



Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic

<https://columbus-catholic.org/rock-bottom-newspaper/>

Columbus, Nebraska 68601

Volume 23 • Issue I • October 12, 2023

Scotus retreats from old ways to impact students

By Joanna Rusher
Staff Reporter

Retreats have always been a staple at Scotus Central Catholic with each grade attending one each year. Putting on six retreats per school year is a lot to organize, so for years the youngest four or five grades would simply go to one of the local parishes for activities and participation in the sacraments. Over the past couple years, however, the retreats have been changing to different locations and activities for the students. They now have opportunities to volunteer, serve, learn, and grow in many different aspects of faith and life. Dana Ritzdorf is the campus minister at Scotus and organizes most of the retreats.

“I think they’re important because we’re a Catholic school, and they give students the opportunity to encounter Jesus in a deeper way. It is probably one of the most important things we can do,” Ritzdorf said. “They just get students out of their normal routine and to a different location, and gives them the opportunity to turn off everything that is stressing them out on a normal school day and just focus on their faith.”

To make these opportunities larger, the seventh grade retreat was changed into a half day, giving the young students a small taste of what a high school retreat would feel like. This mini retreat took place on

September 15, and, although short, impacted the students. One of the highlights of the retreat was a small group of upperclassmen leading small groups, giving talks, and answering questions. Hannah Dreesen is a seventh grader who attended the retreat.

“The upperclassmen helped me visualize that if you don’t have a great relationship with God, you can start the amazing journey now,” Dreesen said.

The senior retreat is one of the only retreats that did not change. Students look forward to it their entire high school careers. Located at Timberlake Camp, there is Mass, icebreakers, canoeing, a ropes course, and a giant blob to launch people into the lake. Senior Amber Spawn was among those whose expectations were exceeded at the retreat.

“The senior retreat set a high note for us as a class,” Spawn said. “It is always good to start off the year with something positive.”

The retreat takes place at the beginning of the school year to encourage students to bond throughout the year and not just at the end. Many students thought the retreat helped them grow closer as a class, including senior Alex Medina-Perez.

“[The retreat] definitely showed me we can all have fun and just enjoy whatever it may be that we have to do this year,” Medina-Perez said.

In contrast to the senior retreat,

the sophomores and juniors will now have options on what retreats or volunteer opportunities they wish to attend.

“We just tried to brainstorm what would make it more enjoyable for students. What would make it more impactful, what would make it more likely for people to actually encounter the Lord?” Ritzdorf said. “So we thought that giving more

choice might help with that. We’re hoping that it just makes it a little bit more personal and the kids might be a little more invested in it.”

Some of the options, out of eight total, are the FIERCE athlete retreat, the men’s retreat, and the March for Life. These will begin taking place on October 11th with the service retreat. Helene Chard is a sophomore who will be attending

the culture retreat.

“I think the decision about having students choose the retreats they want to attend is a good idea because it could help the students grow deeper in their faith at the pace that is suited for them,” Chard said. “Everyone is at a different point in their faith life and this could help them meet God where they are at.”



JOSIE SLIVA / YEARBOOK STAFF

Seventh graders Jordynn Bowns and Eddie Olmer face-off for the rock-paper-scissors championship at the 7th grade retreat on September 15th. It was a half day where they played games, talked in small groups, and attended adoration.

Holoubek expands Spanish experience

By Madden Saenz
Staff Reporter

Spanish at Scotus has been an interesting ride since Mrs. Moody’s retirement after the 2021 school year. First, Scotus had its students learn via Zoom classes, which were taught virtually by online Spanish professors and was hosted by

volunteer teacher Kristi Heng. This was a trying time for some students because they lacked the one-on-one teaching with a teacher who had hands-on Spanish experience, until last year.

In 2022, Scotus welcomed a new Spanish teacher, Autumn Holoubek (who at the time was Autumn Johnson). With this new

teacher, the Spanish students at Scotus Central Catholic were in a sort of educational utopia. With new access to Spanish I and II classes and a teacher who had a bachelor’s degree and a trip to Costa Rica under her belt, Spanish at Scotus became a noticeably improved experience. Unfortunately, Scotus still lacked the ability to further its

students’ Spanish education, that is, until Mrs. Holoubek stepped up to save the day again.

“I really wanted to [teach Spanish III]. Not that I don’t love teaching the lower levels, but getting into the upper levels and being able to do more with the language is just fun. I also wanted that opportunity for students because I think it’s important, so I want them to learn more,” Holoubek said.

Thanks to Mrs. Holoubek’s efforts, current and future upper class students can further improve their linguistic skills and advance their Spanish abilities. Even with these new forms of education, Mrs. Holoubek has continued her efforts in helping students learn Spanish.

“Spanish Club is just an opportunity for anyone and everyone to come and learn more about the many cultures of Hispanic and Latin America...and those [cultures and people] that come along with it. We’re doing that in a variety of ways. We’ve already tried some new food,” Holoubek said. “We’re hoping to be able to travel, possibly. We’re not sure about it yet, but learning dances, listening to music, trying new foods, hopefully going to a restaurant or two, just a bunch of different activities and ways that people can learn more about those cultures” Holoubek said.

Even better, Spanish Club is not just available to just Spanish students.

“We even have some junior

Scotus technology switches to Google

By Kirsten Sucha
Staff Reporter

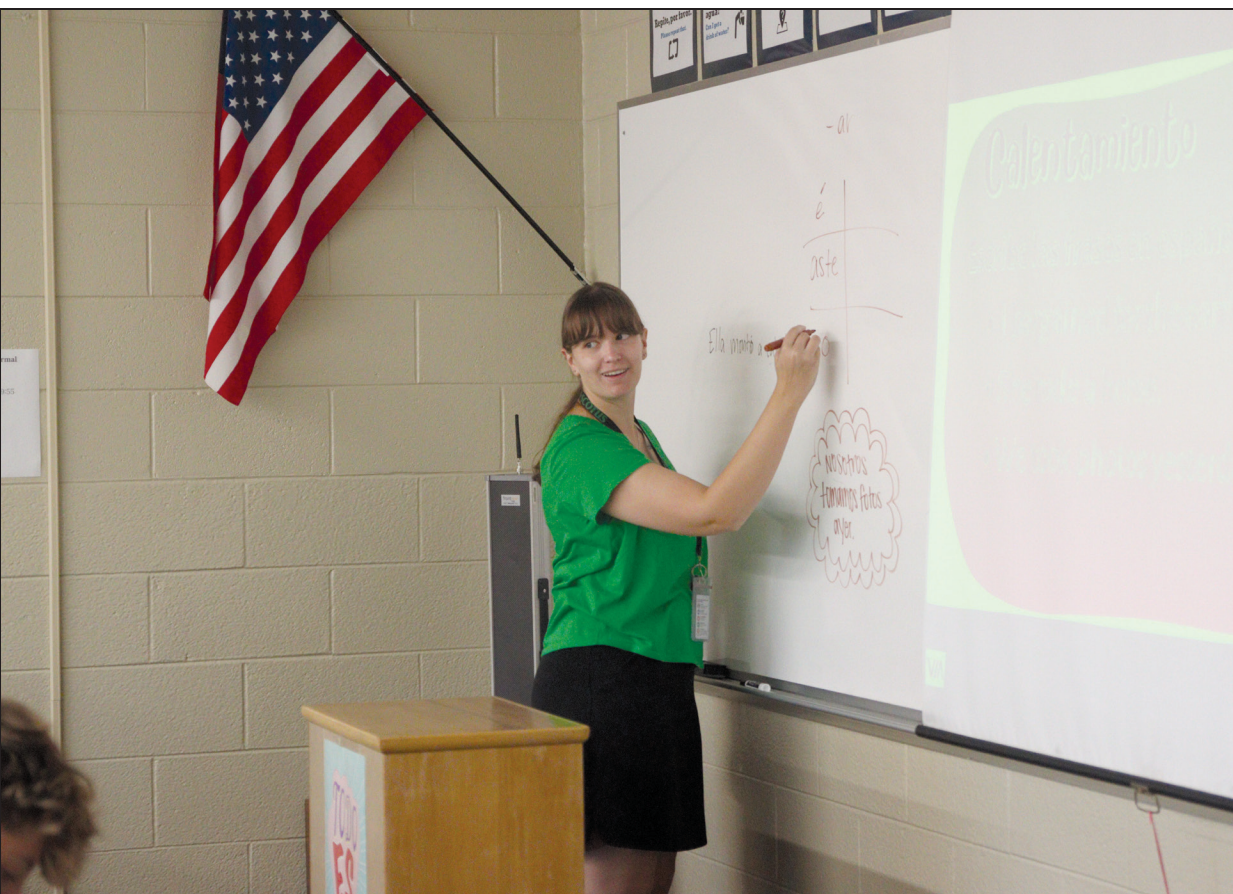
Throughout the school year, changes happen all the time. One new change students and teachers have had to deal with this fall was the new email and storage program on their computers.

Scotus recently decided to transition from Microsoft accounts to Google accounts. After being a Microsoft run school for almost a decade, Scotus recently decided to switch to Google for organizational purposes. This equated to the students and teachers using new emails and switching over to Google classroom for their assignments.

IT coordinator Jeremiah Salyard has been in charge of the change.

“So the whole reason we’re switching over is because we have decided to consolidate the four Catholic schools here in town into a single organization. That means getting everyone on the same page. To do that, one of the things we want to do is update everyone’s email and such,” Salyard said.

Even though the transition from Microsoft to Google went smoothly for the most part, there were still a few hangups.



MADDEN SAENZ / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Spanish instructor Autumn Holoubek smiles back at her Spanish II class. Holoubek offered to teach Spanish III, opening more doors for students at Scotus.

ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Staff Reporters:

- Cecilia Arndt
- Patrick Arndt
- Aubree Beiermann
- Caleb Cameron
- Mary Faltys
- Ella Hash
- Sofia Karges
- Ava Rickert
- Joanna Rusher
- Madden Saenz
- Kirsten Sucha
- Quinn VunCannon

Advisor:

- Angie Rusher
- ## Editor:
- Cecilia Arndt

7 Issues:

- October 12
- November 8
- December 13
- February 1
- March 7
- April 4
- May 2

GOOGLE



ELLA HASH / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Amber Spawn works on her college assignment in the media center during 7th period. College classes still use Microsoft even though Scotus recently switched to Google.

“Things just are not transferring over correctly. Missing documents and emails, and that is going to happen regardless,” Salyard said.

Missing documents and files was a large concern when Scotus decided to switch over to Google. Many students were also concerned with the navigation side of Google

since they were taught how to use Microsoft. There has also been a struggle from jumping between Microsoft to Google because there is still access to the students’ Microsoft accounts; this has caused confusion when logging into certain websites.

Junior Jacqueline Stoner ex-

pressed her own opinion about the difficulties of the switch.

“I find it a lot harder to navigate and use Google products than Microsoft, so that can really slow me down when I am trying to get things done,” Stoner said.

Even though there have been several disadvantages, students

and teachers find positives in the situation. 73.9% of 93 students surveyed say they prefer Google over Microsoft.

Freshman Lillian Miller is one of the many students who prefers Google.

“Everything seems to run a little bit smoother, and the software feels more modern,” Miller said.

Not only do students find the new browser better, Salyard also agrees with this statement.

“I find it is a bit easier to kind of do some of the administration things on the backside. They have kind of geared it a little more towards education, where Microsoft’s more geared towards business,” Salyard said.

Overall, the switch to Google has been a success, but there are still changes that need to be made for a successful switch. Even though accounts for emails are set up, Salyard is not completely done with the change.

“Now that things are slowing down, I’m able to go back and start to address these other things that are in the background that are not currently an issue, but they will become an issue if I do not go looking for them,” Salyard said.

Senior Tori Dush summarized the switch to Google.

“It was a difficult switch at first because nobody knew what to do, but once we got into our classes and played around with it then we can see that it is slightly simpler than Microsoft in a sense,” Dush said.

SPANISH

high kids who are joining and there’s some other people who may be weren’t able to fit Spanish into their schedule this year, but they still want to be learning about that and so they’re just joining us for the club,” Holoubek said.

Mrs. Holoubek feels Spanish at Scotus has been improved greatly; however, she still wishes there

could be more for the students that want more.

“In a quote perfect world, not really a perfect world, but in my perfect world I would say I would love to be able to have Spanish I-IV, maybe even a V if there was an independent study, but that would not happen with just myself. We’d have to hire another Spanish teacher. If

we could find another teacher and include all those classes, that would be wonderful.”

Overall, Mrs. Holoubek is happy with the current Spanish program and wants everyone at Scotus to be happy as well.

“I just encourage everyone to take Spanish and take the time to learn things about their neighbors

because especially here in Columbus, but just in general in the United States, we have a lot of friends and neighbors who are Spanish speakers. I think it’s really important that we as Christians take the time to empathize and learn about other people’s cultures, and I think learning Spanish is a great way to do that.”

402-564-8268

We Deliver
Fuel • Oil • Propane

Jeff Johnson
General Manager

East Hwy 30 • Columbus

Schieffler
SIGNS INC.

Valentino's
CLASSIC. ITALIAN. TRADITION.

Take-out & Delivery 3100 23rd St. 402-563-3542
Online ordering available at valscolombus.com

Columbus Public LIBRARY
connecting people and ideas

Live, work, or go to school in Columbus?
Contact us today to learn how to get a library card!

402-564-7116 www.columbusne.us/library
2500 14th Street, Columbus, NE

Godfather's PIZZA

402-564-8515
770 33rd Avenue
Columbus, NE
GO SHAMROCKS!

Columbus Bank
AND TRUST COMPANY

Member FDIC colbank.com 402-564-1234

GO, SHAMROCKS!

Proud supporters of Scotus

ERNST
AUTO GROUP

www.ernstauto.com

OTTE ELECTRIC Inc.

Industrial Contractor

1260 3RD Avenue
Columbus, Ne 68601
402-564-9996

WHEN YOU MAKE IT **\$5.50** FRIDAY!

TREAT YOURSELF YOU DESERVE IT!

JUICE IT UP

2334 23rd St, Columbus, Ne
Next to Walgreens
www.juicestopsmoothies.com

River Valley Tire Service, LLC
P.O. Box 2036 Columbus, NE 68602
1351 21st Avenue

Bob Soulliere Jr. | Owner/Operator
rivervalleytire@gmail.com | 402-910-1397

Locally Owned & Operated Since 1925

McKown Funeral Home

Dave Purcell Gregg Ridgeway
Brad Eickhoff Chase Cherry

2922 13th Street (402) 564-4232
www.mckownfuneralhome.com

Columbus MUSIC

2514 13th Street
Columbus, NE 68601
402-564-9431
cmusic@megavision.com
columbusmusic.net

PERFORMANCE PRINTING, INC.

(402) 564-9323 2916 12th Street

\$2 OFF

SHAMROCK SPCTEA OR SPORTY SHAMROCK PROTEIN SHAKE!

HomeGrown Nutrition
1925 23RD ST COLUMBUS, NE

MUST WEAR SCHOOL UNIFORM OR SHOW SCHOOL ID TO REDEEM DISCOUNT

FIND US IN THE BRICK STRIP MALL BY KFC

EXPIRES OCTOBER 31ST

Rowdy Dowdy changes get mixed reviews

By Rock Bottom Staff

After the summer off, the Rowdy Dowdies returned this fall, bigger and bolder. However, the familiar sight of them at every home volleyball, football, and basketball game is slightly different than previous years.

The Rowdy Dowdy student section has faced some new changes this year, which have been met with varying degrees of approval. This article reflects the opinion of the journalism staff who reviewed these changes together. We decided the Rowdy Dowdy updates are good overall, but there is still room for improvement.

The most notable dif-

ference is the new location of the designated Rowdy Dowdy student section. Previously, the Rowdy Dowdies were located next to the pep band. They are now located on the west end of the gym, across from the visiting team's student section. This change was brought about to accommodate the Scotus parents and fans. Some Scotus fans had complained about the lack of space and difficulties watching the game while sitting next to the student section.

Although it is important to be as accommodating and welcoming as possible for everyone, we find this new home problematic. Trying to fit the entire student section into the new space is nearly impossible. The first home

volleyball game had a tremendous turnout, but not all of the students who came to support were able to fit into the student section. Most of the junior high students had to sit on the bleachers across the aisle and at the top, next to the rest of the student body. Students have been reluctant to return because the tightly-packed, hot area was not pleasant to cheer from.

In addition, being on the visitor's end of the gym for volleyball makes it difficult to cheer and feel involved, both for the students and cheerleaders. We feel we are too far away from the rest of the Shamrocks. Being near the visiting team makes negative cheering against them tempting. It is also not ideal while watching volleyball; the up

ref and post block part of the court from our view. During basketball games, however, it will not matter as much because the teams switch sides throughout the game, and the basketball home bench is on the west end.

It is especially important for the cheerleaders to feel connected to the crowd because they are the ones leading the Shamrock support. The exciting changes they brought to the Rowdy Dowdies have been warmly welcomed. Their effort and organization makes it fun for the students; new and different cheers are being used to spice it up.

The cheerleaders also introduced their "Best Dressed" award. At each game, they pick one student

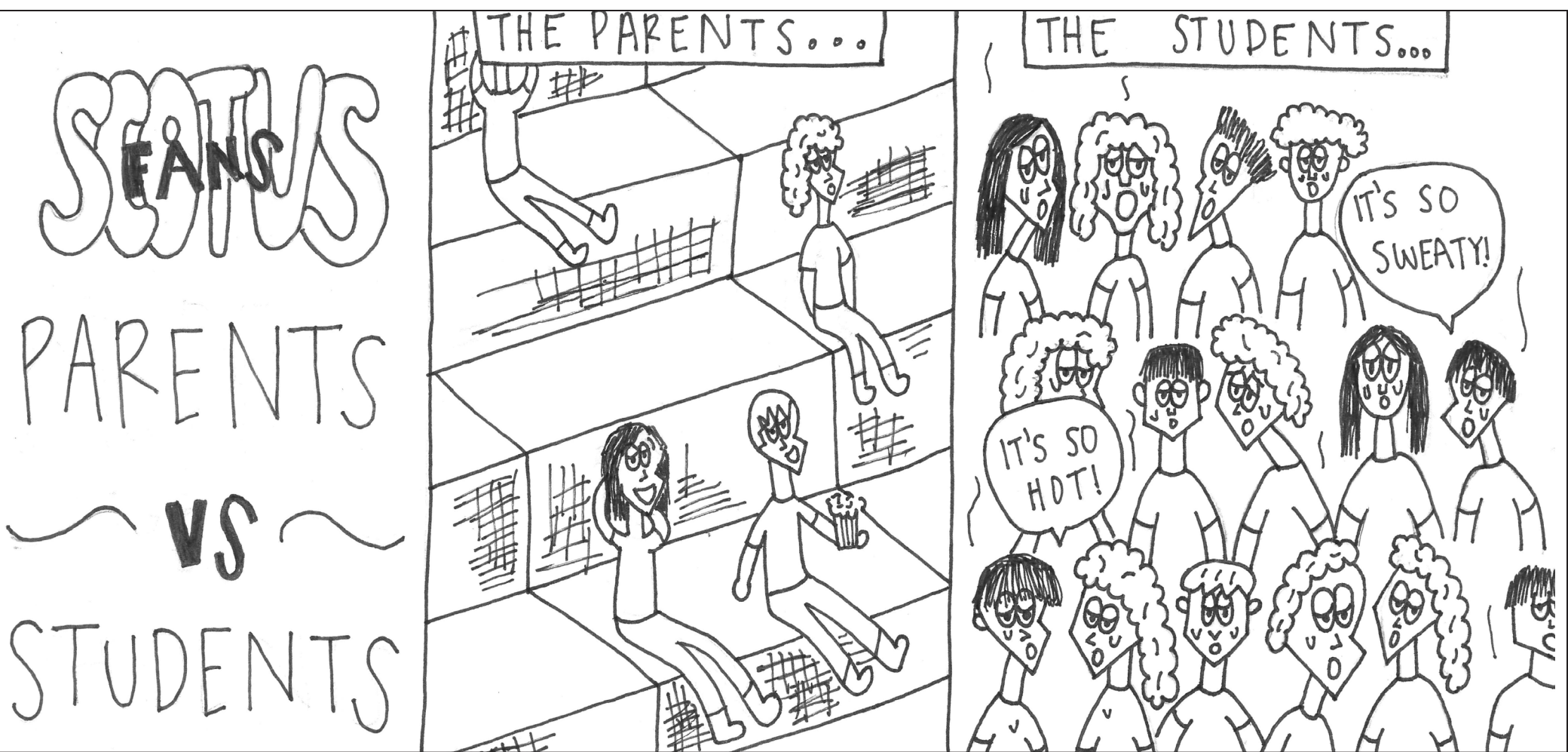
whom they think dressed to the theme the best and award them a \$5 concession stand gift certificate. Not only does this encourage the students to dress to the theme, they also put more effort into their attire.

New social media pages, created by the cheerleaders, are dedicated to promoting the Rowdy Dowdies. Recently, the cheerleaders have been making TikToks entailing student section information, such as dates, locations, and times of upcoming games. This makes it easy for supporting students to keep up to date on important Rowdy Dowdy information.

We know it is hard to accommodate the Rowdy Dowdies, Scotus fans, and visitors, but we believe a

better seating solution is possible. For example, we could consider switching Scotus and visitor fans' sides and moving the Rowdy Dowdies back to their original spot. Another option is utilizing the area the pep band occupies. Because the band does not stay the whole time, other people can use that spot after they leave.

Several changes have been made to the Rowdy Dowdies this year. Although they were all implemented with the intention of accommodating the majority of supporters and keeping school spirit alive at games, they are not 100% perfect yet. With a few tweaks, especially to the student seating, the Rowdy Dowdies could become the best they have ever been.



ROSIE SUCHA / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Women's sports warrant a watch



By Quinn VunCannon
Staff Reporter

92,003 fans packed Memorial Stadium on August 30th, 2023, but not for a typical football game. Almost one hundred thousand people

showed up for the Nebraska women's volleyball team. This sets a world record for attendance for a women's sporting event.

Women's sports are booming, and everyone should be a part of it. Women's sports are engaging to watch, just as competitive as their male counterparts, and are becoming some of the most watched sporting events around the world. A huge draw to women's sports is how the players interact with fans.

Watching women compete engages viewers in a way men's sports don't. Have you ever seen Caitlin Clark command a packed full basketball arena to get loud? If

not, everyone should. Caitlin Clark is just one example of a female athlete who creates hype around her sport. Clark plays point guard for the Iowa women's basketball team and led her team to a National Championship game in the NCAA women's March Madness tournament this year. When she's not draining logo three's or dropping 30 point triple doubles, she's hyping up the crowd and signing autographs for fans. Engagement is a big deal in the sports world, and she's the perfect example. Women's basketball as a whole benefits from Clark and hundreds of other athletes who engage with their fans. After these female

athletes grab your attention, they put on a cut throat show.

Women's sports are unbelievably competitive. Some people criticize female athletes because they claim they are 'boring to watch'. They could not be more wrong! I could select a thousand different games and rivalries to disprove this point. The 2023 Women's World Cup was one of the most competitive soccer tournaments to date. While many sportsmen and women have their sports' rivalries and dynasties, The US Women's National Team had a chokehold on the World Cup scene. The USWNT has been dominating the World Cup scene since the 90's. They had won 4 out of

the last 8 World Cups, and this year several countries stepped up to battle with the US. After an exciting game, Sweden knocked out the US in the round of 16 in a game that went to penalty kicks. Spain then beat Sweden to advance to the World Cup final. The team from Spain, F.C. Barcelona, held the previous record for the most attended women's sporting event.

Along with Nebraska volleyball's world record game in Memorial Stadium, women's sports are becoming more and more watched all around the world. This year during the US Open Tennis Championships, the women's final had more viewership

than the men's. Coco Gauff defeated Aryna Sabalenka and amassed over 3.4 million viewers on ESPN. The men's championship, which featured Novak Djokovic setting a world record for most grand-slam titles, only averaged 2.3 million viewers. Women's sports are getting the attention they deserve and now is the time to join the bandwagon!

This is your chance to join the fun in women's sports. Nebraska volleyball is ranked number two in the nation, and they face number one ranked Wisconsin on October 21st. This match will be huge, and a perfect way to jump right into the action!

City needs to light up student safety



By Ava Rickert
Staff Reporter

It is 7:50 AM. on a Monday morning. I am already

running late for school and still have to study for my Chemistry test happening first period. Right as I am pulling out of my neighborhood, a biker chugs past - in the driving lane. I cautiously drive behind him at approximately 5 miles per hour, pushing me even more behind schedule.

It is now 7:55 A.M. I finally reach my turn. Since the intersection does not have a stoplight, I am forced to wait an agonizing 5 minutes until I get the chance to turn onto the bypass.

It is 8 A.M., and studying for that Chemistry test is now the least of my worries.

What road am I driving

on that causes me all this hassle? The answer is 48th Avenue on the west side of Columbus.

For those who do not know, 48th Avenue is a road that runs north from the Loup Canal and past the hospital. The section of the road causing the most trouble is the stretch north of the bypass. 48th Avenue, a road traveled by many students at Scotus, has recently proved its incapability to move along any form of traffic during the morning hours. The downfall of 48th Avenue has just begun, and it will only continue to get worse.

The road has a variety of

issues such as deep ditches, narrow shoulders, and most importantly, no stop light where it intersects the bypass. While waiting five minutes to turn may be a minor inconvenience in the grand scheme of things, a crash credited to the lack of a stop light is a much more serious, and realistic, issue. I am no cook, but even I know 48th Avenue is a recipe for disaster.

People who do not regularly travel 48th Avenue always have a list of comebacks when listening to my complaints about the road, the most common one being, "Just go to school a different way." Trust me, I have tried -

and it did not go much better.

On July 5th, the city closed down 48th Avenue to repair its broken bridge, another one of its drawbacks. While this construction took place, I was forced to wind my way through the backroads of Lake North, which added at least 5 minutes to every trip I took into town. For supposedly being an easier route, it still caused just as much headache as waiting at a stop sign for ten minutes did.

Whoever invented roads would be vastly disappointed in 48th Avenue and its surplus of issues. Instead of providing safe and efficient

transportation for the citizens of Columbus, 48th Avenue puts their wellbeing in jeopardy.

To fix the safety concerns 48th Avenue poses, priorities need to be established. This cannot be a project that takes 10 years to address - because by then I will be in my twenties and not a teenage girl complaining about a road in my school newspaper. The change needs to be made now, both for the good of the community and also for their safety. If 48th Avenue's imperfections are not corrected soon, drivers and bikers alike could end up seriously hurt.

Shamrock football battles ups and downs

By Quinn VanCannon
Staff Reporter

The Shamrock football team has seen big success this season, but have also learned from tough losses. Entering the eighth week of the season, the Shamrocks have a record of 4-3.

To start the year, the Shamrocks faced rival David City Aquinas. In a monotonous game of runs and punts, the Shamrocks mustered up a win 3-0, from a field goal by senior kicker Frank Fehring. Leading the charge into their second game was junior running back Luke Wemhoff. "We played really well against [Pierce] and fixed a lot from week one," Wemhoff explained.

Even though they saw some offensive improvements, the Shamrocks lost to the Bluejays 28-20, after leading 14-8 at halftime. The Shamrocks had a tough time stopping Pierce's physical run game in the second half. The Shamrock offensive line is getting put to the test, getting

valuable varsity experience this season.

"We had a lot of linemen step up this year," Wemhoff said.

There are many new faces getting snaps this year. Juniors Conner Wurtz, Jordan Kouma, and Grant Zoucha are players starting on the line this year who did not see much field time last year. Although young, these names have contributed to a successful season thus far.

After a game winning field goal with no time left on the clock, the Shamrocks narrowly scraped ahead winning against St. Paul 22-20 in week 3. Scotus then coasted to an easy victory against the West Point-Beemer Cadets with a score of 41-27 in the next week. The Shamrocks have strived to make changes to help their team.

"We changed our offensive scheme, and it has helped us get our playmakers the ball more," Wemhoff said. Wemhoff had a season high of 3 rushing touchdowns against the Cadets. Wemhoff

leads the team in touchdowns with 7 so far this season. The team lost a few key seniors last year, but a change on the offensive side has benefitted the Shamrocks. Commanding the offense is junior quarterback Cohen Pelan.

"We need to clean up our penalties and work on our defensive and special teams units," Pelan explained. Scotus is looking to improve these things to finish out their regular season.

After a dazzling performance for the Shamrocks' homecoming game, they beat out Arlington 62-15. Scotus' victory was a total team effort with touchdowns by Cohen Pelan, Spencer Shotkoski, Evan Kiene, Frank Fehring, and Jack Sueper.

In week 6 the Shamrocks faced some adversity, losing to DC West 24-6.

The next week they played their toughest challenge yet, losing to Wahoo 32-0.

"We can compete with the best teams in C1 if we play clean and physical foot-



AVA RICKERT / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior running back Luke Wemhoff carries the ball against Aquinas on August 25th 2023. The Shamrocks defeated the Monarchs 3-0.

ball," Pelan said.

The team has lofty goals for the end of the season. With hopes of a playoff run, the Shamrocks will need to

continue this stretch of physical football.

Scotus will face Schuyler on October 13th. Then, to end regular season play, they

will face their cross town rivals, Lakeview, on October 20th.

Cross country new and old race to victory

By Ella Hash
Staff Reporter

Being mentally and physically tough is what any

sport wants and requires of its athletes. In cross country, the runners have to face challenges that require them to have both aspects of toughness. The girls and boys

cross country teams have had to push through these aspects this year.

Senior Jude Maguire is the top runner on the boys cross country team and

placed third overall at the Scotus home meet on September 14th.

"We lost one of our top runners so we have had some younger and inexperienced runners step up into placing spots," Maguire said.

Both teams have new runners on their rosters. The boys have two runners new to cross country and three new to high school running. The girls team has six new runners and four new to running in high school. On both of the cross country teams, these new runners have stepped up and filled in roles from last year.

"We are a lot more competitive this year," junior Emma Brezenski said. "Last year if you went out, you were on varsity because we only had six runners, but this year it is tough to even be in the top six."

Out of the top six runners for the girls, four are new runners and one is new to high school. On the boys side they are led by four seniors and a returning runner,

with one new runner taking the sixth spot. With new runners on both teams, the seniors have been people for everyone to look up to.

Sophomore Hannah Heinrich is in her first year of cross country and is the girls' top runner.

"The seniors have been great role models for all of us new runners," Heinrich said. "Their example and attitude helps set the tone for how everyone else performs."

The girls team has only two returning seniors, Josie Sliva and Serena Swiatek, while the boys team has six seniors. By leading the new runners, both teams have had a push to place at meets.

The first meet for both teams was held on Friday, September 1st in Albion. The girls team came in first, placing four girls in the top twenty. For the boys, Maguire and senior Caleb Schumacher placed in the top twenty, giving the boys a 4th place finish.

The most recent meets have also tended to go this

way. The girls have placed first in all their meets and have had at least three runners in the top twenty every meet. The boys placed seventh at the Platte River Rumble meet and were runner up at the home meet on September 14th. On both teams they are setting expectations and where the final destination is: the state meet on October 20th.

"We want to get to state but more importantly, our goal is to win state," junior Sofia Karges said. "Of course that is something people always say, but with the strengths we have this year I think it's something we can accomplish."

With state in less than a week, the teams have been gearing up to be prepared in both the mental and physical aspect. Yesterday, the teams competed in the district meet in Wayne, with the girls running at 3:00 p.m. and the boys after at 3:45 p.m.



ELLA HASH / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Caleb Schumacher tries to pass a West Point-Beemer runner at the Scotus home meet on September 14th. Schumacher is in his fourth year of cross country and is the second runner on the team.

Boys tennis brings new faces

By Ava Rickert
Staff Reporter

The bigger, the better. This saying perfectly describes the boys tennis team, which has twice the amount of Scotus players as it did last year. Thirteen out of the 21 players on the Discoverers team are Shamrocks.

With a combination of new and veteran players, the team is looking to improve all aspects of the game. However, the lack of past experience in many players has been an obstacle the team is working to overcome.

Junior Brody Splitterger is one of the returning Scotus players and has been on the team for two years.

"We have a ton of new guys, so coaching experienced players and new players is really hard and impacts improvement," Splitterger said.

All players, both new and returning, are looking to especially improve their consistency and mental toughness.

Sophomore Jake Demuth

has been a member of the tennis team for two years. He has seen some of the differences between the two seasons.

"Last year we worked on repetition and getting better. This year is more about learning the game and working on specific skills," Demuth said.

The team has been to a handful of meets so far this season and has played against tough competition.

The team kicked off its season on August 25th with a 1-4 record at the Lincoln Northeast Invite, with sophomore Hudson Kloke and freshman Calben Pelan taking the sole win for the day.

The team hosted their home invite with multiple teams on September 1st. Junior Jacob Rother took this as an opportunity to compete to the best of his ability and accomplish his goals for the season.

"I would like to develop as a player and be able to compete with the better teams in the state," Rother said.

At the invite, Rother and his CHS teammate took silver in #1 Doubles. This was a

highlight of the season and gave the team the motivation to keep working harder. The Pelan/Kloke duo placed fifth in #2 Doubles at the invite.

Another season high was the team's away dual at South Sioux City. On September 5th, the Discoverers brought home wins in both #1 and #2 Doubles, along with wins for Rother, Pelan, and Kloke in singles.

Later that week on September 7th, the Discoverers hosted a dual against Grand Island. The #1 and #2 Discoverer Doubles teams secured the two wins of the day. Grand Island would go on to win all five singles matches.

At their recent invites, results have been split between successes and losses. In both doubles and singles, wins were recorded over York and Omaha Burke. Some losses from the invites included Gretna, Millard South, Westside, and Pius X.

The team competed at the HAC Conference Tournament at Lincoln Northeast on October 6th. The Discoverers brought home wins in both

#1 and #2 Doubles, winning matches 8-1 and 7-2, respectively. The team was not able to claim any Singles wins on the day.

"We are really looking to

do our best this year. We may not have some of the same experience that the other teams might have, but that's fine. We are just looking to give our all out there and

have fun, whatever may come of that," Rother said.

The Discoverers tennis team will compete at the state tournament today and tomorrow.



ROSIE SUCHA / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior Brody Splitterger serves the ball to his Grand Island Senior High opponent in his singles match on September 7th at Pawnee Park. Splitterger is in his second season on the Discoverers tennis team.

Shamrocks head to state tournament

By Patrick Arndt
Staff Reporter

Scotus girls golf started the season off strong placing 4th at the Grand Island Central Catholic Invite on August 31st and winning the Lakeview Invite on September 7th.

Seniors Cecilia Arndt and Kaitlyn Fleming, along with junior Quinn VunCannon have led the team to numerous victories through-

out the varsity season. During the Lakeview Invite Scotus took gold, with 4 of the 5 varsity players medaling top 10. Earning sixth place and falling just within the top ten, Fleming held her own, firing a 101.

"The Lakeview Invite stood out to me the most because we won as a team by 80 strokes, and I am excited for the rest of the varsity meets this year," Fleming said.

Fleming is a returning player having been on the team for 3 years, holding a successful tenure. With new energy brought on by the win at Lakeview, Scotus went on to win several other events including the Pierce, Boone Central, and Fullerton Invites. Arndt played a key role alongside her fellow teammates in winning invites throughout the season.

"So far the season has gone well for myself and our

younger players, especially the freshmen, who have great potential and are working hard. The team is still young, and I think that we will leave them in good hands after my class graduates," Arndt said.

Arndt holds a successful record at Scotus as a four year varsity player; she won state as a sophomore and has led the golf team to many victories including the team's 4th consecutive Conference Championship where the

team shot 372 and Arndt and VunCannon placed 2nd and 3rd; and the Scotus Invite where the team shot 372 and the entire varsity medaled. Arndt has high hopes nearing the end of the season, hoping to make her fourth state appearance and lead the team to its first state victory.

"I think all five of us need to play well in districts to make it to state as a team, but I'm hoping Cecilia and I make it individually," Vun-

Cannon said.

VunCannon is a two year varsity player. As a junior she will lead the team next year saying goodbye to Scotus's senior golfers, Arndt and Fleming.

Scotus was victorious in District C-2 competition, with 4 out of the 5 varsity players medaling.

Scotus competed at the Class C State Golf Tournament this past Monday and Tuesday in North Platte.



PATRICK ARNDT / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior Quinn VunCannon tees off at Evergreen Hill during the Pierce Invite on September 9th. VunCannon shot 102 and placed 12th; the team placed 1st.



PATRICK ARNDT / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Sophomore Kiya Taylor sinks a putt at Evergreen Hill during the Pierce Invite on September 9th. Taylor shot 105 and placed 14th; the team placed 1st.

Volleyball struggles for consistency

By Mary Faltys
Staff Reporter

The volleyball players had to step up to create success for the team this year. After graduating 5 seniors last year, some players had to learn new positions to fill the spots the graduated players vacated. Although they had a rocky start, their positive attitude and determination has started to pay off.

A quick two weeks after practices began, the volleyball team lined up on the court to play their first game against Kearney Catholic at home on August 24th. They lost in 3 sets.

Senior Joanna Rusher plays middle hitter.

"Kearney Catholic, the first game of the season, [was the most impactful]. The gym was absolutely packed, it was so loud, and the energy was incredible. We didn't win, but I think it showed us how much support we have from

our school. It really started the season off with a ton of energy," Rusher said.

On August 29th, they also fell to Omaha Concordia at home in 3 sets.

Senior Ashlee Leffers saw this loss as a way for the team to improve.

"Omaha Concordia was a team we could have beat tremendously, but our team did not work together to get it done as we should have. It showed us where we truly are as a team and what we need to work on to accomplish our success," Leffers said.

September 12th was a victorious home game against Aquinas; they dominated in 3 sets and improved their record to 3-7.

Junior middle hitter Adrianna Kush has periodically started on varsity.

"The game against Battle Creek has impacted us the most so far. It was our start to a new season of success. At the start of the season, we just couldn't seem to get

the job done. We had all the tools to do so, but we were not playing smart in the times we needed to the most," Kush said.

Continuing their winning streak, they defeated Battle Creek 3-1 at home on September 19th and swept Lincoln Christian on the road on September 21st.

The Shamrocks defeated the Lakeview Vikings in an intense battle to 5 sets on September 26th. The last time they beat the Vikings in a regular 5-set game was in 2018.

The win against Lakeview was a big moment for junior Mallory Dreesen.

"I still cannot believe we won. It was the most insane game I have ever played in, and it was so much fun. The environment was great and that definitely helped our team get excited and pumped up. Since we had a rough start to the season, it made us realize we are capable of winning against tough teams,"



JOSIE SLIVA / YEARBOOK STAFF

The Scotus volleyball team celebrates after defeating Lakeview in a 5 set match on September 26th. This victory against the Vikings was the first time the Shamrocks had beat Lakeview since 2018.

Dreesen said.

They played 4 conference games between October 5th and 7th. The Shamrocks'

conference record was 1-4.

On October 10th, the Shamrocks, with a 9-14 record, played Grand Island

Central Catholic on the road.

Tonight, they will take on Bishop Neumann also on the road.

Softball ends season placing third at districts

By Kirsten Sucha
Staff Reporter

Through many ups and downs, the Columbus softball girls have been able to stick

together through thick and thin.

Scotus and Columbus High have once again co-opped for their softball season. Because of this, the girls have to play in Class A

softball where the competition is more difficult compared to Scotus being Class C-1. There are seven total girls out for softball, including one senior, two juniors, and four freshmen.

Junior Hanna Chohon plays second base for Columbus and is currently out due to injury.

"We had the goals of achieving trust and a family-like relationship with each other. We have gotten so much better at communicating with each other and have good strong relationships," Chohon said.

Senior Kyra Bowen has been a member of the team for three years and plays center field.

"We joke and get along great. We have been able to stick together on and off the field," Bowen said.

The team had a pretty even win-loss record by the end of August; the team being 4-3. The ups and downs of August prepared the girls to improve throughout the month of September.

"I really improved a ton on defense. I can track down and catch balls I never used to before. My batting has improved, and I don't let the little things get to me anymore," Bowen said.

Senior night against Fremont on September 18th was an eye opening game for Bowen; the team ultimately fell short losing 10-13, but it was an impressive game for Bowen.

"During the game I saved 2 runs by making a 2-out diving catch. Later in the game, I saved another 2 runs by making a catch on a ball over my head where I had to jump and reach for it. Batting I went 3-4 with 5 run batters in. I hit 1 single, 1 double, 1 triple, almost a full circle. I loved this game, even if we did lose," Bowen said.

By the end of September, the team's record was 11-16, mostly consisting of a win to every loss. Even though it was a struggle to keep a consistent record, the team worked well together during their games against Lincoln Southeast on September 21st.

"They were ranked third in the state and completely wiped us during our first game against them to start off the night; the score being

0-10, we had to pick up our energy big time. Multiple girls were in new or different positions throughout our second game. We had to step up on our bats and communicate in the dugout and on the field. We strung our bats together and had very intense back to back innings and we ended up winning 12-7," Chohon said.

The Discoverers finished their season at districts defeating Lincoln Northeast, 11-3, but then losing to Lincoln North Star, 2-6.

Junior Katelyn Pensick played first base for the Discoverers.

"I feel like districts was a great end of the season. We worked all season for it and we showed up. We played great softball against great teams. North Star was very competitive and hotheaded. We played well, but we couldn't string our bats together like they could," Pensick said.

The team concluded their season at 13-22.



ASHLEE LEFFERS / YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Kyra Bowen steps up to bat during Columbus' home game against Fremont on September 18th. The Discoverers had a double header and lost 2-4 and 10-13.

Ireland comes to Columbus

By **Madden Saenz**
Staff Reporter

4,015 miles (about 6461.52 km) to the northeast of the Atlantic Ocean lies the beautiful nation of Ireland. With its rustic communities, intricate history, and gorgeous landscape, it is hard to imagine why someone would want to leave it for America. With many differences between the two, moving from one to the other would be challenging. However, this did not stop the Dillons from coming to America.

Over the summer, Joseph Dillon and his family came to Nebraska from the sparkling city of Dublin, Ireland. Mr. Dillon worked for the pharmaceutical manufacturing company B.D. back in Ireland. As a result, Joseph would come to America and

begin a new chapter in his life.

“[My dad is] here on contract for three years. He got a job. He’s the plant manager of a company called BD. There was a problem with one of the plants here in Columbus, so he’s just over here to try to fix it,” Joseph said.

Many people would be devastated about having to move to a different city, let alone another county, but for Joseph, America is a new and welcoming experience.

“First, it was a lot to take in, but I feel like everyone has just been so kind and generous overall. It’s been easy to get used to. The culture is very different; the weather is much warmer. Everything is completely different, but it’s been nice settling in,” Dillon said.

Of course, America and Ireland are different countries, with dissimilar histories, cultures, people, and climates. Dylan especially appreciates the uniqueness between peoples.

“In Ireland we all have for the most part pale skin and green eyes; everyone here has. Like tan skin, a lot of blondes. There’s a lot of very nice people here, and I feel like you wouldn’t find the same amount. It’s just incredible over here,” Dillon said. “There are also other differences. The climate is very warm here, and it’s very cold back in Ireland. There are many sports here obviously, such as football, that would not be played in Ireland.”

Even in academics, though different, Joseph has been able to adapt and suc-

ceed here in Columbus.

“It’s very different. I think everyone here is very intelligent, very smart compared to back home where like I think the passing grade in Ireland is actually 55%. I think over here it’s 70,” Dillon said. “They have very high standards here which I do like. I think it’s great to push everyone to excel and the school has been very, very easy because of the people, the teachers, the students, principal, everyone’s just been really nice and generous and very helpful.”

Even with the new and exciting atmosphere of America, there are still many things Joseph misses from back home, especially the traditional foods of Ireland.

“There’s loads of foods that in Ireland you wouldn’t have here; a lot of them are

actually traditional Irish foods such as sausage rolls, chicken filet rolls, and there’s a lot of different kinds of breads that I miss. I definitely miss my friends and family. I do not miss the climate...[I] definitely [miss] my friends and family [the most].”

Although America is a new and different world compared to Ireland, Joseph still carries many hopes and goals he intends to carry out while here in America.

“I definitely want to see more of the country as it is. Very big compared to where Ireland is, which Ireland probably looks microscopic next to America. I definitely want to see different parts [of America]. I want to do well in school and make loads of friends. Kind of just, do what I love to do.”



Gonzales experiences American lifestyle at Scotus

By **Cecilia Arndt**
Editor

Would you live here? This is the question junior Adam Gonzalez-Gomez answered after his family trip to the United States last summer. Before he became a Scotus student, Gonzalez lived in Madrid, Spain. During the vacation, the idea of studying here was introduced to him.

Gonzalez said, “One day I just thought about what if I study here?”

After pitching the idea to his parents, it was decided that he was going to try the American Education System. The logistics were worked out, and they determined he was going to go to Scotus and live with his aunt and

uncle in Columbus. Although Spanish is his first language, he is fluent in English, and it was not too difficult of a change for him. What was more of a challenge, however, was the educational differences.

“It is difficult because of the way of teaching is different,” Gonzalez said. “During Spain, school is only focusing on learning; you don’t have homecoming; you don’t have prom.”

These changes can be good, however, and Gonzalez said he likes both systems. For him, it was not a problem to get used to.

“All the teachers like would care about me, were asking if I’m good. I appreciate that because the change of the schools and the lifestyle and everything is different,”

Gonzalez said.

Additionally, he shared how his classmates were helping him feel more at home.

“It makes it more easy because if I don’t understand something in class or wherever they can help me,” Gonzalez said.

Snapchat is also useful to Gonzalez when meeting people.

“You send a snap and the person sends one back; [now] I know your name and now I know your face,” Gonzalez said.

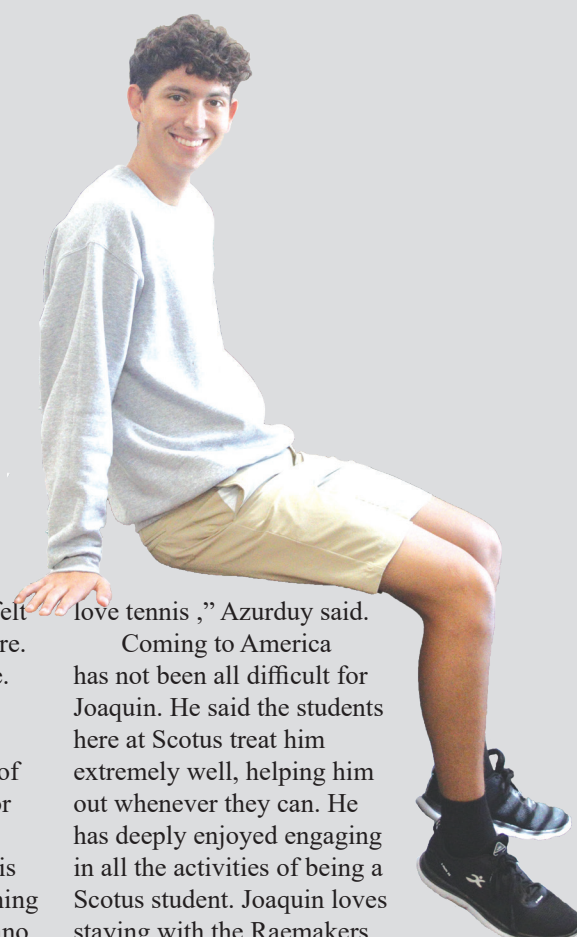
One of the best ways to meet people can be through sports, and Gonzalez plans on joining the basketball team. Last year, he played basketball for the first time. He also talked about how the differences in season changed

the way sports are played. In Spain, athletes played their sport year round, starting in October. This made it difficult to play multiple sports, Gonzalez said. Also, coaches are provided by the government.

“The government gives some coach to train that so if enough [of the] school want to train basketball and we have enough people, the government send us a coach,” he said.

In the short term, Gonzalez wants to play basketball, but long term he wants to continue to go to school at Scotus. His desire is to return for more than a year, including attending college in the United States.

“I always like this lifestyle, [the] American lifestyle, and now I’m living that,” Gonzalez said.



Azurduy follows brother’s footsteps

By **Caleb Cameron**
Staff Reporter

Scotus has had a long list of exchange students over the past couple of years, and they added two more to the list this fall. Joaquin Azurduy is one of the newest members of the junior class. Azurduy is originally from Bolivia, a country in South America.

Joaquin is currently living with Scotus junior Henry Raemakers and the Raemakers family. This is not the first time the Raemakers family have taken in an exchange student. A couple of years ago, they took in a Bolivian teenage boy named Mariano. Mariano had an amazing experience with the Raemakers family, ending with the Raemakers taking a trip to visit Mariano’s home country. Mariano happens to be Joaquin’s brother. While in Bolivia, the Raemakers met Joaquin. According to Joaquin, they promised him he could come to America and stay with the family whenever he pleased. Earlier this year Joaquin finally decided to accept the Raemaker’s offer. The Raemakers were

excited when they found out Joaquin was coming to live with them.

“I was excited. I liked Mariano a lot. He’s basically part of our family now, and he lived with us for a while, so I was expecting some fun times having his brother come,” Raemakers said.

Joaquin arrived in the United States earlier this summer and said there have been difficulties adjusting to his new American lifestyle. The first and biggest adjustment has been adjusting to a new language. Joaquin’s primary language is Spanish. He has picked up English quickly but still has some difficulty understanding everything. Google translate and Joaquin’s friends are helping him learn English. Another adjustment has been the harsh Nebraska weather. He thinks the weather is extremely warm but other times it gets too cold. He is not excited for winter as he has heard it gets much colder.

School in Bolivia is also much different.

“I think school here is very long. In Bolivia we start at 7:30 and we finish at

12:30. When I arrived, it felt very, very long. We eat here. In Bolivia, we ate at home. That’s very interesting to me,” Azurduy said.

Joaquin spends most of his free time with Henry or doing what he enjoys. He enjoys hanging out with his friends, playing and watching sports, and playing the piano. Joaquin’s favorite sport is tennis. In Bolivia, Joaquin spent hours every day on the tennis court. His hard work paid off as he is currently ranked nationally in Bolivia for singles tennis. He said the best rank he has ever achieved is tenth nationally. Unfortunately, Joaquin has not been able to play tennis competitively this fall. The NSAA requires exchange students to have an F-1 or J-1 visa and to come through a CSIET program. Azurduy has an F-1 visa but unfortunately did not come through a CSIET program therefore keeping him from competing. Because of this, Joaquin has taken a step back in the amount of time he practices.

“Even though I can’t play or don’t train as much doesn’t mean that I still don’t

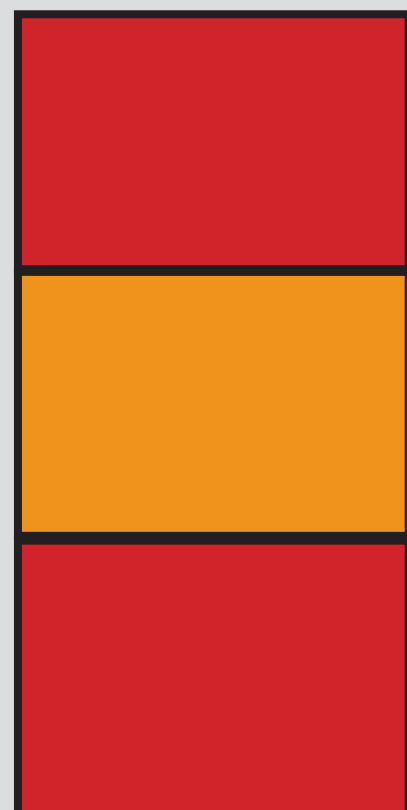
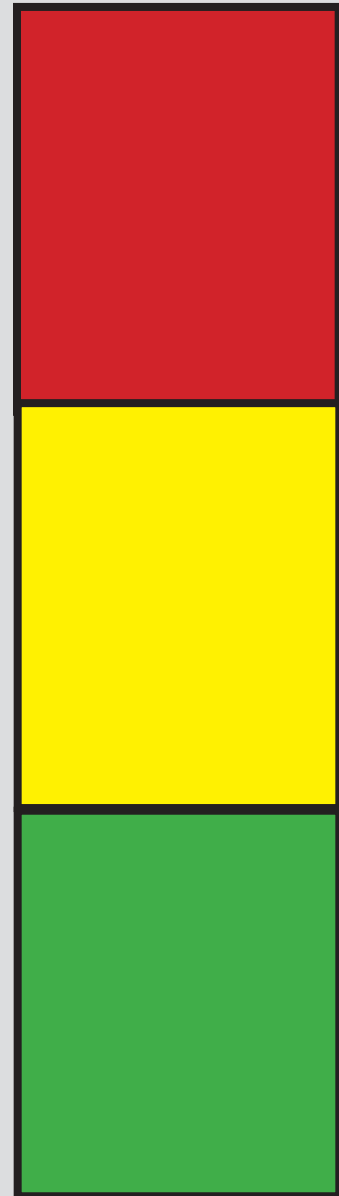
love tennis,” Azurduy said.

Coming to America has not been all difficult for Joaquin. He said the students here at Scotus treat him extremely well, helping him out whenever they can. He has deeply enjoyed engaging in all the activities of being a Scotus student. Joaquin loves staying with the Raemakers and he credits a large part of his enjoyment here to them. He says his relationship with Henry has become exceptionally close.

“My favorite part, I think... I don’t know. Staying with Henry. He’s a great person. I consider him one of my brothers,” Azurduy said.

It is safe to say Joaquin has enjoyed his time at Scotus so far. Joaquin is excited for all the new experiences and people he will meet as well as all the memories he will make here at Scotus.

“I wasn’t expecting Scotus to be as different as it is. The people at Scotus are so nice and helpful to me. I am very excited to go to more sporting events, school dances, and participate in everything else Scotus has to offer,” Azurduy said.



Foreign Exchange Students 2008-2023

At Scotus in recent years, we have been blessed with many foreign exchange students who study at our school, some of whom stay to graduate and continue their education in the United States. Since 2008, there have been 49 students from other countries who spent time with us.



Johannes crushes ideas and ice

By Joanna Rusher
Staff Reporter

“I let my intrusive thoughts win” is a popular saying right now for teenagers. Part of being a teenager is having extravagant ideas, trying to execute them, and usually failing epically. Given this information, one would expect some sort of disaster to come from a teenager buying a snow cone shack, renovating it, and taking it to various events. This crazy idea turned into a successful reality for Macey Johannes, the proud owner of Macey’s Snow Cones.

Macey’s Snow Cones started out as a run down shack filled with plastic cups and a broken water heater. With the help from friends, family, and a creative imagination, Scotus senior Macey Johannes turned it into an aesthetic trailer that produces delicious treats. After purchasing the shack in May, Johannes spent two months renovating everything from the flooring and cabinets to the paint and exterior decor. She finally opened for business on July 4th and began her crazy journey.

“I had the idea last summer and was just wondering where the old snow cone shack had gone,” Johannes explained. “Then I found out a family friend actually owned it, and I asked if they ever wanted to sell it.”

Johannes tries to take the shack to as many events as possible. Macey’s Snow Cones has appeared at large events such as Columbus Days and football

games. Over the summer she was averaging at least one event a week. When she graduates, Johannes plans to be an entrepreneur or possibly go into interior design. The snow cone shack will be a positive experience going into either of these fields.

“I like to say it’s the first business I bought, and I’m hoping to do other businesses and stuff like that,” Johannes said. “I really like how creative I can be at coming up with the different flavors and even making the signs. I really enjoy doing that.”

Johannes has been extra creative with the flavors she sells. In addition to the typical snow cone treats like Tiger’s Blood and Blue Raspberry, Johannes creates specials that often display whip cream, sweet cream, and other delicious toppings. Some examples of these are Dreamsicle, Pink Lemonade, Birthday Cake, and Coconut Cream. Customers love the choice of flavors Macey’s Snow Cones offers, but the syrups don’t magically pop into existence. They create a lot of extra

work for Johannes.

“I buy the syrup as a concentrate, so it’s just the flavoring and the coloring. Then I mix sugar and water together, and I have to get it pretty warm so it dissolves and everything. Then I have to add preservatives to it,” Johannes explained. “For Columbus Days, I’d come home at eleven or midnight and make more syrup, gallons and gallons of it, because we go through so much.”

Despite all the work it has been, Macey’s Snow Cones has been extremely successful. Johannes has become a wonderful example for other teenagers wanting to follow through on crazy ideas.

“I don’t know if anybody is thinking about starting a business, but I recommend it. When I first thought of this idea back in June, I was obviously really excited, but I didn’t think I could actually do it, but it worked out pretty well. I’d say just do it,” Johannes said. “Also, come get a snow cone.”



PHOTO COURTESY NICOLE JOHANNES

Senior Macey Johannes takes a snow cone order at Columbus Days on August 12th. Macey’s Snow Cones has made appearances at the Mass Dash Burger Bash, football games, and many other events.

Sophomore sets service bar high

By Sofia Karges
Staff Reporter

As many are already aware, Columbus has been a place of change recently. With the construction around town and the addition of the casino and fieldhouse, many might not know about the loss of free recycling. What had been a growing factor in the community came to an abrupt stop over the summer, and it left a void in the area. Although it seems like an issue relevant to only a few, this problem affects everyone.

To help with this cause, sophomore Seth Druempel has taken over the responsibility of recycling at Scotus for his first semester Living the Faith project. Living in Schuyler, Druempel drives by the recycling company every day as he makes his way to school. On Monday mornings, Druempel, with the help of a few classmates, gathers the recycling at Scotus and brings it to Schuyler later that day.

“Last year one of my Living

the Faith service projects was volunteering at the recycling center, so when Mrs. Koranda mentioned Scotus wouldn’t have it anymore, it just felt right that I could help out,” Druempel said. “Like I said, I drive by it every day; I read the sign every day, so why not? It just really worked out.”

Druempel, along with the help of fellow sophomores Max Beshaler, Dante Smith, Kobe Micek, and Hunter Brunkhorst, collects the recycling from all the rooms at Scotus. After it has been gathered, Druempel drives by the recycling center in Schuyler on his way home from school where he sorts through it before dropping it off.

Before Druempel took matters into his own hands, Biology teacher Joan Lahm organized all the recycling at Scotus.

“Several years ago, Green Fiber from Norfolk set bins throughout the city, and they would take the recycling that was collected back to Norfolk where they make insulation. They ran into a lot of problems in Columbus because people were

putting garbage in them and overflowing them. Along with gasoline costs and transportation problems, they didn’t think it was worth it to keep the bins here, so they took all of them out of the entire city of Columbus,” Lahm said.

Lahm said Scotus generates cardboard easily, especially through the cafeteria. Before, it was easy to put this cardboard in the bins, but now, it goes into the garbage, which is a problem because it will eventually end up in the landfill. She acknowledged that the city thought the old recycling center was an economical issue because it lost money every year, but brings up the fact that if a city the size of Schuyler can support one, Columbus should be able to, too.

“I think it is a great initiative what Seth is doing, and I am very proud of him and what he’s undertaken. He has gotten classmates to help with the process, but he’s taking on a lot and I’m very impressed with what he has done,” Lahm said.

Even though this is only a one semester project, Seth believes he will help contribute to it all year because of the importance it has had in the community.

“I don’t even know how many thank you’s I’ve gotten, especially the first two weeks,” Druempel said. “I know even the guys I was working with said in every classroom they go in, they get thanked. Everybody is just trying to be as helpful as possible and making this as easy for us as possible, which is just great.”



SOFIA KARGES / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Sophomore Seth Druempel loads the Scotus recycling into his car on Monday mornings at 7:45. Druempel drops off the recycling and sorts through it at the recycling center in Schuyler on his way home from school.

Students explore the medical world

By **Aubree Beiermann**
Staff Reporter

In 2020, the need for healthcare workers was made known more than ever. Many people stood up to fill them, and now Scotus has as well. The 2023-2024 school year has brought new health science classes to the schedule. These new classes, Health Science, Advanced Health Science, and Intro to Medical Terminology, are available for juniors and seniors. Health Science, which is being taught this semester, gives students a brief look into healthcare careers. Both Advanced Health Science and Intro to Medical Terminology are second semester classes and allow students to dive deeper in their education.

Junior Cohen Pelan is currently in Health Science. "I like touring places like the hospital to see how it is run and to see all the different jobs," Pelan said. In Health Science,

students hear guest speakers, travel to healthcare workplaces, and learn about the industry.

Brady Vancura, the president at Scotus Central Catholic, collected data to see where most students were majoring in after high school. "We found out that 30% of our students were leaving Scotus wanting to major in some sort of healthcare related field," Vancura said.

HOSA, Health Occupations Students of America, which was already at Scotus, gives students an insight into the medical field. With many students being a part of this group, both Vancura and teachers alike thought the addition of classes would help boost the student's studies.

Senior Tori Dush is hoping to get a headstart for college.

"It will give me an idea of the parts of the medical field and let me know if this is the path I want to take," Dush said.

Scotus is not the only school adding to their curriculum.

"Health Sciences and the Advanced Health Sciences were being taught at both Columbus High and Lakeview, and so we felt that we could kind of work with the same curriculum in partnership with Columbus Community Hospital," Vancura said.

Vancura wanted to have the same education and classes available for students at Scotus. Intro to Medical Terminology is only being taught at Scotus and is important for students to learn.

"I am hoping to make a career in the healthcare and this class is helping me figure out exactly what I want to do," junior Raya Kluever said.

This career has many different paths, these classes hope to narrow them down for students, while still getting a deeper understanding of them, too.

Joan Lahm, the Health and Earth Science teacher, also thought it would be highly beneficial to add the classes.



AUBREE BEIERMANN / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Anna Lovell, juniors Lexi Riedmiller, Larkyn Mahoney, and Emma Brezenski, and senior Isabel Zaruba listen to athletic trainer Andrew Sheridan talk about his career during Health Science class in Mrs. Lahm's room. In this class, students hear guest speakers, travel to healthcare workplaces, and learn about the industry.

"I suggested the new classes to the administration because I knew Health Science was very important in other schools. And when Columbus Hospital approached the Columbus schools, it was a great opportunity," Lahm

said. The partnership with the hospital hopes to get students to come back to Columbus after their schooling.

"We see a need in the community. There's a shortage of healthcare workers in

a lot of our different facilities here in town," Vancura said.

Advanced Health Science and Intro to Medical Terminology are being taught next semester by Lahm. Students are still able to join them through drop and add.

Teens support the right to life

By **Caleb Cameron**
Staff Reporter

Across the United States on Sunday October 1st, people, big and small, young and old, male and female, took a stand. A stand for the life of the unborn. Scotus and

Columbus Catholic schools students, faculty, and families gathered on 33rd Avenue, east of Pizza Ranch. For one hour, they held signs and prayed silently for unborn children, their mothers, and anyone else who may be thinking about having an abortion.

Dana Ritzdorf, Scotus campus ministry advisor, organized the teens who participated in the Life Chain.

"Anytime you pray for something there is an impact whether or not we can see it. You never know who could be driving by. This event reminds those people of

the dignity of human life," Ritzdorf said.

Junior Raya Kluever has been attending the Life Chain for over five years.

"I've attended the Life Chain for many years to show my support for life. I think it is very important to give a voice to those who

can't speak or stand up for themselves," Kluever said.

Over 50 years ago, the United States Supreme Court passed Roe v. Wade, making abortion legal. Recently on June 24th, 2022, in the case Dobbs v Jackson, it was decided abortion laws would no longer be set by the federal government but by the individual states. In Nebraska, abortion is banned when a woman is 12 weeks into her pregnancy. Catholics believe life begins at conception, so the Catholic community is a large part of the Life Chain.

The Life Chain has not changed much since its existence. The Columbus Area Right to Life used to provide Scotus with signs to use at the Life Chain. A couple years ago, Teens for Life decided to switch up the signs held at the event. The old signs used to have sayings such as "Abortion Kills Children". Teens for Life decided to take a different approach to the issue. The new signs are more focused towards prayer and are much less blaming. Angie Rusher, Scotus teacher and former Teens for Life sponsor, explained the positive effect the new signs have on the Life Chain's purpose.

"A couple of years

ago, we noticed students did not want to come to the Life Chain because of the harshness of the signs we were holding. I do think it is important to have signs present that say "Abortion Kills Children" because not everyone recognizes how terrible it is, but we also want to be compassionate to those who are struggling and offer help and encouragement," Rusher said.

The Life Chain is not the only way Scotus students can show their support for life or support for their faith. The new retreat systems and the annual March for Life are ways Scotus students will be able to live out their faith. Knowing his impact, junior Ian Karges is excited to continue to fight for what's right and put an end to abortion sometime in the future.

"I am excited for the men's faith retreat because it will be a lot of fun to strengthen my faith while also being with people I know will also want to try and be better. I think it will be good to have a better relationship with those going as we strengthen my faith beliefs altogether," Karges said.



SOPIA KARGES / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Seventh grader Evan Cameron, sophomore Audrey Stoner, and junior Becky Policky hold pro-life signs along with other members of the Columbus community along the highway in Columbus on October 1st. The Life Chain is always the first Sunday in October and known as Respect Life Sunday.

Band thunderstruck by weather delays

By **Cecilia Arndt**
Editor

Many activities have the luxury of staying indoors to perform, but band is one that can be greatly impacted by weather. When marching, inclement weather may strike and the band has to be able to adapt. Unfortunately, parades can be rained out, which is what happened on September 23.

At the Norfolk Parade, the Scotus band was unable to perform due to foul weather. Although the Norfolk Parade was canceled, there have been instances in which the band have played in the rain. On August 13th, at Columbus Days, they played in the rain and were able to make the best of it.

"It was weird to play in the rain at first but turned out to be kind of fun," senior Nicole Peterson, who plays the snare drum, said. Rain and other weather

conditions can play a large part in the quality of performances and can be difficult to play in. In addition, many instruments need to be dried off in order to maintain use.

"I play the flute. We have to be very careful with drying it off and airing it out after playing in the rain because otherwise it will mold and rust," sophomore Audrey Stoner said.

Unfortunately, this is the reality for many instruments, in which special care must be taken to keep the instruments in good condition.

However, opinions were split between enjoying the change of weather and having difficulty playing. In addition, many band members talked about the difficulties of drying their instruments in order to keep them from rust and warping.

Although the weather is impactful, the band performs fun songs. Some favorites are "Disturbia," "Sweet

Caroline," and "Livin' on a Prayer." These songs are commonly heard blaring from the band section during home football and volleyball games. There are also many people in the band who enjoy playing pep band and help to cheer Scotus on.

On September 30th, the Junior High Band performed at the Battle of the Bands, where they were the only Junior High band to march. In addition, the band performed on October 7th in the Harvest of Harmony Parade.

"The marching band was fun and exciting. I'm excited to do it again next year!" said Ariana Hissong about the Battle of the Bands.

Like a sports team, the band must work together to create a harmonious performance.

"It is like a family. You don't agree with everyone, but you know they got your back in rain and shine," junior Rebecca Policky said.



ANGIE RUSHER / JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Freshman Leslie Medina, sophomores Jacqueline Stoner and Giselle Chila-pa-Bello, and freshman Grant Jakub perform in the Columbus Days Parade on August 13th. During the Columbus Days Parade, the band marched in the rain; they were also scheduled to play in the Norfolk Parade, which was canceled due to weather.

Rocks don't let rain dampen Homecoming

By Sofia Karges
Staff Reporter

In the hallways of Scotus on Monday morning of Homecoming week, there is much excitement as students filter into school. With streamers and posters lining the walls and students dressed as rappers and swing dancers, there is no doubt about it: Homecoming is in the air.

Homecoming this year was on Saturday, September 23, with the home football game against Arlington the night before and the themed dress-up days the week leading up to it. The Shamrocks came out strong and pulled off another win at the football game, with the end score being 62-15.

Many people appreciated the simplicity of the Homecoming dress-up days this year. "My favorite dress-up day was Class Holiday because the juniors had Halloween, and it was fun to go to Walmart the night before with friends and buy a Scooby-Doo costume," junior Ian Karges said.

Music Genre Day, Beach vs. Winter Wonderland, and Spirit Day were among the other themes of the week. There was much variety in the outfits this year, and most people dressed up for them.

"I liked that the cheerleaders did Best Dressed for every day of the week because it encouraged students to dress to the theme and go all out," senior homecoming candidate Mary Faltys said.

After the themed days of the week, the

next Homecoming activity came the crowning of king and queen, which followed the football game on Friday.

Finding where to do the coronation was a challenge this year because it was forecasted to rain all night on Friday. Luckily the rain stopped in time for the crowning, but if there was lightning, it would have been in Memorial Hall before the dance on Saturday.

"Every day we would check the weather to see if the chance of rain went down. Luckily it ended up working out, but it was very nerve wracking," senior Josie Sliva said.

Sliva and fellow senior Frank Fehringer were crowned Homecoming king and queen Friday night after the football game by former royalty Jack Faust and Ashley Hoffman.

After Friday's festivities, there was much anticipation for an exciting dance as well. For many, these expectations were exceeded.

"I thought the dance was better than in years past. A good amount of people stayed for most of the dance, which I think also made a difference," junior Adrianna Kush said.

Not all students attend Homecoming for the dancing, however.

"The most memorable part of the dance was watching Mr. Ericson on the dance floor because he has some good moves," senior Alex Medina Perez said.

With a wide range of music tastes at Scotus, the DJ had a lot of pressure to make it enjoyable for everyone. While many said the DJ could have done better, the general consensus was that he played a little music



ANGIE RUSHER / JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Seniors Frank Fehringer and Josie Sliva smile for the camera after being crowned homecoming king and queen Friday night after the football game against Arlington. They were voted king and queen by the student body through a poll sent out the week before.

for everyone.

"Revival" by Zach Bryan was definitely the best song the DJ played. It was so fun to sing with everyone since we all knew all the words!" junior Emma Brezenski said.

Many agreed with Brezenski when she said the recommended songs were the ones that were most memorable. "Let it Go" from *Frozen* and "Golden Hour" by JVKE were among other songs people said were their favorites. Throughout the night, the DJ

played his own playlist and took requests. He played country, slow songs, line dancing, 80's music, and sing-along songs; there was something for everyone.

Homecoming is always one of the most anticipated nights of the whole school year.

"Homecoming is one of my favorite things to look forward to during the year," sophomore Kenzie Hille said. "Everybody puts effort in, and it makes it a ton of fun."



ELLA HASH / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Neve Pavlik and junior Jessica Jackson show off their moves at the Homecoming dance on Saturday, September 23rd. The dance opened at 7:45 p.m. and concluded at 11:00 p.m.



ANGIE RUSHER / JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Homecoming royalty seniors Haden Brabec, Mary Faltys, Joanna Rusher, Evan Kiene, Kalee Ternus, Frank Fehringer, Josie Sliva, Jude Maguire, Isabel Zaruba, Jackson Heng, Ashlee Leffers, and Rudy Brunkhorst pose for a photo after coronation on Friday, September 22nd. The candidates walked down the field holding umbrellas because of the rain, but the rain stopped before the crowning began.

PIZZA • CHICKEN • BUFFET • DELIVERY

Pizza Ranch

\$13 Everyday for Students!

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO ESCAPE?

StarEscapeRooms.com

Columbus, Nebraska

Book your Adventure at StarEscapeRooms.com or call 402-658-5658

RICKERT CHIROPRACTIC AND ACUPUNCTURE, PC

Planting the Seed of Well-Being

CSP

Columbus Screen Printing Inc.

SUPPORT YOUR FAVORITE TEAM

Receive your Scotus Shamrocks Visa® Debit Card from Pinnacle Bank and we'll donate **\$25 TO SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC!**

Pinnacle Bank

COLUMBUS 210 E. 23rd St., 402.562.8936
2661 33rd Ave., 402.562.8935 • pinnbank.com

Columbus Physical Therapy, PC

THE FEEL GOOD EXPERIENCE

402-564-5456

ONEUNITED

FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Banking with you.

bankingwithyou.com

Member FDIC

ACKMAN'S

AUTO DENT REPAIR

Paintless Dent Repair

Mobile service, insurance approved, free estimates. Hail dents, minor dents and door dings repaired with no painting and no filling.

4903 35th Street
Columbus, NE 68601
(402) 563-2818
mobile (402) 750-1593

Established 1950

The Husker House

STEAKS & SEAFOOD

402-564-4121 • Columbus, NE
www.huskersteakhouse.com

Taylor Swift's Eras Tour enchants all

By **Aubree Beiermann**
Staff Reporter

3 hours, 46 songs, and 156 shows, Taylor Swift's Eras Tour guides fans on an adventure through Swift's 17-year discography.

The Eras Tour, which started on March 17th, 2023, has been talked about throughout the world. This sold-out tour goes through Swift's 10 albums, also known as "eras." Through each era, she sings some of her biggest hits as well as fan favorites. Coming up on October 13th, she is releasing a concert film over the Eras Tour in theaters. Right now, Taylor Swift is on a bit of a break after finishing her first U.S. leg and the Mexico leg. She will resume the tour on November 11th, 2023 in Argentina.

There is never a dull moment during this concert with all the surprises. Near the end of the concert there is a section known as "Surprise Song o'Clock." This is where Swift picks two random

songs from her whole career to play, and it is one of the most anticipated parts of the concert. The surprises are not only songs. During this time, she has also announced new albums, surprise guests, and new music videos.

The Eras Tour is one of the biggest tours to ever occur. Going to the concert is a once in a lifetime experience, starting from the moment fans step into the stadium. They are greeted with this feeling of high energy and excitement. Fans come together and exchange friendship bracelets, which was started by a lyric from Swift's song "You're On Your Own, Kid."

The Eras Tour is not only a concert, it is a performance with fireworks and Swift diving into the stage. She does not get enough credit for singing songs for 3 hours while running around and dancing on a huge stage. She never looks tired or run-down either. During the very last song, she has the same amount of energy as

the start. Along with all of this, there are multiple outfit changes and new sets to take fans through each of Swift's eras. Even people who are not big fans of Swift's music are shocked and amazed by this concert.

Fans are not the only ones who are grateful for this tour. The openers and the cities hosting the concert are seeing growth in many areas. Singers like Sabrina Carpenter, Phoebe Bridgers, and Gracie Abrams, who all opened for Swift, are seeing an increase in fans and are getting more attention. Cities are seeing an increase in commercial activity and a boost in the economy. When fans go to the concert, they make a whole weekend out of it. They stay at hotels, eat at local restaurants, and go to tourist attractions around the city. According to *Time Magazine*, The Eras Tour is projected to generate about 5 billion dollars for the economy just in the United States.

If there is a downside, getting to the tour is quite



AUBREE BEIERMANN / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Juniors Adrianna Kush and Aubree Beiermann pose at Taylor Swift's Eras Tour in Kansas City, at Arrowhead Stadium on July 8. The Eras Tour is going around the world selling out stadiums and is 3 hours long with 46 songs.

the challenge. Ticketmaster, the company that sells the tickets, is not liked by many people. The day of presale for tickets was a great war. Millions of people got on the website to get a ticket. Fans

waited hours in the queue, only to not get any tickets. Ticketmaster also brought prices up with the amount of fees they have. Even with all that trouble, the Eras Tour is worth

it. The concert is a 13/10 in every way. If you do not go, it feels like missing a big part of history. So, get a ticket for her show on November 1st or 2nd 2024 in Indianapolis!

Axe and you shall receive



PATRICK ARNDT / ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Sophomore Brayden Fleming throws an axe at a projected target at Axe in the Box in Columbus. Axe in the Box opened late summer of 2023.

By **Patrick Arndt**
Staff Reporter

In recent years axe throwing reached a peak in entertainment with businesses opening across the country. In late summer of 2023, Columbus gained an axe throwing location of its own, Axe In The Box.

Throwing at Axe In The Box is my favorite because the games feature new "updated" versions of classic games such as target practice, but with the twist of the target's bull's eye changing locations on the target with every throw. Other games I love include Duck Hunter, Zombie Hunter, Tic Tac Toe, Line Up Four, and Bottle Axes. Duck Hunter and Zombie Hunter are essentially the same game, given there are several zombie or duck heads and one either non-zombie or rubber duck. If the rubber duck or non-zombie is struck, it deducts two points per hit, the equivalent of eliminating a zombie or duck. Bottle Axes is comparable to the

favorite game of millions, Candy Crush, which essentially strikes one colored box, connected to more, and wins points for each box broken.

What caught my attention the most was the staff. The staff is extremely friendly and helpful for first-timers while ensuring the safety of all. Before the timer starts, the staff educates everyone on the safety procedures and demonstrates how to throw axes for newcomers. A staff member also checks in with throwers periodically and asks how it was going and if they can do anything for the thrower. Axe In The Box offers a great hangout spot for nights of fun with games, drinks, and music. The youthful hip energy and atmosphere is something to not miss out on.

Isn't axe throwing dangerous? Contrary to what one might think is dangerous, Axe In The Box makes axe throwing a fun and safe environment, avoiding rubber axe handles and employing no bounce borders set around the target to stop axes from

bouncing back. The targets are also made of end grain wood to ensure the axe sticks, no matter the angle. Other rules have been set in place to avoid injuries, such as requiring closed-toed shoes and safety lines on the floor to avoid accidents while a person is throwing. The staff is also highly trained to treat any injuries that one could sustain while throwing an axe.

Axe In The Box made their axe throwing with everyone in mind, through safety demonstrations, the friendly staff, and atmosphere. Now with the opening of this family owned business, axe throwing is one of my favorite activities to do in Columbus, and I would rate Axe In The Box a 10/10. Axe In The Box is located at 311 23rd St, in Columbus next to Sapp Bros. Costing one person \$22, the price is comparable to other throwing locations and is affordable to all. Feel the rush. Throw an axe.

Rodrigo spills her GUTS on new album

By **Ella Hash**
Staff Reporter

Throughout the 90s and early 2000s, the music industry was taken over by the sounds of grunge and pop-punk music. As bands and singers tried to recreate the sounds few had produced, many female artists were taking their own shot at the genre. Singers such as Alanis Morissette, Avril Lavigne, and Gwen Stefani helped to make this genre one of their own.

Today, we see many artists who are trying to make the next big hit. These artists usually have a generic pop sound and do not add anything different to their songs. As someone who values the difference in what they are listening to, it is hard to keep listening to these types of artists. However, there is one artist in particular who I think is doing a great job of keeping her music differentiated from a generic pop song and adding a twist on her albums: Olivia Rodrigo.

Olivia Rodrigo has been in the limelight for a few years now. She started out as a child actor for Disney, and it helped to start her music career. Rodrigo is one of the best newcomers music has right now. After her success with her freshman album *Sour*, her new music has been highly anticipated by many, including myself. Rodrigo's sophomore album, *GUTS*, was released to the public on Friday, September 8th, garnering millions of streams on Spotify and Apple Music.

As a listener and fan of her work, I believe Rodrigo has a sound to her that many in her category do not possess. Rodrigo's album *GUTS* is a perfect example of this. Her album contains lyrics and songs which range from dealing with heartbreak to an angsty teen sound. I think she blends these songs together in a way that makes sense, not jumbling them all together into one incoherent album.

While her songs do range from one side of the emotion spectrum to the other, I

believe no matter your music taste, you can find something you enjoy listening to. If you are someone who loves listening to music similar to Avril Lavigne's songs, I recommend the song "ballad of a homeschooled girl." If you are dealing with heartbreak, "vampire" or "logical" are the songs for you. "Get him back!" is an upbeat song about getting back at your ex for not being a good partner, but the song is one anyone can listen to. Looking at *GUTS*, I think you can get something out of the album no matter your taste.

This album is great, but there are some who do not like Rodrigo's music. Many feel as if there is not a song for them or the album is too girly overall. I think it is fine for the album to be called girly. Many people who do not prefer listening to artists such as Rodrigo have said they enjoy the album. As stated before, I do believe there is something for everyone on this album. I do not think the people who are disapproving



FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

Pop singer Olivia Rodrigo poses for a picture at the D23 Expo in Anaheim, California in 2019. Rodrigo released her second studio album *Guts* on September 8th, 2023.

of the album have delved into all of her songs yet.

The *GUTS* album is not just a generic, girly, pop album many would expect

to listen to. The songs on the album bring back sounds we have not heard a popular artist use for a couple of years. While many have already

listened to Rodrigo's *GUTS*, hopefully you will listen to the songs with less bias in your mind.