy in everyday if we look for it. Bring joy into the spaces, activities, and moments that are not so joyful. Find joy in the good and bad days, and know there is always joy somewhere, especially in the little things.



# Informed citizens refute fake news



By Noah Korth  
Staff Reporter

In government class, Mr. Brockhaus frequently stresses the importance of being an informed citizen. However, in modern society, finding fair and accurate news is far easier said than done.

According to a survey conducted by Statista, 49 percent of Americans have

unknowingly spread fake news online. Even worse, ten percent admitted to intentionally spreading disinformation online. Like it or not, fake news is everywhere, and the spreading of false information has dire consequences.

One such effect of fake news is an increase in public hysteria. This has been especially prevalent during the COVID-19 pandemic. The entire world searches for pandemic news daily, and it's common to come across false claims about the virus. According to PwC, the spread of false information regarding COVID-19 has gotten so out of hand that the World Health Organization has dubbed it an "infodemic."

Because of rampant fake news regarding COVID-19, countless conspiracy theories have arisen. These theories question everything from the

virus's origin to the effectiveness of face masks. Preventative measures are often

considered the best weapons to combat COVID-19, but they are useless if the public refuses to wear them because of a lack of confidence in their efficacy. With lives on the line, fake news has become a danger to public health. People who knowingly spread pandemic conspiracies should be ashamed for contributing to the deaths of millions of people.

Fake news also poses

a threat to logical discussion. Some people refuse to believe anything the media

reports, which is a great disservice to themselves and society. There are critical issues in this world that must be talked about. However, opinions become impossible when people cannot even agree on facts.

For example, a discussion about solving climate change cannot happen if one party in the conversation refuses to believe climate change is a legitimate threat. Fake news distracts people from important subjects, allowing them to live in a bliss-

ful illusion where the world is not fraught with issues.

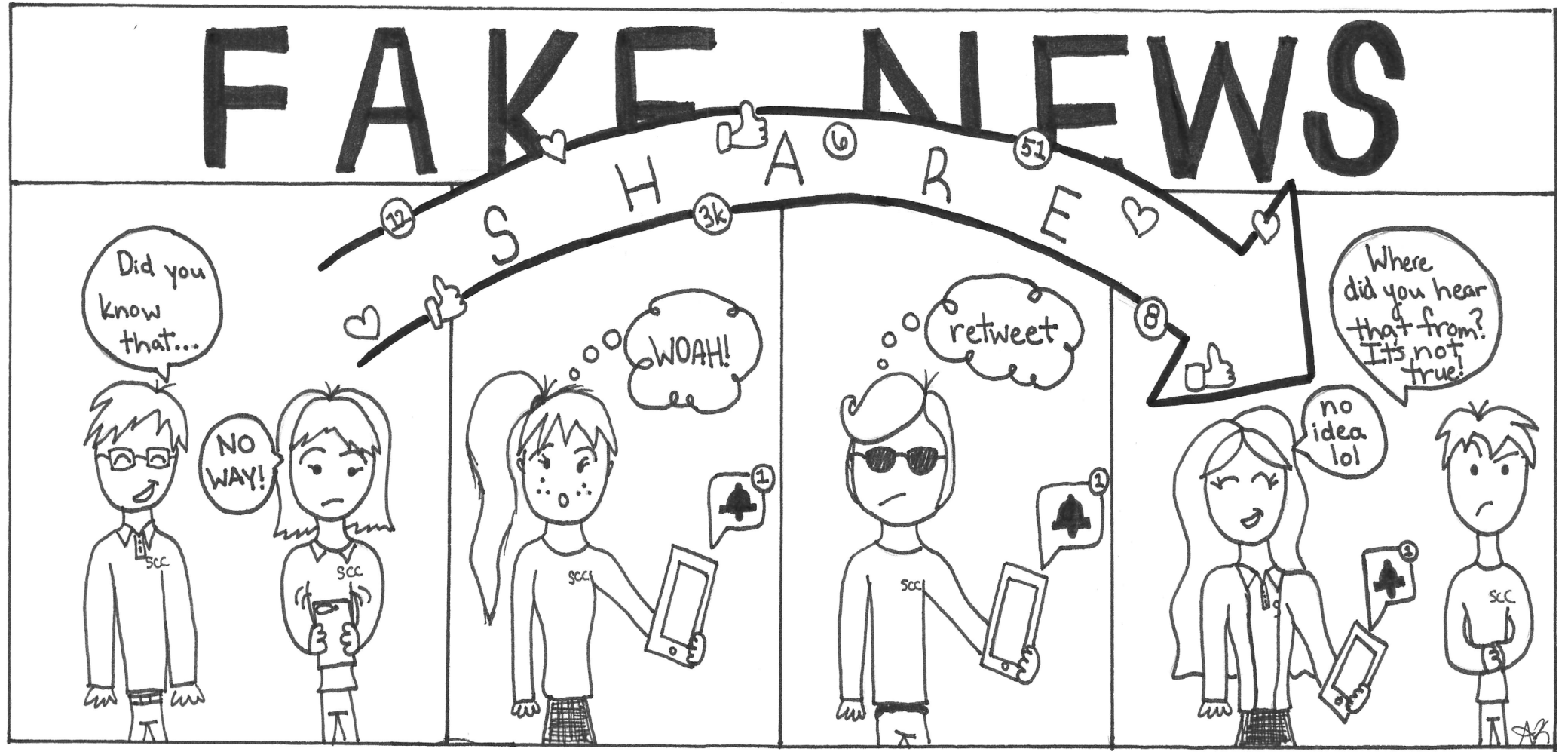
Even though it often causes public disarray and threatens civil discourse, some people still believe fake news is not an immediate danger. At surface level, fake news might seem harmless. However, one must consider the intentions that accompany these falsehoods. Beneath every fabricated story lies an agenda. The professionals creating fake news take advantage of their audience to manipulate the world.

Rest assured, there are ways in which people can safeguard against this exploitation. First, consider the source of the information, the author's possible intentions, and the publication date. Next, read past the headline and evaluate the information critically. Does the author provide evidence to support

their claim? Did the author use reputable sources? After assessing the previous points, reflect on how the information affects you. Does the material benefit your personal beliefs? If the news invokes an emotional response, consider that it was probably designed to do so. The final step is fact checking. Is the news being reported by other outlets? Do fact-check sites like Snopes and Politicheck confirm the information? Taking the initiative to investigate news sources may be a tedious process, but it is crucial to combat the spread of false information.

Any person with access to media is bound to encounter fake news. However, truly informed citizens are responsible enough to not click the share button.

*"Even though it often causes public disarray and threatens civil discourse, some people still believe that fake news is not an immediate danger."*  
~Noah Korth





# Name brands worth the money

By **Kate Maguire**  
Staff Reporter

If a person was given the choice of eating a name brand Oreo rather than the Super Saver version, they would most likely choose the quality and flavor of the name brand. If a person only saw the price of a package of Oreos but not if it was Oreo brand or Super Saver brand, they would go for the cheaper one.

Name brand items are something most people would prefer to buy rather than an off-brand item that looks similar. Brand name products are often more popular because of the material they are made from, media advertising, and a high marketing strategy. Name-brand products are the better way to go material wise for quality, but buying off-brand products can help save money. There are a few recognizable name brand products people are

willing to spend the money on rather than an off-brand version of it.

Lululemon leggings are the most popular yet one of the more expensive legging brands a person can find. The average price of a pair of these leggings is around \$100 with the align pant being Lululemon's most popular pair at around \$98. They are described as weightless, breathable, buttery soft, and are mostly made with Nylon. Lululemon dupes on Amazon are described the same way and are only \$20 but are not as good of quality.

Hey Dude shoes are a popular shoe brand this year. The average cost of a pair is around \$45-55 depending on the style. They are made to slip on quickly and make walking comfortable. People could get similar looking shoes at Walmart or off Amazon, but with the trend and look of having the 'Hey Dude' logo on the flap of the shoe, people will pay

the extra money to get the name brand pair of shoes. The name brand shoes may last longer than the off brand as they are probably made of better quality.

When Apple AirPods were released in December of 2016, they were instantly a huge hit. People went crazy over them as they were one of the first popular wireless ear buds. The quality of sound amazed people. They also stay in people's ears better during physical activity. It appeared the only downside of these wireless earbuds was the price. Apple AirPods, when they first came out, averaged around \$150. The quality of the earbuds was too good, however, and people chose to spend the extra money to get AirPods rather than a cheaper wireless earbud someone could find in Walmart.

Hydro Flask water bottles were the only water bottle anyone wanted when they were introduced to the



world. There are many different colors to choose from, nozzles to drink from, and the stainless-steel interior keeps the water cold for hours. Hydro Flask's great quality

makes them expensive to buy with the average price of one being around \$50. A water bottle with a stainless-steel interior is something a person can find almost anywhere, but

because of the hype of having a Hydro Flask, people would prefer to spend the extra cash to get one.

# Global pandemic triggers cybershopping

By **Emily Ferguson**  
Staff Reporter

One year ago, our world was flipped upside down with the beginning of a global pandemic. We were all forced to stay home, and masks slowly became a normal part of life. With the stay-at-home mandate and the high risk of exposure when going out, people turned to online shopping to get their necessities.

Online shopping provides a fast and easy way

to find and buy a variety of products, from food to clothing, all at your fingertips. Online shopping has continued to grow and has become quite popular since it began in the 1990s. In fact, many people are slowly preferring to shop online instead of in stores, including eighth-grader Caleb Styskal.

"I prefer shopping online because I can see everything at a click of a mouse rather than going all over Walmart to find out they do not even have the item I want," Stys-

kal said.

However, many people would disagree with Styskal that online shopping is better than shopping at the store, including sophomore Evan Ostdiek.

"I like to shop at the store because I can pick out everything myself to be sure it is good," Ostdiek stated.

The global pandemic has triggered online shopping worldwide and has begun to convince people of a more digital world. Plus, it created online shopping habits that

may last forever. Many people who did not shop online before the pandemic have now become fond of online shopping, including eighth-grader Rebecca Policky.

"Before the pandemic I thought online shopping was one of the stupidest things ever, but when the pandemic hit, I found myself online shopping for almost everything I got," Policky said.

Online shopping is becoming part of our lives, and many Scotus students regularly use online shopping to buy clothes and other knickknacks.

"Every month or two I buy something off the internet. Maybe once or twice a year I will buy several items of clothing, but usually it is just something small," freshman Isabel Zaruba said.

As online shopping is becoming a more convenient and preferred way to shop, stores are beginning to close all over the world and only offer online shopping. Scotus students are torn between

whether or not this is positive. Senior Simon Pichler feels that stores closing could be beneficial.

"I feel that stores closing and only offering online shopping would upset the few but be good for the long haul. The more we can contain COVID-19, the better," Pichler said.

However, many Scotus students feel that stores closing and only offering online shopping is a terrible idea. Several students realized, including seventh-grader Emilia Gassen, that if this happens, many people could be in trouble.

"No, I do not think stores should close because some people might not have access to a device, and they might need to go to a store. Another thing is that a lot of people would lose their job," Gassen stated.

Even though online shopping is becoming popular, people still love going into stores to buy what they need. Scotus students enjoy shopping at several places in

town; however, their favorites are Walmart, Glicks, and Hobby Lobby.

"My favorite place to shop in Columbus is Walmart because they have the majority of what you need for a good price. You do 'save money, live better,'" sophomore Jasmine Jackson stated.

Columbus, though it contains several stores, does not have everything that people need. This causes people to shop out of town in larger cities that have malls and a wider selection of stores and items. Scotus students' favorite places to shop outside of Columbus are the Gretna Mall, Scheels, and Target.

"My favorite place to shop out of town is Target because they have so much to choose from, whether it is food, games, makeup, etcetera," seventh-grader Eva Foreman said.

The future for shopping is hazy right now, but no matter what happens to shopping in the future, people will continue to shop for the necessities they need.



# Teenagers shock stock market

By **Joel Schumacher**  
Staff Reporter

Does the stock market sound like some distant and abstract way some highly intelligent people make money? Well, that perception is changing rapidly in the opening years of the 2020s.

It used to be the case that the stock market was only an option for adults who already had a stable income and a career. In most cases, someone would invest so much of their money into the market and leave it for retirement decades down the road. This approach guarantees a return on investment. The stock market has always trended up over decades. However, this takes a lot of the risk and fun out of the stock market. Especially among young people who want to make a couple hundred dollars quickly, this approach is not so interesting. Good thing many young people have turned to online investing brokers to make quick cash on the stock market. Robinhood is a new and engaging app that

is making investing a reality for teenagers and young adults. Robinhood is an online investing app that has no trading fee. A trading fee forces investors to pay a fee for buying or selling stock on the investing application. Traditional brokerage apps like Ameritrade and E-trade used to have a trading fee. Since Robinhood has no trading fee, the app has become a front-runner among online brokerages. This has caused a huge shift in the popularity and availability of investing.

Robinhood seems to be changing the game of online investing forever. Young adults and teenagers are now able to become full-fledged day or night traders through Robinhood. Robinhood is a risky and intellectually engaging app for teenagers to make money. Senior investor Michael Gasper has already made a fair amount of cash through online investing and has some advice for those interested.

"I have made about \$1,500 in the stocks so far. Investing as a teenager gets you involved in an otherwise 'adult' thing. It helps you

understand financials better. Learn a lot before you invest, though, so you do not make mistakes."

Robinhood purposely targets younger and more amateur investors. On their app and website, they make it clear they understand many people who want to be able to invest have no real prior investing experience. They have an outline and a tutorial on the basics of the stock market. One can learn all the ins and outs of the stock market. Not that one is going to become an expert. Being an expert is not necessarily realistic for most young investors. But through Robinhood, one can learn what an initial public offering is, how a diversified portfolio performs best, and the risky reality of the market in general. This makes Robinhood an ideal app for online trading. Senior investor Jake Heesacker gave his input on investing experience as a teenager.

"I have not made much, but starting as a young investor is more about a learning experience than making a lot of money. For me personally, I've made about \$150. If you



ANGIE RUSHER / JOURNALISM ADVISOR

**Seniors Michael Gasper and Jake Heesacker pose with their Td Ameritrade trading accounts. They have overall made money on the stock market in the past year.**

have extra money to gamble, investing might be the thing for you."

I know of several senior boys who are set to make hundreds of dollars through online brokers like Robinhood if they choose to sell. Many of my classmates are very interested in investing, there is a certain allure and "fun" to all of it. To be hon-

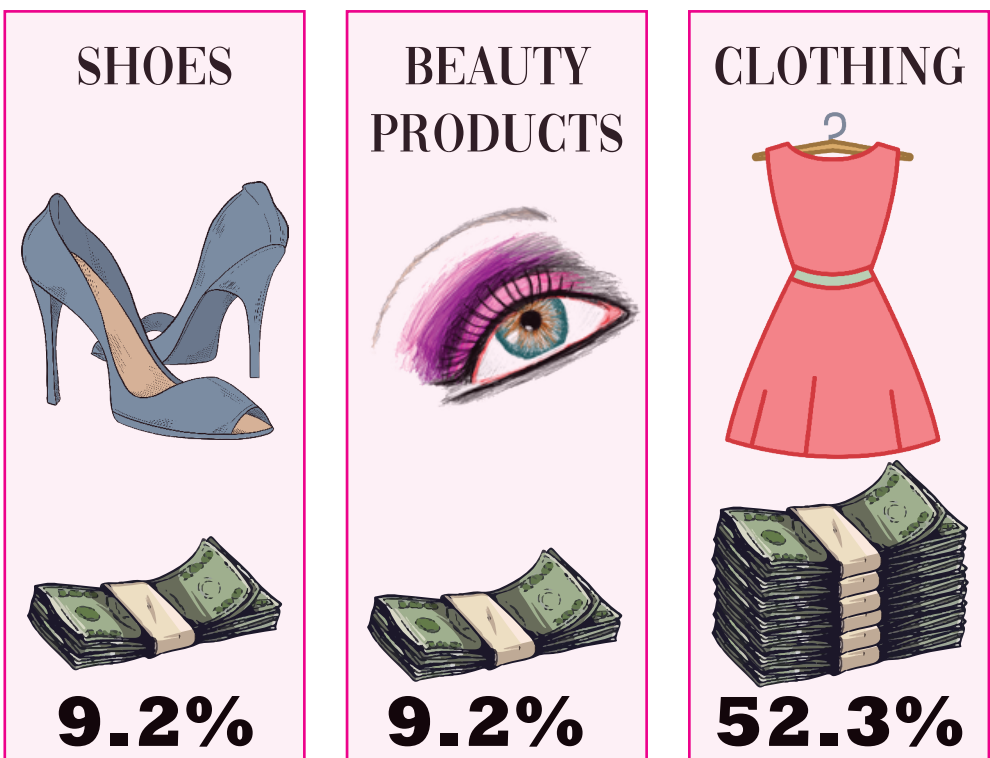
est, there is a real risk to online investing, a teen may end up losing hundreds of dollars. However, one can always wait a couple of months, and the stock will most likely return to buying price over time. Perhaps you want to buy some new clothes or a PlayStation 5; well, invest in some stocks, pray they go up, and sell for a couple of

hundred dollars in a couple weeks. From a certain point of view, the PlayStation 5 or trip to the mall was free because you sold some arbitrary stock for a certain amount of money greater than what you bought. So, the choice is up to you. The only question is... to invest or not to invest?

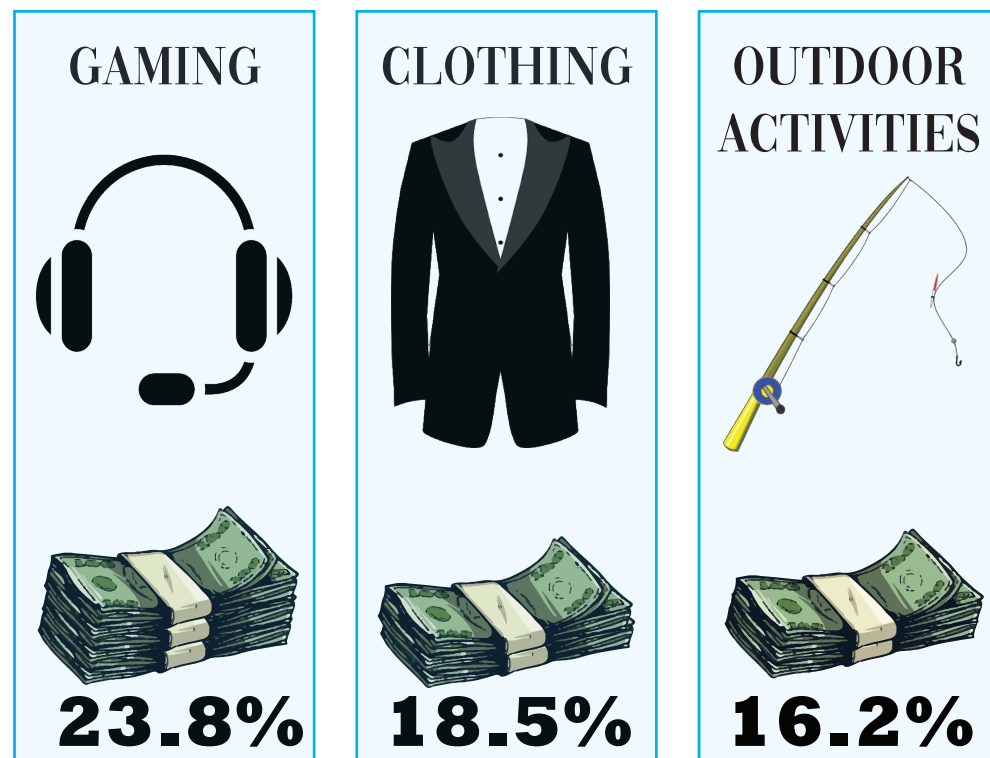


# \$cotus Money

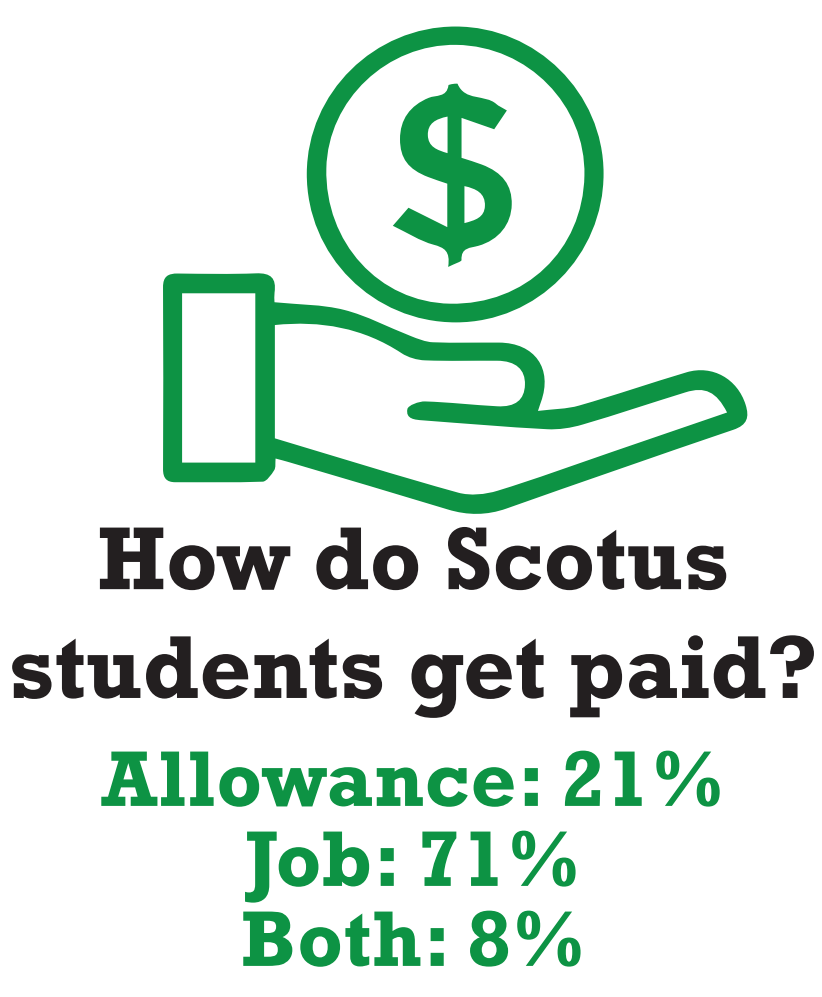
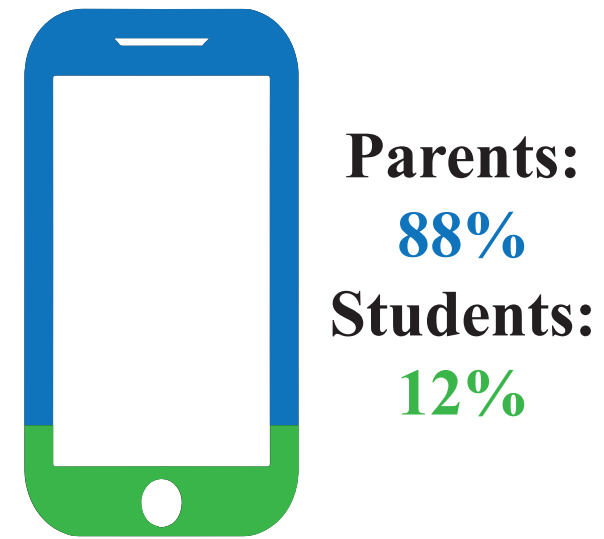
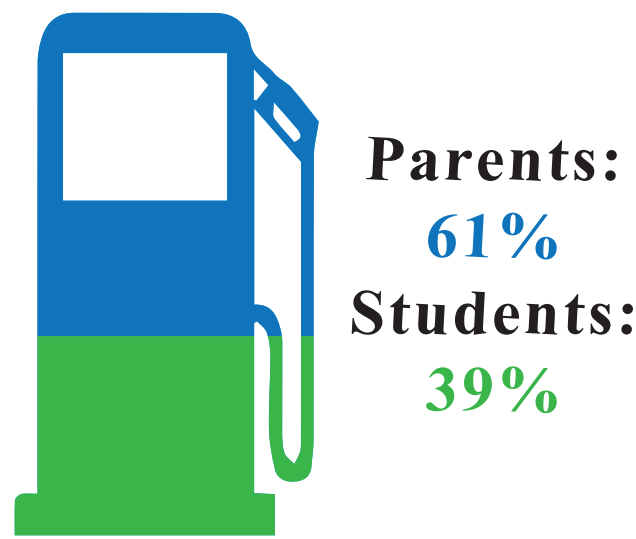
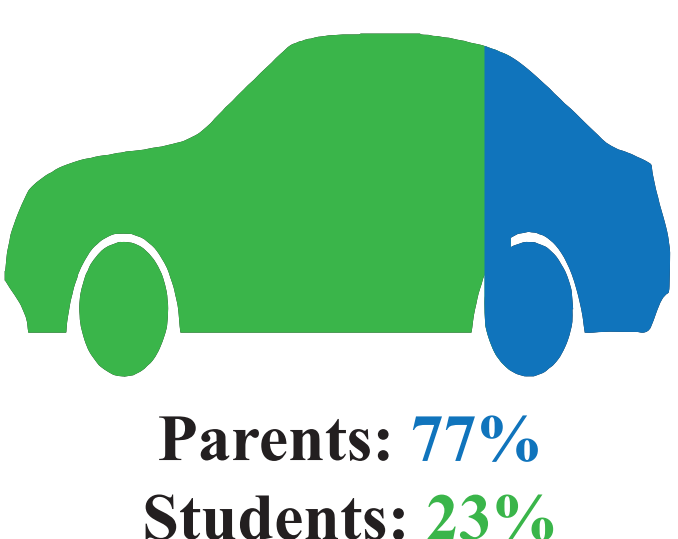
## Girls' top 3 buys out of 130 girls



## Guys' top 3 buys out of 130 boys



## Who Pays for what?



## Favorite 3 Coffee Shops in Columbus \*as voted by the students\*



## Favorite 3 Restaurants in Columbus \*as voted by the students\*



*El Mezcal. I love Mexican food, and it is prepared very well and has a great atmosphere.*  
Maddie Blaser, 12



*Because their fries are delicious.*  
Haden Brabec, 9



*McDonalds because it is cheap, and it is fast.*  
Zach Schultz, 10



# Girls take a charge toward state

By Emily Ferguson  
Staff Reporter

The girls' basketball team has been on a continuous winning streak and is hoping to keep their momentum going as they strive towards state.

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, the Shamrocks played Bishop Neumann in their second round of the conference tournament. The Shamrocks had already beaten Lincoln Lutheran the day before, 29-20. However, the Shamrocks were unable to secure the victory against Neumann and lost the game 48-42.

"We were having a hard time playing consistently throughout the whole game," junior Kate Maguire stated. "Toward the end, we had too many turnovers, which cost us the game."

The Shamrocks did not lose hope and won their last two regular-season games before districts. The Shamrocks first beat Aquinas 36-17 on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Then, the Shamrocks beat their hometown

rivals, Lakeview 52-30.

"My favorite game since conference was Lakeview. It is always fun to beat them, but we did not just beat them a little, we kind of crushed them, which makes the victory even sweeter," senior Janae Rusher said.

The girls' next game was the beginning of sub-districts. The Shamrocks played their first game against Boone Central on February 17<sup>th</sup> and creamed the Cardinals 43-24.

"It was a huge confidence booster for our defense and offense beating Boone Central. We need to keep our turnovers low and have an efficient offense to win sub-districts," sophomore Hailey Steffensmeier stated.

The girls played their sub-district games back-to-back with their sub-district final game the next day on February 18<sup>th</sup>. The Shamrocks played a never-before-seen opponent, David City, and after a hard-fought game, were able to clinch the victory 36-33.

"I think we were able to beat David City because we were able to use and fall back

on our training. Our defense was on point, and we were able to compose ourselves and persevered when we needed to the most. It felt incredibly rewarding to get the win," senior Clarissa Kosch stated.

The Shamrocks are working hard and preparing for their district final game against Broken Bow on February 26<sup>th</sup>. If the Shamrocks beat Broken Bow, they will advance to the state tournament, on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Senior Ava Kuhl has high hopes for her team as they enter districts.

"As a team, we need to keep our stride and be consistent here these last few games to make state. If we can hit shots and play our game, we are going to go far," Kuhl stated.

Senior Camille Pelan agrees with Kuhl and knows that a state championship is not out of the question for her teammates.

"As long as we continue to play solid defense and get our shots to fall, we can beat anyone," Pelan said.



KEIRA FEEHAN / YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Kamryn Chohon attempts to block a 3-point shot against David City in the subdistrict final game. The Shamrocks beat David City 36-33.

# Dallman finishes with last state appearance

By Kade Wiese  
Staff Reporter

With the regular swim season concluding, the Columbus swim team is ready

to compete at state. The last two regular-season meets did not go their way, but the swim team was able to find something positive at the end of the season with improvements and state appearances.

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, the Columbus swim team lost to Grand Island High School by 6 with a score of 82-88.

"The Grand Island team was good. They were great competition for us. Although

I could not swim, I had a fun time cheering everyone on," freshman Mary Faltys stated.

For their last home dual, Columbus hosted Lincoln Pius X. Unfortunately, the swim team was not able to defeat the dominant Pius team. They lost 60-109.

A few days later, the team traveled to Hastings to compete in the Greater Nebraska Athletic Conference (GNAC) meet where they were able to place and qualify several swimmers to state competition. Senior Kaira Dallman was one of the few who qualified for state.

"Getting 2<sup>nd</sup> at the GNAC meet was exciting but also frustrating because we only lost to the first-place team by a couple of points," Dallman said.

Even though Faltys and sophomore Alex Settje did not qualify for state competition, they both saw improvement throughout the season.

Faltys swam in the 200-meter individual medley and the 100-meter fly. She also swam on the 400-meter freestyle relay for parts of her season. Faltys was able to drop time in multiple races,

especially her 100-meter fly. She also learned new ways to make her turns and relay exchanges faster.

"I liked Mary's work ethic. She always showed up to practice ready to go," Dallman said.

Settje swam in the 100-meter breaststroke, 100-meter freestyle, 400-meter freestyle relay, 200-meter freestyle relay, and 200-meter medley relay. He dropped multiple seconds in his races and even won 1<sup>st</sup> place in breaststroke at the Beatrice meet.

"This year I dropped several seconds in the 100-meter freestyle and 100-meter breaststroke. I swam in the breaststroke lane, which greatly helped me improve my times," Settje said.

With Dallman being a senior this year, high expectations await her at state.

"I am hoping to make it to finals, but [I am] not sure how things will go because there are so many good teams there," Dallman said.

In her past four years, Dallman has achieved many accomplishments. Individually, her fastest recorded

50-meter freestyle was 27.01 seconds, and her fastest recorded 100-meter freestyle was 1:00.38 minutes. With her relay teams, Dallman has been able to get down to state all four years of her swimming career. Her fastest 200-meter freestyle relay team has swam at 1:47.67 minutes. Her fastest 400-meter freestyle relay team has swam at 4:01.36 minutes.

"My favorite memory from swim in high school is going to state all four years. It was fun being with the team, and the people were amazing. I'll never forget the excitement I got whenever I got the times I had to reach," Dallman said.

Faltys looks up to Dallman and is hoping to achieve as much as her someday.

"I admire Kaira's leadership. She was always there to help, especially when we were on the same relay team," Faltys stated.

The Columbus swim team competed in the state meet on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Dallman raced in the 200-meter freestyle relay and the 400-meter freestyle relay.



EMILY FERGUSON / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Kaira Dallman poses for a photo with her parents during her last home meet of the season. Dallman will travel to Lincoln to compete in her fourth state swim competition.

# Rocks push through the season's end

By Grace Mustard  
Staff Reporter

After coming off a 15-point game loss at the conference tournament against David City Aquinas, the Scotus boys took it personally in their next conference game against Bishop Neumann with a 55-40 home win. This game was memorable to sophomore Carter Filipi as it was his first varsity game as a starter.

"It was a huge confidence boost for the team. Neumann is a big rival of ours, so it felt great our first home game win was against them," Filipi said.

Only a week later, the Shamrocks took down Neumann yet again at home with a 63-44 win. Junior Seth VunCannon has had a varsity spot for two years.

"It felt amazing beating them twice. We finally beat 'the curse' that kept us from winning a home game the

last three years," VunCannon said.

The Rocks then went on to play Wahoo High at home which ended in a 56-73 loss. This was junior Garrett Oakley's first game back after going down with an ankle injury four weeks prior against Norfolk Catholic.

"It was hard for me to sit and watch my teammates on the court without me those four weeks. I was definitely rusty coming back, but I found my groove, and it's good to be back," Oakley said.

With the year winding down, the Shamrocks were ready to take on their biggest rival, Lakeview. Senior Kaden Young has battled injuries throughout this whole season.

"We knew going into the game that we were the better basketball team, so we were not surprised when we beat them by 25," Young said.

After the big win against Lakeview, the Shamrocks

came back with vengeance to play another tough match against Aquinas. It was a close game until David City pulled ahead ending with a 49-62 loss for the Rocks. Senior Josh Faust is the team's leading scorer this season.

"We struggled shooting the ball all night, and they had guys who made more plays than we did," Faust commented.

The team travelled to Albion to play in their first sub-district match against Lakeview Tuesday night. The Shamrocks had high hopes for this game.

"The thing about Lakeview is that they will always play hard against us, but our first win over them earlier this season gave us the edge," Junior Nolan Fleming said.

This was an exciting win with a final score of 48-40. The Rocks returned to Albion to play the district's first seed, Boone Central.

The boys kept it close through the first half then



KAMRYN CHOON / YEARBOOK STAFF

Sophomore Trenton Cielocha looks to attack the hoop for a rebound after a free throw against David City Aquinas. The Rocks fell short this game with a 49-62 loss.

they lost some of their edge in the second half. After a hard-fought game, the Sham-

rocks left the court for the last time this season with a final score of 41-57.

The team ended their season with a record of 8-15.



# Cheer competes at state

By Gavin Brabec  
Staff Reporter

Cheering on the sidelines of football and basketball games throughout the year has led the Shamrock cheer team to the long-awaited close of the season.

The cheer team traveled to Grand Island on February 20<sup>th</sup> to compete in the state cheer competition. They were pleased with how they performed, but they did not place at state.

Junior Makenna Svehla has been a cheerleader for three years and is one of the five juniors on the squad. "Even though we didn't do as well as we hoped, we performed our best, and we were all happy with it," Svehla said.

The girls arrived at school at 9 a.m. and spent an hour and a half getting ready for state. Everyone helped each other with hair and makeup.

"I am very proud of how

our team performed and how well we came together in the amount of preparation and constant tweaking we had. We may not have placed exactly where we wanted to, but I am extremely proud either way," senior Alli Demuth said.

The cheerleaders have prepared for the state competition for months with many practices.

Junior Ashley Steiner said, "We learned our routines over the course of a few very long practices. We then spent weeks cleaning and perfecting every part of them."

Preparation for state usually begins around early December. This year practices started in early January.

"We started teaching the routines later than we usually did in past years. We mainly practiced on Saturdays because that is when we could get the gyms," senior Tanley Miller stated.

Five seniors will be leaving the squad this year.

"I am so proud of our performance, and I could not have asked for a better team. Unfortunately, we did not place as well as we would have hoped, but we did our absolute best," senior Jaelyn Podolak stated.

Cheer competed in two events, non-tumbling and gameday. Non-tumbling is a cheer and dance routine. Gameday is multiple cheers to the fight song.

"Performing non-tumbling was the most fun because it was fast, and we put the most effort into it. I think we performed well as a team," Svehla stated.

Looking onto next season, the younger cheerleaders are looking at ways to improve their routines.

Junior Eden Broberg said, "I would say bringing confidence up when performing in front of people will be a great way to improve the squad next year. It can be very nerve-racking to go out and perform in front of people if not everyone is

on the same level of confidence."

The dances themselves could also be a way to improve their performances.

"I would say just staying focused and realizing that the little details in the routines are what matter," Podolak said.

As this was the seniors' last cheer activity, they reflect on their ambitions of joining cheer.

"I have always kind of wanted to be [a cheerleader], but then I was scared to tryout freshman year, and I regretted it. So, sophomore year I made sure to tryout," senior Kaira Dallman said.

Anyone wanting to be a cheerleader can try out any year of high school.

"My mom and friends wanted me to try out, but I used to do gymnastics, so I thought the two would be similar. I'm so happy I did because I was able to make some amazing memories with amazing people," Miller said.

The seniors also passed



PHOTO COURTESY KATHY STEINER

The cheer team performs a dance in Grand Island at the state cheer competition on February 20<sup>th</sup>. They did not place at state.

on advice for ways the team can improve for next year.

Demuth stated, "An improvement for next year could be more time. It was hard this year because

of COVID-19 to get the necessary time for practice and repetition, but hopefully things will improve for the girls next year."

# Two wrestlers take ticket to state



JANAE RUSHER / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Ben Kamrath and junior Riley Eickmeier are sent off to the state wrestling tournament on Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Both Kamrath and Eickmeier placed fourth at districts advancing them to the state tournament.

By Janae Rusher  
Staff Reporter

The Scotus wrestlers plowed through the long winter season and ended with

great successes. With three boys placing at sub-districts, they were able to wrestle for a chance to get to state.

Freshman Spencer Wittwer found himself in a very exciting position when

he won the Class B195 1<sup>st</sup> place match at sub-districts on February 6<sup>th</sup>.

"When I won sub-districts, it felt like I was on the next level. It was like I leveled up in a video game,"

Wittwer said. "It gave me a feeling of satisfaction but not quite because I still had challenges ahead of me."

Wittwer put up a fight at districts, but he lost in the consolation semifinal match that ended his season.

"It was a tough journey, and, unfortunately, I didn't make state," Wittwer said. "But that's the point to practicing hard every morning. As Coach Linder says, 'Embrace the grind.'"

Wittwer was not the only wrestler who advanced to districts. Senior Ben Kamrath and junior Riley Eickmeier placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at sub-districts advancing them to districts on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Eickmeier won two matches at districts putting him in a position to get to the state tournament.

"Going into districts, I was also feeling pretty good until I got to my last match to go to state, and that's when the nerves kicked in," Eickmeier said. "It all sank

in that if I lost that match, I was done for the year, and if I won, then I got to go to the big show, so I had a lot of pressure on my back."

Eickmeier ended up placing 4<sup>th</sup> at districts. That was just enough to get him to the state tournament on February 17<sup>th</sup> where he would lose his first two matches. Eickmeier was accompanied by Kamrath to the tournament. Kamrath also placed 4<sup>th</sup> at districts.

"Going through the practices leading up to the state tournament, knowing that I qualified was fun," Kamrath said. "The morning of state was very exciting. I enjoyed waking up just knowing that I was going to compete in Omaha."

Kamrath lost his first round of the state tournament but was able to come back and get a win in his second match.

"There are a lot more people at state, and you

wrestle farther away from them," Kamrath said. "It is an interesting place to wrestle, and it is unique to see all the different mats and how there are more than usual."

Kamrath and Eickmeier's seasons came to an end in Omaha on the 17<sup>th</sup>, but Eickmeier and Wittwer have another year to get there.

"Overall, I had a very fun wrestling season that ended much better than I ever would of thought," Eickmeier said. "It was all possible because of our coaches who trained us the whole season."

This year was Coach Tyler Linder's first year as head coach of the wrestling team. Linder had been out of the program since 2013 and came back this year.

"I'm so glad to be back because of these young men," Linder said. "They make me proud everyday with their work ethic and demeanor. It was a very enjoyable transition back into wrestling."

# Extra photos from winter activities



KEIRA FEEHAN / YEARBOOK STAFF

Junior Grace Mustard plays defense against David City in the subdistrict final game on February 18<sup>th</sup>. The Shamrocks advanced to substate and played Broken Bow on February 26<sup>th</sup>.



EMILY FERGUSON / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Freshman Mary Faltys fights to win in her 100-meter fly race. Faltys has also competed in the 200-meter individual medley and the 400-meter freestyle relay throughout the season.

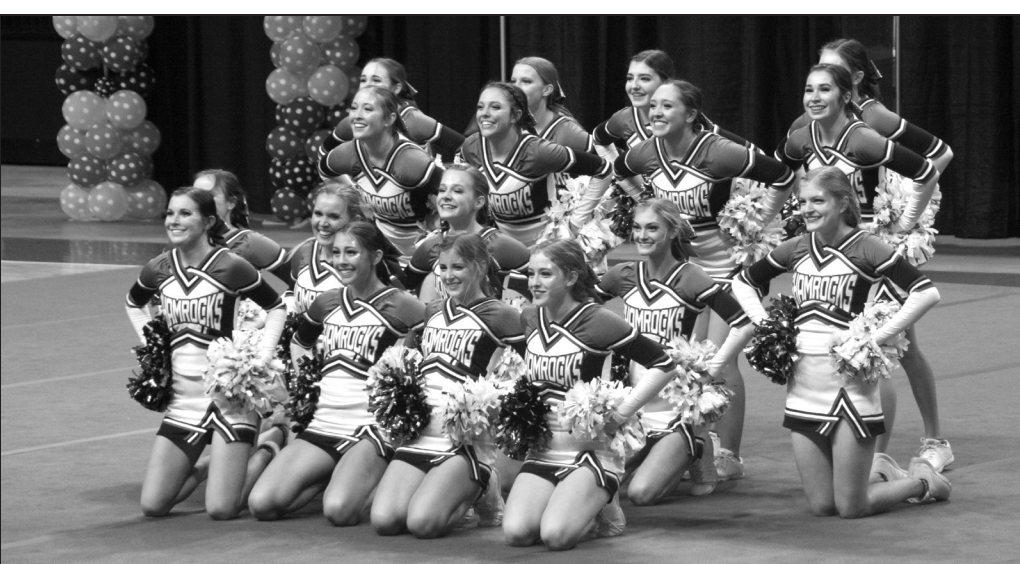


PHOTO COURTESY KATHY STEINER

The cheer team poses in a routine at Grand Island on February 20<sup>th</sup> at the state cheer competition. They competed in two events, non-tumbling and gameday.



AVA KUHL / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Freshman starter Jackson Heng plays defense in the boys' basketball game against Bishop Neumann. The Shamrocks beat Neumann's basket within one week.



# Band flaunts ‘super’ costumes and talent

By Noah Korth  
Staff Reporter

On February 8<sup>th</sup>, the fifth grade through senior high band traded in their concert attire and band uniforms for ‘super suits’ at the annual dinner concert. The theme for the concert was superheroes, which was voted on by the senior band members.

“I voted [for] the theme superheroes because it was pretty fitting due to the need of heroes throughout the healthcare field,” senior trombone player Madison Wittwer said.

When most people think of superheroes, they picture strong men and women sporting red, shiny capes and spandex suits. However, some band members took an alternative approach to their costume by honoring non-conventional heroes.

“I dressed up as Mother Teresa because she is my

Confirmation Saint and a huge inspiration in my life,” senior clarinet and saxophone player Emily Ferguson said. “I always try to model the way she loved others and her love for Jesus in my own life.”

Every hero deserves awesome background music, and production companies like Marvel Studios do a fantastic job of scoring their superhero movies with crowd-pleasing tracks. Therefore, it was a no-brainer to include some of these songs in the concert. Junior trombone player Chris Adame wore a Batman shirt and cape to the concert, but he is a Marvel fan at heart.

“I loved [playing] ‘Guardians of the Galaxy Medley,’” Adame said. “That movie has some of my favorite music that I listen to almost daily, so I enjoyed it very much.”

Senior trumpet player Josh Styskal plans on major-

ing in music education at the University of South Dakota next year. In addition to the trumpet, he also plays piano and violin.

“[My favorite song to play was] ‘Iron Man’ for jazz band,” Styskal said. “It was a difficult piece with high notes that were hard to play. I also had a solo during the song. It took some work but sounded amazing when it came together.”

Like many other activities, band has faced some challenges this year due to the pandemic. Usually, the band raises money through the dinner concert by selling meal tickets to family, friends, and teachers. The ‘dinner and a show’ aspect always attracts an eager crowd. However, because of COVID-19 restrictions, the band was unable to host a dinner for the audience.

“We had to take the ‘dinner’ out of the dinner concert, which was disappointing



KATE MAGUIRE / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Senior clarinet players Emily Ferguson and Maddie Blaser play ‘super’ songs in their costumes at the dinner concert. Ferguson dressed up as Mother Theresa, her Confirmation Saint and a huge inspiration in her life. Blaser dressed up as Supergirl.**

because it is so much fun to eat and socialize with band friends,” Ferguson said.

Despite the break from the dinner tradition, the

concert was quite successful. About 500 people attended the concert.

“Overall, it went really well,” band director Kristen

Cox said. “The students and the audience had a lot of fun with it, and that was our goal – to bring some joy to everybody through music.”

# Flags finish on a high kick

By Ava Kuhl  
Staff Reporter

Last year, Scotus’s flag and dance team made their debut at state dance and placed sixth out of eight

teams while performing in the Class C-1 Jazz Category.

This year, with a squad of eleven girls, the team went to Grand Island on February 17<sup>th</sup> to compete once again. Senior Anna Ehlers has been a part of the team since she

was a freshman at Scotus.

“We went out there and gave it our all. We also danced in sync which took lots and lots of practice,” Ehlers explained. “Some of the challenges were getting use to other dance floors

compared to where we practiced. It also sucked because we did not have a dressing room due to COVID-19, so we had to come prepared.”

The team has been preparing for state dance since last year and has built up their experience after every performance. Junior Berlin Kluever has been dancing for a majority of her life at Lynette’s Dance Studio.

“For state dance we start our preparation by first learning the dance over the summer at our camp,” Kluever said. “In about September we all relearned it and starting cleaning it every so often. We would take turns practicing that dance and some of our flag routines.”

The Scotus flag and dance team competed in two categories this year. They competed in jazz as a whole team and in pom with only a small group. Freshman Nicole Peterson is one of the four girls who is a part of the pom group.

“I think everyone was hoping for a higher score, but I also know we had a lot of hard competition,” Peterson said. “When we weren’t prac-

ting for the jazz dance, the pom girls were hard at work. At first, we all struggled with the dance because it is fast and a challenge. The amount of progress we made from the beginning of the year is amazing!”

The team finished 5<sup>th</sup> out of 7 in jazz, and 9<sup>th</sup> out of 20 for pom. Senior Keira Feehan was not able to dance most of the season due to being quarantined early in the year, but she did at state.

“I think our team did a great job at state. We weren’t sure how state was going to go since only three members of the team had performed at state before. Our dance had interesting choreography, and we weren’t sure how the judges would react to it, but we performed to our best ability,” Feehan said. “The team danced the greatest we could have and left everything on the floor.”

Laura Salyard, Scotus’s music director, coaches the flag and dance team. She has coached the team for three years now. Senior Madison Wittwer has been coached by Salyard for her final years at Scotus.

“We seniors have been through three coaches, but [I] think Ms. Salyard is in it for the long run,” Wittwer said.

The Scotus flag and dance team has five seniors this year: Ehlers, Wittwer, Feehan, Lizzie Parker, and Cassie Kouma. One memorable performance presented by them was “River.”

“The seniors choreographed “River,” and we really put in everything we love about dancing and using flags,” Kouma explained. “All our favorite tosses were incorporated, and there were great moments in the music to line up with our movements.”

With the year coming to an end, the seniors say farewell to their teammates and Scotus.

“It was an honor to be a part of the team for the full four years,” Wittwer said. “As frustrating and stressful [as] the early morning practices are, the performances are worth it. I am very grateful to have spent the past four years with my classmates on the team and have created a strong relationship with them as well as the team.”



PHOTO COURTESY SARAH EHLERS

**Senior Cassie Kouma, freshman Nicole Peterson, and seniors Madison Wittwer and Lizzie Parker perform their pom routine at state dance on February 17<sup>th</sup> in Grand Island. This was the first year the flag team took a pom group to state.**

# Mock trial adjusts to change

By Kate Maguire  
Staff Reporter

The mock trial season this year was a little different than past years. Instead of a judge looming over the trial and an audience being present, the mock trial team now loomed over computers with their only audience being each other. With COVID-19, mock trial teams had to perform their trials over Zoom. Being on Zoom made it more difficult to perform the trial as it was harder to raise objections and technology was not always the smoothest.

Junior attorney Gavin Brabec joined mock trial freshman year because he was interested in the court system and law.

“Being online for trials this year changed our location from the courthouse to the media center. Only two people for each team could be on the screen at a time. It was more difficult to perform professional with all the mistakes with technology,” Brabec said.

Because the trial takes

place during the school day, there are many people and noises that make it hard for the teams to stay focused throughout the trial.

Junior Alaina Dierman played a double witness in the trial, meaning she had a role on both the defense and the prosecution.

“During the second trial, it was Catholic Schools Week, and in the middle of the trial, Christian music started blaring over the intercom. It took us a while to recover from that one,” Dierman said.

Each school was only allowed two teams instead of all the high school grades having a team. The junior and senior teams were the two teams allowed to compete this year.

Senior attorney Maddie Blaser gives the closing statements after each trial.

“My favorite trial was when we went against the juniors because it’s always fun to question and go against people you know. They always put up a good fight, and it’s fun to see how much both teams have progressed over

the years,” Blaser said.

While many other school mock trial teams are coached by a teacher, the Scotus mock trial teams have the privilege of being coached by real-life attorneys. The junior team is coached by Bre Anderson and Tonia Soukup.

Junior attorney Ashley Steiner has been involved in mock trial since freshman year.

“Our attorneys really worked hard to help us prepare our questions. They know how court/law works and all of the language/vocabulary used in a real trial which also helps prepare us,” Steiner said.

The senior team is coached by attorneys Jose Rodriguez and Emilee Higgins.

“I love our attorney coaches! They are able to tell us how lawyers actually do things. They have life experience that a teacher wouldn’t have, and that’s really helpful. We also get to see a little bit of what their lives are like, and we get to go to their offices, which is always a good time,” Blaser said.



ANGIE RUSHER / JOURNALISM ADVISOR

**Seniors Noah Korth and Ashtyn Preister observe as senior Maddie Blaser questions a witness. The senior mock trial team’s season ended in the district final against Lakeview.**

The senior team competed in districts on Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> and put in some extra time to prepare.

Senior Noah Korth played the role of an attorney and delivered the opening statements before each trial.

“To prepare for the regional final, the attorneys spent a lot of time review-

ing the rules of evidence and revising our questions. Witnesses prepared by memorizing their questions and becoming familiar with their witness statements,” Korth said.

Despite the extra practice and preparation, the senior team lost to Lakeview in the district final.

Senior Ava Kuhl played the role of a defense witness in the trial.

“For underclassmen, I would say if you are not sure about trying or going out for Mock Trial, just do it! You never know how much fun or the relationships you could have until you try it,” Kuhl said.



# Cast reckons *Oklahoma!* was a hit

By Joel Schumacher  
Staff Reporter

Directed by Ms. Laura Salyard and Mrs. Sarah Wacha, *Oklahoma!* made its grand debut at Scotus the weekend of February 12<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Set in a ranching community in Oklahoma, *Oklahoma!* features comedy, romance, suspense, and drama. Laughs and chuckles constantly echoed through Memorial Hall as *Oklahoma!* delighted the crowd between three different sessions: one on Friday, one on Saturday, and one on Sunday afternoon. Senior Emily Ferguson, who split roles between a cowhand and a part of the ensemble, was pleased with the performance.

"I feel like the musical was successful this year. We had lots of positive feedback, and everything ran really smoothly," Ferguson stated.

There was much that went into making the musical a success. Because of the infamous COVID-19, there were also some unique challenges. Senior Janae Rusher, who played Gertie Cummings, commented on the circumstances.

"Musical this year was

successful because we were almost completely memorized right after Christmas break. We have never been that memorized that soon before. Mask wearing made acting harder than usual because we could not see facial expression all the way until show week," Rusher explained.

*Oklahoma!* is a theatrical classic. Senior Josh Styskal, who played the key role of cowboy Will Parker, was up to the challenge.

"*Oklahoma!* is a well-known musical, so it was bound to draw a big crowd. Because it was well known, pressure was on us to perform it well. We wanted to impress those in the audience familiar with the play," Styskal said.

One of the aspects of performing *Oklahoma!* is the setting. The setting in southern Oklahoma requires the cast to have the famous southern accent. Senior Noah Korth, who played the major role of hired hand Jud Fry, knew the setting was going to be incorporated into the cast's performance.

"All the characters in *Oklahoma!* have southern accents; we needed to master them to add to the comedic aspect of the musical," Korth stated.

Despite the accent, there

were other unique parts to this year's musical. Freshman Joanna Rusher played the important role of Ado Anne Carnes.

"There was not very much dancing, and the setting stayed relatively the same. We did not have to change the stage very much," Rusher said.

Underclassmen played a large role in the play. Junior Camille Cox played the role of Laurey Williams, a main character in the play.

"This year was very different for me personally, being a first-time lead. It was a lot of time and effort, but it was worth it. This was my favorite musical that I have done throughout high school. It took a lot of work and dedication, but I believe staying positive is the key," Cox stated.

All the successes of a play like *Oklahoma!* cannot happen without good leadership from among the cast. Though there were many leaders in the cast, one person in particular stood out amongst the crowd. According to Korth and Ferguson, fellow senior Maddie Blaser was crucial in helping the cast produce and perform the play.

"Maddie Blaser did a great job of leading us



JOEL SCHUMACHER / ROCKBOTTOM STAFF

Senior Josh Styskal explains what Kansas City was like to a group of cowboys, junior Nathaniel Eisenmenger, sophomore Kavan Splittgerber, sophomore Mark Buhman, senior Cassie Kouma, junior Abbee Hutchinson, and senior Emily Ferguson. Styskal played cowboy Will Parker.

through vocal warm-ups before each performance. She was invaluable to the cast," Korth explained.

"I would have to say Maddie Blaser helped the most. She loves acting and is such an encouragement to everyone," Ferguson agreed.

In addition to senior leadership, every musical

needs a good director. Blaser was impressed with the job done at the helm.

"Ms. Salyard did a great job with the blocking and music, while Mrs. Wacha really helped a lot with characterization and our performances," Blaser stated.

The senior class performed their final musical of

their high school career. It is safe to say, *Oklahoma!* was a great way to end their musical careers. Cox appreciates their contribution.

"All the seniors were super helpful this year; the rest of us will miss them a ton," Cox explained.



KAMRYN CHOON / YEARBOOK STAFF

Freshman Joanna Rusher (Ado Annie) listens as junior Chris Adame (Ali Hakam) greets junior Camille Cox (Laurey Williams). Adame plays a peddler who does not want to get married.



JOEL SCHUMACHER / ROCKBOTTOM STAFF

Aunt Eller, played by senior Maddie Blaser, sits on a rocking chair and talks to Curly, played by junior Dominic McPhillips. Both Blaser and McPhillips played key roles in the performance.

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# Safety scores with a touchdown message

By Camille Pelan  
Staff Reporter

Growing up with four brothers and a father who is a football coach, I have learned to love the sport of football. I have seen almost every football movie there is, such as *The Blind Side*, *Remember the Titans*, *Friday Night Lights*, and many more.

This past year, Disney+ released a new football movie called *Safety*.

*Safety* is a movie centered around the true story of Clemson football player Ray McElrathbey and his journey of being a collegiate athlete while raising his 11-year-old brother at the same time. This is the perfect movie for all families.

First, *Safety* teaches the importance of family.

Ray McElrathbey receives a full-ride scholarship to play football at Clemson University. Since Ray is a scholarship athlete, he is not allowed to share his perks

or receive outside assistance from others. However, due to his mother receiving drug addiction treatment, Ray is tasked with raising his younger brother, Fahmarr, while also being a full-time college student-athlete. Raising Fahmarr in his dorm room is against the NCAA rules and could get Ray suspended, but he takes the risk in order to avoid Fahmarr having to go into temporary foster care. Ray exemplifies what it takes to be a true older brother.

Throughout the movie, Ray repeatedly makes sacrifices for his younger brother. Once the Clemson administration and the NCAA find out about hiding Fahmarr, Ray is asked to decide between football and his family. Without hesitation, Ray chooses his family. This teaches viewers of all ages the importance of family over everything.

*Safety* also teaches about the importance of relationships and friendships built within athletics.

After the NCAA finds out about Ray's situation and forces him to choose between football and family, Ray decides to pursue a waiver from the NCAA allowing him to receive outside assistance to raise his younger brother while still being a scholarship athlete. The Clemson football community helps him on this journey, and he eventually receives the waiver. Without his team's help, Ray could not have achieved this goal. *Safety* teaches its viewers the importance of building familial relationships between teammates and coaches.

Lastly, *Safety* teaches young children what it takes to have a proper work ethic.

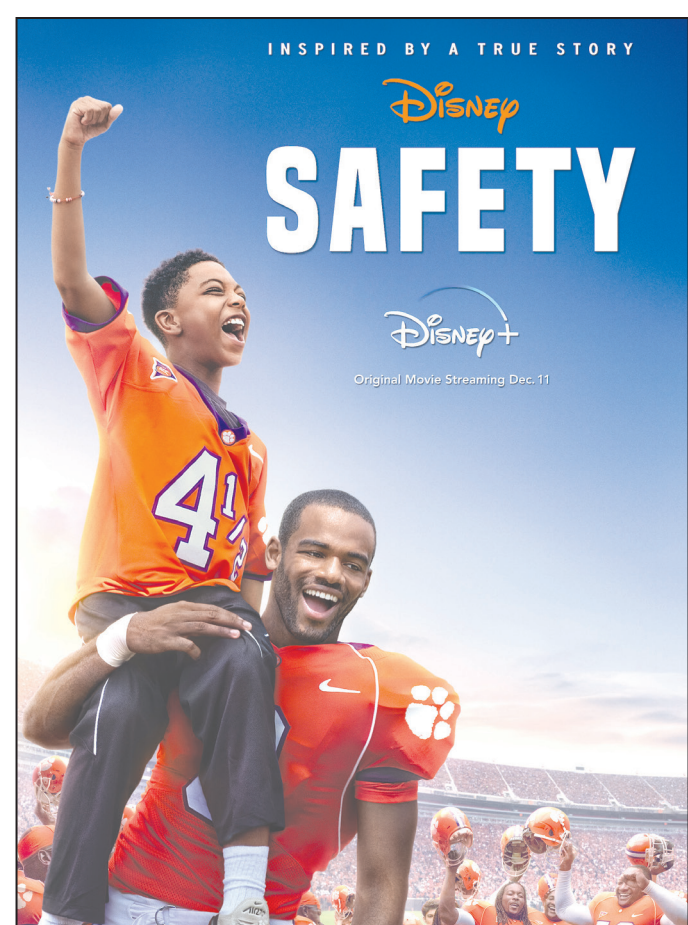
Athletics and academics in college alone can be tough to juggle, but Ray is in charge of raising his younger brother on top of school and football. Not many college students would be able to handle Ray's schedule, and he teaches us the importance of working hard in order to become successful.

Ray comes from a rough

background, so he seems destined for an unsuccessful future. However, his work ethic, perseverance, and passion toward everything he does helps him to achieve success throughout the movie. Ray does not let his past define his future, and he is a great example for youth throughout the world.

Some may argue that the topics of drug abuse, poverty, and unreliable parenting are too sensitive for young audiences, but I think *Safety* does a great job of addressing these issues in a positive manner. Ray is also able to improve his character by overcoming the adversity brought forth from these sensitive topics.

Overall, *Safety* is a phenomenal family football movie. It teaches us how to love, how to sacrifice, and how to never give up. So, the next time you are trying to pick out a family movie to watch, consider *Safety*. You will not regret it!



Clemson football player Ray McElrathbey carries his younger brother, Fahmarr, on his shoulders in the new *Safety* movie released on Disney+. *Safety* tells the true story of how Ray McElrathbey juggled school, football, and raising his 11-year-old brother.

# Super Bowl presents normalcy

By Ava Kuhl  
Staff Reporter

The Super Bowl has been an event the United States has enjoyed for 55 years. It is a time-honored tradition people everywhere prepare for. From parties to tailgates, almost everyone watches the Super Bowl.

After watching Super Bowl LV, there have been many mixed reviews over it. The most common reaction has been it was boring. Nothing too exciting happened and nothing stood out. It was normal.

Super Bowl LV was one of the most normal events to have happened since the pandemic last March. However, the normalcy was something people today greatly needed.

The performance of the national anthem, which was sang by Jazmine Sullivan and Eric Church, was simple and normal. Nothing too exciting and nothing too jaw dropping occurred, and the game continued on.

The halftime performance was The Weekend this year. His performance had many mixed reviews ranging from being great to being boring. The Weekend put in

\$7 million for his production and had no guest performers which is seen as rare. Overall, his performance was seen as confusing and dull.

Also, the game was merely another football game. There was no overtime, no upsetting calls that went too far, no vicious fights, and there was even a stalker, which is always common for the Super Bowl. In the end, Tom Brady won his seventh Super Bowl, and the Buccaneers topped the Chiefs 31-9.

Finally, let's not forget what most people watch the Super Bowl for: the commercials. In years past, there

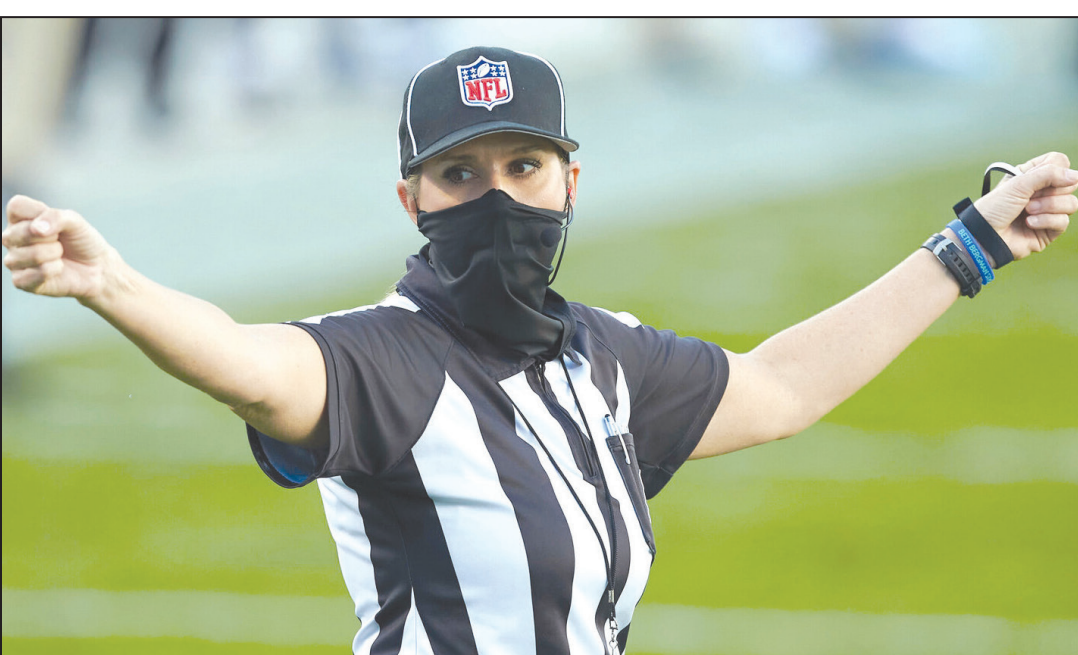
have been hilarious roll on the floor crying commercials and heart touching creative commercials. However, this year was nothing too spectacular. Yes, there were some funny commercials, for instance, the "No Way Norway" commercial featuring Will Ferrell for General Motors. There were also a few good-hearted commercials such as "The Middle" starring Bruce Springsteen for Jeep. Nevertheless, most people commented saying the ads were only so-so. People did not laugh as hard as they wanted to, and some felt a majority of the commercials were simply re-

cycled ideas. One idea to keep in mind though: it was normal, and the commercials were still there for everyone to enjoy.

Now, there were some instances that made history and were interesting and new. For one, the Super Bowl had its first female referee, Sarah Thomas. Also, the pregame of the Super Bowl was something new for fans. The NFL teamed up with TikTok to create an NFL TikTok Tailgate party before the game headlined by Miley Cyrus. In addition, Amanda Gorman, who had made her debut by performing her poem at President Joe

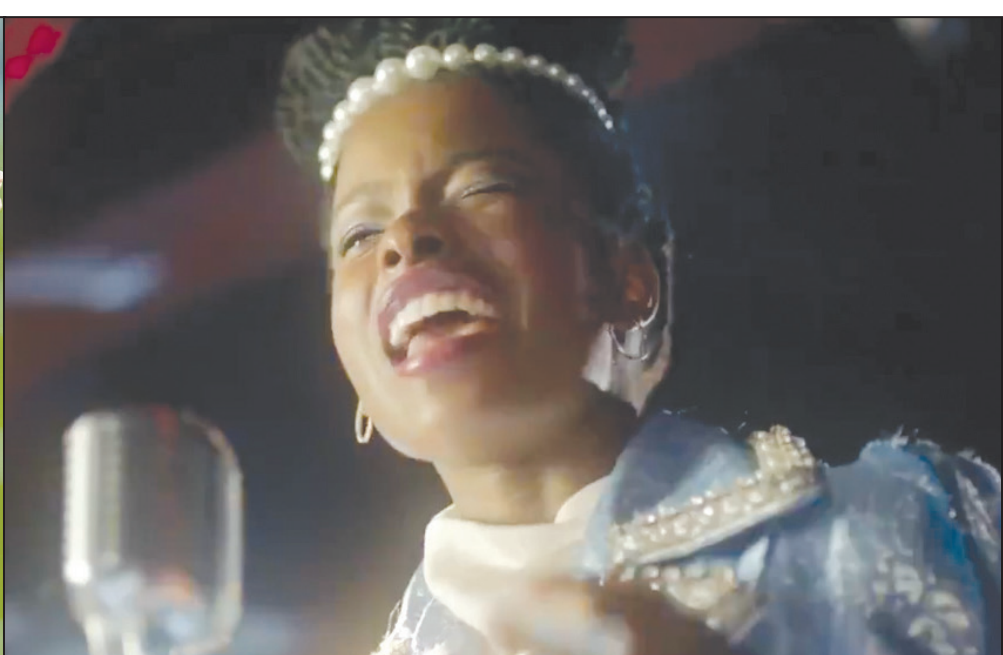
Biden's inauguration, performed a poem before the game. Finally, the attendance record was significantly low. This is due to the attendance limit put in place by the NFL. According to NBC Sports, 25,000 fans attended the game with 7,500 of them being healthcare workers, and 30,000 cutouts were present.

Yes, Super Bowl LV is not a Super Bowl people will talk about for years to come, but it was one of the more normal events to have occurred since March, and that is what made it great.



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Sarah Thomas becomes the first female to referee for the Super Bowl on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Amanda Gorman also made history for Super Bowl LV by becoming the first poet to perform at a Super Bowl.



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# Forget harmful friendships

By Gavin Brabec  
Staff Reporter

Friends give another meaning to us in life. They are our confidants, emotional support, partners-in-crime, and biggest helpers. Friendships are a source of happiness and upliftment.

Some friendships may not have as positive an impact as they should. A toxic friendship can take a toll on a person's daily life. If someone is stuck in a bad friendship, they may not realize the psychological toll it has on them. It drains them mentally and tears them down instead of bringing them up.

From maintaining social connections to making you happier, friends should always have a positive impact in our lives, but toxic

friendships may not be the source of happiness you are looking for.

There are many signs a friend may be affecting your life in a negative way. The signs may be subtle and easy to push aside. A toxic friend will put their friends down. A joke may have gone too far, but they do not see a problem with it. Gossiping is another sign. A secret told in private and then revealed to your social circle the next day shows your friend's carelessness toward privacy. If this happens repeatedly, it is not a coincidence or an accident.

In a toxic friendship, they compare different aspects of you to other people. Maybe your house is not as fun as another

friend's house, or the way you dress is not as nice as their other friend. Both are signs of a negative impact on your life.

The actions committed by a toxic friend affect your life more than you may imagine. Physical and emotional health are heavily impacted. The attachment to this friend may be stress-inducing. You may feel so close to this friend, but there is a crumbling foundation the relationship is built on. When they compare you to other friends, it leaves you lonely and isolated because of the unique attachment formed to the bad friend.

True friends offer support when their friend needs help or guidance. Malignant friends do not give the support and compassion which is sometimes needed. They are

not there for you when you need a friend most.

Self-confidence and self-esteem take a hit as a toxic friendship progresses. They put you down and treat people poorly. You might even start accepting this behavior. Their put-downs and negative attitude make you doubt your own strengths and capabilities.

Another negative psychological effect is feeling off-balance, meaning there is an uneasy feeling left behind from them. Friends should not make you feel nervous and unsettled. If you notice a friend easily irritated or upset by little actions and then acting normal in a few minutes, it builds a negative unpredictability a friendship should not have. Manipulation is a common cause for this internal instinct. People

who behave in toxic ways resort to manipulative tactics to get what they desire. You might feel as though you do not know how to describe the feeling you have, but it is present.

You may recognize a friendship in your life in which these traits are present. There is a way to handle it. Some people want to give a second chance. If this is the case, be open about your feelings. Use "I" statements in dialogue to clearly express your feelings. Most people would try to improve on their behavior to prevent future conflicts.

Self-reflection may be necessary on how you acted in the friendship. Toxic traits can be passed onto you. The people around you might notice you acting similar to the friend hurting you. Focus

on your own qualities as a friend.

A second chance, however, is not always the best option. There are people stuck in their ways, and they need time to mature. It is difficult to change a person. They must do this task on their own. If spending time with this person does not positively contribute to your life, it may be time to cut ties.

Toxic friends emphasize the importance of having a true friend in your life. Opening up to others is a helpful idea to move on. Take time for yourself as well. Spend more time with loved ones. Focus on enjoyable hobbies. If it suits you, get sleep. Toxic friends show you the value of having authentic friends in your life.



# Big Decisions 2021



## April Fools Issue

# Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic

<https://scotuscc.org/rock-bottom-newspaper/>

Columbus, Nebraska 68601

Volume 21 • Issue VI • April 1, 2021

## Letter leads Trump to Scotus

By Noah Korth  
Staff Reporter

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, many QAnon conspiracy theorists across the country were rooting for Donald Trump to be reinstated as president. Obviously, that did not happen, and supporters of the conspiracy were disappointed. Senior Joel Schumacher wrote a letter to Trump on March 5<sup>th</sup> expressing his discontent.

“Dear Mr. Trump, I am deeply sorry that you were not reinstated on March 4<sup>th</sup>,” Schumacher wrote. “However, I encourage you to run in 2024, so you can make America great again after Sleepy Joe’s sloppy term. You cannot give up on the American people.”

Surprisingly, Trump’s staff was moved by Schumacher’s letter that it managed to reach the former president’s desk. Trump was inspired by Schumacher’s words that he wrote back, offering to pay a visit to Scotus Central Catholic.

“Dear Joel, you clearly have a brilliant young mind, and I would be happy to meet you in person to discuss your political propositions,” Trump wrote. “In fact, I would like to get you started on your own political journey by sponsoring a rally in your name at your high school on April 16<sup>th</sup>. This rally is going to be big. It’s going to be huge.”

As soon as Joel received the news, he brought the proposal



RUBY MARTINEZ / YEARBOOK STAFF

**Seniors Janae Rusher, Shelby Bridger, Tanley Miller, and Kamryn Chohon pose in their patriotic gear before attending a Trump Rally in Omaha last fall. Chohon has a Trump flag wrapped around her shoulders.**

to Scotus president Jeff Ohnoutka. Ohnoutka was suspicious of Trump’s intentions, but he decided to allow the rally due to the attention Scotus would receive in the media. However, everyone was wondering one question: Why on Earth would Donald Trump come to Columbus, Nebraska?

“Even though I had a really tremendous term as president, I have many, many friends who tell me that I only care about myself, which is simply fake news,” Trump said. “To prove these people wrong, I thought I would give back a little bit to my

fans.”

Regardless of Trump’s good intentions, several Scotus students were appalled that he was coming to Scotus. They plan to protest against the rally, and the protest is being organized by senior Laura Bettenhausen.

“We plan to protest this rally because Donald Trump should not be getting attention of any kind,” Bettenhausen said. “This is a man who inspired thousands of people to attack the Capitol and got away with it. Do we really think it’s a good idea to fuel his ego and encourage

this lunatic to run in 2024?”

In preparation for the rally, Scotus students plan to decorate the building with patriotic adornments, and Ohnoutka declared April 16<sup>th</sup> as red, white, and blue day. Ready or not, Donald Trump is coming to Scotus.

“I am so excited for the Trump rally,” senior Kamryn Chohon said. “I plan on taking my Trump flag down from my bedroom wall and bringing it to the rally. If I get lucky, I might even get a picture with Mr. Trump.”

## Dallman flies into new adventures

By Grace Mustard  
Staff Reporter



KEIRA FEEHAN / YEARBOOK STAFF

**Senior Kaira Dallman shows off her acrobatic talent at the senior retreat. Dallman leaves for acrobat training this summer to join Feld Entertainment’s Traveling Performances.**

While pressure is on the seniors to get their lives in order by choosing colleges and picking majors, senior Kaira Dallman is flying down a different path. She is proud to announce her decision to pursue her dream of acrobatics and join Feld Entertainment, a travelling act out of Ellenton, Florida.

“This is something I’ve wanted my whole life. I have always loved watching Feld’s shows, and now I finally have a chance to be a part of it,” Dallman said.

Feld Entertainment has four locations across the U.S., but their headquarters are in Florida. Dallman conveniently took a vacation

recently down to Florida to finalize her decision and clean up some small details.

“Some of my friends knew why I was actually going to Florida, but I went to check out Feld and make sure this is for sure where I want my life to go. The beach is also a big plus,” Dallman laughed.

Dallman will be starting her new adventure shortly after graduation leaving for Twin Cities Trapeze in St. Paul, Minnesota to train for Feld Entertainment. This institution offers more than trapeze to get all-around entertainment training which will put her ahead of the game in performing.

“I chose Twin Cities Trapeze because it is a respected institution I know will help me achieve my goals. I will not take my time in

See **Dallman**, Page 2

## No finals announced for third semester in a row

By Camille Pelan  
Staff Reporter

The 2020-2021 school year has been a year of making adjustments, overcoming adversity, and dealing with various challenges brought forth from COVID-19. Even though there have been many negatives, one of the main positives for the student body this school year was not having semester finals over the first semester. This decision was made due to the fact that many students missed several weeks of school having to quarantine. The last time Scotus students had to take semester finals was in December of 2019.

May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> were originally scheduled to be the dates of second semester finals. However, after long thought, consideration, and discussion amongst the staff, Scotus Central Catholic president Jeff Ohnoutka decided to change the plans.

“There will be no second semester finals this year,” Ohnoutka said. “The students have worked extremely hard, and I want to cut them some slack with everything they have had to go through due to COVID-19.”

With spring activities being stripped away last year, the staff also believes it is only fair for the student body to enjoy their activities without having to worry about finals.

“The spring season can be crazy,” assistant principal Angie Rusher said. “As a staff, we want to lessen the burden for the students to allow them to focus on their spring activities.”

Another contributing factor to this decision is the mental state of the students.

“This year has been a challenge for many of the students,” guidance counselor Jill Brichacek said. “Having semester finals would only add more stress to the students who are already dealing with the negative effects of COVID-19.”

See **Finals**, Page 2



**Finals**

Many students believe this decision should be made permanent from now on, including senior Kade Wiese.

"I think semester finals are only a way for teachers to torture students," Wiese said. "Many of us students have short-term memories, so it is not fair for teachers to quiz us over lessons we learned back in January."

Finals are taken over the subjects of science, math, English, social science, religion, and Spanish. Senior Maddie Blaser believes taking semester finals is not beneficial for senior students.

"Many of the seniors have already decided on their majors and have been accepted into colleges," Blaser said. "I plan to enter into law school, so it is irrelevant for me to take a semester final over classes such as anatomy and physiology when I do not plan on studying them in my future."

Sophomore Lindsay Ohnoutka,

daughter of Scotus president Jeff Ohnoutka and English teacher Deb Ohnoutka, believes not having finals will benefit more than the student body.

"My parents, along with many other teachers and staff members, have had to deal with a lot this year due to the virus," Ohnoutka stated. "Not having finals will make life easier for them because they will not be stressed about organizing finals, creating the tests, and grading the tests."

Even though there are no finals this school year, Mr. Ohnoutka is unsure what this will mean for the upcoming years.

"I will make a decision on future semester finals when the time comes," Ohnoutka said. "As of right now, I just want to show my students how thankful I am for their perseverance and dedication this year throughout the chaos of COVID-19 by not having semester exams."



KEIRA FEEHAN / YEARBOOK STAFF

Seniors Este Lesiak, Ava Kuhl, and Tanley Miller take an anatomy and physiology test in Joan Lahm's classroom earlier this year. Along with these three students, the rest of the Scotus student body will not have to take semester finals due to the decision made by Scotus president Jeff Ohnoutka and the rest of the Scotus staff.

**Dallman**

Minnesota for granted, but I am definitely looking forward to the Florida weather and working with Feld," Dallman said.

Dallman's parents have always been supportive and encouraged her to chase her dreams. Nothing changed when she made her decision to start her acrobatic career.

"Since she was young, Kaira was always dancing around and jumping off couches. I have always had a feeling she would do something with performing in her future," Jodi Dallman added.

The Scotus senior retreat was her time to shine when she announced she was leaving for acrobat training to everyone in her class. One of the activities at the retreat was a swinging bar similar to the equipment trapeze artists use. Dallman was the only girl to attempt to grab the bar, but she could not quite show off without the correct equipment.

"I was super shocked when Kaira told us at the retreat that she was pursuing trapeze, but I know this is going to fit her," senior Shelby Bridger said.

Dallman's experience with cheerleading has helped her tremendously. Coordination, flexibility, and balance are all characteristics needed for both cheer and trapeze.

"Since I have cheered with Kaira the last four years, I can tell she takes this seriously and has all the right talents for this. She is going to do amazing things," senior cheerleader Tanley Miller said.

Feld Entertainment hosts around 3,500 shows in seventy-five countries on six continents, and Dallman cannot wait until everyone can watch her be part of the show. Training for Feld will take about a year in all for Dallman including acrobatics and performance training.

"Once training is done, the first thing I am doing is making sure everyone can come watch my performances and support me in my new adventure," Dallman concluded.

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# Seniors stay for fifth year

By Ava Kuhl  
Staff Reporter

Last spring, sports were canceled, and many student athletes lost a year of spring activities due to COVID-19.

Recently, the NSAA has released that student athletes will be allowed to return to their high schools for a fifth year, if they so choose, to regain that year of spring sports.

Scotus is no exception to this, and a few seniors are taking advantage of the opportunity. Senior Ross Thorson is one of the seniors who is returning next year to gain another year of soccer.

"I wanted to get the year I lost back," Thorson explained. "I do not plan to play soccer in college, so as a high school student I only get four years of it, and I am getting my four years."

The rule for fifth year seniors is they must be at school for at least the second

half of the day, sixth period to ninth, in order to compete in their activities. They can take whatever classes or electives they want and just have to pass. Senior Keira Feehan is returning next year for tennis.

"I think the sixth to ninth rule is completely fair," Feehan said. "I look forward to taking some classes next year I didn't get to this year. The one I am most excited about taking is Art V and Graphic Design III with Mr. Ericson since it will just be me in those classes. Plus, I get another year of tennis I had lost last year. I think every senior should take advantage of this opportunity."

The fifth year only goes toward spring sports according to the NSAA because most schools had their fall and winter sports. Senior Janae Rusher looks to come back next year to play soccer.

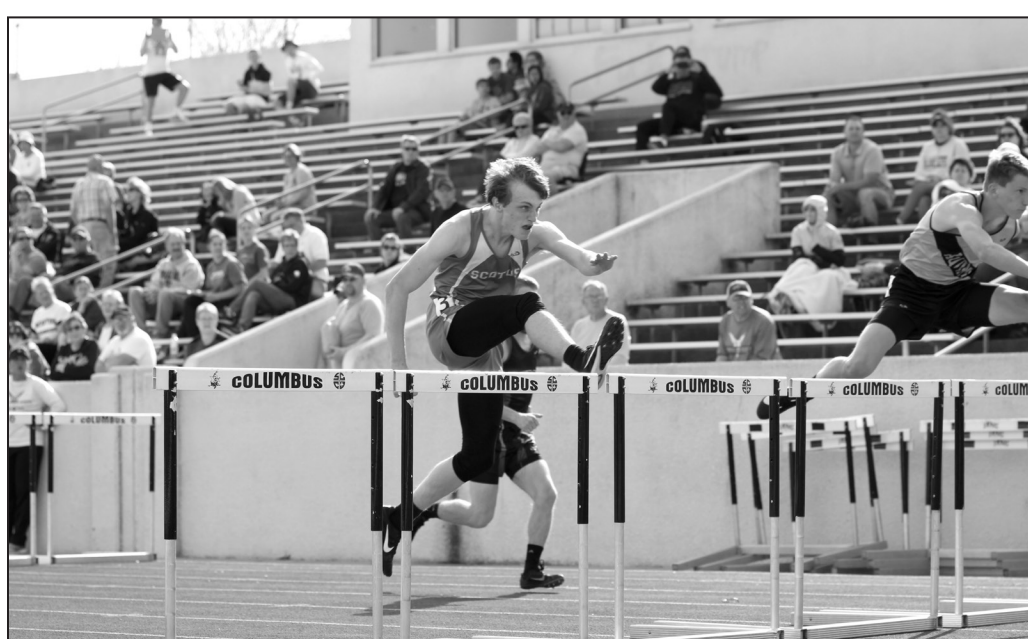
"One year was not enough for me," Rusher said. "I want to keep playing soccer and wish I had started

sooner. I wish we could get the chance to compete in other activities, too, but I will gladly stay just to play soccer and be the team's goalkeeper for another year."

The fifth year students have to attend school at the start of fall and will graduate next year with the class of 2022. Senior Kaden Young is staying another year at Scotus to play baseball. Even though he has committed to playing at Southeast Community College, the coaches agreed he can keep his scholarship.

"I was disappointed when they announced last year that all spring activities were canceled," Young said. "I just wanted a chance to play another year, and when the opportunity presented itself, I had to seize it. Plus, I get to keep my scholarship, so why not?"

Many seniors shied away from this opportunity since it would not benefit them in any way towards college. However, senior Kade Wiese



BLANEY DREIFURST / YEARBOOK STAFF '19

**Senior Justin Sliva leaps over the hurdle at the conference track meet his sophomore year. Sliva plans to return for a fifth year next year to continue competing in track.**

had bigger ideas.

"Once I heard we could stay for another year to compete in spring sports, I was all in," Wiese said. "I really think I can perfect my swing and maybe go professional with golf with this extra year

advantage."

With this year coming to an end, many seniors were faced with the decision to either stay another year or continue with their college plans.

"It was an easy deci-

sion for me," senior Justin Sliva explained. "I get to stay another year taking whatever classes I want, and I get to compete in track for more chances at state. It was an easy yes to stay at Scotus for me."

# Duhey follows his dreams

By Vijay Wemhoff  
Staff Reporter

After high school many students go to college and pursue their dreams. In some instances, people must wait. For example, English teacher Jacob Duhey has been accepted into professional baseball. He started teaching at the beginning of this year.

He was wanting to go into baseball right away, but the plans were changed.

"I was planning on teaching for a while and then going to baseball, but this contract changes everything," Duhey said.

Duhey attended four years of undergraduate school at Doane University where he received his bachelor's degree in English Language

Arts, minoring in Journalism/Media and Sociology. He then spent two years at UNO where he received his master's degree.

"I have always had a passion for English. I thought applying to work part time at Scotus would be good for me," Duhey said.

Duhey has been playing organized baseball since he was four years old. He has

been playing for about twenty-one years.

"Every chance I had to play baseball I would take it. There were many times after school I would go straight to the fields. I have such a great passion for this sport," Duhey said.

Duhey has already started preparing for the team. During college, Major League Baseball scouts watched him play on the field. Even though he went into teaching, they still had a chance to contact Duhey about a contract.

"I ended up signing in December over break. I got a letter and a phone call from the board of directors of the Chicago Cubs baseball organization offering a two-year contract with compensations. I went to Chicago over break to meet with the general manager, and a few weeks ago I received a contract which I signed," Duhey said.

Duhey has been a Cubs fan ever since he was a kid. Now, he is playing for his favorite team. He has made a few trips to Chicago every year to Wrigley Field to

watch them play.

"I know I have not lived here long, but I will come back and visit every once in a while," Duhey said.

Duhey is planning to move to Chicago after the school year ends. He has been training since August, and since then, he has gone to Chicago a few times this year to practice on Wrigley Field.

"Every time I go down to Chicago, I try to imagine what it would be like to play on the field in front of thousands of people. Now that dream is about to come true," Duhey said.

Growing up, Duhey played first base and then eventually moved to the outfield where he plays center and right field.

"I loved first base, but eventually I stopped growing, so I had to switch positions," Duhey said.

Many of the students were able to form a bond with Mr. Duhey, and his teaching will be missed. He had all good vibes when he was teaching.

"Mr. Duhey is one of my favorite teachers. I always go

to his room and talk to him before class. Our conversations are what I look forward to each day. I am going to miss him next year," freshman David DeLeon said.

The staff has decided to make a huge poster for Duhey as he leaves to play in Chicago. Scotus will be his number one fan.

"I talked to Jacob during the football season because he was one of the assistant coaches. He was a good example for the young men on my team. He always had a smile on his face, and he had such a positive attitude toward the team. I had the chance to talk to him a few times in the hallways during passing periods too," religion teacher Tyler Linder said.

The students will miss him next year as he pursues his baseball career. Scotus wishes him the best of luck in his future.

"Baseball is one of the most reflective games of life, teaching you how to fail and get back on your feet in the face of adversity," Duhey concluded.



PHOTO COURTESY JACOB DUHEY

**English teacher Jacob Duhey hits the ball at major league tryouts at Wrigley Field in Chicago. Duhey signed a contract to play baseball for the Chicago Cubs this summer.**

# Holy Grail found buried in the courtyard

By Joel Schumacher  
Staff Reporter

A discovery of epic proportions was uncovered in the Scotus courtyard this past February.

The Holy Grail, the cup Jesus used during the Last Supper, has been sought after for millennia since Christ's resurrection. Many historians thought the Grail was transported by early Christians to the Americas pre-Christopher Columbus. This was a theory that was vindicated when the Holy Grail was discovered accidentally by students metal detecting in the courtyard. Sophomore Eli Jarecki was shocked at the finding.

"Who would have thought that some simple metal detecting in the courtyard would have led to the greatest historical discovery of all time? We go out metal detecting every now and then; it's an effective way to find some coins and some interesting things. I never thought I would find

something this valuable ever before," Jarecki stated.

Theology teacher Tyler Linder has a theory of how the Holy Grail may have ended up in the courtyard.

"Well, Scotus was founded by Franciscan monks. My theory is the Franciscans must have had possession of the Holy Grail for a long time and kept it a secret. A group like the Franciscans would have loved to have such a valuable relic in their possession. I do not understand how they would have left it in the courtyard at Scotus, but they did. Someone messed up their job," Linder said.

The grail is of priceless archeological and religious value. The only question is, "Who should own such a valuable artifact?" Sophomore Jackson Hanson, who helped dig the Holy Grail up, believes he and Jarecki should own it.

"You see, we dug the Holy Grail up, so naturally we should own it. I understand it was in the courtyard, and the school owns the

courtyard, technically, but we dug the chalice up. It is obviously worth some money, so Eli and I want to have it. Life can be expensive," Hanson stated.

The Holy Grail is an all-important artifact for Christians everywhere. Linder believes Scotus should use it for Mass.

"I mean, what better chalice to use for Mass than the chalice that was used for the first Mass, also known as the Last Supper? I do not think St. Peter's Basilica could even say they have a chalice that amazing," Linder stated.

A simple solution would be to sell the cup to a museum because it should be worth a lot of money. However, many Catholics believe the Holy Grail to be priceless and not for sale.

"To a museum, the Holy Grail would be worth millions and millions of dollars because of the historical value associated with Christianity. The thing is though, the Holy Grail obviously has



ASHLEY STEINER / YEARBOOK STAFF

**Sophomores Eli Jarecki and Jackson Hanson excavate the Holy Grail from the courtyard. The two sophomore boys are responsible for the greatest archeological discovery of all time.**

value beyond money seeing that it is a major part of institution of the Eucharist, which is a cornerstone of the faith for billions of Catholics," Linder said.

It has been decided that whenever the Scotus community gathers for Mass, the Holy Grail will be used to hold the Blood of Jesus. This was a hard decision for soph-

omore Eli Jarecki to make.

"Obviously we thought we found the jackpot when it comes to affording college, and really it was like winning the lottery, but, after careful thought, Jackson and I would rather have the entire Scotus community be able to use it and reflect on our faith for Mass. So now, the school is using it for Mass, and we still

must pay for college," Jarecki stated.

The Holy Grail will be used for school Mass at St. Bonaventure. It can also be requested to use at team Masses in the morning at the chapel. The Holy Grail will most certainly help Scotus win future competitions.



# Oakley commmits to Oklahoma

By Kade Wiese  
Staff Reporter

Scotus junior wide receiver and cornerback Garrett Oakley has been catching the eyes of numerous college football coaches. In the last twelve months, Oakley has received dozens of offers from collegiate football programs around the country. Eight of those offers came from Division I football programs with big names like Ohio State, Notre Dame, Clemson, and even Alabama. On March 26<sup>th</sup>, Oakley verbally committed with the Oklahoma Sooners.

“When I visited Oklahoma, I knew within ten minutes it was my favorite college, and the environment was something I have never experienced before,” Oakley said. “It felt like home to me.”

The past three years have been quite successful for the four-star junior. Oakley has received over 187 passes making up 2,967 receiving yards. He has 52

career touchdowns and 3,670 all-purpose yards.

Head coach Tyler Linder has been working with the junior wide receiver since he was in seventh grade.

“Oakley has been a great asset for the Scotus football program. Since day one, Oakley has worked his tail off to make the football team better,” Linder said. “He deserves to be in a respectable program like Oklahoma, and I am honored I was a part of his journey.”

Scotus’ football offensive coordinator Jay Pelan was ecstatic to hear Oakley signed with his alma mater. Pelan played for the Oklahoma Sooners on the 1997-1999 football teams as the back-up quarterback.

“Oklahoma is a prestigious football program, and Oakley will fit in perfectly with what they want to do,” Pelan said. “My time at Oklahoma not only made me a better football player, but also a better man, and I have no doubt it will do the same for Oakley.”

Standing at 6’ 5” and

215 pounds, Oakley hopes to play as a wide receiver-tight end hybrid with his 6’ 11” wingspan. Over the past six months, the junior has added more than thirty pounds of muscle and is only looking forward to adding more. Oakley is respected by his teammates and is known for his ruthless work ethic.

“Garrett is constantly in the weight room or out catching passes on the turf,” junior running back Devon Borchers stated. “He is always the first one to practice and the last one to leave.”

During his time at Scotus, Oakley has caught footballs for three different quarterbacks. He caught over 71% of passes thrown by Caden Pelan while he was a freshman. When Oakley was a sophomore, he caught 94% of the passes thrown by Tyler Palmer. In his recent junior season, Oakley caught 89% of senior Evan Bock’s passes.

“Garrett and I had a true connection on the football field. He knew where I was going to throw it, and I knew where he was going to be,”



GRACE MUSTARD / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Junior Garrett Oakley (12) breaks a defender’s ankles as he runs in for a touchdown. Oakley is looking to do the same on the collegiate level with the Oklahoma Sooners.**

Bock said. “His tall frame and strong hands made it easy for me to toss the ball up to him.”

With only his senior year left at Scotus, Oakley is

looking to accomplish greater goals and leave the Shamrock football program with an everlasting impact.

“I am seeking to end my career at Scotus with 4,500

receiving yards and 80 touchdowns,” Oakley stated, “but most importantly, I want to get this team more wins and hopefully get ourselves to another state championship.”



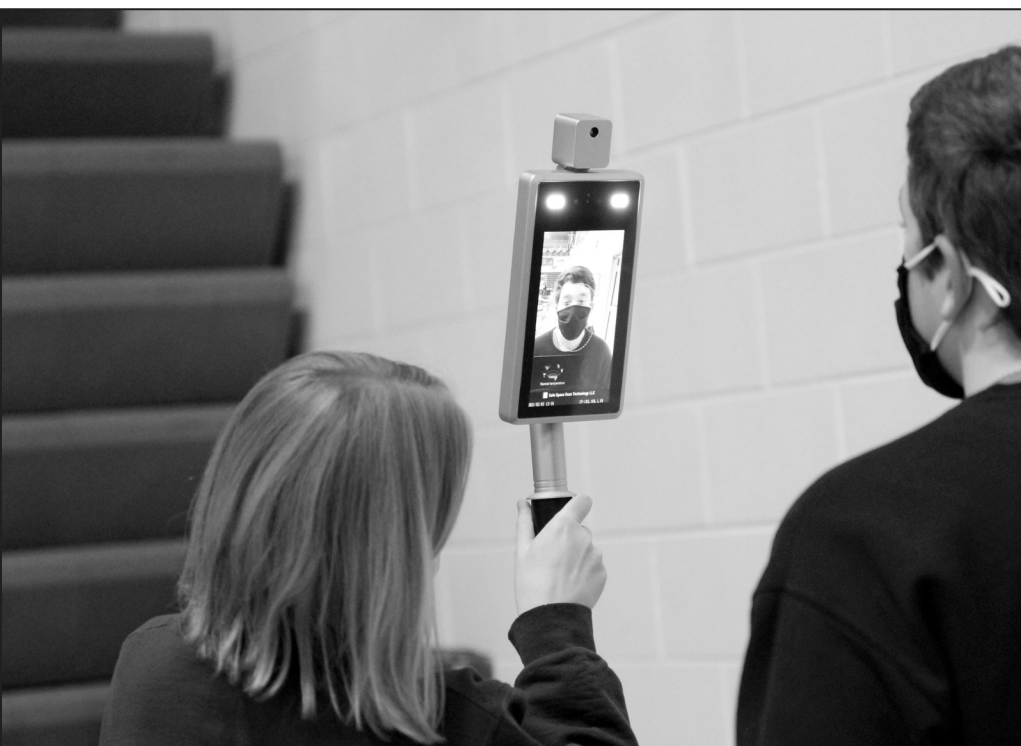
CHRISTINA OAKLEY / YEARBOOK STAFF

**Senior Ben Kamrath is preparing a steak in Carmen Johnson’s Culinary Arts class. Kamrath is planning on going to culinary arts school and appearing on the cooking show *Chopped* this summer.**



ANGIE RUSHER / JOURNALISM ADVISOR

**Head custodian Joe Schoenfelder wards off the Scotus ghost in Angie Rusher’s journalism room. More sightings have been reported as students testify to cold drafts coming from nowhere and doors opening and closing on their own.**



VIJAY WEMHOFF / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Senior Ava Kuhl sets up the new facial scanner to identify junior Jesse Dreifurst. Facial recognition, starting next school year, will be the way guests and students are allowed in the school.**



TANLEY MILLER / YEARBOOK STAFF

**Senior Jake Heesacker poses with a cat he rescued from the wilderness. Heesacker started a nonprofit animal rescue organization called Jake’s Cool Cats and Kittens.**



KEIRA FEEHAN / YEARBOOK STAFF

**Sophomore Ted Fehring announces he is open for hugs. He has noticed so many students and teachers this year are struggling that he wants to be there for others by giving them hugs.**



GAVIN BRABEC / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Juniors Kate Maguire and Grace Mustard argue over a hot topic during lunch time at the junior retreat. The retreat was not the fun time everyone imagined as there were many fights that broke out throughout the day.**



# Miller to join Chohon at CCC volleyball

By Kate Maguire  
Staff Reporter

Seniors Tanley Miller and Kamryn Chohon have been playing volleyball together since they were in junior high. Miller has been an outside hitter for the Scotus varsity team since her junior year while Chohon has been the setter.

In her two years of playing varsity, Miller has piled up around 300 kills while also being the most efficient hitter on last year's team. Chohon has collected a total of nearly 700 assists in her time at Scotus while also being one of the top defensive players.

Chohon committed to Central Community College to play volleyball during the winter season, but Miller has remained undecided on where she wanted to attend, even after getting some interest from CCC and other local colleges.

"I was not sure if I wanted to play a sport in college because it is a big time commitment and can put

a lot of stress on your body. I also did not know if I wanted to stay in Columbus to attend college," Miller said.

After some convincing from Chohon and a Zoom call with head CCC coach Abby Pollart, Miller decided to further her volleyball career at CCC.

"After thinking about it, I realized it would be hard for me to not play volleyball. I have been playing volleyball one way or another pretty much my whole life, so to be able to continue to play for two more years is awesome," Miller said. "I am super excited about it. Plus, having Kamryn as a teammate again is something that will be so fun for both of us."

Chohon shares the same emotions as Miller does about her commitment.

"I am glad to have Tanley as a teammate again because we have played on the court together since junior high, so we are able to read each other and connect during games very well," Chohon said. "I think we can make a difference on the team next year, and since we will be in town, we will be able

to come back and watch the volleyball team at Scotus."

Junior teammate Chloe Walker played with both Miller and Chohon on last year's varsity volleyball team.

"I learned a lot from Tanley last year because we were both outside hitters. She always kept her calm and helped others even when she was struggling at practice or in a game. Kamryn was the same way. If one of us was getting down on ourselves, Kamryn would be the first one to give us some encouragement," Walker said.

Head volleyball coach Janet Tooley has watched Miller and Chohon play together since they got to Scotus.

"I came to a couple of their games to watch when they were in junior high and knew they would be special. They had great chemistry and have only improved on their volleyball skills since then, so I am excited to see how they do up at CCC next year. The Scotus volleyball program was lucky to have them, and CCC is too," Tooley said.

CCC is currently playing



KATELYN BAYER / YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior outside hitter and CCC commit Tanley Miller rises to hit the ball past two Lakeview blockers. Miller made a late decision to join fellow senior setter Kamryn Chohon to play volleyball at CCC next fall.

a delayed season alongside basketball because of COVID-19 instead of their normal season in the fall.

The volleyball team should be back to playing in the fall next season where Miller and Chohon will play alongside

former Scotus player and 2020 graduate Chloe Odbert.

# APRIL FOOLS



Ava Kuhl / Rock Bottom Staff

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# Sheridan snags spot on Team USA

By **Janae Rusher**  
Staff Reporter

On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, a member of the Shamrock family will get to make school history. Athletic trainer Andrew Sheridan will get to attend the '2020' Olympic Games in Tokyo. The Tokyo Olympic Games are going to be held July 23<sup>rd</sup>- August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Sheridan is the first athletic trainer from Nebraska to ever be chosen for Team USA.

"I could not be more honored to represent Nebraska in this special way," Sheridan said. "I love being an athletic trainer at the high school level, but I have always dreamed of what it would be like to be an AT for professional athletes!"

Sheridan will be attending girls' rugby where he will be heading the athletic training staff. He will be accompanied by nine other athletic trainers from across the country.

"I did not get to pick

what sport I was in charge of," Sheridan said, "but I am excited to attend girls' rugby because of my experience with football, soccer, and other contact sports while I have been an AT."

Sheridan has been an athletic trainer for six years. He has been chosen as the top high school athletic trainer of Nebraska in 2018, 2019, and 2020 by the Nebraska Schools Activities Association.

"I always wanted to help high school athletes get back to playing," Sheridan said. "My goal is always to get them back into their sport as quickly as possible while keeping them healthy. You only get to play high school sports once."

While being the athletic trainer at Scotus for the last three years, Sheridan has seen countless games, but he has never gotten to watch rugby.

"Rugby will definitely be a great experience to watch," Sheridan said, "but I am also excited to get to travel to Tokyo and be a part of Team USA."

Emily Sheridan, Andrew Sheridan's wife, will also get to accompany him to Tokyo as his plus one. She and the spouses of the other athletic trainers get exclusive seating and passes at all events while in Tokyo.

"The most exciting part is that we don't have to pay for it," Emily Sheridan said. "Never in a million years would I believe we would be going to Tokyo together to watch the Olympics, let alone girls' rugby."

The Sheridans plan on staying in Tokyo for a week after the games to vacation and sightsee. This means Sheridan will miss football and volleyball two-a-days, but he will be back for the first week of school.

"Obviously two-a-days are a large task, but I have already asked a few Columbus area AT's if they would be willing to step in while I'm gone," Sheridan said.

While Sheridan is away, he will be seen on television when watching rugby and also during the carrying of the torch.



JANAЕ RUSHER / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Scotus athletic trainer Andrew Sheridan is interviewed by junior Zane Beiermann and senior Kade Wiese about being selected for the Olympics. Sheridan will be head athletic trainer of girls' rugby at the Tokyo Olympic Games this summer.**

"The closest I've been to being TV famous is News Channel Nebraska," Sheridan said. "Hopefully, I don't do anything stupid."

Sheridan will be attending rugby practices through-

out the next several months before he and Team USA leave for Tokyo the week of July 19<sup>th</sup>. Sheridan will be in Tokyo for up to three and a half weeks with Team USA. He will also receive a pletho-

ra of Team USA gear.

"This opportunity is once in a lifetime," Sheridan said. "I could not be more grateful or honored to represent Nebraska and Team USA at the Tokyo Olympics."

# Mrs. Bomar returns to Scotus

By **Gavin Brabec**  
Staff Reporter

Long-time Spanish teacher Gail Bomar says, "¡Hola!" to Scotus as she

makes her return to teaching.

The Spanish Department looked different this year as only Jo Moody taught every Spanish class at Scotus. This change came when Bomar retired after the 2019-2020 school year.

Bomar did not experience the retirement bliss many people feel when they leave the workforce.

"After retiring from Scotus, I had trouble filling my days. I no longer had lessons to plan and papers to

grade every day. It felt weird to have so much free time," Bomar stated.

Her decision to return came after her days of watching new movies and baking sweets for her family did not fill the hole left by the absence of teaching students.

Bomar said, "I enjoyed waking up every morning ready for a new day to teach students. I love seeing minds filled with the knowledge of Spanish."

Bomar never fully left Scotus as she is now a substitute teacher when needed.

"Being a substitute teacher this year has reminded me of the joys of teaching. I was grateful to be a substitute teacher for Mrs. Moody in her absence because I could teach what I love," Bomar said.

Moody had to take on the challenge of teaching all four levels of Spanish at Scotus. Spanish III and IV

had to be combined into two class periods.

"It was stressful at times to manage so many students all in different levels of the same language. My students were awesome at understanding how classes were going to be this year. I found a way to have two Spanish levels in the same period while both learning new subjects," Moody said.

Moody will go back to teaching Spanish I and II for the 2021-2022 school year.

"Mrs. Bomar's return is a big burden lifted. Although we all made it work for this year, I am grateful she will take some of my classes. The students will get a more in-depth learning experience with smaller classes," Moody said.

Junior Grace Mustard has been in Spanish for three years and is planning on taking Spanish IV next year.

"I was so excited to hear

Mrs. Bomar will come back next year. I had her in eighth-grade Spanish and absolutely loved it!" Mustard said.

In the 2021-2022 school year, Bomar will return to teaching Spanish III, IV, and eighth-grade Spanish.

"I am glad to be returning to the same Spanish classes I taught before I retired. I believe the eighth-grade Spanish course was a good introduction to Spanish before students entered multiple years of Spanish," Bomar said.

Mrs. Bomar has ideas and plans for the upcoming school year already in mind for her classes.

Bomar concluded, "I am excited to be enhancing more students' culture with this language. There will be new faces, but I cannot wait to see them. I will still have Spanish Monopoly Fridays, of course, for my new students. I am ready for the year to come!"



MCKENNA HOEFER / YEARBOOK STAFF '20

**Former Spanish teacher Gail Bomar is preparing for her Spanish III and IV classes for the 2021-2022 school year. She retired after the 2019-2020 school year but wants to make her return to teaching.**

# Suspensions imposed for bewitchment

By **Cassie Kouma**  
Editor

Scandal struck among the speech team when administration was forced to suspend several team members. The students involved were determined to have put junior Luke Przymus into a spell-like trance. Senior Noah Korth was one of the students who was given a week-long suspension.

"It was a complete accident," Korth said. "We were just messing around, and we didn't realize what we had done."

The group was practicing their oral interpretation of drama of *Macbeth* when they decided to do some extra research.

"There is this one scene where we are playing witches, and we are supposed to be controlling Luke's character," Korth said. "We wanted to make it sound more authentic, so we looked up some spells from that time period."

What resulted was a series of Latin chants, and the group incorporated them into their performance. Speech coach Becki Zanardi was present at the time of the

incident.

"I didn't notice anything wrong at first. Everything was normal besides the modified lines," Zanardi said. "It wasn't until I stopped them to give some notes that I realized something was off."

When Korth and juniors Zoe Euteneuer and Chris Adame-Hernandez paused their acting, Przymus stood still and was unresponsive.

"That was when things started to get scary," Zanardi said. "We didn't know what was wrong, and we couldn't get Luke to talk to us. He wouldn't move."

After about a minute the effect wore off, and Przymus returned to normal. Since then, he has fully recovered and has not had any negative side effects of the experience.

"I just kind of blacked out. One moment I was in the middle of running the OID, and the next minute everyone was all around me in my face. They were asking me if I was okay, but I felt fine," Przymus said.

After it was over, the speech team did further research on the spell they used. They figured out it was originally used to manipulate and control peoples' movements, similar to what is happening

in that scene of the speech.

"We were shocked. None of us expected anything to happen when we used those new lines," Adame-Hernandez said.

Unfortunately, the incident had to be looked into to determine the repercussions. Assistant principal Merlin Lahm eventually asked for

the advice of several local priests.

"This was an unprecedented situation," Lahm said. "I've never had to react to something like this in my administrating career, so I didn't know how to go forward with it. As hard as the decision was, we had to suspend those students

to discourage anything like this happening again in the future."

After returning from their suspension, the students resumed their speech practices and performed at state speech. They also removed all the words that had an impact on Przymus.

"It is honestly such a fun

story to be able to tell now," Przymus said. "I was never upset about any of it, and I actually think it has bonded our group even more."

Moving forward, a new rule for the handbook is being proposed to formally ban the use of all spells and magic-related chants.



KEIRA FEEHAN / YEARBOOK STAFF

**Senior Noah Korth and juniors Zoe Euteneuer and Chris Adame-Hernandez unknowingly control junior Luke Przymus with a series of Latin chants. Moments later, Przymus was unable to move on his own accord.**



# Rock Bottom senior edition



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## Seniors sign on to their dreams

By Joel Schumacher  
Staff Reporter

The class of 2021 is about to graduate. Many seniors have been awarded scholarships to help cut the costs of attending a university. Most students will find these scholarships based on their financial need or academic merits. However, six lucky and talented seniors have also signed onto athletic and musical programs that will propel their academic and extracurricular careers into the future.

There is much that goes into being a full-time college student and participating in a collegiate level extracurricular activity. Scotus has helped prepare the signing seniors in many ways. Senior Janae Rusher will be singing in the choir at South Dakota State in Brookings, South Dakota and has personally benefited from the support of Scotus.

"Ms. Salyard gave many opportunities for solos in both singers and musicals. She also helped me with my audition. Scotus has given me many opportunities to pursue music along with my other activities," Rusher said.

In addition to support, Scotus's sports programs have allowed seniors to pursue their dreams. Senior baseball player Kaden Young benefited from Scotus's partnership with Columbus High. Young will be attending Northeast Community College to play baseball in Norfolk, Nebraska.

"My summer legion coach, Parker Smejkal, helped me develop as a player very well along with the other Columbus High coaches. I think in my two years I will have at Northeast, the coaches will do what they can to develop me into a division 1 baseball player," Young said.

There are many things to consider when choosing the right collegiate athletic program. Senior Ava Kuhl had to decipher between several schools. After consideration, Kuhl will be taking her basketball skills to Doane University with the Tigers in Crete, Nebraska.

"Choosing a college to play at started out as a difficult choice. I had six in person offers and a number of outside offers, so I didn't quite know where I wanted to go. I would say to underclassmen looking to play sports in college that you shouldn't just pick a school based on the money offered. Instead ask questions, find a program that will

See Signings, Page 2

## Journalism qualifies 18 for state

By Emily Ferguson  
Staff Reporter

The school year is slowly coming to an end; however, the activities are still in full swing.

The state journalism competition was held on April 26<sup>th</sup> in Norfolk. Scotus had 18 students qualify for state journalism in 23 categories. State qualifiers were a combination of students from newspaper, yearbook, video production, and graphic design classes. Last year state journalism was only virtual due to COVID-19. However, this year students were able to go and compete in person.

Journalism teacher Angie Rusher expressed her excitement about how many students qualified for state this year.

"I am so glad our students had the opportunity to compete in state journalism this year. We have great writers, and this venue allows students to celebrate their skills with language. I am disappointed the awards ceremony will be virtual, but for this year, we are all happy to be participating," Rusher said.

Even though 18 students qualified for state journalism, only 10 students competed in Norfolk. This is because several of the categories were final, meaning their placement in the category was determined by the piece they submitted to qualify for state journalism. The other 10



ANGIE RUSHER / JOURNALISM ADVISOR

**State journalism qualifiers take a photo before being sent off to compete at state journalism on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Final results will be announced virtually on Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.**

students' events were not final, and they competed at state journalism by creating new pieces that will determine their placement. For all qualifiers this year, it will be their first time competing at state journalism in person.

Senior Cassie Kouma competed in newspaper news writing.

"Going into state journalism I felt really confident in myself and everyone else competing from Scotus," Kouma said.

At state journalism qualifiers only had one hour and fifteen minutes to compete in their individual events to write or design a new piece based on a topic. Junior Gavin Brabec, who competed in

sports news feature writing, felt very prepared at state, even with the time limit.

"I wrote a football article during the school year, and my state journalism topic was a football championship game, so that was very helpful in figuring out terminology and facts," Brabec said.

Scotus has a history of winning state championships in journalism. Scotus has won two state journalism championships in 2017 and 2018.

The students competing at state journalism are hoping to continue the tradition and bring home another state title this year. Everyone who qualified for state journalism will receive a medal ranging from 1<sup>st</sup>

through 8<sup>th</sup> in each of their events. The higher state qualifiers place, the more likely Scotus is to bring home a state championship. However, the state journalism qualifiers will not know the results until Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. The awards will be held virtually, and medals will be sent to coaches before then.

Senior Noah Korth, who competed in editorial writing at state, expresses the impact that journalism has had on his life.

"Journalism has helped me grow as a writer. I have learned a variety of skills that I will take with me to college. It has also helped me feel comfortable writing for an audience," Korth said.

## Three teachers say farewell

By Kade Wiese  
Staff Reporter

With the end of the 2020-2021 school year closing in, Scotus Central Catholic will be saying goodbye to three teachers. Two teachers will be moving on to different schools while one of them will be retiring.

The first teacher who will be transitioning to a new school is Spanish instructor Jo Moody.

Moody has been teaching at Scotus for the past six years. Throughout her years, she has taught Spanish I, II, III, and IV. Moody also assisted Patti Salyard with the Future Business Leaders of America club at Scotus.

"I have valued my relationships with my coworkers and have enjoyed teaching my students," Moody stated. "Scotus is the first school where I worked with another Spanish teacher. I appreciated learning from Mrs. Bomar and the

collaborative relationship we had."

Instead of teaching Spanish, Moody will be a school counselor at Cross County Community Schools.

"I will miss the people the most," Moody said. "I've enjoyed getting to know my students and working with them during my time at Scotus."

The second teacher who will be

taking a new job is English teacher Jacob Duhey.

Duhey, unlike the other two teachers, has only taught at Scotus for one year. In his words, "Short and sweet like Big League Chew gum." During his time here, Duhey taught Literature 8 and English 11. He also helped coach football, baseball, and junior high track.

Lastly, Duhey helped football coach Roger Kreinke supervise and coach students in the weight room every morning.

"A few of my fond memories at Scotus include creating a metaphorical fire in the Schuyler locker room, the countless hours spent discussing novels in my English class, making

See Teachers, Page 2



**Mrs. Jo Moody taught Spanish I, II, III, and IV this year. She also assisted Mrs. Salyard in sponsoring FBLA.**



**Mr. Jacob Duhey taught junior English and 8<sup>th</sup> grade literature. He also helped coach football and junior high track.**



**Mrs. Patti Salyard taught keyboarding, computer apps, and personal finance. She was also the FBLA sponsor.**



## Teachers

conspiracy theorist-looking notes on the whiteboard, and every 5 a.m. lifting session with the legend Roger Kreinke listening to heavy metal on blast,” Duhey said. “No one can truly understand the power granted by Metallica Monday.”

Duhey plans to teach English 9, English 10, and senior dual credit English and coach baseball at Arlington High School. Although this time at Scotus was short, Duhey was greatly affected by the Scotus community.

“I am going to miss the students the most. They have shown me that I chose the right profession

because I wake up every morning with a fire in my heart. Though our time was short, all my students have made an immense impact on my life; I can only hope I have done the same for them,” Duhey stated. “Scotus left a footprint on my soul that can never be removed. I have learned a lot about myself as an educator and have grown a lot since my first few days of class, and I am excited to see what the future holds.”

The last teacher who will be leaving Scotus and retiring is business instructor Patti Salyard.

Salyard has been teaching

at Scotus since the fall of 1995, making it a total of 26 years. Her inspirations for staying for such a long time were the people she has worked with and the students who have attended Scotus.

“They are some of the best people in all my years of teaching,” Salyard stated.

Through her years here she has taught Keyboarding 7 and 8, Computer Applications 9, and Accounting I. Salyard has also been an FBLA advisor for the past 26 years, helping the club become as successful as it is today. Some of her fondest memories at Scotus come

from FBLA.

“There have been several students who placed at FBLA State Leadership Conference every year. Competing against hundreds of other members from across the state indicates our students are getting a well-rounded education at Scotus,” Salyard said. “It was so exciting to see them on stage, sometimes moving up to a 1<sup>st</sup> place finish.”

Although she will miss seeing her family every day, Salyard plans to finish several projects at home that include painting, sewing, playing the piano, genealogy, and much more during her retirement.

“Scotus is truly a family. With all the ups and downs in life, everyone supports each other,” Salyard said. “Being able to share our faith keeps us strong.”

## Signings

be best for you, and pick the school that speaks you,” Kuhl explained. “After I talked to Coach Ryan Baumgartner and his staff, the decision was easy, and I knew Doane was the school for me.”

Senior Kamryn Chohon is the sole senior to be keeping her athletic talents in Columbus. She will be a part of the Central Community College volleyball team.

“I chose CCC because I know the coaches really well and going there would help me toward my academic goals as well,” Chohon stated.

Being a full-time student athlete can be a challenging and time-consuming undertaking. Senior Olivia Fehringer believes Scotus has prepared her for the challenge of college academics and athletics. Fehringer will be attending Benedictine College in Atchinson, Kansas to play soccer.

“I am nervous about balancing school with soccer while in college. However, Scotus athletics taught me what it meant to work hard every day. No matter if it’s practices or meets, you always need to work hard and put in effort. I’ve done that in the classroom as well at Scotus,” Fehringer said.

Signing on to college athletics



KEIRA FEEHAN / YEARBOOK STAFF

**Senior Ava Kuhl dribbles past a Concordia defender during the game on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Kuhl will be playing basketball for the Doane basketball program next winter.**

and extracurricular activities is a rare and exciting accomplishment. Passion is a common denominator among the seniors signing onto their respective programs.

“There is nothing I am looking

to gain from being a college athlete. I just want to keep playing the game that I love and further my basketball knowledge from other college athletes,” Kuhl said.

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# Junior high rocks spring activities

By Vijay Wemhoff  
Staff Reporter

Scotus junior high students had many activities throughout the spring. Aside from sports, four other activities emerged: speech, eighth grade science fair, the lock-in, and the spring play.

The junior high speech team had one speech meet this year. Their meet was held at Grand Island Northwest on March 27<sup>th</sup>. The speech team had ten people, and everyone placed in one of their events. "Our Scotus Junior High Speakers were incredibly competitive this year!" speech coach Becki Zanardi said. "We faced disappointment in the beginning when our first meet was postponed and then cancelled, so it was quite exciting to, first, have the opportunity to compete and, second, to win the meet with our strong team of ten. Everyone competed in two or three events which was quite an undertaking. Our eighth graders will be an integral part of next year's high school team."

Science teacher Annie Sokol held a science fair for her eighth grade students

on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Her students made many diverse types of projects. The science fair was held in the Memorial Hall.

"My project was about how different types of music could affect how fast or slow a person could run," eighth grader Ella Hash said.

This is the first year that eighth graders have had a science fair. Many upperclassmen helped judge the projects. Parents and teachers came to see the projects displayed.

"My favorite part about the science fair was having the judges ask questions, so I could explain my project more to them," eighth grader Larkyn Mahoney said.

Many students had different challenges and tasks to make sure their projects could be put together the way they wanted them to be.

"The weather was the hardest because it was hard to find a nice day to do the experiment," eighth grader Katelyn Pensick said.

Many other preparations were made throughout everyone's projects. The students had to present their project and answer questions from the judges or even visiting people.

"To prepare for the sci-

ence fair, I had to go over my project and study what to say when presenting. I also had to think of possible answers to some of the questions the judges could have asked me," eighth grader Olivia Nelsen said.

Overall, Jessica Jackson won first place with her experiment of *How to Sneeze Safely*. Sofia Karges won second place with her experiment of *Gummy Bear Osmosis*.

The junior high lock-in took place on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Seventh and eighth graders played many games throughout the night. There was volleyball, basketball, dodgeball, dancing, and board games.

"My favorite part of the lock-in was dancing, it was the only reason I even stayed awake. I also liked the volleyball tournament and being with my friends," eighth grader Sofia Karges said.

Many upperclassmen also helped throughout the night with the lock-in, whether it was refing the tournaments or helping with the music.

"The upperclassmen definitely made it more fun. They danced with us and played fun music. The refs for the dodgeball tournament



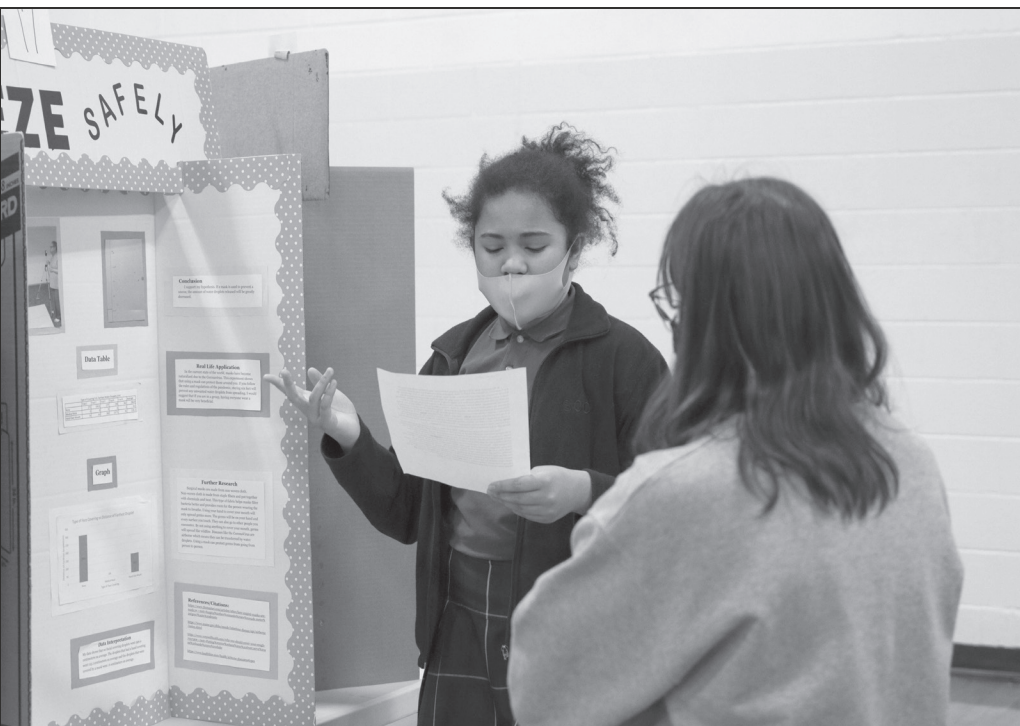
PHOTO COURTESY BECKI ZANARDI

**Eighth graders Caroline Klitz, Lily Humphrey, Jessica Jackson, Brody Splittgerber, Madden Saenz, Abby Schumacher, seventh grader Emily Young, eighth graders Rebecca Policky, Evan Caspersen, and seventh grader Giselle Chila-pa-Bello all pose with the winning trophy at speech at Grand Island Northwest on March 27<sup>th</sup>. There were ten junior high students out for speech this year, and they all medaled at the meet.**

were also fun to watch. I'm quite sure they had more fun than the people playing dodgeball," seventh grader

Hannah Heinrich said. The last new spring activity for junior high is the spring play. Clyde Ericson

is the director, and there are two performances: April 29<sup>th</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. with a free-will donation.



KAMRYN CHOHOV / YEARBOOK STAFF

**Eighth grader Jessica Jackson explains her science fair project to her judge at the first ever junior high science fair on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Her project was on *How to Sneeze Safely*, and she won first place overall.**



CAMILLE PELAN / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**A group of eighth grade boys try to distract eighth grader Katelyn Pensick during the volleyball tournament at the lock-in on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The lock-in was for seventh and eighth graders from 7p.m. to 7a.m.**

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**KATELYN BAYER**

*Central Community College*  
**MAJOR:** Business Management, Digital Marketing, and Business Intelligence and Technology  
**QUOTE:** "Sticky notes save lives."



**LAURA BETTENHAUSEN**

*Wayne State College*  
**MAJOR:** Wildlife Conservationist and Biology  
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** Mr. Brockhaus and Evan Ruskamp racing. Mr. Brockhaus won.



**MADELYN BLASER**

*University of South Dakota*  
**MAJOR:** Political Science and Communications  
**FUN FACT:** I broke my big toe by kicking my brother in the shin playing soccer with a balloon.



**EVAN BOCK**

*Mount Marty University*  
**MAJOR:** Undecided  
**ACTIVITY:** Baseball  
**FUN FACT:** I love taking pre-workout.



**GILLIAN BRANDT**

*University of Nebraska - Kearney*  
**MAJOR:** Nursing  
**FUN FACT:** I'm related to Carey Dean Moore (the last person executed in Nebraska).



**SHELBY BRIDGER**

*University of Nebraska - Kearney*  
**MAJOR:** Elementary Education  
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** 7<sup>th</sup> grade history with Mr. Ridder; there was always a bottle flip or tic-tac-toe tournament going on.



**KAMRYN CHOHON**

*Central Community College*  
**MAJOR:** Communication Disorders  
**ACTIVITY:** Volleyball  
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** When Mr. Coulter ate the banana peel after a basketball game.



**KAIRA DALLMAN**

*Southeast Community College*  
**MAJOR:** Dental Assisting  
**FUN FACT:** I can touch my tongue to my nose.



**ALLI DEMUTH**

*University of Nebraska - Kearney*  
**MAJOR:** Pre-Dental  
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** When one of our history subs fell out of his chair, and it made a loud thud.



**MATTHEW DOLEZAL**

*University of Nebraska - Lincoln*  
**MAJOR:** Business Management  
**FUN FACT:** I have a football card collection worth \$2,000.



**ANNA EHLERS**

*University of Nebraska - Omaha*  
**MAJOR:** Biology  
**ACTIVITY:** Track and Field  
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** Chasing down the guy who stole Elliott Thomazin's mom's purse.



**JOSH FAUST**

*University of Nebraska - Kearney*  
**MAJOR:** Biology  
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** Cheering in the student section.



**KEIRA FEEHAN**

*University of Nebraska - Omaha*  
**MAJOR:** Graphic Design  
**ACTIVITY:** Dance Team  
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** When I squished myself into a locker in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.



**OLIVIA FEHRINGER**

*Benedictine College*  
**MAJOR:** Nursing  
**ACTIVITY:** Soccer  
**FUN FACT:** Yes, I am the girl that believed in blinker fluid.



**EMILY FERGUSON**

*Wayne State College*  
**MAJOR:** Elementary Education  
**FUN FACT:** I can play three instruments: clarinet, saxophone, and I am learning to play the ukulele.



**BRYCE FOREMAN**

*Workforce*  
**CAREER:** Foreman Lumber  
**QUOTE:** "Your success and happiness lie in you."  
 - Helen Keller



**BRENNAN FREWING**

*University of Nebraska - Lincoln*  
**MAJOR:** Business Finance  
**ACTIVITY:** Band  
**QUOTE:** "It just cost a dime, just a nickel a shoe, but there's a million dollars worth of good for you."  
 - Johnny Cash



**SEBASTIEN FRITZ**

*United States Military*  
**BRANCH:** Marine Corps  
**FUN FACT:** I'm going on a paid vacation this summer.



**MICHAEL GASPER**

*University of Nebraska - Omaha*  
**MAJOR:** Aviation  
**QUOTE:** "Don't confuse school with education. I didn't go to Harvard, but the people that work for me did." - Elon Musk



**NATHANIEL GOKIE**

*Central Community College*  
**MAJOR:** Business Administration  
**FUN FACT:** I only sleep three hours a night.



**TRENTON HAMLING**

*Central Community College*  
**MAJOR:** Undecided  
**QUOTE:** "Cupcakes are muffins that believed in miracles."  
 - Unknown



**JAKE HEESACKER**

*Northeast Community College*  
**MAJOR:** Electromechanical Technology  
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** Mr. McPhillips getting hit in the face with a dodgeball by Mr. Coulter.



**BENJAMIN JUAREZ**

*Andrews University*  
**MAJOR:** Physics  
**FUN FACT:** Needles make me laugh.



**BEN KAMRATH**

*University of Nebraska - Lincoln*  
**MAJOR:** Mechanized Systems Management  
**FUN FACT:** I once slept on a picnic table.



**OLIVIA KLUG**

*Oklahoma State University*  
**MAJOR:** Animal Science  
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** Lunch senior year. (Just so everyone knows, the other Olivia was a fibber when she was in kindergarten.)



**NOAH KORTH**

*University of Notre Dame*  
**MAJOR:** Political Science  
**QUOTE:** "Make your life a masterpiece; imagine no limitations on what you can be, have, or do."  
 - Brian Tracy



**CLARISSA KOSCH**

*University of Nebraska - Omaha*  
**MAJOR:** Business  
**FUN FACT:** Waffles make me hiccup.





**CASSIE KOUMA**

*University of Nebraska - Kearney*  
**MAJOR:** Secondary English Education  
**FUN FACT:** I was late to every flag practice this year.



**MICHAELA KRESHA**

*University of Nebraska - Lincoln*  
**MAJOR:** Pre-Medicine  
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** Biology class, Mr. Fly was the sub, when Joel took Mrs. Lahm's rat out of the cage, held it up, and sang to it.



**AVA KUHL**

*Doane University*  
**MAJOR:** Biochemistry  
**ACTIVITY:** Basketball  
**FUN FACT:** I have the smallest hands in the senior class.  
 #toddlerhands



**ESTE LESIAK**

*University of Nebraska - Lincoln*  
**MAJOR:** Agricultural Communications  
**QUOTE:** "There is no script. Live your life. Soak it all in."  
 - Dick Costolo



**BEN MERRILL**

*Central Community College*  
**MAJOR:** Undecided  
**FUN FACT:** Two years ago I broke my neck from diving in a pool during the summer.



**TANLEY MILLER**

*Southeast Community College*  
**MAJOR:** Undecided  
**QUOTE:** "Feeling flexy?"  
 - Andrew Sheridan



**GRANT NEVILLE**

*United States Military*  
**BRANCH:** National Guard  
**QUOTE:** "There's Joel."  
 - Ms. Timoney



**CHAU "LILY" NGUYEN**

*Central Community College*  
**MAJOR:** Nursing  
**FUN FACT:** I hate running, but I am in track now.



**ALEX NOVICKI**

*University of Nebraska - Kearney*  
**MAJOR:** Business Administration  
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** When Ruskamp biffed it in the showers after morning basketball practice.



**CHRISTINA OAKLEY**

*University of Nebraska - Kearney*  
**MAJOR:** Visual Communication and Design Comprehensive  
**FUN FACT:** I've fallen down the stairs here more than I've gone up them.



**LIZZIE PARKER**

*University of Nebraska - Omaha*  
**MAJOR:** Secondary English Education  
**QUOTE:** "Striving, not perfect, because perfect doesn't exist."  
 - Sarah Swafford



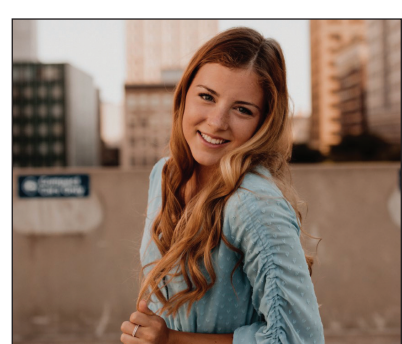
**CAMILLE PELAN**

*Wayne State College*  
**MAJOR:** Biology  
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** Helping with the JH lock-in my senior year. I think I had more energy on the dance floor than any JH kid.



**SIMON PICHLER**

*Southeast Community College*  
**MAJOR:** Information Technology  
**FUN FACT:** My front door is green.



**JAELYN PODOLAK**

*University of Kansas*  
**MAJOR:** Nursing  
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** When Mr. VunCannon fell out of his chair as a sub our 8<sup>th</sup> grade year.



**ASHYTN PREISTER**

*Northeast Community College*  
**MAJOR:** Pre-Medicine and Biology  
**QUOTE:** "Ravioli, ravioli, give me the diplomioili."  
 - Spongebob Squarepants (kinda)



**JANAE RUSHER**

*South Dakota State University*  
**MAJOR:** Interior Design  
**ACTIVITY:** Choir  
**FUN FACT:** I'm missing part of my left ear lobe.



**EVAN RUSKAMP**

*Southeast Community College*  
**MAJOR:** Electrical  
**QUOTE:** "If you ain't first, you're last."  
 - Ricky Bobby



**NICOLAS SCHULTZ**

*University of Nebraska - Lincoln*  
**MAJOR:** Engineering  
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** When Mr. Lahm yelled and jumped up and down in excitement for getting first at the UNK XC meet.



**JOEL SCHUMACHER**

*University of Nebraska - Lincoln*  
**MAJOR:** Psychology  
**FUN FACT:** I'm missing a toe nail on my left pinkie toe because a nail went through it when I was 6.



**SIMON SCHUMACHER**

*University of Nebraska - Lincoln*  
**MAJOR:** Business  
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** When 20 people stopped to watch me drill an extra hole in Joel's belt with a nail so that it would fit.



**JORDON SKIPTON**

*Workforce*  
**CAREER:** Police Officer  
**FUN FACT:** I have never ridden in an airplane.



**JUSTIN SLIVA**

*Southeast Community College*  
**MAJOR:** Diesel Mechanics  
**QUOTE:** "Die with memories, not with dreams."  
 - Unkown



**JOSHUA STYSKAL**

*University of South Dakota*  
**MAJOR:** Music Education  
**ACTIVITY:** Band and Choir  
**QUOTE:** "The future is the home of our deepest fears and wildest hopes."  
 - Meredith Grey



**ROSS THORSON**

*University of Nebraska - Kearney*  
**MAJOR:** Biology  
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** Street Law and Modern Problems junior year with Mr. Brockhaus, Connor Wiehn, and Jared Beaver.



**KADE WIESE**

*University of Nebraska - Lincoln*  
**MAJOR:** Agribusiness  
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** Mr. Salyard always doing or saying something crazy in Calculus. . . everyday.



**MADISON WITTWER**

*Peru State College*  
**MAJOR:** Biochemistry  
**ACTIVITY:** Dance Team  
**FUN FACT:** I can belly dance.



**KADEN YOUNG**

*Northeast Community College*  
**MAJOR:** Athletic Training  
**ACTIVITY:** Baseball  
**FAVORITE MEMORY:** The yelling and screaming in Mr. Brockhaus' Modern Problems class this year.



## Cassie Kouma

High school is a time of uncertainties, especially of the future. As a senior, this uncertainty has been hanging over my head all year. For my entire life, I have mostly done the same activities and known the same people. I have also been blessed with support from my family, friends, and teachers. However, as the end of my Scotus career approaches, I know all of this will change. I will leave behind everything I have known and grown comfortable around to take the next steps of my life. The weight of the uncertainties has continued to grow heavier on my shoulders, but I have managed not to feel crushed by it.

One lesson I learned this year was to step back, take a deep breath, and trust everything will work out. I need to constantly remind myself God has an amazing plan for me, and I need to trust Him. Even though I may not see the purpose of something, that does not mean it is not there.

I will never forget the analogy Mr. Linder taught us this year in religion class. He explained how looking at the Mona Lisa from only a couple inches away would result in an unimpressive blob of colors. However, taking a few steps back and looking at the big picture allows a person to see its beauty and the way each little section comes together to form the whole painting. The way we live our lives is up close. We are only able to see the moment we are in, and it is impossible to understand the ways each little event will come together to form the intricate paintings that are our lives.

One instance of how my doubt was proven unnecessary was my video productions class this year. It was the last day of summer, and I still had one open class period. Ms. Brichacek and I emailed back and forth trying to figure out what class for me to take. The first day of school came, and I reluctantly walked into the video productions room. This reluctance stemmed from the fact that I did not know what to expect from the class, and I did not talk much to any of the other students in it.

However, I ended up really enjoying the class, and I developed a great friendship with the person I sat next to. In the end, I had found a class that pushed me beyond my comfort zone and allowed me to become friends with someone I might have otherwise not gotten the chance to know. It all worked out.

Despite having learned most things will eventually work out and be for the best, I am still finding myself worrying for the future. I have picked a college I love and am excited about, and I know what I am passionate about studying. Yet, the doubt keeps creeping in, making me wonder if I have made all the wrong decisions about where I go after my high school career. In these moments, I need to remind myself God has my back. He is leading me down the path I need to be walking, and He is not going to let me wander off course.

This is Cassie Kouma, signing off.



## Noah Korth

Have you ever noticed the extreme lengths people will go just to fit in? I see it all the time in high school. We laugh at jokes that aren't funny, try to impress people we don't actually like, and gossip about the people we truly love. I went into high school with the same goal as everyone else – to fit in. However, I now realize fitting in is a needless waste of time. No one in high school feels like they fit in. Certain people are always going to judge you regardless of who you are, so stop wasting your breath living your life in accordance with someone else's narrative. Live for you.

High school is an opportunity to choose who you want to be. Every choice you make will define you – even the small ones. One of the first defining moments of my life happened my freshman year when I decided to sign up for one act. Today, one act is one of my favorite activities, but I wasn't always certain about participating. In fact, I almost didn't go to auditions my freshman year because I was afraid of the attention that the stage offered. I can't imagine how that one small decision could have changed the course of my life. The experience of my first one act inspired me to stick with fine arts throughout high school. If I had succumbed to my fear, I would have missed out on making amazing memories and meeting incredible people.

The stage has taught me so many lessons, but the first and most important rule of theater is to never be afraid of making a fool of yourself. My directors always say, "If you don't feel utterly ridiculous on stage, you're doing it wrong." In many ways, that lesson can be applied to other aspects of life. Regardless of what you do, someone is always going to ridicule you for doing it. If not, then what you are doing is probably not worthwhile.

If you have ever read my opinion articles in the Rock Bottom, you must know I am unashamed of letting my opinion be heard – even when it is unpopular. However, this was not always the case. I used to be afraid of voicing my opinion, especially when it was unpopular. I rarely raised my hand in class, I was timid in Socratic seminars, and I was reluctant to let anyone read my writing. Everyone has an opinion, but few have the courage to make theirs known. Over the years, I have come to realize God does not ignite fires in our bellies so that we can put them out. Rather, we should cultivate even the tiniest spark that lies within us and let it grow into a roaring fire. There will always be people who detest the flame's warmth and radiance, but this is all the more reason for letting your inferno burn.

In high school, living in the icy shadows might seem like the safest option. However, while there may be no one to judge you for who you are or what you believe, there's also no one to admire those parts of yourself. Fitting in is overrated. Stand out, and never apologize or second-guess yourself for doing so. When you take that final bow in life, have no regrets.

This is Noah Korth, signing off.



## Emily Ferguson

My stomach was rolling as I looked down at my peanut butter sandwich sitting on my lap in front of me. My final cross country race at state was only four hours away, and I was so nervous that I could not get myself to eat. Suddenly, my phone buzzed, and I glanced to see a text message from one of my old teammates and friends. The message was similar to several other sweet messages I had received that day wishing me luck, but one part stood out to me from the rest. She stated, "The best piece of advice I can give you is to just soak every last bit of it up. Take mental pictures throughout the day and appreciate the small moments of it just as much as the bigger ones. Even during the race, try and just look around every once in a while and realize how blessed you are."

This simple message from my teammate was exactly what I needed to hear to calm my nerves on my way to state cross country, but it was also a powerful message that has stuck with me: live and embrace every moment in life.

High school has been an amazing experience for me in my life, but at times it has also been stressful. Trying to balance homework, extracurricular activities, family time, friends, and everything else in between is stressful and exhausting. To be honest, most days at school I feel like I am running around like a chicken with my head cut off trying to get everything done. However, these moments of stress are not what made high school so memorable and worthwhile for me. The moments I have enjoyed most were when I truly relaxed and let go and let God. When I finally stopped worrying about what I had to do next, I was able to truly live in the moment and embrace where I was at and enjoy the people I was around. The worry and stress are temporary, but the memories will last forever.

Another lesson high school has taught me is to not worry when life does not turn out how you planned. When I was in eighth grade, I thought I had all my activities for high school figured out. I was going to do volleyball, basketball, track, band, and be on the flag corps team. At the time, God was probably chuckling at me thinking, "Oh, just you wait." Even though many of my plans did not come true, God revealed several new opportunities in my life that were even better. I ended up joining cross country, speech, musical, and several other activities I fell in love with and discovered talents I never knew I had. Doors in your life will close, but God will always be there leading you to a new door that is even greater than you can imagine.

I remember being told by the upper classmen when I was a freshman, "Enjoy every moment of high school because it goes by fast." At the time I thought they were crazy, but once I hit senior year and started doing things for the last time, I realized how right they were. High school goes by quickly, so do not wish your time away. Enjoy every moment and day you have been given and make the best of it.

No matter where you are at in life, it is never too late to start living in the moment. Do not worry about the small things in life, but instead embrace every moment. Be thankful for each day God has given you.

This is Emily Ferguson, signing off.



## Ava Kuhl

Growing up, my parents taught me that if I wanted something, I would have to do the work and earn it. Life won't just hand you things, and if you had things handed to you, it wouldn't mean as much. They showed me I would have to work hard to achieve my goals, and the journey to reaching my goals would teach me the most in the end. Whether the goal was getting A's in school, doing well in my weekend job, or excelling at basketball or soccer, I knew I would need to do the work to be successful.

I was never the most athletic, fastest, or coordinated growing up, so I never thought sports would go far for me. In all honesty, I planned on quitting sports after eighth grade. One night, my dad asked if I wanted the opportunity to go to a basketball camp in Minnesota the summer before my freshman year. That summer changed my life. Not only did I take a deep dive into the game of basketball, but I was given the gift of the most incredible mentor a kid who was struggling could ask for. My mentor and coach at the camp didn't just teach the game of basketball; he taught me how to be a successful human being. I learned if I wanted to achieve my aspirations, I would have to put in countless hours and dedicate my time to it. No excuses, no shortcuts.

That summer, and the summers to follow, I shot over 500 shots a day and got better. I worked on dribbling and moves until the ball felt connected to my hand, and I even joined an AAU team looking to get playing time and more hours on the court. I practiced and played any chance I could. I worked on lifting more and getting faster so no one could tell me, "You can't play because you are too short." I wanted to prove everyone wrong. I was going to prove I was worthy of playing. Little did I know it would amount to so much more than that.

The summer before my senior year, I was only focused on finally starting for the varsity basketball team. I spent the summer working and playing with my AAU team. We worked hard and had fun while doing it, but I never thought people were watching and evaluating me. Playing at a collegiate level had never even crossed my mind. Over the next few weeks, I started getting offers and began thinking about playing at the next level and grasping the amount of work I would have to put into it.

I then received the text from Coach Baumgartner at Doane University. I visited campus twice, and on the way home the second time, I told my mom to turn around because I was ready to verbally commit. Hearing my new coach tell me I was the player the program needed, that I was his first recruit for Doane, made all those years of hard work, tears, and skinned knees totally worth it.

I had worked my butt off to get what I wanted, I wasn't handed any of it, and I don't plan to be handed anything in the future. I know how to do the work to become the person I want to be.

If you want something, go get it. Don't let people say you can't do something...just work harder and get it. In the words of Kobe Bryant, "Great things come from hard work and perseverance. No excuses."

This is Ava Kuhl, signing off.



## Camille Pelan

Friends come and go, but the greatest friendships last forever. As I have grown up, I have had many friendships that have developed over time, and I am beyond grateful for each one of them. However, there is one specific friendship I want to highlight.

High school has been a crazy journey for me. These past four years have been the greatest (and also the most stressful) years of my life thus far. However, I am so grateful to have had my best friend by my side through it all. Who is this friend, you might ask? Well, you have all heard of Him. He goes by the name of Jesus Christ.

Many people do not think of Jesus as a friend. To be honest, before freshman year, I never did either. I used to picture Him as an intimidating man who is too busy with everyone else in the world to think about me. However, once freshman year hit and the chaos began, I realized I was completely wrong. Jesus is the best friend you could ever ask for, especially in high school. He is the one person who has been with me every step of the way.

High school is crazy. It is full of athletics, academics, extra-curriculars, friendships, drama, figuring out college, etc. The list goes on and on, and even though you may try to avoid them, there will always be mental breakdowns and moments where you feel as if nobody in the world is on your side. In reality, however, Jesus is always there. Jesus wants to experience high school with you, and He wants to be with you through the ups and downs. The greatest part about having Jesus as your friend is He quite literally is with you to support you in every single thing you do.

What many people do not realize is you can have normal, friendly conversations with Him whenever and wherever. It does not always have to be at Church, at the dinner table, or before class reciting the memorized prayers we all know by heart. Some of my greatest conversations with Him have been in left field of Gerrard Park waiting for a ball to get hit to me, at half court of the Dowd watching one of my teammates shoot a free throw, in my little blue colored car driving to Wilderness Park before soccer games, at my desk in Mr. Salyard's room before calculus tests, on my living room floor during my chemistry mental breakdowns, and in the khaki Scotus halls walking from class to class. In each of these moments, I knew He was right with me to give me the support I needed to succeed in whatever I was doing or to simply be my rock when I was down on myself. Because I have developed such a strong friendship with Him throughout these last four years, I now know that whatever life has in store for me after high school, Jesus will only continue to give me the graces I need to succeed.

If you can take away one bit of advice from me, I want you to realize how important it is to develop a friendship with Christ. We are so fortunate to learn about Jesus in our religion classes, but the most important part of our faith is developing a relationship with Him. Jesus wants to be right by your side to experience the ups and downs of high school with you. I can promise you having Jesus to lean on makes the four years of high school some of the greatest years of your life.

This is Camille Pelan, signing off.





# Kade Wiese



It's true. Remember when they told you high school goes by fast? Yeah. . . they weren't wrong. Here I am writing my senior sign off wondering to myself how it went by so fast. Not too long ago I was walking into Scotus with baggy shorts and 20 pounds of useless equipment, and now, in a week, I will be walking out of Scotus with a cap and gown and a diploma in my hands. Where did time go?

After the first semester tests in seventh grade, I remember thinking to myself, "Six years in this cube is going to be a long time. I wish I could be a senior already." Don't wish that wish. Embrace the time you have here at Scotus. Yes, there will be times when you don't want to come to school. I know the days at Scotus can go by super slow, but the months and years during high school go by extremely fast. Scotus offers us countless opportunities, so if you see one, take it! It took me until my senior year to realize Scotus has done so much more for me than I will ever know, and there is nothing I can do to ever repay Scotus.

With the time you have left at Scotus, embrace these three things:

The culture. High school is one of the few times where you will have the whole city behind your back. No matter who you are, there will always be parents, teachers, and alumni cheering you on during your high school career. Whether it be in sports, theatre, or chess club, the Scotus community will always be here for you. You may never know how much support and love you had during high school until you graduate, so embrace it.

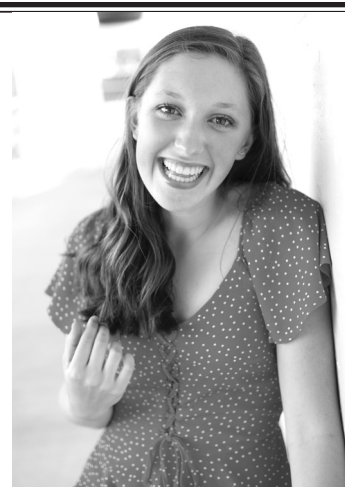
Your friends and teachers. Most of the people you know now might never show up in your life ever again after high school. Spend some extra time with those you do not usually talk to because they might have an everlasting impact on your life. Maintain authority and control over the underclassmen, but be kind to them. Be a role model for them and don't let your pride ruin their experience at Scotus because you were in their shoes not too long ago. Respect your teachers and listen to what they have to say. Some of the material you learn in class might feel pointless, but the life lessons they embed into the curriculum will forever stay with you. Scotus has some of the best teachers in the state of Nebraska, so embrace them while you have them.

The memories. You learn and live a lot in high school. During these short six years, you will make more memories than you will ever imagine. When I was sitting with my family and cousins last month, we talked about all the good times and funny memories we had during high school. There were so many memories we laughed and screamed at that four hours passed without any of us knowing. These memories are a part of you, and it is important to not forget them because it's what makes life living for. I know so many people who still talk about their high school years, and they are in their mid-50s. High school is one of the only times in your life where you can be free and not worry about taxes and bills to pay, so embrace these times.

I wish I knew these things before I became a student here. My time at Scotus passed by in a blink, and it truly does go by fast. Embrace the time you have here. Make memories. Spend time with your friends. Hold onto the life lessons the teachers give you. Smile and trust in God's plan. High school goes by fast.

This is Kade Wiese, signing off.

# Janae Rusher



I imagined high school being the peak of my teenage years. I wanted to be a three-sport athlete, get straight A's, have lots of friends, and get a date to every dance. Little did I know, I would not be able to check any of these items off my list. High school is not perfect. There are good days and bad days, and sometimes I let the bad days define me. I let my identity be created by the expectations of high school, and I never considered that God had a different plan.

In *Moana*, she sings to the ocean monster at the end of the movie saying, "I know your name. They have stolen the heart from inside you, but this does not define you. This is not who you are. You know who you are." I compare myself on the bad days to this monster who was once the beautiful island of life. The expectations I tried to live up to defined me, but really, my heart and my identity are defined by who I am in my heart and to God, not by what others think.

As I searched for my identity the last six years, I tried to find it in sports and people. I found that even though I was one of few to make varsity volleyball as a sophomore, I was lonely. I had a little bit of hope that because I was on varsity it would bring me more friends or popularity. I thought my identity revolved around being a volleyball player or starting on the basketball court, but even though I desperately wanted those things to be my identity, I could not find the joy in it.

Having lots of friends did not bring me joy either. Even though it seems having lots of friends is better than being lonely, I can attest to the fact that sometimes it is better to be lonely alone than lonely in a group. A few authentic relationships outweigh several fake friend groups. When finding authentic friends, it can be lonely, and it is hard, but real friends are worth the wait. When you find true friendships, you will be able to let your identity shine without worry or thought of what it needs to be. Just be patient.

High school is about waiting and growing. There will be growing pains, but without growth are you ever going to get anywhere in life? Grow in relationships with true friends, grow as an athlete, and grow as a musician, but most of all, grow in your faith. The only way to conquer high school, find your identity, and find what truly matters is to let God live through you. Do not leave Him on the sideline and ask His opinion occasionally. Trust that His plan for you and the trials in your life are forming your identity in Him and the person you are meant to be.

C. S. Lewis once said, "You thought you were going to be made into a decent little cottage; but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself." Before I figured out that every struggle, every triumph, and every lonely day would lead to a newfound identity, I thought my cottage would be exactly how I planned it out. God was not helping me build the cottage I wanted. He was building a palace, but palaces are not built in two, three, four, or ten years. A palace takes decades to complete with additions and renovations occasionally. Let God build a palace out of your high school experience, your identity, and your life.

This is Janae Rusher, signing off.

# Joel Schumacher



Junior high through high school is an interesting time, perhaps the most interesting and nuanced time of a life.

The seventh grade version of myself was discovering and exploring the new possibilities of junior high. The freshman version of myself was trying to fit in at high school and was worried about the social scene. The senior version of myself was much more independent and self-accepting of what really matters. Basically, I can say little seventh grade Joel was about to embark on an amazing educational and self-exploratory mission at Scotus Central Catholic, and the graduating senior Joel has a sense of accomplishment and pride as he departs for college. Here is a list of much of what I have learned.

One of the biggest mistakes I have made during these years is trying to be someone else or following the crowd. I cannot tell you how big of a mistake this is. You will never be happy or satisfied trying to play a role you are not made to play. God has a role for you. God has a place for you, but if you are trying to be someone you're not, then you're not being who you are. Perhaps you are different, be different. Perhaps you are weird, be weird. Perhaps you feel like you're not like anyone else, then feel that way. No matter how you feel, there is a God who knows, who is intimately acquainted with every aspect of you and still loves you with the most perfect love imaginable. Perhaps you do not know who you are. That's okay; it is in these years age 13-18 where you'll discover yourself. Just do not use someone else or a group of someone else's as a blueprint for who you are. Be bold for goodness sake. Who really cares who someone else wants you to be? Be who you want to be. Do what you want to do. Don't listen to the crowd; it's just a crowd.

Another great point I've learned is on the concept of truth. It is best for your own sake to approach life in truth. Be true to who you are. Be true to the God who made you. This corresponds to being bold. Truth and boldness, they mean going after what you want, being who you want, and doing it in the right manner. Do not falter or fall to the wayside on your path of truth and boldness. What can ruin a high school experience, or a life's experience, is this faltering. Faltering has a lot to do with going with the crowd or the societal norm. Do not enter destructive practices or habits because "everyone else is doing it." Peer pressure is real and will push you to participate in activities that are not the best for you. I have experienced this firsthand and have been dealt the consequences. If you know what you want, don't be deterred by the mistakes of the masses. Follow the path you want, take the road less traveled on if it's the road that leads to the most success. High school and life are more fun when you live against the norm and know you are going in the right direction when the masses aren't.

Lastly, orient your life for the good. Good is what you desire. It's what you seek. The biggest mistake so many people in our generation make is their good is evil. It amazes me how people can have the goals they are seeking be evil concepts and not good. I have done this too, but unlike many people, I've learned and have cared to learn. There is no greater good, I have seen and tasted and touched, than God, than Jesus Christ. After I met Jesus Christ, my life improved so dramatically and in ways words cannot describe. The same can happen for you.

I am beyond excited for what the future holds for me. Scotus has been a big part of educating and setting the stage for my life, and I am very grateful. Take it all in, it's all gone before you know it.

This is Joel Schumacher, signing off.



"Every group of newspaper seniors I have is unique. If I had to choose a word to describe this group, it would be thoughtful. They have been thoughtful in their ideas, in their writing and layouts, in how they treat each other, and in their prayers for class. They have not been my loudest group, but it isn't because they are without things to say. I am proud of how much time and effort they have put into everything for newspaper this year. It has made it a year like no other. I love them all, and they will be missed!"

~Mrs. Rusher



# Track strives for postseason medals

By **Janae Rusher**  
Staff Reporter

Spring seasons are in full swing, and the track team has participated in seven meets. Both the girls and boys have been placing well in their events.

The track team started their season a little differently than usual because of meet cancellations. In a normal year they would have participated in two indoor meets before any normal meets started up, but because of COVID-19, the Wayne indoor was moved outside and the Wesleyan indoor meet was cancelled.

At the Wayne College Invite both girls and boys placed in many events. The girls won four events including senior Clarissa Kosch winning both long and triple jump.

“My favorite events would be both jumps because they are different and fun!” Kosch said. “I enjoy flying through the air. I also like the

suspense between getting up, seeing how far I jumped, and then the guy announcing the distance.”

After a successful first meet, the Shamrocks held the Jim Puetz Memorial Track Meet on March 30<sup>th</sup>. This meet was more difficult than the previous, but the Shamrocks still competed. The boys’ varsity 4x800 meter relay placed third and was composed of seniors Michael Gasper, Nic Schultz, Ben Juarez, and freshman Jackson Heng.

“So far I am happy with the season,” Schultz said. “I have been getting lots of personal bests, but I need to work on the 800 to help me in the open 800 and 4x800.”

After the Puetz Memorial Meet the track team was back in Wayne for the Blue Devil Invitational. Junior Grace Mustard won her third 100 meter hurdle race in a row and placed second in the 300 meter hurdles. Mustard is .2 seconds from getting the school record in the 100 meter hurdles.

“My season is going very well,” Mustard said. “I was slightly worried how it would go after breaking my ankle during basketball, but I’m getting really great times.”

Mustard placed third in the 100 meter hurdles race at the Nebraska Track Festival April 21<sup>st</sup> in Papillion. She and several other teammates qualified for this meet with great times and distances. Senior Anna Ehlers won triple jump and Kosch placed third.

“I think we just have to keep working on our events while staying in shape with conditioning,” Ehlers said. “We are a really good team, and I believe we have potential to be better.”

As a team, both girls and boys have been shaving off time and adding distance all around the track. Senior Michael Gasper has been consistently placing in the two mile and 4x800 meter relay throughout the season, and he is also runs the mile.

“My favorite event to compete in is the 4x800 meter relay because running



GRACE MUSTARD / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Senior Anna Ehlers clears the bar at high jump at the Boone Central Invite. Ehlers has won high jump and triple jump at different meets this season.**

with a team is so much more enjoyable,” Gasper said. “When we place high, we are all happy and celebrate. It is fun to compete against each other also and see who can run the fastest split.”

Not only upper classman have been placing well at

meets, however. Sophomore Hailey Steffensmeier and junior Chloe Walker have been consistently placing in the throws.

“I think this season is going really well, especially for the girls track team,” Steffensmeier said. “I’ve

been able to get my personal best numerous times, which is good as well.”

The track team competed at Schuyler and Lakeview in the past week, and they will be competing at home at the Centennial Conference Meet this Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

# Girls’ soccer makes up for lost season

By **Cassie Kouma**  
Editor

Despite not having been able to play last season and many new faces being featured on the field, the

girls’ soccer team is finding success. Thirteen out of the twenty players had never worn a Scotus soccer jersey before this year, but they have still won a majority of their games with a current season record of 8-4. Senior

Ava Kuhl is the center back on defense.

“Overall, the season has been going good,” Kuhl said. “We hit some rough patches early just with little things and fundamentals needing to be sharpened, but as a team

we are improving and finding our stride here now.”

The season began on March 19<sup>th</sup> with a 2-0 win against Lakeview. The next day, the Shamrocks lost 0-10 against Gretna. After this difficult loss, the team began making improvements. Junior Kate Maguire plays as a center back.

“Everyone is rusty from not playing for a couple years, but we are starting to find a rhythm,” Maguire said.

The team went on to win a 6-0 game against Omaha Concordia on March 29<sup>th</sup>. They then lost to Lincoln Lutheran 0-1.

“The Lincoln Lutheran game stands out to me because it was close the whole game. Neither team was getting many shots on goal, and it was a defensive game. We ended up losing in a shootout, but the game showed us we can play with good teams,” Maguire said.

The Shamrocks went on to win 4-0 against Norfolk Catholic, lose 0-6 against Lewis Central, and then have three consecutive victories.

April 9<sup>th</sup> brought a 2-0 win over Glenwood, the Grand Island Northwest game on April 12<sup>th</sup> ended in a 10-0 sweep, and April 13<sup>th</sup> ended 2-0 against Kearney Catholic.

“The game against Grand Island Northwest was one of our better games this season because we played together as a team and did a lot of little things right. We connected our passes which allowed us to score,” senior midfielder Camille Pelan said. “We need to work on playing quicker with more urgency because as the season goes on, the teams we play will only be better.”

These wins are thanks to the improvements the team has been working toward this season.

“Our defense is really strong for us this year which allows us to be able to stay in games,” Maguire said. “We just need to work on our touches and speed of play. We struggle when we play faster teams, so in order to overcome that, we need to possess the ball better and pass to feet.”

These improvements have been pushed by coaches Kristie and Jon Brezenski as well as Bridget McPhillips. Junior Elizabeth Adamy plays left defender and left midfielder.

“I don’t like it. I love it,” Adamy said of her position on the field. “Soccer hasn’t been much different compared to the past years, but my confidence level has grown tremendously because the team and the coaches can really boost up your confidence.”

April 20<sup>th</sup> resulted in a 1-4 loss to Blair, but the Shamrocks came back with an 11-0 victory over Schuyler two days later. Elkhorn then lost to the Scotus team 5-1 on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

“I am super excited for this year, and I think with this group of girls and what skills we have, we can go far and accomplish a lot,” Kuhl said. “We have a strong and fast back line, some great finishers with strong legs, and overall great chemistry as a team. This year is going to be great and fun.”



CASSIE KOUMA / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Senior Camille Pelan prepares to pass the ball during the March 29<sup>th</sup> game against Omaha Concordia. The Shamrocks won the game 6-0 with four different players scoring goals.**

# Boys’ soccer battles tough competition

By **Ava Kuhl**  
Staff Reporter

The boys’ soccer team is a young team this year. After not having a season last year due to the pandemic, they are looking to gain as much experience as they can. Junior Chance Bailey plays forward for the team.

“We are a young team with not much experience, but I feel we are the most athletic we’ve ever been,” Bailey said.

The boys’ soccer team started their season with the Columbus Tournament with their first game against Lakeview on March 19<sup>th</sup>. The next day they played Gretna, who is currently 13-2. Senior Matthew Dolezal is one of two seniors this year for the team.

“We were shut out by Gretna, and we got to learn what type of team we were by how we were going to respond after that game,” Dolezal said.

after having a game against Lakeview canceled due to weather, the boys competed well in another tournament with tough competition, Skutt and Mount Michael. Freshman Manuel Cabellero plays striker this year for the team.

“Some difficulties were just getting the ball in the back of the net,” Cabellero said. “The plans are just [work harder.]”

The soccer team then played Omaha Concordia March 29<sup>th</sup> and Lincoln Lutheran April 6<sup>th</sup>. The boys won both games, beating Concordia 8-1 and Lutheran 4-0.

“The Concordia game was the game we beat the team by a lot, which showed we were capable of winning,” Dolezal said.

After having another game canceled due to weather, the soccer team went on to play Grand Island Northwest, losing 0-2.

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, the team traveled to Kearney to face off against Kearney Catholic. Scotus ended up winning 5-3

in a shootout. Junior Adam Quinn plays winger for the team.

“Kearney Catholic was one of our best games of the season,” Quinn explained. “We knew that the game was important, so we buckled down and made sure to give it 100%, and we won.”

That week, the team competed in another tournament, the Omaha Bryan Tournament. The boys faced off against Burke and Millard South, both class A schools. However, Scotus lost both games with close scores. Junior Luke Przymus plays midfielder and holder for the team.

“This year is different due to the lack of experience on the team, making it possible for a lot of younger guys to step in and fill some roles,” Przymus explained. “Some surprises that have appeared have been multiple freshmen who have shown they can compete at a varsity level.”

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, the soccer team went to Blair. Scotus came out with a huge win



NOAH KORTH / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Sophomore Iszaak Liebig dribbles the ball against his opponent from Northwest on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The Shamrocks lost to Grand Island 0-2.**

5-3 against the Blair Bears. Senior Ross Thorson plays holding/defensive mid and is one of the captains for the team this year.

“It was a great win for us,” Thorson said. “Coming out and playing our game

was what allowed us to win against Blair.”

That Thursday, the boys played Schuyler winning 3-2, another tough team on their schedule, and Norfolk Catholic on Saturday winning 6-0.

With districts quickly

approaching, the team looks to make a run at the end and reach the state tournament.

“We realized we need to start putting in more work and getting our heads into the game, so we can finally reach a state match,” Quinn said.



# Golf success on par with state goals

By Camille Pelan  
Staff Reporter

The Scotus Central Catholic golf team has been off to a strong start. With three freshmen on the varsity roster, the team has limited experience in competitive high school golf, but that has not stopped the Shamrocks from having success on the range.

“The team has improved with our younger guys,” junior Seth VunCannon said. “The early meets were good

experience for them to help them get into the swing of things.”

Even though three of the five are first-year high school golfers, the squad is extremely talented. The varsity roster includes juniors VunCannon and Nolan Fleming and freshmen Patrick Arndt, Mason Gonka, and Nick Fleming. The Shamrocks also have several talented junior varsity golfers.

Because there are numerous skilled golfers on the roster, each golfer plays a large role in the success of

the team at each meet. With each meet, the Shamrocks have learned to play with and for each other.

“We have bonded as one whole group, and we have improved together throughout the season,” Arndt said.

The Shamrocks started off their season placing first at the Aquinas Invite on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Four of the Shamrocks placed in the top ten, and they were led by VunCannon who shot an 82. The Rocks then placed sixth at the Norris Invite on April 8<sup>th</sup> and were led by Nolan

Fleming with an 83. This meet, along with a majority of the meets this season, was a challenge due to the weather conditions.

“The wind makes golf so much harder because you have to hit your shot next to perfect if you want it to go where you want it to,” Nolan Fleming said.

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, the Rocks traveled to David City for a triangular and placed six members in the top ten to come up with the win. The junior varsity then traveled to Stanton on April 13<sup>th</sup> and

finished second. The varsity squad also competed at the York Invite on April 15<sup>th</sup>. The Shamrocks placed 6<sup>th</sup> and were led by Nolan Fleming who placed second with a 77.

“We are getting into the swing of things now, and I think we are ready to go perform,” VunCannon said.

The Shamrocks still have several meets in the future with the most notable being conference, districts, and state. Nolan Fleming believes the conference meet will be a great test for the squad.

“The conference meet

will show us where we stand among some of the best competitors in our class and district,” Nolan Fleming said.

With the season winding down, the Shamrocks have set their sights high for the end of the season. With the season being stripped away from the team last year due to COVID-19, the team believes they are ready to compete at the top level and take the team far this year.

“We are slowly getting to our full potential to reach our goals,” Nolan Fleming said. “Look out for us at state!”



CHRISTINA OAKLEY / YEARBOOK STAFF

Freshman Patrick Arndt putts the ball in the hole during a varsity triangular on April 26<sup>th</sup> at Quail Run. Arndt is one of three freshmen on the varsity squad this year.



TAYLOR DAHL / MARKETING DIRECTOR

Junior Nolan Fleming looks to putt the ball during a varsity invitational at the Elks Country Club. The invitational was postponed from April 20<sup>th</sup> and rescheduled to April 27<sup>th</sup> due to weather.

# Baseball looks to overcome challenges

By Kate Maguire  
Staff Reporter

With spring sports in full swing, the baseball team is coming out of the first half of their season with above a .500 record of 10-9. They started the season on a three-game win streak with two

wins against Norfolk and one against Seward. The Discoverers ran through Norfolk the first game with a 12-2 win then took the second game of the double header with a 4-1 win. Seward challenged the team more in their third game, but the co-op team still came out with a 10-8 win. Senior Kaden Young plays

first base for the varsity team.

“We felt very confident playing whoever after starting off 3-0. We didn’t care who we played, and we felt like we could challenge anyone,” Young said.

Part of the reason for this success is the experience and high skill level of the players on the team this season.

“We have seven seniors going on to play college baseball, and I can’t remember anything like that happening for a long time,” Young said.

One of those seven players going to play college baseball is Young himself. He will play with the Norfolk Northeast Hawks next year.

Despite starting off the seasons strong, the team struggled to find ways to win in the next games. The Discoverers lost the next handful of games which made the team realize in order to help add games to the win column, they needed to focus more on getting batters on base.

“We need to be successful hitters at the plate to consistently beat teams throughout the season,” Young said.

Sometimes it takes not only a physical change, but also a better mind mentality to win games. Junior Trevor Schumacher thinks the team’s chemistry and a more mental aspect will help make the team more successful.

“The trust we have in each other and the mentality that we bring into each game

will help us perform better,” Schumacher said.

Part of being mentally tough means overcoming mistakes and struggles and not letting those errors ruin the rest of the game. Sophomore Nicholas Zoucha plays first base for the JV team and pointed out a few struggles the team has faced.

“[We need to be] able to hit the ball consistently and produce runs. Also, [we need to] have some damage control and not let mistakes and errors snowball,” Zoucha said.

Not only must the players be able to produce an offense with hitting, but in order to hold teams from getting runs themselves, they have to be strong defensively. Freshman left and center fielder Jude Maguire is playing his first year of high school baseball.

“If we can pitch consistently and well, I think we will have a very successful rest of the season,” Maguire said.

After focusing more on fundamentals in practice, the

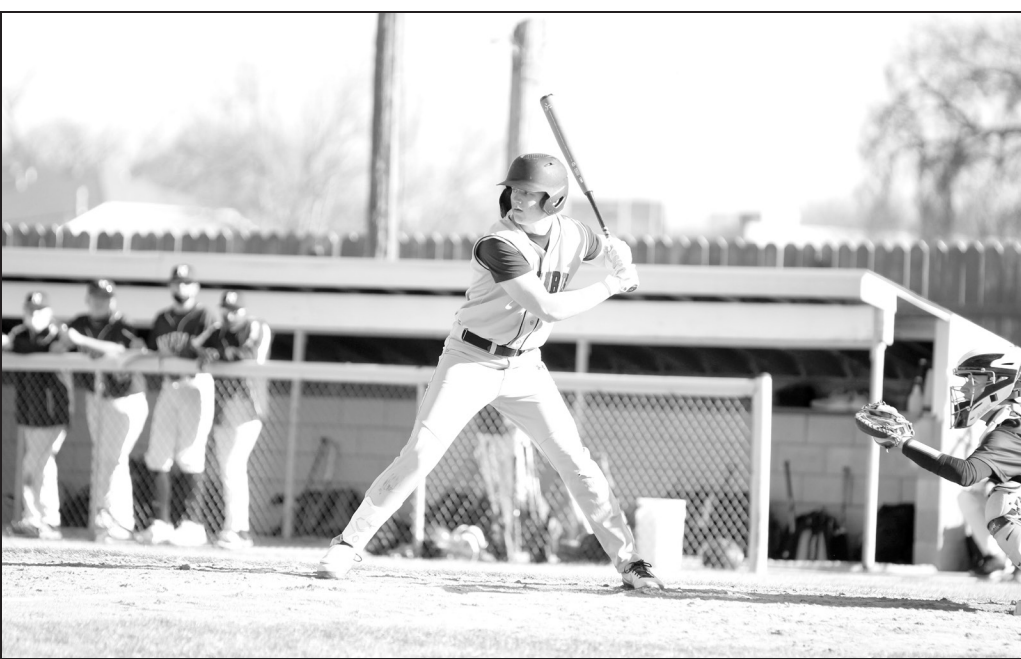
Discoverers went on to win the next seven of their eleven games. One of those games came against a 14-3 Norris team, who is the number one team in Class B.

“I think the Norris game will be the most memorable for me. It will be hard to forget the time we beat a number one team,” Young said.

Even though there are only a few Scotus players who combine with many Columbus players, the boys have all played together since they were young. This allowed for better team camaraderie and the players being able to connect on the field better. Senior Evan Bock plays third base for the varsity team.

“We have been playing together since we were eight, so we know a lot about each other,” Bock said.

The Discoverers will look to keep their win percentage above .500 when they face off against Elkhorn South at their home field later today.



CHRISTINA OAKLEY / YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Kaden Young eyes the ball in as it is pitched. Young will further his baseball career at Norfolk Northeast Community College next year.

## SPRING SPORTS in the MIDWEST

day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4



# Speech succeeds at state

By Grace Mustard  
Staff Reporter

Coming off their first centennial conference win in 18 years, the Scotus speech team continued that success at districts coming home as district B-3 runners-up and qualifying seven performers for state. Junior Chris Adame was part of the district tournament champion OID team, and he qualified third in Humorous Prose.

“My favorite memory this year from speech was getting to state in both events. When I qualified for state at districts, I felt extremely proud,” Adame added.

State speech was held at the University of Nebraska at Kearney on March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Senior Noah Korth was the district tournament champion in Serious Prose and went into state with a winning attitude.

“I was very pleased with how I performed at state. I was runner-up in Serious

Prose and fourth place in OID. My goal at the beginning of the season was to be a double medalist at state, so the result was extremely gratifying,” Korth said.

Senior Maddie Blaser and junior Luke Przymus placed fifth in duet acting. Their performance consisted of a dramatic display of an unhealthy and abusive relationship.

“I was very pleased with how we did. Our OID and duet performed the best we had all season,” Blaser said.

The Scotus OID team came home in fourth place. At almost every meet throughout the season, they had won first or second place. They performed a classic and chilling *Macbeth—a Tale of Darkness*.

“I will miss this team the most this speech season. We are all so close together it is like being with a second family. I am going to especially miss the seniors because they have been such great lead-

ers,” Adame said.

The nerves were high going into state as most of the competition had not been seen before. Senior Emily Ferguson was the district Informative tournament champion and found out anything can happen at state.

“My first round went really well, but then my second round I blanked twice during my speech, which had not happened all season,” Ferguson said.

Senior Josh Styskal was the district Informative runner-up and sixth place OID. Styskal placed second in the first round at state but did not break into the final round.

“It was amazing to have had the state speech experience with all my friends and coaches. Cheesy, I know, but I will always cherish all the memories I made those days in Kearney and all my years in speech,” Styskal added.

Coaches Melanie Mimick and Becki Zanardi are graduating seven seniors



KEIRA FEEHANN / YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Noah Korth smiles on the stage with his medal in Kearney at state speech. Korth was class B runner-up in Serious Prose and placed fourth in OID.

from the Scotus speech team this season.

“With last season being cut short due to COVID-19, we were grateful to have the

chance to compete and complete our season. The seniors really stepped up this year and not only became great leaders, but great speakers as

well. They really let their talent shine and helped set high standards for the underclassmen for the years to come,” Mimick concluded.

# Students revel in “normal” prom

By Gavin Brabec  
Staff Reporter

The juniors and seniors danced the night away at prom on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. The Dowd Activity Center and cafeteria were transformed into an enchanted forest for the night. The Prom was filled with dancing, laughter, and fun as they celebrated the last school dance of the year.

Last year, prom was held late in the summer at Ag Park with less activities due to COVID-19 restrictions. This year, seniors had the privilege of attending prom at Scotus with a full meal, dance, and post prom.

Senior Katelyn Bayer said, “Last year, we did not have a post prom after prom. We also did not have a meal before dancing at prom. Last year, the parents supplied food that we could help ourselves to at any time instead of having a designated time for a meal.”

The night started off with Mass at St. Isidore’s parish. Most students and many parents attended the service to prelude an enjoyable night ahead.

The meal was catered

by Hy-Vee and consisted of a choice of steak or chicken and sides including green beans, baked potato, rolls, and a cupcake.

Senior Jaelyn Podolak said, “The dinner at prom was amazing. The dinner roll and cupcake left me speechless.”

The dance followed the meal, and many people were having fun on the dance floor dancing to great hits including “Sweet Caroline,” “Wobble,” “Cupid Shuffle,” and “Ice, Ice Baby.”

“Ben Policky had some sick moves in the dance circle and had a dance battle with Joel Schumacher. It was epic,” junior Grace Mustard said.

Post prom was held after the dance and hosted by the junior parents. It lasted until four in the morning and had many games such as Spikeball, a bouncy house obstacle course, Kan Jam, cornhole, a virtual reality trailer, a money machine, and karaoke.

“My favorite post prom activity was the obstacle course because I was able to dive headfirst over the hill we were supposed to climb up,” junior Eden Broberg said.

The main show of the



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Juniors Audrey Sprunk, Makenna Svehla, Berlin Kluever, and other junior girls sing along to a song at prom in the Scotus cafeteria on April 10<sup>th</sup>. The theme for the dance was “Enchanted Forest.”

night, however, was the hypnotist. A group of twenty seniors were part of the show and under the hypnotist’s spell.

“My favorite part of prom overall was the hypnotist that came for post prom. His whole show was so entertaining and mind-boggling! It

was a great first prom experience!” Broberg said.

Throughout the 90-minute performance, most of the group was mindlessly performing actions the hypnotist told them to do.

Senior Alex Novicki said, “My favorite part of post prom was the hypnotist.

I do not remember a thing.”

Following the hypnotist, prizes were drawn for the junior and senior classes. The big prizes included mini fridges, televisions, Lululemon backpacks, and Keurig coffee makers. Smaller prizes of cash and gift cards were given out as well. No student

went home empty-handed.

Junior Vijay Wemhoff concluded, “[Prom was] a great time, and it’s fun to enjoy these last two years together with my class before everyone goes their separate ways.”

# Stations portray the Passion of Christ

By Noah Korth  
Staff Reporter

Before going home for Easter break on March 31<sup>st</sup>, Scotus students gathered in the dim, candle-lit Dowd Activity Center to watch the presentation of Stations of the Cross. Stations of the Cross is a Scotus tradition, but many aspects of Stations were different this year. One major change was campus ministry advisors Dana Ritzdorf and Kelly Koranda supervising Stations for the first time.

Also, unlike past years, all students were encouraged to participate – not just seniors. Because of these changes, the preparation process required great sacrifice and patience from everyone involved. Senior Emily Ferguson played the part of Mary for the presentation.

“It was difficult to find time for everyone to practice together as a group,” Ferguson said. “Also, with new leadership and no one ever having been part of Stations

before, it took time to figure everything out.”

Despite difficulties such as limited practice time and recasting roles, many students involved felt that Stations was a triumph. Senior Josh Styskal was one of four narrators for the presentation.

“I enjoyed watching it come together and then presenting it for the student body,” Styskal said. “The reflections read during the presentation are powerful and very applicable to our everyday lives. I hope students enjoyed the time of prayer and reflection before Easter break.”

One of the main premises of Stations of the Cross is helping Christians contemplate the Passion of Christ on a deeper level. These reflections can be even more impactful through active participation in Stations.

“I enjoyed playing the role of Mary because I got to imagine what she was experiencing during those hours when she was watching her Son suffer,” Ferguson said.

“It was very humbling.”

Students are drawn to participate in Stations for a variety of reasons. For some, it’s just another activity to occupy their day. However, other students sought a deeper connection with their faith by signing up for Stations. Senior Maddie Blaser volunteered to help lead in singing response hymns during station transitions.

“I participated in Stations because I wanted to be able to grow closer to God during Holy Week,” Blaser said. “I think it is extremely important to get the school involved in more faith-based activities.”

Because Stations are performed in front of the entire school, some students felt uneasy about signing up. Senior Nicolas Schultz played the role of the good thief and one of Jesus’ Apostles.

“Before Stations, I had never acted in front of the school,” Schultz said. “However, it is not as scary as you think it would be.”

Unlike many activities



HALLE LANGAN / YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Nicolas Schultz and Ben Kamrath pose frozen in the spotlight for Stations of the Cross. The role of Jesus had to be reassigned after a scheduling conflict, and Kamrath was willing to take on the role last-minute.

at Scotus, Stations requires little experience or skill to participate. It might demand some self-sacrifice, but that is part of bearing witness to the

Passion of Christ.

“Participating in Stations is a Scotus tradition,” senior Janae Rusher said. “You don’t have to play Jesus or

Mary, but you should still be a part of it because it is a very beautiful way to participate in Holy Week.”