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**RAISING**  
**THE BAR**

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*Raising their hands with excitement,* senior Amber Kotas, eighth grader Ella Vyhnaek, seventh grader Kaitlyn Bolton, and senior Kayli Carey cheer loudly for the football team.

# RAISING THE BAR

2023 - 2024

## DORCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL

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Dorchester, Nebraska 68343*

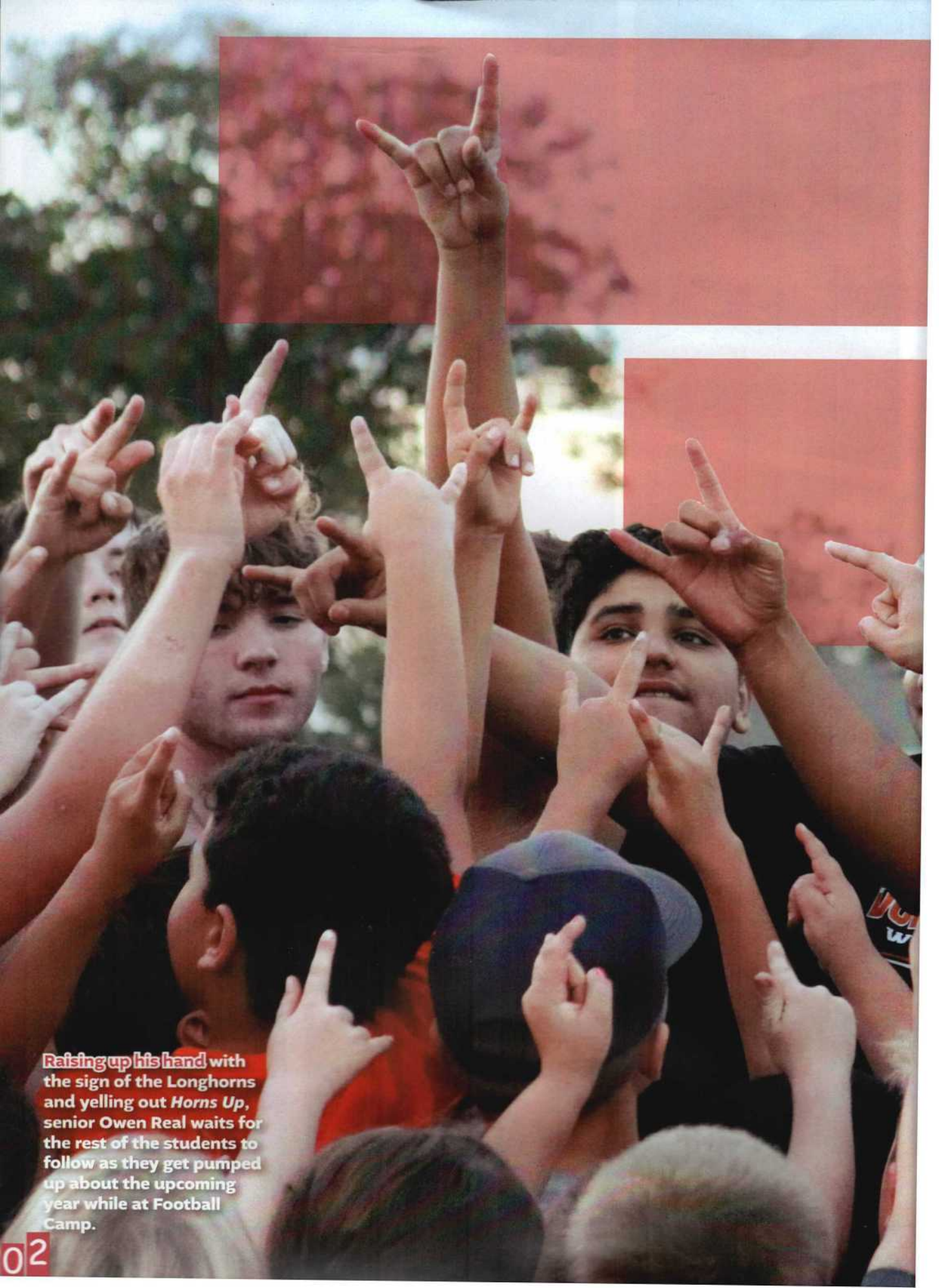
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Longhorn Volume 32


Population 245 (PK-12)



Raising up his hand with the sign of the Longhorns and yelling out *Horns Up*, senior Owen Real waits for the rest of the students to follow as they get pumped up about the upcoming year while at Football Camp.

# OPENING

## RAISING THE BAR



**H**ow can we become better than ever? How can we push ourselves beyond the standard? How can we **Raise the Bar**? As summer began, the old crowd's nest that overlooked the football field came down, and the school **Raised** a brand new one. "It was exciting to see something look so nice," junior Ariana Tellez said. "It spruced up the field a lot."

In addition, the new Superintendent Dr. Curtis Cogswell, arranged for the seniors to paint the bleachers. "As soon as we started painting, the bleachers already started to look better," senior Marcos Gonzalez said. "It felt nice to see the difference."

The volleyball team **Raised the Bar** by breaking records. The team placed fourth at CRC (the highest ever), broke the school kill record for a season, and senior Hailey Schweitzer broke the most assists in a season. "It felt great to break so many records," Schweitzer said. "It shows how hard we worked."

Football also **Raised the Bar** and broke

many records. Senior Marcos Gonzalez broke the field goal record, the all-time leading scorer record, the most tackles in a season, and the most tackles in a career. "Records were being broken all over the place," senior Addison Lehr said.

The faculty also **Raised the Bar**. The principal, Mr. Jake Wiese, was awarded by the NSASSP Nebraska's Outstanding New Principal for 2023 and reading teacher, Mrs. Karma Ridpath, was selected as the 2024 NRCSA Outstanding Elementary Teacher of the Year. "It was an a great honor to receive this award and came as a great surprise," Ridpath said.

Competing academically also showed how the **Bar Was Raised**. Both the JH and HS Quiz Bowl teams placed third at the CRC meet, and the girls took first at the Women's Quiz Bowl. "It was exciting to do so well," senior Victoria Leavitt said.

Whether it was on the court, on the field, or in the classroom, we proved to ourselves and everyone else that we were ready to **Raise the Bar** and be better than we ever had been.

**O**ne way to **Raise the Bar** was to think of new ways to do things and not just do things the same old way.

The junior class did it well when it came to Prom. They started raising money back in November when they hosted the first ever Dodgeball Tournament. "We knew it was going to be a great way to raise money," junior Andrea Pavlish said. "I'm very proud of my class. We contacted other schools to compete. We set up a schedule, and then ran the event. It was a lot of work, but it was very successful, raising \$500."

They continued **Raising the Bar** by finding other ways to raise money. The class sold Texas Roadhouse rolls and cinnamon butter and made over \$1000.

**To take things to the next level**, the juniors also changed the location of Prom. For the last couple of years, Prom had been in the back gym of the school, but they decided it was time to switch things up by moving it to Tabor Hall. "I liked that we had Prom at a different place. It made my senior Prom more special," senior Quinn Kasl said. "I was more excited for Prom than other years because it was something different we hadn't had before."

Everyone loved having it at a different place than the school. "It was really a night to remember," sophomore Savannah June said. "I liked the disco theme because the whole place was shining, and they had lights surrounding the dance floor."

The volleyball players also **Raised the Bar** with fundraising by spending Friday evenings cleaning cars to make money. "I thought cleaning cars was really special. We raised money and worked as a team," junior Gabby Theis said. "I'm glad we did the fundraiser because it gave us more money to use for camps and other activities."

Students also **Raised the Bar** when many school days were canceled because of the weather in January. Some students helped clean roads and shoveled sidewalks. "I'm happy we could help others in the community," senior Victor Lopez said.

Cheering on her classmates, junior Atley Zoubek jumps up and down as her classmates win the Build-a-Burger Relay during Spirit Week.

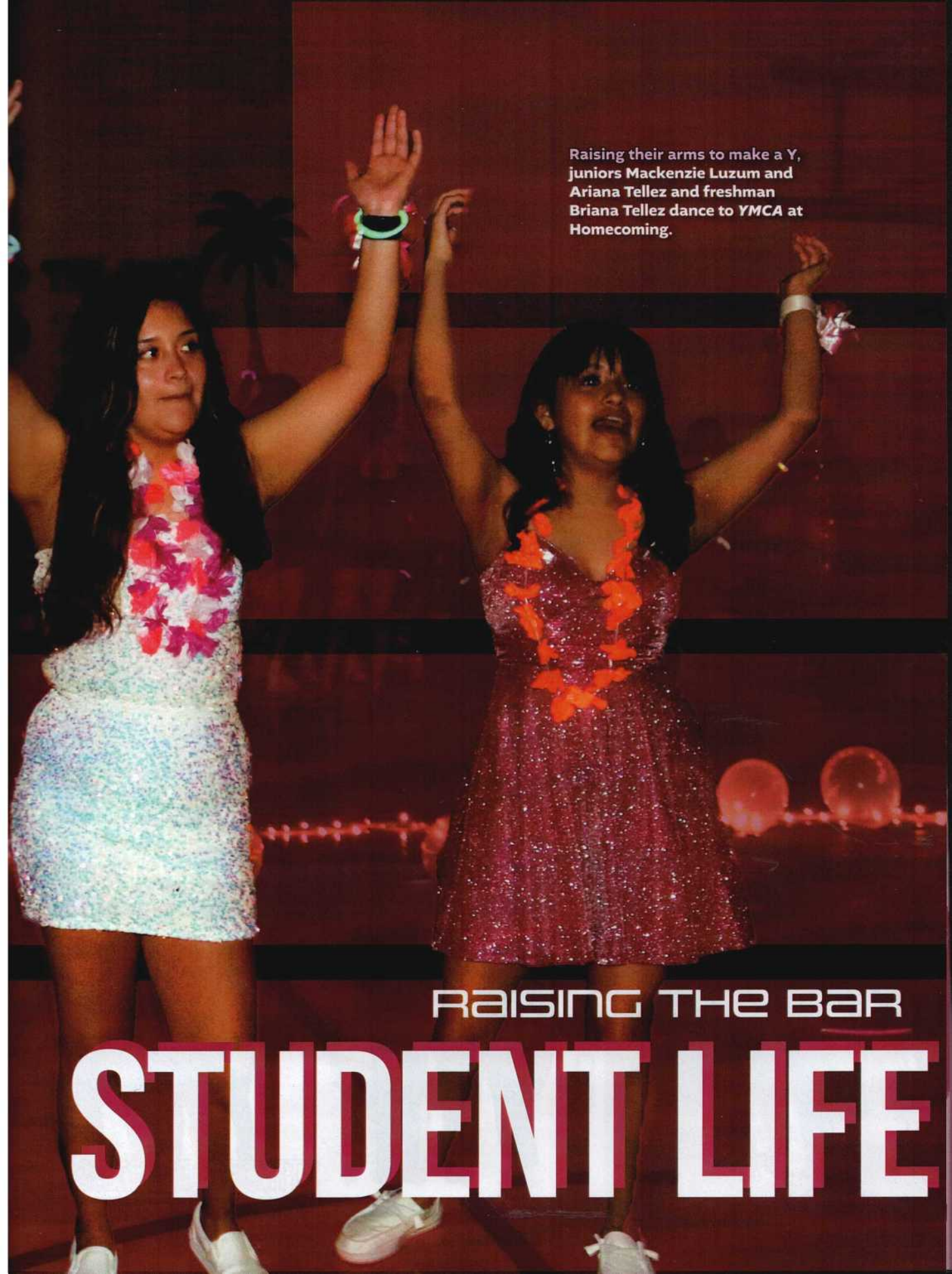


Having a little fun at Prom, senior Marcos Gonzalez bounces an inflatable ball on his nose and passes it to friends. "I like the Prom decorations," Gonzalez said. "They were fun to play with, too."



In the Taking Care of Business game, senior Andy Drake crumples his piece of paper (bills) and gets ready to take aim while one of his classmates holds the trash can across from him in the Spirit Week game.



A photograph of two young women dancing at a homecoming event. They are both wearing floral leis and have their arms raised in a 'Y' shape. The woman on the left is wearing a white sequined dress with a pink and white floral lei. The woman on the right is wearing a pink sequined dress with an orange and pink floral lei. They are both wearing white sneakers. The background is dark with some lights.

Raising their arms to make a Y,  
juniors Mackenzie Luzum and  
Ariana Tellez and freshman  
Briana Tellez dance to YMCA at  
Homecoming.

RAISING THE BAR

# STUDENT LIFE

# UP DRESSING I

to show pride during spirit week

Spirit week was a time for the students and teachers to dress up and show off their school spirit. "Spirit week is one of the best weeks and the most fun," seventh grader Paxton Behrens said. "It really shows how much school spirit everyone has, and it's fun to compete against the other classes."

Monday started off with Strictly Business Day where classes put on their best dressed attire and as well an act of who could be the most strict. "Strictly Business Day had to have been my favorite day," freshman Jonathan Hernandez said. "Everyone looked really elegant, professional, and proper."

Tuesday was Match Your Hallway Day where students dressed up to resemble their decorated hallways. This meant that all of the costumes were drastically different from each other. From a western showdown to Toy Story, Tuesday definitely was unique. "Dressing up to match our hallway was

super interesting and entertaining," freshman Senaida Tercero said. "I think that it is a good way to be able to show off our hallways and to dress up."

On Wednesday, there were lots of

"parents" in the school as students were soccer moms and BBQ dads. "Everyone dressing up as BBQ dads and soccer moms had to be the funniest day yet," senior Addison Lehr said. "Anyone who dressed up as a BBQ dad really looked like a dad and played the part well."

Students traveled to a Barbie world on Thursday with Barbie/Ken Day. Students were able to dress up as Barbie and Ken and wear pink from head to toe. "Owen Vyhnaelek had the best costume that day," junior Joseph Peacock said. "He made the most earth-shattering and courageous decision to spend REAL LIFE money to put himself in a box to make him look like a Ken doll. How brave."

Friday, Orange and Black Day, gave everyone the chance to show off their school spirit by wearing school colors. "Orange and Black day was the easiest day for me," senior Elsy Loarca said. "I went all out for that day because it's fun to show off our school spirit and easy to wear school colors."



**The Junior Class showed their true western side** on Dress Like Your Hallway Day. Some students dressed like cowboys or cowgirls, and others dressed like a sheriff. Many wore cowboy hats, cowboy boots, or had stick horses. BR: Joseph Peacock, Julian Tellez, Owen Vyhnaelek, Andrea Pavlish, Baylor Behrens, Atley Zoubek & Gabby Theis. FR: Ariana Tellez, Mackenzie Luzum, & AyLynn Schwisow.

MONDAY



STRICTLY BUSINESS DAY

Quinn Kasl, Jacob Hatfield, & Addison Lehr (12th)

Sierra Sherwood, Faith Elkins, & Hadley Brandt (8th)

Savannah June, Micaela Loarca, & Caden Axline (10th)

# OVERALL

1st- Juniors

2nd- Seniors

3rd- 8th Grade

## DRESS LIKE YOUR HALLWAY DAY

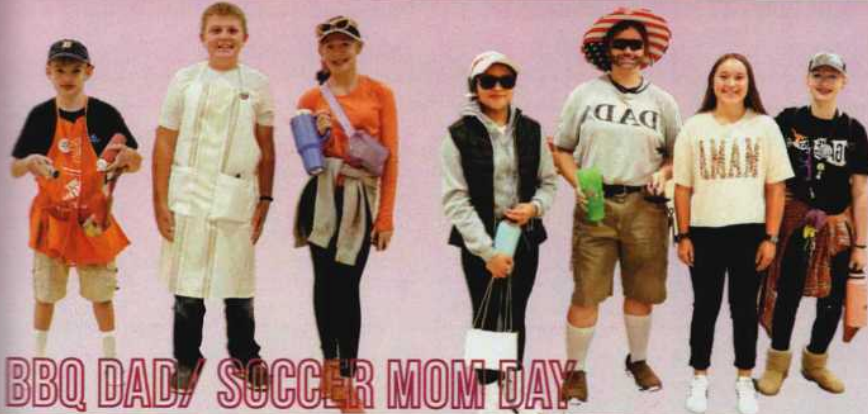
TUESDAY



Thor Nerud, Hadley Brandt, & Sierra Sherwood (8th)



Emilia Perez & Briana Tellez (9th)



## BBQ DAD/ SOCCER MOM DAY

WEDNESDAY

4th- Sophomores

5th- Freshmen

6th- 7th Grade

Joshua Gordon, Landon Shaw, & Kaitlyn Bolton (7th)

Micaela Loarca, Bailey Theis, Savannah June, & Megan Gordon (10th)

## BARBIE/ KEN DAY

THURSDAY

# FAVORITE DAY?



Baylor Behrens, Owen Vyhnaek, & Atley Zoubek (11th)



Addison Lehr, Marcos Gonzalez, & Kayli Carey (12th)

Match Your Hallway Day  
Because it's fun to see everyone's ideas.  
~ AyLynn Schwisow (11th)

Barbie and Ken Day  
Because I love the color pink.  
~ Stephanie Korinek (12th)

Orange and Black Day  
Because it's easiest to dress up for.  
~ Max Novak (8th)



## ORANGE & BLACK DAY

FRIDAY

Briana Tellez, Lily Lehr, & Emilia Perez (9th)

Brennaly Vazquez, Paxton Behrens, & Kaitlyn Bolton (7th)

Spirit Week

**Q:** What was your least favorite game?

**A:** *Build-a-Burger* was hard because I kept dropping the bun.



Caeden Axline, 10

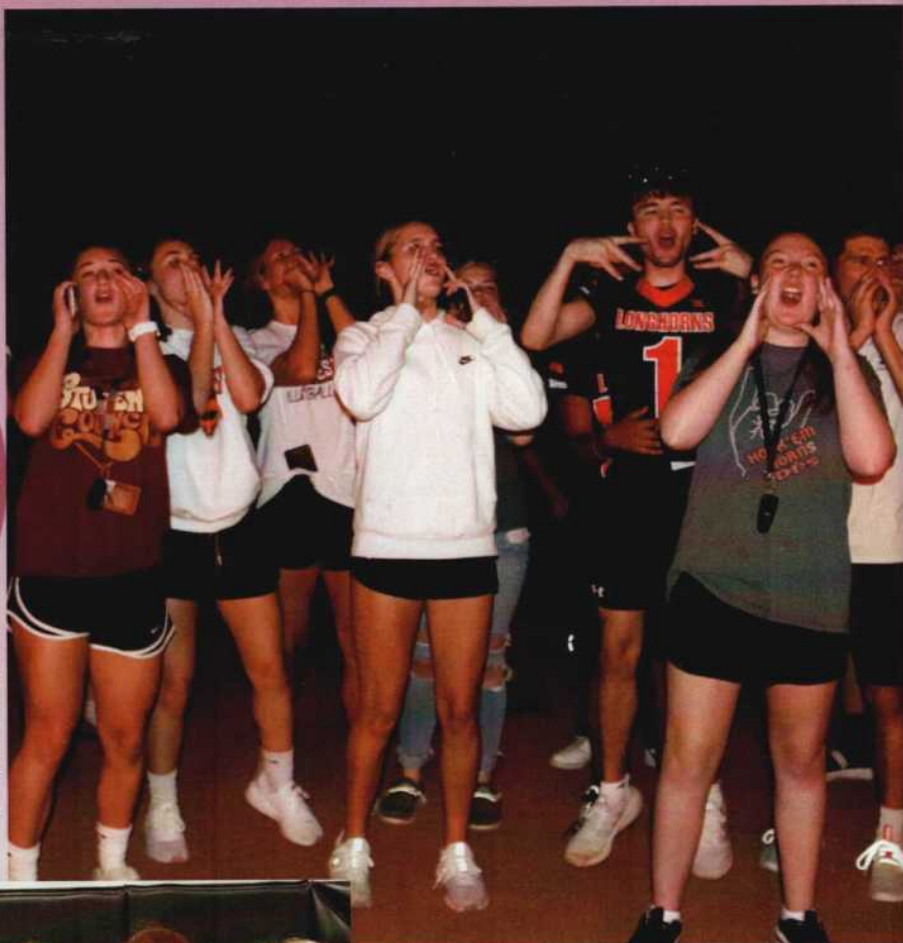
**Q:** What was the most memorable part of Spirit Week?

**A:** *Decorating and talking with my friends.*



Livia Schweitzer, 9

**Cheering loudly,** the senior class screams chants as loudly as they can to show their school spirit and outyell the other classes.



**Thinking ahead,** eighth graders Kendall Kasl, Faith Elkins, Ella Vyhnaek, and Hadley Brandt pair up for the Team Balloon Pass.



**Making a flower,** freshman Emilia Perez focuses on putting tissue paper on the wall to create a Lorax theme while decorating her hallway for the Spirit Week Hallway Decorating Contest.

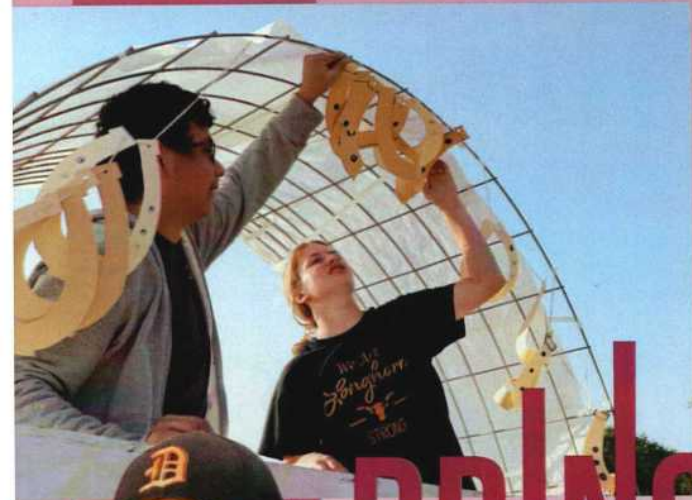


**Carefully running,** seventh grader Kaitlyn Bolton rushes to the baseline and back to her group to try to win in the Build-a-Burger relay.



**Passing the balloon,** freshmen Mason June and Frank Matejka pass the balloon back and forth keeping the balloon in the air.

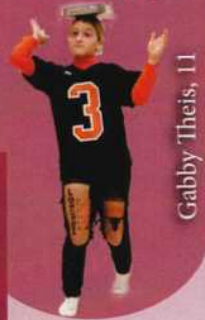




**Decorating their float.** juniors Joseph Peacock and Andrea Pavlish tape on horseshoes to the top of their float to accentuate the theme, "Round Up the Mustangs."

**Q: What's your favorite game?**

**A: I liked the Barbie Relay My class was quick and ready to go.**



Gabby Theis, 11

**Q: What was the best part of the hamburger feed?**

**A: I really liked the food, especially the cookies. Just look how big this cookie is!**



Cameron Yager, 7



**Keeping it steady,** junior Owen Vyhnalek tries his hardest to carefully speed walk back to his classmates and try to win the Build-a-Burger Relay.

# BRING ON THE FUN

a spirited week of activities

Spirit Week was full of activities. Students were busy planning for the parade, decorating hallways, and anticipating games on Friday.

Starting off with a parade on Wednesday, students worked hard to prepare their floats. "I liked that we thought outside of the box to make our float the best it could be," junior AyLynn Schwisow said. "I hung out with some of my friends while we were decorating."

"My favorite part of the parade was riding the float," sophomore Micaela Loarca said. "Seeing my classmates bond was nice."

The Booster Club sponsored the Hamburger Feed after the parade. Students enjoyed a freshly grilled burger, a variety of chips, and some delicious desserts. "The hamburgers were great," senior Jacob Hatfield said. "I also liked the cookie I had."

For the senior skit, parents of the seniors wrote descriptions of their children and then seniors wore their sashes that described a kind of Barbie or Ken they were. "My parents gave me the overachiever sash," Amber Kotas said. "It was really sweet of them and pretty accurate."

Soon afterwards, everyone gathered around the big "D." The night ended with classes chanting and watching the "D" burn. "Watching everyone in one big circle and being with one another was cool," freshman Colton Harrison said. "My classmates and I tried our hardest when we had to yell our chants."

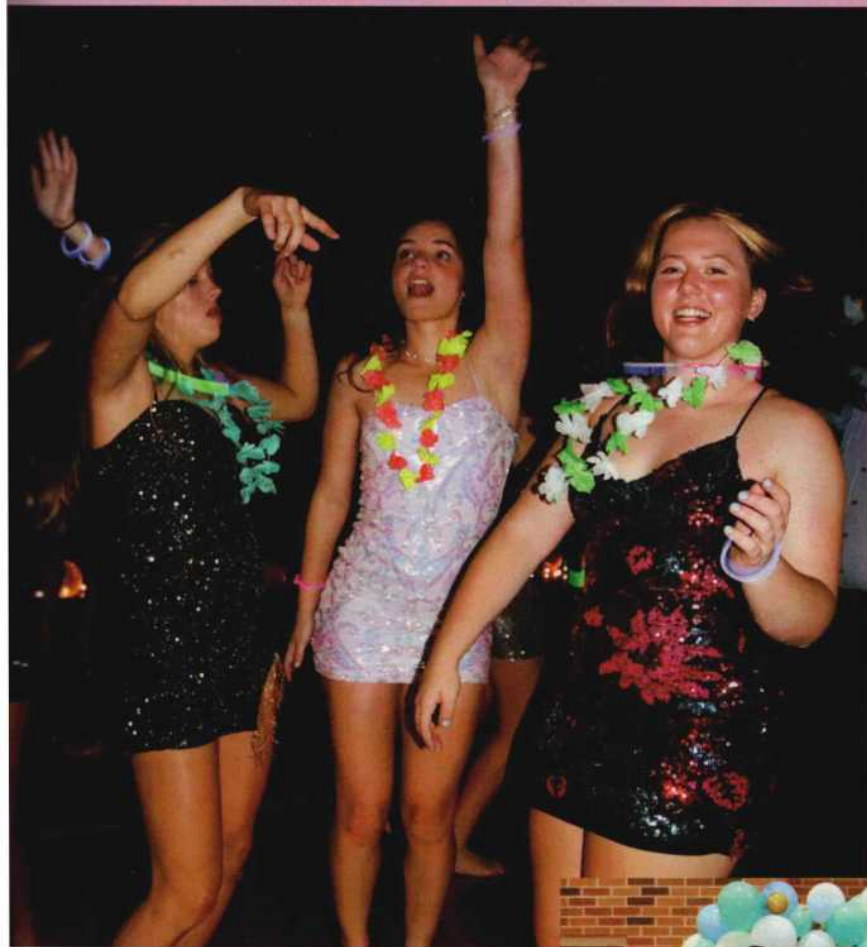
Continuing on Friday a pep rally was held and the games began with the Build-a-Burger Relay where students stacked up layers of a hamburger after running to half court and back. "It was hard trying to run and then go back and stack up the layers," senior Makayla Schlueter said. "We were all sprinting back and forth."

The Barbie Relay followed where one person from each class had to balance a book on their head from one end of the court to the other. "I was trying not to drop the book but be quick at the same time; it was difficult," junior Gabby Theis said. "I was really happy my class won."

In Taking Care of Business, one person held a trash can and another made a paper airplane and tried to make it in.

Finally, in Team Balloon Pass several kids from each grade lined up on the baseline. In pairs they passed the balloon back and forth and raced to the end. "The hardest game was Taking Care of Business because I couldn't make a good airplane," sophomore Bailey Theis said.

During the week, students were filled with school spirit and bonding. "Spending time with my friends made Spirit Week memorable," senior Addison Lehr said.



Savannah June, 10



**Q: What was your favorite song?**

*"The Night We Met" by Lord Huron*

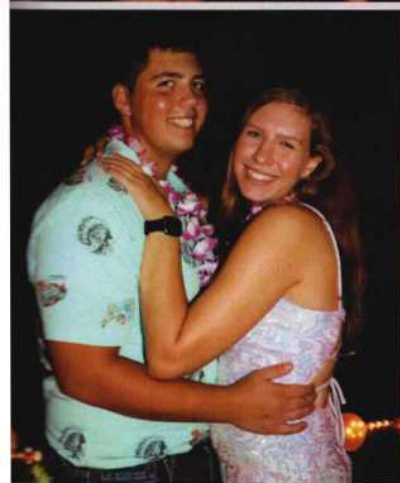
Jacob Hatfield, 12



**Q: What was your favorite song?**

*"Starships" by Nicki Minaj*

**Grooving along to "Party in the USA,"** junior Baylor Behrens, senior Kayli Carey, and junior Atley Zoubek throw their hands up in the air.

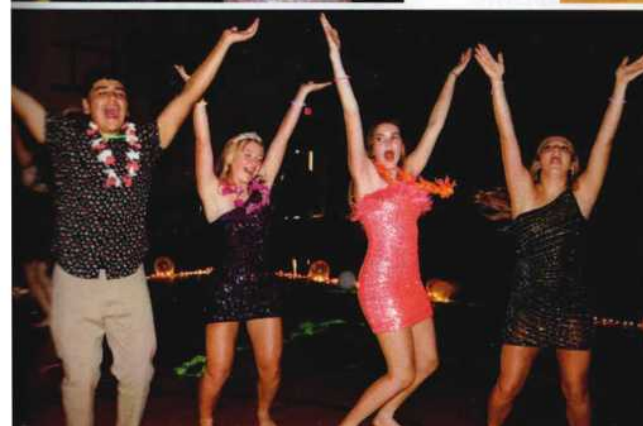


**Enjoying a slow dance together,** junior Owen Vyhnaek and senior Amber Kotas sway to *The Night We Met*.



**Homecoming Court.**

BR: Hailey Schweitzer, Andy Drake, Marcos Gonzalez, Kayli Carey, Owen Real, and Addison Lehr. FR: Queen Quinn Kasl and King Jacob Hatfield.



**Forming a "Y" for the iconic song "Y.M.C.A.,"** seniors Owen Real, Quinn Kasl, Addison Lehr, and junior Gabby Theis jam out.



**Lip-syncing to "Last Friday Night,"** senior Makayla Schlueter and junior AyLynn Schwisow dance to the song and remember the night with their phones.

**Q: What was your favorite activity?**

**A: Playing football was super fun in the back gym.**



Jorge Reyes, 8

**Q: What was your favorite activity?**

**A: I love art so making my bottle was fun.**



Maliki Gooding, 7

**One little hand print,** seventh grader Kaitlyn Bolton and eighth grader Ella Vyhnaek work together to create a piece of artwork by painting on their hands.



**The seventh grade plays football in the back gym.**

Landon Shaw with the directions given by Trevin Steuk tries to go around Brennaly Vazquez for the touchdown.



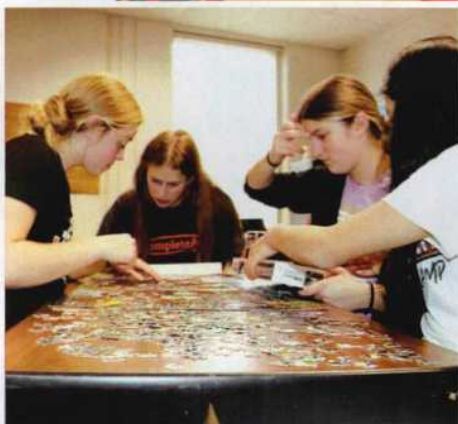
**In the library,**

senior Ely Loarca makes a move after spinning the wheel to make more money and hopefully win the game of LIFE.



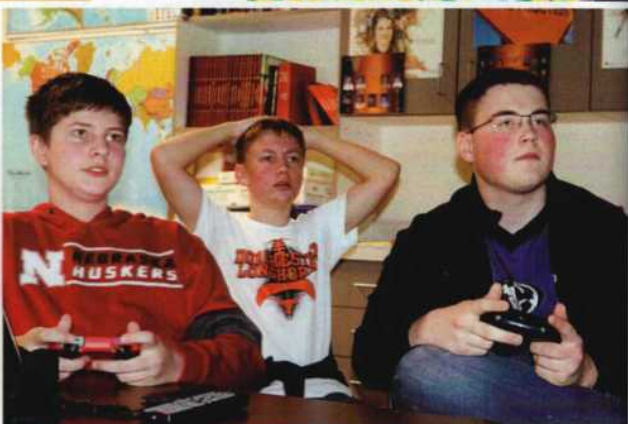
**Searching for the right piece,**

juniors Baylor Behrens, Andrea Pavlish, Gabby Theis, and sophomore Micaela Loarca work to put together a 1000 piece puzzle in Mr. Kotas's room.



**Competing for the gold,**

seventh grader Cameron Yager and senior Ashton Jirsa are playing on the Nintendo while eighth grader Max Novak cheers them on.





**Who's going to win?**

Freshman Livia Schweitzer, junior Atley Zoubek, freshman Lily Lehr, and sophomore Chase Tachovsky play an intense game of UNO in the library.

**Q: What was your favorite activity?**

**A: I played UNO which is my favorite game.**



Mackenzie Luzum, 11

**Q: What was your favorite activity?**

**A: I loved watching movies in Mr. Jirsa's classroom.**



Kendall Kasl, 8

# LIFTING

with laughter, snacks and games

# SPIRITS

Every room was full of students playing games, eating a variety of snacks, doing art projects, and even watching movies. What day was it? The day the students have a before-break Student Council-sponsored Christmas Party.

There were so many different options given to the students. In the English room, students watched the movie, *Ten Things I Hate About You*. "During the Christmas party my favorite room was Ms. Schutte's," senior Quinn Kasl said. "We watched the movie and colored. It was calm, and nobody was bothering us."

Mr. Jirsa's room also had a movie, *Jungle Cruise*. "I enjoyed lounging on the floor, eating snacks, and enjoying the movie," eighth grader Sierra Sherwood said.

The history room had a variety of activities. Students could play chess or work on a puzzle. There was also a multitude of various video games and systems. Students were on Nintendo Switches playing Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Nintendo 64 with Mario Kart, the PS5 with FIFA 23, and even a VR set. "Kotas's room looked like a college lounge because there was a couch and people were playing so many games," junior Joseph Peacock said. "I wish I could have tried virtual reality or at least steamrolled people trying to play Smash Bros."

"I was in Kotas's room; we were committed to finishing the 1000 piece puzzle," junior Baylor Behrens said.

The gym was open for students to play whatever they wanted. "I played football

in the back," seventh grader Trevin Steuk said. "My team ended up winning so it was a good time."

The art room was another option where students could paint, do clay, or work on crafts. "I was in the art room," freshman Senaida Tercero said. "I had fun making slime while a movie played on the screen."

In the library, students played more traditional games like Pitch, UNO, or other board games. "I stayed in the library and played cards because I really love playing card games," senior Amber Kotas said.

If students became hungry, they could thank the Student Council who provided snacks to every classroom. "I liked the BBQ chips, pretzels, Reese's covered animal crackers, and sugar cookies," seventh grader Kaitlyn Bolton said. "The snacks were great."

Having parties at school was almost everyone's favorite time of the year. Students were done with school for a while with no homework, no sports and no more tests. "The Christmas parties were my favorite," senior Madison Theis said. "It's fun to hang with friends and just enjoy doing things together."



**In a whole new world,** freshman Mason June plays a game using virtual reality in Mr. Kotas's room. "It was fun to try the VR set," June said.

**M**other Nature being a Britney Spears fanatic wasn't something one would hope for, especially when her favorite song was *Oops, I Did It Again*, yet five snow and ice days and two late starts within the span of three weeks was also not something one would entirely desire either. As the second semester rolled in for the 2024 school year, nearly half of the school days in the first few weeks were either canceled or shortened due to the hazardous weather. One week was even cut down to a day and a half because of the sub-zero temperatures and blizzard-like conditions.

With this, many complications and calamities arose from the series of Siberian cold spells and Arctic winds. "I was late to an important appointment because the snow plows hadn't gone through yet," junior Ariana Tellez said. "It already took long enough to get an appointment at the specialist I went to, so I was scared we were going to miss it when the snow slowed us down."

From sprinkling salt to scooping with shovels, many students found different ways to shield against the large drifts. "The worst part about the snow days was shoveling snow," seventh grader Faith Sherman said, "because it always got into my boots."

While scooping snow, most students claimed that they were the ones responsible for keeping their ever-filling sidewalks and driveways clear. "The snow reached the top of my shins," seventh grader Troy Dawes said, "but the drifts were about up to my knees."

These substantial drifts not only proved a struggle to scoop, but a struggle to maneuver around. "The drifts were as tall as my dad's truck," eighth grader Hadley Brandt said. "Without the wind, we got around a foot of snow."

Others took advantage of the piling snow. "A few friends and I went around to neighbors to offer to scoop snow for whatever they were willing to pay," sophomore Chase Tachovsky said. "It was a good opportunity to help people and to make some extra money."

Even after the roads had been plowed, wind gusts made it impossible for maintainers to keep up. "On one of the days that we were finally supposed to go back to school, I got stuck with my Jeep because all the snow drifted back over my road," senior Hailey Schweitzer said. "My dad and grandpa had to get me out with their off-road driving skills and a tractor."

The dangerous weather conditions also constrained indoor



Courtesy of Baylor Behrens

**Chilly winds** didn't stop Baylor Behrens (11) and her brother Paxton Behrens (7) from building a snow goat in their backyard.



**Braving the cold**, (clockwise from front) Rosie Lopez (9), Livia Schweitzer (9), Andrea Pavlish (11), Lily Lehr (9), Jace Yager (9), Briana Tellez (9), Colton Harrison (9), Megan Gordon (10), Mason June (9), and Michael Maldonado (9) climb on top of the massive snow pile at the front of the school.



Courtesy of Caden Axline

**High gusts of wind formed drifts** that closed roads for days, keeping all snow plows constantly running.

activities. “My internet went out so I just stared at the wall until it turned back on,” eighth grader Lindsay DelToro said.

Others had similar issues. “Our power and internet went out for a little bit,” seventh grader Malikhi Gooding said. “I wasn’t able to play games or anything.”

Feelings of laziness seemed to overcome students as they were stuck indoors. “I don’t really like being lazy for too long,” seventh grader Brennaly Vazquez said. “I didn’t really have anything to do.”

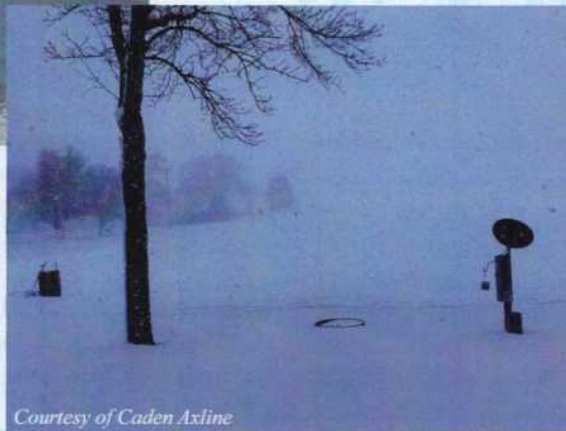
Others in basketball and wrestling also felt this tug. “It was boring at home, and we had less basketball practice,” junior Baylor Behrens said. “Plus, one game was canceled and another was postponed.”

Despite these feelings, there were many great things about getting so much time off within the first month of school. “The best part of having school off for snow days was the rest and having a break from it all,” senior Owen Real said. “We didn’t have to go to practice, worry about homework, or anything like that. There was nowhere to go so I just enjoyed being at home.”

“My favorite part was getting extra time off to do things outdoors like hunting,” seventh grader Landon Shaw

said. “Without the snow days, I would have never had the chance to do one of my favorite activities.”

This seemingly never-ending precipitation may have hindered some activities but encouraged many others, whether that was taking a break or connecting with one’s family. It also made people realize the value of human connection and how it affected them without it. “As much as I like having a day off from school, not being able to see my friends was the worst part of snow days because I rely on them,” junior Mackenzie Luzum said. “They make me laugh, and they make me happy.”



Courtesy of Caden Axline

**Temperatures reached record-breaking lows** in January during the days off. Visibility was minimal at times due to the wind, as seen in the view from Caden Axline’s (10) window.





# SNOWY sports

**H**ave you ever prepared for something for over a week, just for it to get canceled? Well, that

happened to the athletes for two weeks in a row due to all of the snow that fell in January. Games and meets just kept getting canceled and rescheduled.

"I was frustrated because of the time we put into practicing for a specific game," Assistant Boys Basketball Coach Brandon Sullivan said. "Then that led us to be behind for our next game."

The wrestling team was the most unfortunate when it came to snow affecting their schedule. They had to cancel three meets. On January 13th it was boys wrestling at Cross County and girls wrestling at Nebraska City; on January 19th it was boys and girls Wrestling at Thayer Central. "I was annoyed because they didn't get postponed, just canceled," Head Wrestling Coach Chris Nelson said. "We missed out on a lot of potential matches."

The junior high girls basketball team did not get to play in the Bee Tournament, which was January 9th, 11th, and 13th, because it ended up being totally canceled. "I was upset because I was excited to get to play at the

Bee Tournament," Junior High Coach Brandon Bruha said. "I felt like we had a good chance of placing."

Other junior high basketball games were also affected. They ended up having to reschedule the January 8th game versus McCool Junction to January 11th. They also had to reschedule January 15th versus Hampton to January 31. "We were not prepared for our games," Sullivan said. "We lost a day or two preparing for that game."

The high school basketball teams had to reschedule the January 11th game versus East Butler to January 29th. They also ended up canceling the January 12th game vs Giltner because they weren't in the conference, and it wasn't as important of a game. "I felt we were fully prepared and focused on the game at hand. We handled the weather and days off well," Assistant Girls Basketball Coach Brent Zoubek said. "It helped that we had a veteran team."

The Shelby-Rising City basketball games were moved up because bad weather was expected. The girls played at 3:00 and the boys played at 4:40, the earliest that high school

games were ever scheduled.

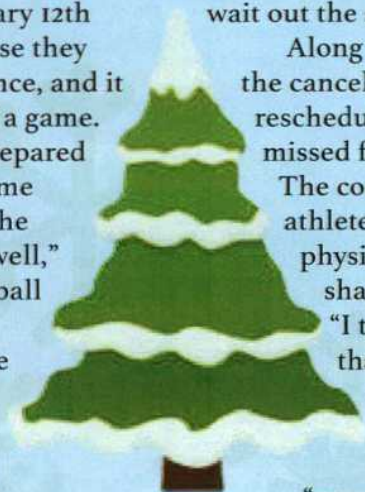
Unfortunately, moving the game up ended up being a bad move because as the games started, squall warnings erupted from everyone's cell phones. "It was a little scary trying to get to the game," one patron said. "I thought we were trying to avoid the bad weather, but then we were right in the middle of it."

Some of the coaches enjoyed the earlier time. "I loved the game getting moved up," Head Boy Basketball Coach Corey Bird said. "I thought it brought a different edge to the game. There were different people at the game that normally don't make it, whether it was the elementary students or people just trying to wait out the storm."

Along with all the cancellations and rescheduling, players also missed four days of practice. The coaches told their athletes to do some type of physical activity to stay in shape as an alternative.

"I told my athletes that it is important to move as much as possible," Sullivan said, "running stairs in the house, helping push snow, or whatever they had access to do physically."

One athlete stayed in





shape by trying many different activities. "To stay in shape I did ab workouts and ran up and down my stairs," junior Atley Zoubek said. "I also did lots of *Just-Dance*."

Even though they missed so many practices, their practices didn't change drastically. "We didn't really change practice. It really just depended on our game's schedule. When we looked at the schedule and saw we had 2-3 games, we planned accordingly," Bruha said. "If we had several days off before our next game, then we tried to condition a little more to get us back to where we were before all the days off."

The coaches didn't appreciate all the snow days and days wasted at home not in the gym improving. "As a coach, I was upset that we weren't able to come into the gym and be able to use the time to get better. I was also upset at the fact that we were unable to practice and play for an extended period of time," Bird said. "It really made us sort of rust

in a way. When we came back, we were out of sync; we almost looked like we forgot some of the plays and drills. It was frustrating. On the other hand, I thought it was important for us to stay healthy, and it gave us a break we needed."



The coaches hated the snow, but the athletes hated it even more. "I didn't appreciate all the snow days at all. I hated getting prepared for the game just for it to be rescheduled and canceled," senior Addison Lehr said. "I hated that our game against Giltner was canceled because that was going to be another win on our record."

The one person that had the hardest time with all of the rescheduling was the Athletic Director Brent Zoubek. "As an AD you are always hoping Mother Nature will cooperate and let you play the games as they are scheduled. However, it doesn't always work that way. You have to think of the safety of students

when you consider canceling or postponing games," Zoubek said. "It is always difficult when you have to reschedule games, meets, or any other activities. This year, especially, I was in over my head; there were so many things to reschedule. I had to look at when they had games and try to plan around them. If there are other school activities planned that can't be moved, you have to take those into account as well. You also are at the mercy of your opponent because a makeup date that works for you, may not work for them."

Although the snow was an inconvenience for sports, the athletes still made the best of it and did what they could to still stay in shape. "For a workout I went outside to scoop snow, and I ended up having a snow fight with my family," sophomore Bailey Theis said. "It was nice to have some days off to relax. I just wish that there weren't so many of them in a row."

**Q: Did you enjoy viewing the eclipse?**

**A: Yes because I think it's very cool how the moon gets in front of the sun and blocks the light.**



Sierra Sherwood, 8

**Q: Did you enjoy viewing the eclipse?**

**A: Yes, it was a very cool experience. To me it's very fascinating to see it darken quickly.**



Elsy Loarca, 12

**Learning about moon phases**, third graders Sawyer Nerud and Aubrey Pracheil use Oreos to represent how the moon goes through different stages as it rotates around the Earth.



# PARTIAL once-in-a-couple-decades opportunity ECLIPSE

The sun slowly started to partially fade away before their eyes. The glasses were put on, and the students looked up at the sky to see something rarely seen. Was it the end of their time? No, it was just a partial solar eclipse.

On Monday, April 8, the moon was moving to be directly between the sun and Earth. In Dorchester, the moon was set to cover 80% of the sun. Students were lucky enough to get the chance to experience something unforgettable that would create so many memories.

All of the students were given special ISO-approved eclipse glasses provided by former alum, Brett Boller, who is on the Board of Directors at the Branched Oak Observatory, to look at the sun so they didn't go blind. "The glasses were not the most fun to wear," junior Baylor Behrens said. "They really didn't fit my head so every time I looked up I had to hold on to them so they didn't fall off."

"I really liked the eclipse glasses," eighth grader Ella Vyhnaek said. "We had a lot of fun taking silly photos in them."

A majority of the students started to head out to the football field at 1:30 so then they could catch the peak of the eclipse at 1:50. "The coolest part of the eclipse was watching the sun go from a whole to

a crescent-like moon," sophomore Megan Gordon said.

To make the day even more memorable, some teachers brought their students a sweet treat like Cosmic Brownies or Moon Pies. "Mrs. Severance brought us treats," eighth grader Sierra Sherwood said. "They were to celebrate her birthday and also to eat during the eclipse." "I liked how the temperature changed," seventh grader Landon Shaw said. "It went from being pretty hot to colder in such a short amount of time."

Many felt that it was not as great as the eclipse in 2017 when Dorchester was in the path of the total eclipse, but there were no clouds so students could look longer at it. "I liked the 2017 eclipse better," senior Makayla Schlueter said. "During that eclipse, it went fully dark, and we were able to take off our glasses. This time it barely got dark, we had to keep on our glasses, but there were no clouds at least."

"I liked how we were able to look longer at the sky and actually see the moon and sun come together," junior Julian Tellez said. "In 2017, the sky was cloudy until the very minute the eclipse occurred. This way we could actually watch as the moon moved across the sun, and it got colder this time."

Eclipses happen all around the world. Not everyone can say that they've gotten the chance to experience an eclipse in their hometown, and these students won't be able to for over 20 years in the contiguous United States.



**Staring up at the sky,** kindergartner Andre Reyes watches the sun slowly disappear as the moon starts to cover it.



Joshua Gordon, 7

**Q: Did you enjoy viewing the eclipse?**

**A: Yes, I think they are really cool to watch.**



Adrian Alcaide, 10

**Q: Did you enjoy viewing the eclipse?**

**A: It was really interesting to watch the moon move across the sun.**



**Protecting their eyes**, freshmen Livia Schweitzer, Briana Tellez, Jace Yager, Emilia Perez, and Lily Lehr watch the eclipse with special glasses that were given out.



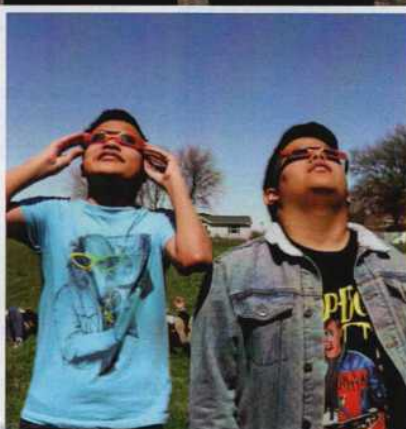
**Holding on to his glasses**, freshman Colton Harrison looks up at the sky to watch the moon partially pass in front of the sun. "I was glad we got see the eclipse. It's not something you see every day, and it's better than being in class."



**Holding on to Cosmic Brownies**, seventh graders Cameron Yager, Royce Gutierrez, Faith Sherman, and Dominick Winter show off the snacks brought by Mrs. Severance to celebrate the eclipse.



**Observing the sky**, senior Hailey Schweitzer and juniors Baylor Behrens and Atley Zoubek watch the moon cross paths with the sun while sitting on the football field.



**Looking up at the sky**, freshmen Jonathan Hernandez and Michael Maldonado take in the view that is in front of them.

TEACHERS ARE  
ON THE HUNT  
FOR MINIATURE  
ANIMALS

# DUCK RIBBIT SEASON!

It's a bird! It's a...frog? No, it's a...cow? It seems that ducks, frogs, and even cows started to appear wherever anyone looked. Although they were harmless little figurines, they made a fun impact around the school.

During the first week, yellow resin ducks, looking like rubber duckies, started showing up in various places. One could find them in bathrooms, on hand sanitizers, and even on the photocopier. "I was surprised to see the ducks randomly appearing everywhere," said secretary Jen Feeken. "It was fun to see where they would appear next.

Students also got in on the fun. "My elementary students loved to find them and then try to hide them again for other students to find," said reading teacher Karma Ridpath.

"I tried to have the teacher's give me one if they didn't want one," said senior Madison Theis. "I was able to get a few. I think they're cute, but I was also hoping that eventually whoever was doing it would have us turn them in for a prize or something."

Then around Christmas, ducks of various colors with Santa hats showed up as well, quickly followed by a few glow-in-the-dark frogs. "I went into the staff bathroom and there was a frog," said paraprofessional Danielle Duba. "I thought he looked like he'd glow in the dark so I shut off the lights and tried it out."

In January, more frogs appeared, first a light pink one and then a white one. "I didn't care for the ducks as much, but the frog's eyeballs were really cute, and I made sure to keep them," said English teacher Audrey Schutte.

Also in January, a few cows started moving around. They came with a note to keep the cow Moooving. "I kept the first cow because I really liked him and worried I wouldn't get another one. When I got the second cow, I then helped him Mooove on," said English/social studies teacher, Sandy Severance.

However, some teachers decided that the cow must stay. "I kept the cow because all I was left with was an ugly, white frog," said paraprofessional Karen Hrdlicka. "It took me a couple days to decide. The frog told me he had been lonely until the cow showed up."

A more solid-colored duck made an appearance in February. "I was

surprised to see other animals. I thought it was going to keep being just ducks," said EL teacher, Jessica Burry, "so I was surprised to see other animals."

Then there were a few more frogs of different colors as well. With so many animals to choose from, everyone had their favorite. "My favorite one was the translucent frog," said science teacher, Chris Nelson. "I wish I could've gotten a goldfish, too. I would've named him Nemo."

"I first noticed a duck around Christmas time," said 4th grade teacher Cassidy Bruha. "A duck with a Santa hat appeared on my desk, and before that there had been a yellow one on my bulletin board. I'd love to keep getting more."

Students welcomed the new visitors. "I really enjoyed the ducks because it gave the kids something to smile about. They were so happy when they saw a duck, a frog, etc.," said paraprofessional Deanna Bird. "I saw the kids' faces as they grabbed the animals and quickly snatched them up to hide later or to keep for themselves."

Everyone tried to guess who was the placer of the animals. "I'm pretty sure it's someone in the elementary doing it because they have a lot more of the animals than the secondary do," said art teacher Stacy Lutjemeyer. "I wonder how many people are involved."

The all-time collector and apparent zoo keeper was the third grade teacher Brenda Nerud. "I actually have twenty-five animals. Quite a few are the yellow ducks. I think I got more because so many of my students kept finding them and bringing them to me."

Why did the animals start showing up? Who was leaving animals all around the school? Was it a group of people creating a diabolical plan for the animals to take over the school? Or was it a single person? When will the next animal arrive and what will it be? Everyone had their suspicions, although that might have just been part of the fun. "We enjoyed the presence of the ducks and the wild goose chase to figure out who they were from," said preschool teacher, Robin Musil.



Showing off her assortment of animals, English/social studies teacher Mrs. Sandy Severance has a whole collection she keeps on top of the TV in her room.

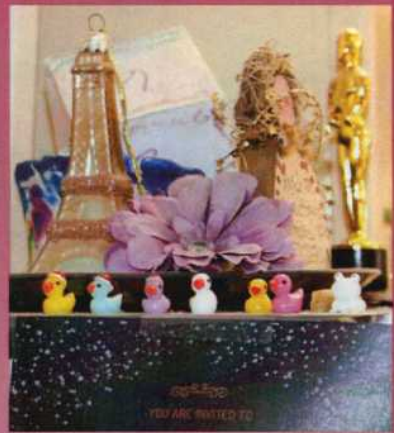


Arriving in different styles and colors, these frogs consisted of being colored and being semi-transparent glow-in-the-dark. They sit atop a jar in Ms. Rachel Weakland's room, showcasing how miniscule, and more importantly how cute they were.

# NUMBER OF TEACHERS WITH EACH ANIMAL



\*of nineteen teachers surveyed



Arranged in rows and groups, series of ducks, frogs, and sometimes cows would show up in classrooms all around the school. They would also show up in random areas around rooms to be showcased by teachers.

CHANCE OF RECEIVING A COW  
**7%**

## TYPES OF DUCKS



CHRISTMAS DUCKS



SOLID DUCKS



GLOW-IN-THE-DARK DUCKS



ORIGINAL DUCKS

## HOW MANY ANIMALS DID YOU COLLECT?



Mrs. Jessica Burry  
EL Teacher



Mrs. Cassidy Bruha  
4th Grade Teacher



Mrs. Stacy Lutjemeyer  
Art Teacher



Mrs. Brenda Nerud  
3rd Grade Teacher

# A

# Built-in

Having a twin means having someone always by your side, whether you want it or not.

# BEST FRIEND

Most people know what it is like to grow up with siblings, but only 1 in 250 know what it's like to have a twin, and in our school there were an outstanding total of six pairs of twins ranging from kindergarten to high school. While you are walking down the hallways, you might think you are seeing double or see two students who look a lot alike and about the same age. "I thought I saw Angelina Cornejo walk past me, and then I turned around and a girl that looked just like her was standing by my door." EL teacher Mrs. Burry said. "I was so confused at first, and then realized that Angelina and Isabella were twins. They look so much alike."

Whether they prefer sharing a birthday or not, twins have a special bond with one another. "Isabella is my best friend," junior Angelina Cornejo said. "How could she not be when I've literally been with her since day one?"

Age seemed to play a big factor on how twins viewed each other. Younger elementary twins were less likely to claim their twin as

a friend. "I do not think Ezra is my friend because we fight a lot," first grader Audric Thalken said. "He even makes me mad on purpose sometimes."

The older the twins were, the deeper the bond between each other seemed to be. They were able to find the good in having a twin. "I would say Myles is a friend but also my best friend because he is always there if I need him," sixth grader Mason Vyhnaek said.

Most sets of twins in the school were fraternal but still shared many similarities. "We like a lot of the same activities," second grader Kenzi Schweitzer said. "We wear the same clothes and have a lot of the same friends."

Multiple twins enjoyed doing similar activities in their free time. The activities enjoyed included anything from getting into mischief to playing new games outside. "Audric and I tried to trick my mom into thinking we were each other once," first grader Ezra Thalken said. "We made our hair exactly the same, but she wasn't fooled."

However, with all of these

similarities came many differences that made each twin's individuality stand out. "Loren and I have a lot in common, but his favorite colors are blue and red," first grader Elijah Pracheil said. "My favorite colors are green and yellow because those are the colors of John Deere tractors."

Some twins disliked others being confused about who was who. Angelina and Isabella Cornejo made it a point to purposefully look different. "I wear glasses and make sure I'm dressed differently than Angelina because it gets annoying when people can't tell us apart," junior Isabella said. "Angelina wears contacts and for a while she even had highlights in her hair to make it easier."

Having a built-in best friend can make life just a little bit sweeter. "I like having a twin because we can always help each other out," third grader Sullivan Smith said. "I will always have someone by my side."

**Comparing their favorite stories,** twin second graders Chloe and Kenzi Schweitzer share their books with classmate Karson Palky.



**Competing against each other,** first graders Ezra and Audric Thalken each try to beat their twin to the finish line during Field Day.

## Sharing the memories

### Memories of Growing Up with a Twin



*"My favorite memory with Isabella is when we got bunk beds. We were so excited about it, but we fought for who got the top bunk because it had a ladder."*

*~ Angelina Cornejo  
(11)*

*"My favorite memory with Angelina was on our seventh birthday we learned how to ride bikes together."*

*~ Isabella Cornejo  
(11)*



# This VS That

Sullivan and Everly Smith's Favorites



Food:  
Taquitos

Food:  
Macaroni  
& Cheese

Color:  
Green

Color:  
Blue

Animal:  
Alligator

Animal:  
Chicken

Activity:  
Welding

Activity:  
Reading

Drink:  
Pepsi

Drink:  
Water

Song:  
*Do Right,  
Fear No Man*

Song:  
*Mountain  
Time*

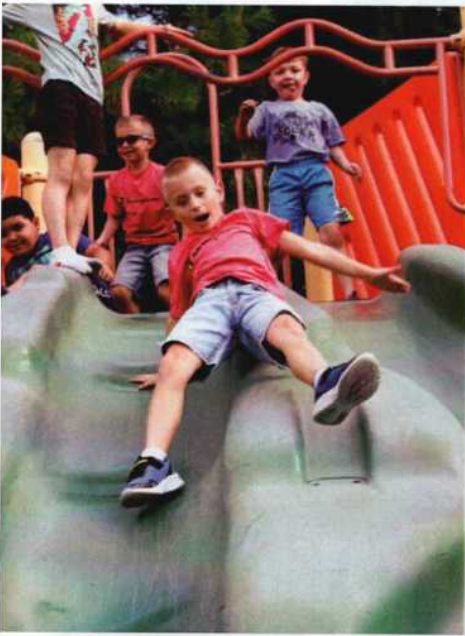
Movie:  
*The Iron  
Giant*

Movie:  
*Migration*



*"My favorite memory is when my family was stopping at the bank quick on our way home and Sullivan yelled out 'lemonade' like it was a McDonald's drive through. We all laughed."*

~ Everly Smith  
(3rd)



**Sliding down the slide**, first grader Elijah Pracheil picks a unique route down the slide to show off to his classmates Angel Gonzalez, his twin Loren Pracheil, and Breckin Barlow.

**Standing side by side**, twin sixth graders Mason and Myles Vyhnalek are very different from each other and have their own individual interests.



**Showing their school spirit**, twin juniors Angelina and Isabella Cornejo sit with their friends, juniors Ariana Tellez and Andrea Pavlish, during a pep rally.

**Q: What was your favorite song to dance to? Why?**

**A: Probably the WOP (J. Dash), I really get into it.**



Kayli Carey, 12

**Q: What was your favorite song to dance to? Why?**

**A: My favorite song was Dancing Queen (ABBA). It gave me a chance to get groovy.**



Steph Korinek, 12

**Waving their hands in the air**, juniors Andrea Pavlish, AyLynn Schwisow, and Mackenzie Luzum do the Whip and Nae Nae by Silento.

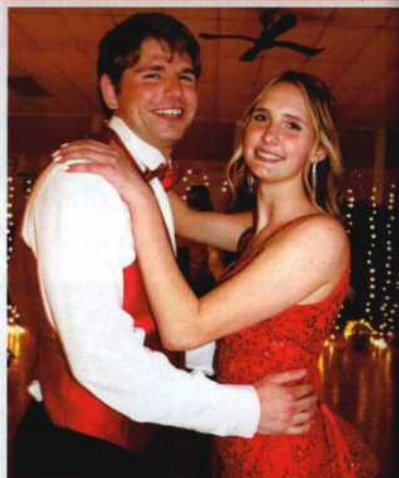


**Making a letter Y,**

sophomores Hunter Wake, Carter Cerny, seniors Jacob Hatfield, Owen Real, Marcos Gonzalez, Andy Drake, former DHS student Garrett Nohavec, and junior Owen Vyhnalek dance to YMCA by The Village People.



**Dancing the night away** to Perfect by Ed Sheeran, seniors Jacob Hatfield and Stephanie Korinek sway to the beat of the music during one of the slow dances.



**Preparing for battle,**

sophomores Hunter Wake, Chase Tachovsky, Carter Cerny, and Caden Axline show their best pose to the song Kung Fu Fighting by Carl Douglas.



**Raising up their arms,**

senior Quinn Kasl, juniors Atley Zoubek, Gabby Theis, seniors Stephanie Korinek, Amber Kotas, and junior Baylor Behrens Pump up the Jam by Technotronic.





**Rolling their arms up high**, senior Ashton Jirsa, freshman Tessa Martin, senior Victoria Leavitt, and sophomore Megan Gordon listen to the instructions during the *Wobble* by V.I.C.

**Q: What was your favorite song to dance to? Why?**

**A: *The Copperhead Road* (Stevie Earl), I love to dance to it.**



Chase Tachovsky, 10

**Q: What was your favorite song to dance to? Why?**

**A: *Yeah* (Usher). Everyone knows the words and comes out to dance so the floor looks full.**



Caden Axline, 10

# LOADS <sup>of</sup> take over the dance floor

# GLITTER

The lights were lowered, the twinkling lights were turned on, and silver, black, and well-dressed students were seen showing off their fancy clothes. Prom was here.

The junior class hosted Prom on Saturday, April 22nd at Tabor Hall for seniors and sophomores. "I liked having Prom out at Tabor a lot," sophomore Caden Axline said. "There is a lot more room out there than having it in the gym."

Decorating, planning the meal, getting a DJ, renting a tux, buying a dress, and fixing hair and applying makeup could be exciting as well as stressful. "I loved planning for Prom," junior Owen Vyhnaek said. "However, it did get stressful at times when we were trying to get it to all come together."

The theme was Glitz and Glam. The juniors decorated with lots of silver, black, and anything that would give off a shininess that covered the entire room. They also made a sectioned off dance floor that allowed for more room. "We came up with multiple visions of how we wanted the area to look," junior Gabby Theis said. "Once we were able to get out there and decorate, it really came together well."

To start the evening, students lined up with their date or friend to walk down a lighted path and were told to do something fun like a handshake or a little dance. Some students took it to the next level. "Mackenzie

Luzum and I were towards the end so our entrance we knew would be memorable," junior Andrea Pavlish said. "We ended up buying light up swords and had a fake sword fight. We got lots of laughs, and we had fun doing that."

After the parents left, dinner was served. On the menu was pulled pork, buns, green beans, cheesy mashed potatoes, cheesecake, and tea. There was also a popcorn bar that was set up so anyone could snack throughout the night. "The whole meal was great," senior Madison Theis said. "My favorite part was the pulled pork. The ladies who were serving were also very funny."

For Post Prom, students loaded up on the bus and went to Urban Air Trampoline Park. Students had free range to jump, run through an obstacle course, and even zipline. There were also lots of prizes that could be won. "I thought Post Prom was a lot of fun," sophomore Chase Tachovsky said. "My favorite part had to be the ziplines. You could walk across a lot of different platforms but there was one where it took you across the whole place."

After a fun-filled evening, everyone made their way home. "We didn't get home until four in the morning," senior Stephanie Korinek said. "I was very tired but had a great Prom."



**Showing off having no rings on their fingers**, freshman Livia Schweitzer and sophomore Savannah June dance to *Single Ladies* by Beyonce.

**Q: What award made you feel the proudest?**

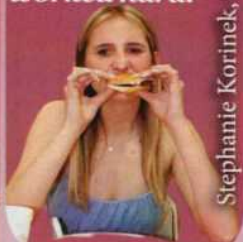
**A: The Dedicated Athlete Award because it was a lot of years of work.**



Addison Lehr, 12

**Q: What award made you feel the proudest?**

**A: Lettering in volleyball because I worked hard.**



Stephanie Korinek, 12

**Three Sport Athlete Award.** BR: Mason June, Bailey Theis, Owen Vyhnalek, Amber Kotas, Chase Tachovsky, & Atley Zoubek. MR: Gabby Theis, Baylor Behrens, Livia Schweitzer, Lily Lehr, Emilia Perez, & Quinn Kasl. FR: Madison Theis, Kayli Carey, Hailey Schweitzer, Addison Lehr, & Micaela Loarca. Not Pictured: Ariana Tellez & Briana Tellez.



# AWARDS

for athletic excellence

# WINNING

The Athletic Banquet, sponsored by the D-Club, was a memorable night to honor athletes and their achievements. The athletes received their awards after they ate a delicious meal of pulled pork, green beans, and Tabor Hall cheesy potatoes provided by Mrs. Rochelle Bruha followed by cookies for dessert. "I liked the potatoes and cookies," senior Addison Lehr said. "They were very savory."

To start off the night, senior Marcos Gonzalez and Hailey Schweitzer were crowned Athletic King and Queen. To be eligible, the athletes had to be in at least two sports and show leadership and hard work. Because the class was so large, only the top four candidates were part of the royalty. "It felt good that there were a lot of people who believed in me and picked me as the best candidate," senior Marcos Gonzalez said.

"I wasn't sure if I would get it, but I knew I had a good chance," senior Hailey Schweitzer said.

For girls sports, senior Hailey Schweitzer received the Outstanding Volleyball Player Award. Senior Amber Kotas received the Outstanding Female Track Award. Baylor Behrens received Outstanding Girls Basketball Player, Girls Defensive Basketball Player, Outstanding Female Athlete Award, and the Dawn

Lisec Award. Junior Gabby Theis received the Ms. Hustle Award in basketball. Sophomore

Bailey Theis received the Outstanding Female Track Award. Outstanding Girls Wrestler Award went to Isabella Cornejo.

For the boys, Senior Marcos Gonzalez received the Outstanding Football Player Award, Outstanding Boys Wrestler Award, Outstanding Male Athlete Award, and the Brian Bruha Award. Senior Owen Real received the Outstanding Boys Basketball Award. Junior Owen Vyhnalek received the James Cochnar Award. Sophomore Chase Tachovsky received the Boys Defensive Basketball Player Award and the Outstanding Male Track Award. Freshman Mason June received the Mr. Hustle Award in basketball.

At the end of the night, athletes went home feeling proud of their accomplishments. "I was really happy to get the Outstanding Girls Track Award. It felt great to be appreciated," sophomore Bailey Theis said.

"I was happy to get Co-MVP for girls track," said senior Amber Kotas, "mostly because I've worked really hard in track."



**Serving herself food, sophomore Micaela Loarca helps herself to some Tabor Hall cheesy potatoes.**



Sarahah June, 10



**Q:** What was your favorite part of the banquet?

**A:** The food and receiving awards.

Quinn Kasl, 12



**Q:** What did you like best about the slideshow?

**A:** I loved the basketball part the best and that my class made it.

**Candidates for Athletic Banquet Royalty.**

BR: Owen Real, Jacob Hatfield, Andy Drake, Amber Kotas, Addison Lehr, & Kayli Carey.  
FR: King Marcos Gonzalez & Queen Hailey Schweitzer.



**Outstanding Athletes.**

Receiving the Outstanding Female Athlete Award is Baylor Behrens and receiving the Outstanding Male Athlete Award is Marcos Gonzalez.



**Outstanding Athletes in Each Sport.**

BR: Owen Real (Boys Basketball), Baylor Behrens (Girls Basketball), Amber Kotas (Girls Track), & Marcos Gonzalez (Boys Wrestling and Football). FR: Isabella Cornejo (Girls Wrestling), Hailey Schweitzer (Volleyball), & Bailey Theis (Girls Track). Not pictured: Chase Tachovsky (Boys Track).



**Dedicated Athlete Award.**

BR: Madison Theis, Amber Kotas, & Quinn Kasl.  
FR: Kayli Carey, Hailey Schweitzer, & Addison Lehr received the Dedicated Athlete Award for being in all three sports for all four years of their high school careers.



Baylor Behrens received the **Dawn Lisee Award**. Owen Vyhnalek received the **James Cochnar Award**. Marcos Gonzalez received the **Brian Bruha Award**.

**Q: Which award were you proudest of?**

**A: The Math Award because enjoy doing math.**



Chase Tachovsky

**Q: Which award were you proudest of?**

**A: Outstanding Instrumentalist Award because I've worked hard in band.**



Amber Kotas



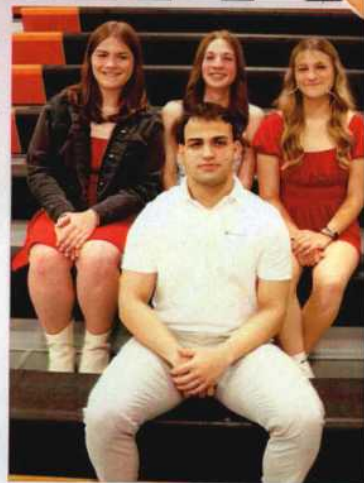
**Math Awards:** BR: Carter Cerny, Andrea Pavlish, & Ariana Tellez. 2nd Row: Chase Tachovsky, Lily Lehr, Gabby Theis, & Hailey Schweitzer. FR: Kayli Carey, Baylor Behrens, Addison Lehr, & Quinn Kasl.

**English Awards:** BR: Benji Beckley, Bryer Shaw, Amber Kotas, Owen Vyhnalek, & Andrea Pavlish. 3rd Row: Mackenzie Luzum, Emilia Perez, Victoria Leavitt, Colton Harrison, & Quinn Kasl. 2nd Row: Makayla Schlueter, Livia Schweitzer, Lily Lehr, Gabby Theis, & Hailey Schweitzer. FR: Kayli Carey, Chase Tachovsky, Atley Zoubek, Baylor Behrens, Madison Theis, & Addison Lehr. Not Pictured: Isabella Cornejo, Joseph Peacock, AyLynn Schwisow, Elsy Loarca, Veronica Tercero, & Andy Drake.



**Student Leadership Awards:**

BR: Bailey Theis, Livia Schweitzer, & Gabby Theis. FR: Marcos Gonzalez. The NHS members voted on who they thought were leaders from each class.



**Science Awards:**

BR: Livia Schweitzer, Andrea Pavlish, Amber Kotas, & Madison Theis. 2nd Row: Chase Tachovsky, Lily Lehr, Gabby Theis, & Atley Zoubek. FR: Baylor Behrens, Bailey Theis, & Bryer Shaw.



**Social Studies Awards with medals:**

BR: Victoria Leavitt, Amber Kotas, Owen Vyhnalek, and Andrea Pavlish. 2nd Row: Livia Schweitzer, Lily Lehr, Gabby Theis, and Hailey Schweitzer. FR: Atley Zoubek, Baylor Behrens, and Madison Theis.



**DEA Scholars Activities**

**Awards:** BR: Emilia Perez, Andrea Pavlish, Jacob Hatfield, Amber Kotas, Owen Vyhnaelek, & Bailey Theis. 3rd Row: Livia Schweitzer, Atley Zoubek, Mackenzie Luzum, Victoria Leavitt, Madison Theis, & Andy Drake. 2nd Row: Caden Axline, Chase Tachovsky, Lily Lehr, Gabby Theis, Kayli Carey, Hailey Schweitzer, & Owen Real. FR: Colton Harrison, Megan Gordon, Micaela Loarca, Baylor Kasl, Addison Lehr, & Savannah June.

**Q: Which award were you proudest of?**

**A: The Perfect Attendance Award meant a lot to me.**

**Q: Which award were you proudest of?**

**A: My FBLA Award. It took some time to do well on them but it worked out in the end.**



Owen Vyhnaelek, 11



Andrea Pavlish, 11

# HONORS

students take home awards

## TOP

High school Honors Night began with the induction of three new members into the Honor Society. It one NHS member had been in while another NHS member walked to the student section tapping the new member with a rose. "It felt good being chosen to become an NHS member," junior Gabby Theis said.

National started by reading inductee involved the student section tapping the new member with a rose. "It felt good being chosen to become an NHS member," junior Gabby Theis said.

The night continued with the teachers giving out medals and certificates to their top students. In music, the Outstanding Vocalist was Ashton Jirsa and the Outstanding Instrumentalist was Amber Kotas. Ashton Jirsa received the John Philip Sousa Award. The top journalism students were Andrea Pavlish and Hailey Schweitzer. The Art Awards went to Micaela Loarca, Gabby Theis, Madison Theis, and Hailey Schweitzer. The top business students were Benji Beckley, Kayli Carey, Colton Harrison, Quinn Kasl, Victoria Leavitt, Lily Lehr, and Livia Schweitzer. Owen Real received the Industrial Tech Award. The top speech (class) students were Chase Tachovsky, Bailey Theis, and Carter Cerny.

The Leadership Award was given to a student from each grade nominated by the teachers, and then voted on by the NHS members. The recipients included: Marcos Gonzalez, Gabrielle Theis, Bailey Theis, and Livia Schweitzer.

Forty-seven students who were on Honor

Roll at least once received the Honor Roll Award. The Big Twelve Awards went to Kayli Carey, Quinn Kasl, Amber Kotas, Victoria Leavitt, Addison Lehr, Hailey Schweitzer, and Bryer Shaw for being on the Honor Roll the entire twelve semesters (7-12).

Twenty-eight students received the NSAA Multi Activity Award, and Savannah June won a \$1000 scholarship to Peru State College.

Amber Kotas and Owen Vyhnaelek received the Perfect Attendance Award, and Kotas also received the Community Service Award for the most community service hours (over 100).

Victoria Leavitt, Addison Lehr, Hailey Schweitzer, and Madison Theis received the CRC Bronze Recognition for their ACT score; students who received an overall score of 30 or more received gold, 27-29 received silver, and 24-26 received bronze.

Madison Theis and Victoria Leavitt received awards for the amount of college hours they'd taken.

Students who participated in FBLA, Student Council, Quiz Bowl, Journalism, Honor Bands, Honor Choirs, Speech, Thespians, and Believers and Achievers were also recognized.

Before and after the ceremony, the NHS members served punch and cookies. Before the ceremony, the NHS members also sponsored an Honor Roll Pizza Party for students who were on the Honor Roll the entire year. "My favorite part of the Honors Night were the cookies," senior Madison Theis said. "They were delicious."



After being tapped and given a rose by current NHS member, senior Quinn Kasl, junior Gabby Theis is led to the front of the gym as one out of three chosen inductees of the evening.

# Class Motto:

*"GPS said it's my turn."*



**Handing out diplomas,** School Board President Steve Vyhnalek gives Madison Theis her diploma.

**Class of 2024.** Back Row: Stephanie Korinek, William Paiz, Victor Lopez, Andy Drake, Ashton Jirsa, Amber Kotas, Jacob Hatfield, and Marcos Gonzalez. Middle Row: Makayla Schlueter, Madison Theis, Israel Cornejo, Suyapa Armas, Owen Real, Addison Lehr, Victoria Leavitt, and Bryer Shaw. Front Row: Veronica Tercero, Quinn Kasl, Dusty Banks, Kayli Carey, Hailey Schweitzer, Nancy Alcaide, Elsy Loarca, and Mitzu Real.



# DESTINATION FINAL

the end of their journey

Ready to get their diplomas that they had waited thirteen years to receive, the seniors were excited but still a little sad. "I was excited to finally be done with high school," senior Jacob Hatfield said, "but I was also really sad having to say goodbye to my classmates and friends that I have become close with."

During the ceremony, the choir sang *I will Always Remember You* by Miley Cyrus. "I picked that song because it is nostalgic and has sentimental value," senior Kayli Carey said. "The song's lyrics also were perfect for Graduation."

The Valedictorian, Hailey Schweitzer, and Salutatorian, Addison Lehr, gave speeches full of thank you's and memories they shared over the past thirteen years. "I was so excited to be named Salutatorian. It made me feel like all my hard work paid off," senior Addison Lehr said. "While writing my speech, I thought of all of our most memorable times as a class and also all the people who had helped us get to where we are."

The graduates handed white roses to their loved ones to show their appreciation. "It was sad seeing everyone crying with their families," senior Quinn Kasl said. "I wanted to make sure that I hugged and gave flowers to my family, but I also wanted to be sure to hug some of my close friends."

The seniors were recognized for excelling academically. Those that

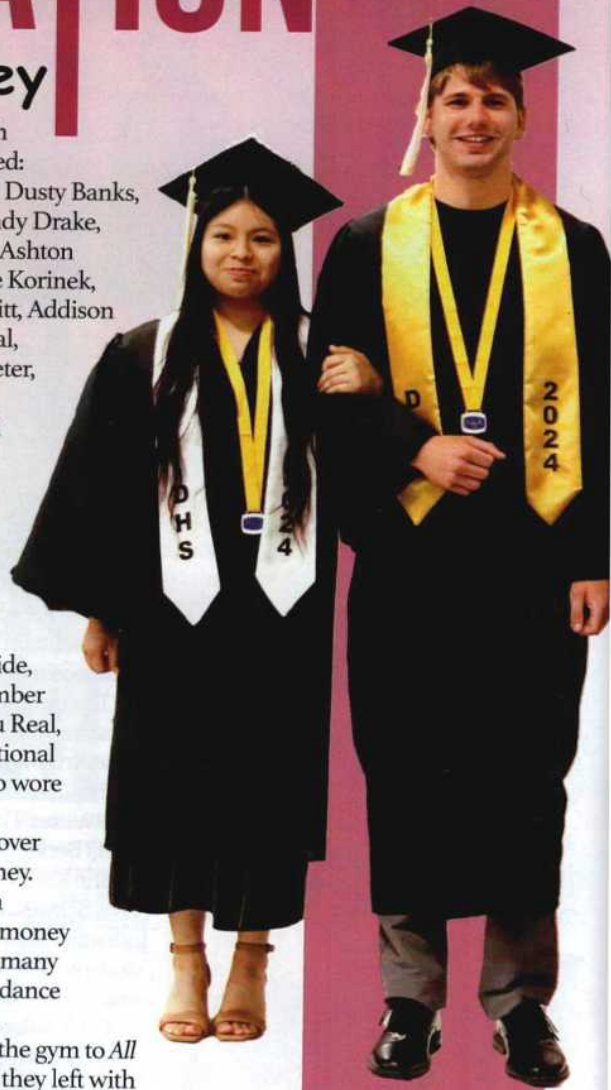
Graduated with Honors included: Suyapa Armas, Dusty Banks, Kayli Carey, Andy Drake, Jacob Hatfield, Ashton

Jirsa, Quinn Kasl, Stephanie Korinek, Amber Kotas, Victoria Leavitt, Addison Lehr, Elsy Loarca, Mitzu Real, Owen Real, Makayla Schlueter, Hailey Schweitzer, Bryer Shaw, Veronica Tercero, and Madison Theis.

The seniors who received CRC ACT Bronze Honors included: Victoria Leavitt, Addison Lehr, Hailey Schweitzer, and Madison Theis. Those honored as Thespians were Nancy Alcaide, Kayli Carey, Ashton Jirsa, Amber Kotas, Victoria Leavitt, Mitzu Real, and Madison Theis. The National Honor Society members also wore stoles.

The seniors accumulated over \$500,000 in scholarship money. "I think the seniors earning a large amount in scholarship money is awesome and opens up so many opportunities for them," Guidance Counselor Jill Choyeski said.

As the class of 2024 exited the gym to *All Of The Lights* by Kanye West, they left with many emotions. "When I was exiting the gym, I was relieved that I made it through the year," senior Hailey Schweitzer said, "and I was also excited for what is to come."



**Walking into the ceremony,** Elsy Loarca and Jacob Hatfield are ready to finally be Dorchester alumni.

**Class Colors:**  
*Boys: Black and Gold*  
*Girls: Black and White*

**Class Flower:**  
*White Rose*

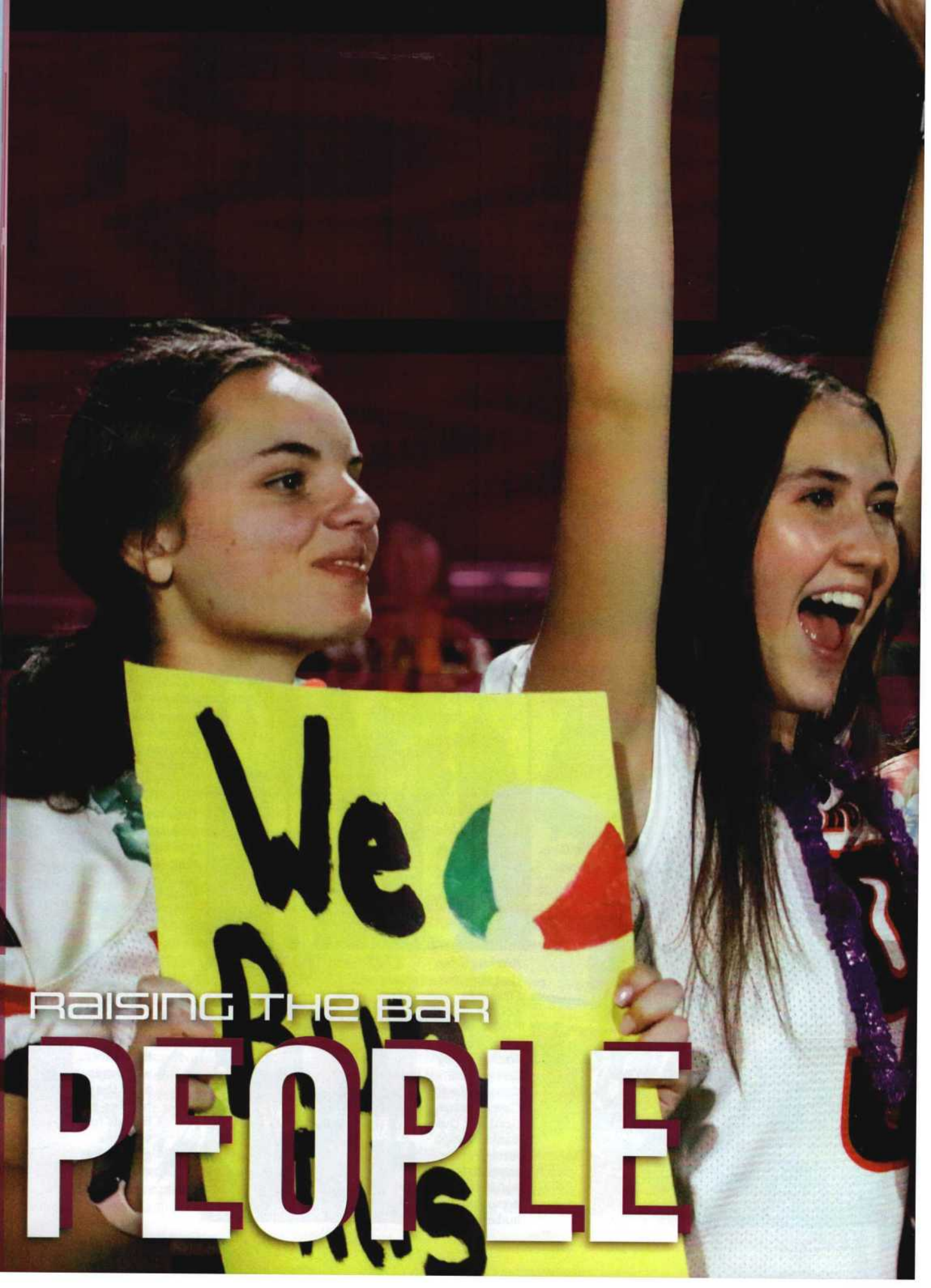
**Thanking her dad for everything,** Kayli Carey hugs him extra long and gives him a rose during the parent appreciation part of the ceremony.

**Class Ushers for the class of 2024** were juniors Andrea Pavlish, Owen Vyhnaelek, Baylor Behrens, and Gabby Theis. They received this honor by being selected for Girls and Boys State.

**Valedictorian,** Hailey Schweitzer, and **Salutatorian,** Addison Lehr, receive academic honors for being top of their class. They also both gave speeches thanking their families, teachers, and friends.

**After receiving their diplomas,** Stephanie Korinek, Quinn Kasl, Ashton Jirsa, Jacob Hatfield, Andy Drake, Israel Cornejo, Kayli Carey, Marcos Gonzalez, Dusty Banks, Suyapa Armas, Victor Lopez, & Nancy Alcaide are presented to the audience.

**Giving the opening speech,** senior class President, Amber Kotas, welcomes all of the families and friends to start the graduation ceremony.



RAISING THE BAR

# PEOPLE

*Cheering on the Longhorns during the football game, senior Kayli Carey, freshman Lily Lehr, and senior Addison Lehr yell while holding up signs to hopefully help gain a victory.*

**W**e consider ourselves one big family. Even though we are a small school, students and staff work to **"Raise the Bar"** to meet higher expectations.

As you walk down the hallway, you are normally greeted with a friendly smile or a simple "hello." "It's simply amazing how a small gesture can really make someone's day," junior Andrea Pavlish said.

One new way that this could be seen was from the new superintendent, Dr. Curtis Cogswell, who came out of retirement to head our school. He brought with him many ideas of ways to **"Raise the Bar."** He gave Friday 5's where he convened the 7-12 student body in the gym at the end of the week and talked about things that he noticed in the school or among the student body. He, as well, gave prizes and encouraged students to **go above and beyond** to help improve the school as well themselves. "I'm really glad that we have such a cool superintendent," eighth grader Max Novak said. "He has really made such an impact on the school in just a year."

Some staff have already been **"Raising the Bar."** After many years of hard work, Mrs. Karma Ridpath was awarded the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA) Outstanding Elementary Teacher of the Year. "It was quite an honor that I wasn't expecting," Ridpath said.

Alongside of that, principal Mr. Jake Wiese was awarded Outstanding New Principal of the Year. "I was surprised, humbled, and grateful for the award," Wiese said.

Students also tried to **"Raise the Bar"** at events like games, dances, or Spirit Week. Students went all out to make it the best. "It was fun to dress up as a group and to cheer on the teams," junior Atley Zoubek said. "I think our cheering really pumped them up, and it was fun to bond as a group by wearing fun clothes according to the theme of the night."

No matter what the students or staff did, they were intent on **"Raising the Bar."** "Dorchester is a good school to go to, but I think it's great when everyone puts in that extra effort to either come up with new ideas or improve on what we already have," senior Amber Kotas said.



*Making a silly face like an alien, senior Andy Drake wears a headband to resemble an alien from the movie Toy Story and gain points for dressing up during Spirit Week.*



*Sitting together during the Homecoming pep rally, seniors Bryer Shaw, Dusty Banks, junior AyLynn Schwisow, and senior Makayla Schuleter share a close time together.*



*Standing on the sidelines, seniors Quinn Kasl and Stephanie Korinek are all dressed up for the Homecoming Dance, but must first wait for the coronation after the Homecoming game.*



# SENIORS

CLASS OF 2024



**Seniors.** BR: Israel Cornejo, Jacob Hatfield, Owen Real, Andy Drake, Nancy Alcaide, Ashton Jirsa, William Paiz, Marcos Gonzalez, and Victor Lopez. MR: Veronica Tercero, Madison Theis, Amber Kotas, Suyapa Armas, Elsy Loarca, Bryer Shaw, Dusty Banks, and Victoria Leavitt. FR: Quinn Kasl, Addison Lehr, Stephanie Korinek, Kayli Carey, Makayla Schlueter, Hailey Schweitzer, and Mitzu Real.



nancy nayeli  
RODRIGUEZ  
ALCAIDE



SUYAPA CARROSCO  
ARMAS



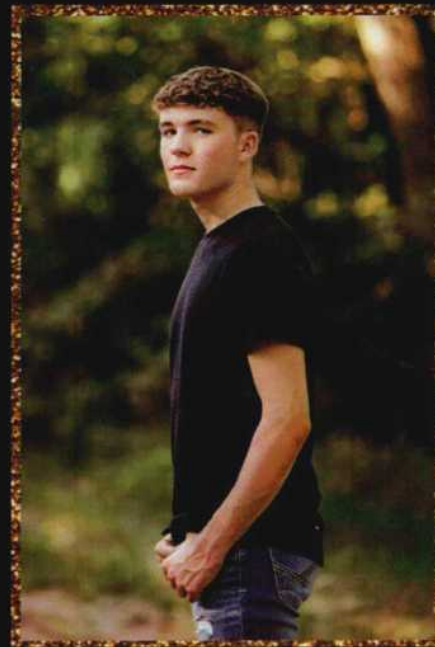
DUSTY RENEE  
BANKS



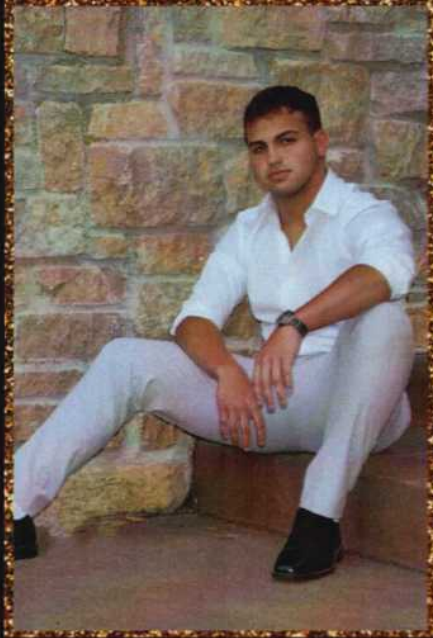
KAYLI BROOKE  
CAREY



ISRAEL JUVENTINO  
CORNEJO



ANDY GARRETT  
DRAKE



MARCOS ANTONIO  
GONZALEZ



JACOB MICHAEL  
HATFIELD



ASHTON LEE  
JIRSA



VICTORIA LOUISE  
LEAVITT



ADDISON LOVE  
LEHR



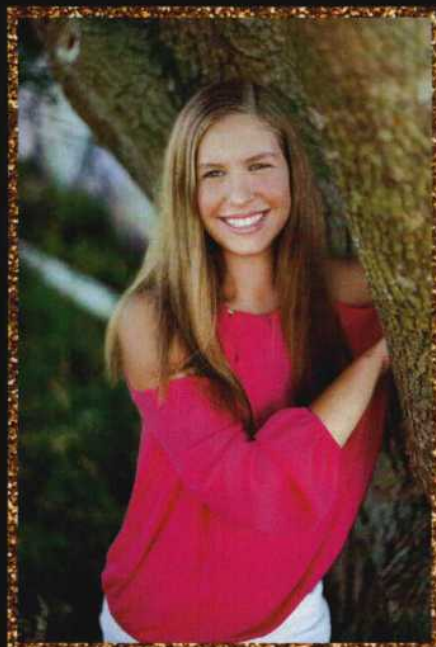
ELSY IRENE  
LOARCO



QUINN MARIE  
KASL



STEPHANIE ELIZABETH  
KORINEK



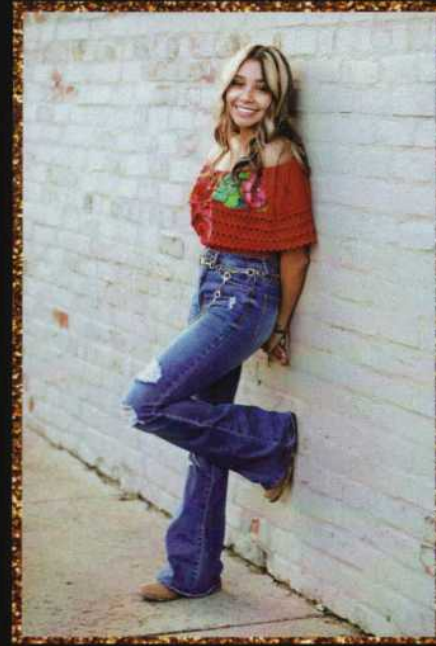
AMBER NICOLE  
KOTAS



VICTOR ALEGRIA  
LOPEZ



WILLIAM ELIEZER  
PAIZ BAPTISTA



MITZU CRUZ  
REAL



OWEN ESTAFANO

REAL  
CISNEROS



MAKAYLA LYNN

SCHLUETER



HAILEY ANN

SCHWEITZER



BRYER TESS

SHAW



VERONICA RAFAEL

TERCERO



MADISON MARIE

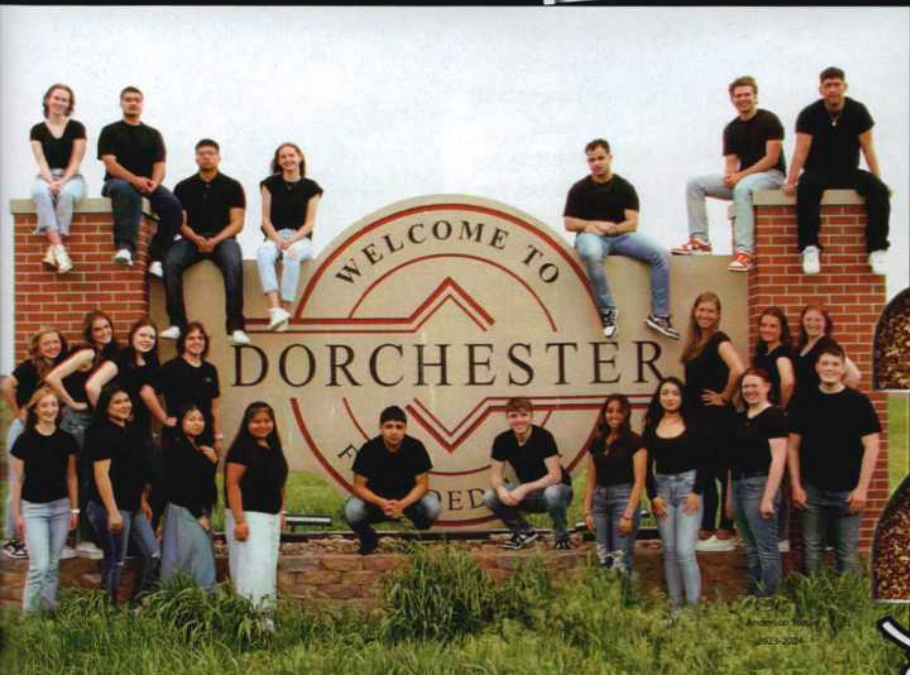
THEIS



**Senior girls.** Victoria Leavitt, Mitzu Real, Madison Theis, Hailey Schweitzer, Bryer Shaw, Makayla Schlueter, Dusty Banks, Quinn Kasl, Addison Lehr, Stephanie Korinek, Kayli Carey, Amber Kotas, Nancy Alcaide, Suyapa Armas, Elsy Loarca, and Veronica Tercero.



**Seniors.** BR: Mitzu Real, Ashton Jirsa, and Dusty Banks. 3rd Row: Quinn Kasl, Makayla Schlueter, and Elsy Loarca. 2nd Row: Madison Theis, Hailey Schweitzer, Victoria Leavitt, Amber Kotas, Addison Lehr, Stephanie Korinek, Bryer Shaw, Kayli Carey, Veronica Tercero, Suyapa Armas, and Nancy Alcaide. FR: Israel Cornejo, William Paiz, Marcos Gonzalez, Andy Drake, Owen Real, Jacob Hatfield, and Victor Lopez.



**Seniors.** BR: Makayla Schlueter, Israel Cornejo, William Paiz, Stephanie Korinek, Marcos Gonzalez, Jacob Hatfield and Victor Lopez. MR: Quinn Kasl, Addison Lehr, Bryer Shaw, Dusty Banks, Owen Real, Andy Drake, Amber Kotas, Kayli Carey, and Madison Theis. FR: Hailey Schweitzer, Suyapa Armas, Elsy Loarca, Veronica Tercero, Mitzu Real, Nancy Alcaide, Victoria Leavitt, and Ashton Jirsa.

CLASS OF 2024

**Q: What will you miss most about school?**

**A: I will miss the social aspect and the passion I had for sports.**



Marcos Gonzalez

**Q: What will you miss most about school?**

**A: The Chinese chicken served at lunch because it was my favorite meal.**



Madison Theis



**Dressed to Impress.** BR: Victoria Leavitt, Madison Theis, Hailey Schweitzer, Stephanie Korinek, Amber Kotas, Kayli Carey, Quinn Kasl, Jacob Hatfield, Addison Lehr, Bryer Shaw, Dusty Banks, Makayla Schlueter, and Mitzu Real. FR: Israel Cornejo, Marcos Gonzalez, Andy Drake, Victor Lopez, Owen Real, Ashton Jirsa, and William Paiz are ready for the Homecoming Dance.

# MAKING one last time MEMORIES

The bell rings signaling the end of school. You pack your bags and quickly rush out the door to where your car is parked, eager to get home and unwind from the day. Your destination is in sight, only several steps more. Out of the corner of your eye, you see your friend, phone recording, hurtling toward you. Before you can react to the action unraveling before you, you get blasted by a spray of water. You have lost the game.

The class of 2024 decided to add a little spin to the end-of-the-year shenanigans. A new popular game called *Senior Assassin* helped make the final stretch before Graduation just a bit more exciting. *Senior Assassin* was a game played with water guns. The objective of the game was to be the last one "alive."

At the start of each round, every player was assigned a target, a classmate, that they had to splash with a water gun to get them out of the game. Once you got your target out, you were assigned your next target and so on, until there was only one player left standing.

The tricky part was, that you were not allowed to get your target during school so the seniors had to get creative and scheme their way to victory through betrayal and deception. "The fear of having to go places and not knowing if one of my classmates would plot to eliminate me made playing *Senior Assassin* just that much more fun," Makayla Schlueter said.

However, *Senior Assassin* was not the only memorable time shared by the class. "My favorite

class memory was our senior sunrise that we did around Homecoming," Dusty Banks said, "because I feel like we had a good time watching the sun come up on the football field together."

Being the oldest in the school, the seniors learned what it meant to be leaders and role models to the younger students. "Having the younger kids look up to me for guidance and leadership has been one of my favorite things about being a senior," Amber Kotas said.

Many seniors had the opportunity to be TAs. "Being a TA for Mrs. Nerud, the third-grade teacher, has taught me to be patient, understanding and a good listener," Jacob Hatfield said. "The responsibility I had to take on to help with kids around the classroom helped my leadership skills."

The seniors also led with academic excellence. "Being in a competitive class pushes me to work harder and achieve those high grades to be a top student," Addison Lehr said.

As May 10th crept up, Graduation was on everyone's mind. "I feel happy and sad at the same time because we have to be adults now," Veronica Tercero said.

With the year coming to a bitter-sweet end, many were thankful for the class that they were able to grow up with. "I will miss my classmates the most and the memories we made," Kayli Carey said. "I'm nervous to be on my own but also excited to start a new chapter."



**Cheering on the football team,** Addison Lehr shows her team spirit in her tropical-themed outfit and with her decorated sign.



Victoria Leavitt



**Q:** What was your favorite part about senior year?

**A:** I liked almost being done with school.

Elsy Loarca



**Q:** What was your favorite part about senior year?

**A:** I liked all the activities like the field trip and senior skip day.

**Showing school spirit,**

BR: Dusty Banks, Amber Kotas, Ashton Jirsa, Andy Drake, and Jacob Hatfield. FR: Kayli Carey, Hailey Schweitzer, and Quinn Kasl wear black and orange for Spirit Week.



**Adding more balloons,** Makayla Schlueter ensures that the balloon arch looks perfect by adding a few more details for the Homecoming dance which was sponsored by the seniors.



**Rolling out the paint,** Mitzu Real and Bryer Shaw add more orange to the bleachers to make them look shiny and new. The seniors were enlisted to improve the football bleachers.



**Eating breakfast,** Andy Drake, Victoria Leavitt, Suyapa Armas, Veronica Tercero, Nancy Alcaide, Elsy Loarca, Owen Real, Marcos Gonzalez, and Jacob Hatfield enjoy the meal made by the teachers and staff to honor the seniors.



**Spending time with friends,** Suyapa Armas and Nancy Alcaide high five with their paint rollers on a job well done of painting the bleachers.



**Winding up and connecting wires.** Joseph Peacock and Julian Tellez learn how circuits can control and function properly to make light bulbs work.



**Rejoicing in their win.** Atley Zoubek, Owen Vyhnaelek, Ariana Tellez, and Baylor Behrens let everyone know they won the Build-a-Burger Race and added 100 points to their total which helped them to win overall for Spirit Week.



**Coming together.** Atley Zoubek, AyLynn Schwisow, Ariana Tellez, Gabby Theis, Mackenzie Luzum, Andrea Pavlish, Owen Vyhnaelek, and Joseph Peacock cheer around the bonfire.



Baylor Behrens



Angelina Cornejo



Isabella Cornejo



Keith Kemerling



**Making the cut.** Baylor Behrens and Gabby Theis work together to make decorations for Prom to cover the walls, chairs, and tables. The juniors were in charge of hosting the Prom for the sophomores, juniors, and seniors.



Joseph Peacock



AyLynn Schwisow



Ariana Tellez



Julian Tellez



Gabrielle Theis



Owen Vyhnaelek



Atley Zoubek

**All dressed up for Homecoming.** BR: Ariana Tellez, Mackenzie Luzum, Baylor Behrens, Andrea Pavlish, Atley Zoubek, AyLynn Schwisow, and Gabby Theis. FR: Joseph Peacock and Owen Vyhnaelek get ready to dance.

Juniors

# FACING <sup>new</sup> CHALLENGES

making special memories



**Huddling together on the class float.** BR: Gabby Theis and Owen Vyhnaek. FR: Ariana Tellez, Baylor Behrens, Atley Zoubek, AyLynn Schwisow, Andrea Pavlish, Mackenzie Luzum, and Joseph Peacock are ready to go west.



Mackenzie Luzum Karina Maldonado Alisson Nuñez Andrea Pavlish

Being an upperclassman, planning for Prom, taking the ACT, and looking at options for the future took up the most time for the juniors' year.

For some juniors, the year was harder than expected. "In my opinion, junior year was very difficult," Isabella Cornejo said. "The classes were much more difficult than previous years, and I wasn't prepared for the challenging classes."

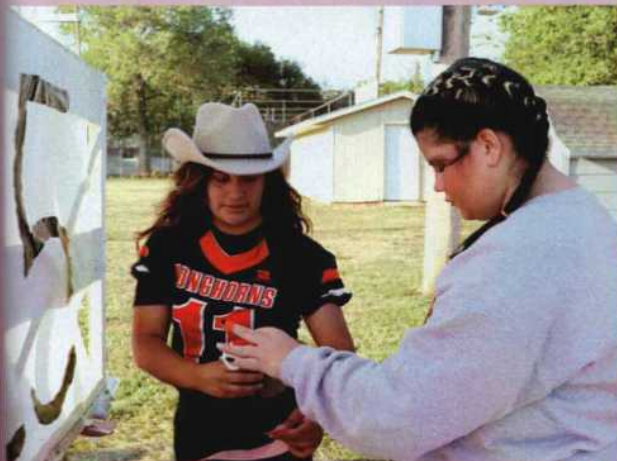
Another challenge was staying on top of homework and stepping up to the plate for what was expected of them. "The biggest challenge for me was just getting through the school day," Ariana Tellez said. "I was always hurt, which made me more stressed out with making sure I got my homework done so I just always wanted to leave."

One big task that they were put in charge of was organizing Prom. "We put in a lot of time and made a lot of lists," AyLynn Schwisow said. "We also looked through old decor and assigned tasks for people to get done while decorating so we could use our time more efficiently."

"My favorite part of junior year was decorating for Prom," Atley Zoubek said. "It took a lot of work to make sure we had everything and working as a team, but in the end it was fun."

They also had to tackle the challenge of taking the ACT. Before taking the ACT, they had taken a Pre-ACT to give them a feeling of what the actual test would be like. "To be honest the actual ACT was easier than the Pre-ACT," Owen Vyhnaek said. "The questions on the Pre-ACT were very difficult, and most didn't make sense."

All in all, the junior year was expected to be harder than previously. In reality, it was very busy, but also filled with creating memories. "Everyone said that junior year is the hardest year yet," Angelina Cornejo said, "but really it goes by quickly when you keep yourself busy. It was important to take time and enjoy every moment."



**Using the western theme.** Ariana Tellez and AyLynn Schwisow tape the class year to the back of the Homecoming float. Juniors collaborated to make their float the best, which turned out well because they won the float contest.



**Focusing on tearing the paper very diligently,** Mackenzie Luzum adds grass decorations to their western-themed hallway during Spirit Week.



**Q: What makes the class unique?**

**A: We don't always get along, but we can make great things happen.**



**Q: What makes the class unique?**

**A: We all have different interests, but we can work together as a team.**

Juniors

# FULL of ACTION

encourages laughter along the way

## Sophomores

Bright, energetic, and friendly were a few words that described the sophomore class. The class was very small which made getting along easier. "We've always been a small class. In fourth grade we only had five students so having nine students is actually a lot," Carter Cerny said. "Those original five are still here, but over the years new students have been added, and then other years students have left."

"From the end of last year we lost two students. We added Megan Gordon at the beginning of the year, and then Hunter Wake came at semester," Chase Tachovsky said. "I'm glad we've added more students."

"I like that we are so small as a class," Megan Gordon said. "It's a lot different than being in a large school."

The sophomores were also a very active class. They were involved in every activity from sports to drama to journalism or music. There were days where only three kids were in class due to activities. "Basketball season is my favorite season," Hunter Wake said. "It's my favorite sport."

The sophomores shared all of the same classes but one, math, because some took more advanced math. "Geometry was my least favorite class," Micaela Loarca said. "I just wasn't good at it so I didn't like it."

"My favorite class was weights," Adrian Alcaide said. "I really like lifting weights and increasing my max."

The class shared lots of laughs. "My favorite memory would be having lots of good laughs with my classmates," Savannah June said.

Because the class is so close they have my laughs together. "My favorite memory was when I was in English class, and we were reading and there was a box of chips in the corner of the room," Caden Axline said. "I was hungry and wanted a bag so I took one and tried going to the bathroom, but the bag fell out of my pocket and Ms. Schutte was mad. It was so funny. The class was cracking up."



**Trying to win,** Carter Cerny and Chase Tachovsky hit the balloon over the net and down the court while playing in the Spirit Week Games on Friday of Spirit Week. "We had to really work together to make it work," Cerny said.

**Lending a helping hand,** Bailey

Theis helps Caden Axline with his math homework while Carter Cerny and Chase Tachovsky look on after applying Band-Aids to Caden's body.

**Q: What's your favorite class?**

**A: My favorite class is welding because it I want to do welding in my future.**



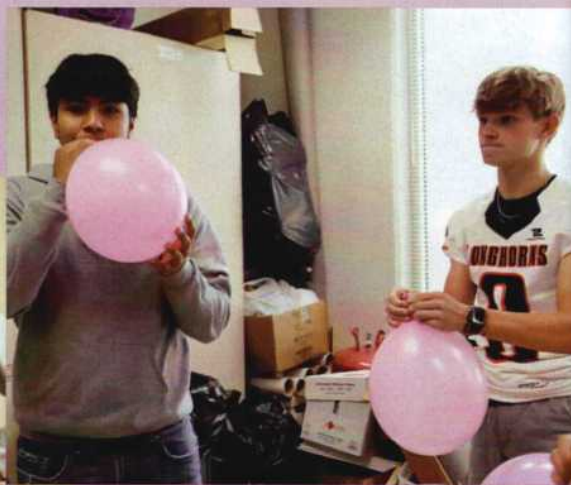
Caden Axline

**Q: What's your favorite class?**

**A: My favorite class is weights because it helps me get stronger.**



Bailey Theis



**Blowing up,** Chase Tachovsky and Adrian Alcaide help blow up balloons for their Homecoming hallway. The theme for the sophomore hallway was the Taylor Swift's Eras Tour.



**Yelling at the top of their lungs**, Carter Cerny, Chase Tachovsky, Caden Axline, Adrian Alcaide, Savannah June, Megan Gordon, Bailey Theis, and Micaela Loarca try to outyell the other classes at the Homecoming Bonfire.



**Making music**, Bailey Theis plays the trombone at a home football game. "I like playing at the games," Theis said. "It helps get the crowd pumped to cheer them on."



**Showing their school spirit**, the sophomores are ready for the Homecoming Parade to begin after decorating with balloons, streamers, and posters.



**Lighting it up**, the sophomores are ready to watch the "D" burn and to yell longhorn cheers between the classes at the bonfire.



Adrian Alcaide    Caden Axline    Carter Cerny    Megan Gordon



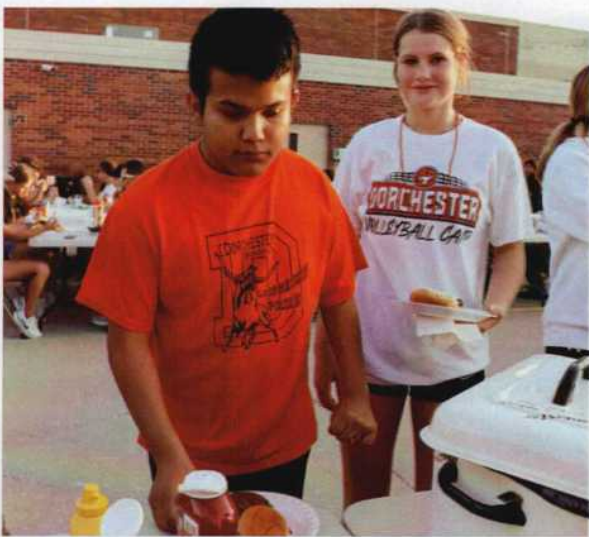
Savannah June    Micaela Loarca    Chase Tachovsky    Bailey Theis    Hunter Wake



**Partying on**, BR: Caden Axline, Micaela Loarca, Bailey Theis, Savannah June, and Megan Gordon. FR: Carter Cerny, Chase Tachovsky and Adrian Alcaide are ready to boogie at the Homecoming Dance.



**Working together**, Micaela Loarca and Savannah June make a poster for the float that they will ride in the Homecoming Parade. "I like decorating," Loarca said, "especially when we work together."



**At the hamburger feed,** Michael Maldonado and Jace Yager line up to enjoy a hamburger and chips after the parade.



**Helping a classmate,** Colton Harrison, Briana Tellez and Emilia Perez help Brandon Luna put on his apron for the Build-a-Burger relay, a game during Spirit Week where they had to assemble a burger and race across the gym.



**Full of spirit,** Livia Schweitzer and Lily Lehr cheer on the football team to victory against St. Edward.



Benji Beckley    Colton Harrison    Jonathan Hernandez    Mason June



**Working on decorations to be used during Spirit Week,** Senaida Tercero makes a poster for the Homecoming parade. The theme of the float was to Beat the Mustangs.



Tessa Martin    Frank Matejka    Emilia Perez    Livia Schweitzer    Briana Tellez



Senaida Tercero    Jace Yager

**Dressed up for a night of dancing,** BR: Briana Tellez, Emilia Perez, Jace Yager, Lily Lehr, and Livia Schweitzer. FR: Colton Harrison, Frank Matejka, and Mason June are ready for their first Homecoming dance.

Freshmen

# PARTAKING <sup>new</sup> EXPERIENCES

with confidence and skill



**At the Homecoming Parade,** Emilia Perez, Frank Matejka, Mason June, Colton Harrison, Lily Lehr, Jace Yager, Michael Maldonado, Briana Tellez, and Livia Schweitzer wait for the parade to start.



Lily Lehr

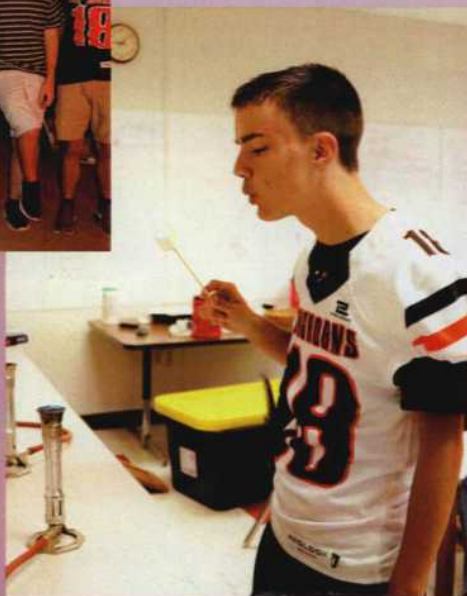
Rosie Lopez

Brandon Luna

Michael Maldonado



**At the Homecoming Bonfire,** Emilia Perez, Livia Schweitzer, Briana Tellez, Lily Lehr, Jace Yager, Tessa Martin, Colton Harrison, and Mason June yell their class cheers.



**Blowing out the flame of his marshmallow,** Mason June enjoys his s'more in physical science class.

Fun, chaotic, and stressful were just a few ways to describe the freshman year. "I found classes to be harder," Senaida Tercero said. "There was a lot more homework this year."

There were also many new experiences. "The most memorable experience was when I got a black eye in P.E.," Jace Yager said. "I crashed into Mason June during speed away."

"Tearing my ACL was the most memorable experience," Livia Schweitzer said. "It wasn't fun to have to sit out most of the season."

Many discovered which classes they liked and didn't like. "P.E. was my favorite because I like messing around with my classmates," Frank Matejka said.

"My least favorite class would have to be world geography because it is very hard to learn," Benji Beckley said.

"My least favorite class was English because it made me tired," Jonathan Hernandez said.

Some stepped up to the new responsibilities. "Having study hall eighth period helped me finish all my assignments," Lily Lehr said. "I always had my work done for the next day."

For others it was harder to meet deadlines. "Turning in my assignments on time became a problem for me," Briana Tellez said. "I was in more activities than last year so it was hard to manage my time."

For some, it was just harder work. "The most difficult class for me was algebra," Emilia Perez said. "Math was more advanced than last year."

"English was the most difficult class because *NoRedInk* was hard," Colton Harrison said.

High school also brought more freedom and activities to enjoy. "Getting the chance to join journalism was my favorite part about being a freshman," Michael Maldonado said.

"Being able to play high school sports was my favorite part about being a freshman," Mason June said. "I enjoyed playing with the upperclassmen."

Freshmen



Benji Beckley

**Q:** What's your favorite ice cream flavor?

**A:** My favorite ice cream flavor is vanilla.



Rosie Lopez

**Q:** What's your favorite ice cream flavor?

**A:** My favorite ice cream flavor is cookies & cream.

**Laura Barlow:** Reading Interventionist, Reading Classic  
**Corey Bird:** Special Education, HS Boys Basketball, HS Track, D-Club  
**Deanna Bird:** Paraprofessional, Bus Driver, Concessions Manager  
**Adam Briggs:** Custodian  
**Brandon Bruha:** Industrial Technology, JH & HS Girls Basketball, HS Track, D-Club



**Jessica Burry:** ELL, Spanish  
**Jay Carlson:** Bus Driver  
**Amanda Cerny:** Head Cook  
**Jill Choyeski:** Guidance Counselor  
**Curtis Cogswell:** Superintendent



**Danielle Duba:** Paraprofessional  
**Jaci Dunaway:** Library, Study Skills, JH Health  
**Jennifer Feeken:** Bookkeeper  
**Karen Hrdlicka:** Paraprofessional, Speech, HS Musical, One Act  
**Steve Jirsa:** Music, HS Musical, One Act



**Leanne Josoff:** Psychologist  
**Randy Klooz:** Math, Science, JH Sponsor, Science Olympiad  
**JeNae Kort:** Math, Sophomore Sponsor  
**Spencer Kotas:** Social Studies, JH Football, Asst. HS Football, JH Track, Senior Sponsor  
**Betty Luong:** Cook



**Stacy Lutjemeyer**  
Art, Student Council



**Crystal Moore**  
Cook

*In 1st grade art, student teacher Hallie Jensen helps first grader Bernyce Vazquez trace an art project. Jensen student taught for Mrs. Lutjemeyer.*



*The District honored years of service to DPS. With their plaques are Mrs. Amanda Cerny (10), Mrs. Sandy Severance (35), Mrs. Jessica Tuttle (5), Mrs. Karma Ridpath (30), and Mrs. Bailey Schindler (5). Not Pictured: Mrs. Cassidy Bruha (5), Mr. Brandon Bruha (10), and Mr. Corey Bird (5).*



**Christopher Nelson**  
Science,  
Freshmen Sponsor,  
JH & HS Wrestling

# FACULTY <sup>and</sup> STAFF

striving for excellence



**Judy Persson:** Paraprofessional  
**Michelle Rathbun:** Custodian  
**Karma Ridpath:** Special Education, Title 1, JH Play, Reading Classic, Thespians  
**Audrey Schutte:** English, Junior Sponsor  
**Nicole Schweitzer:** Paraprofessional



**Sandy Severance:** English, Social Studies, Journalism, NHS, Reading Classic, JH & HS Quiz Bowl, JH Sponsor  
**Brandon Sullivan:** P.E., JH Football, JH Boys Basketball, Asst. HS Boys Basketball, JH Track  
**Claire Tachovsky:** Business, FBIA, JH & HS Volleyball  
**Angelica Tellez:** ELL Paraprofessional  
**Jessica Tuttle:** Secretary



**Zaira Vazquez:** Paraprofessional  
**Bailey Velder:** Paraprofessional  
**Sarah Vyhnaelek:** Paraprofessional, JH Play  
**Rachel Weakland:** Speech Pathologist  
**Jake Wiese:** Principal



*During elementary lunch, Mr. Jirsa directs the choir as they sing *Elijah Rock*. After 6 years at DPS, Jirsa is moving on to teach at Wilber-Clatonia.*



**Clinton Zaptin**  
 Custodian, Bus Driver



**Deputy Jennifer Warning**  
 School Resource Officer

**Board Members:** Matt Hansen, Carol Schnell, Mike Hatfield, Steve Vyhnaelek, Kelli Schweitzer, and Shelly Lehr.

# PLENTY of ACTIVITIES

8th Grade

keep the junior high busy



Lyberty Bartlett

Being in junior high brought a lot of challenges. Students had more homework and responsibilities, but they also had more opportunities to participate in activities. "The best part about being in seventh grade was being able to play junior high sports," seventh grader Landon Shaw said. "It's fun to play with the eighth graders."

"My favorite activity is playing in sports," eighth grader Hadley Brant said.

Junior high was a time of having a variety of classes. "My favorite subject was art," seventh grader Annaleah Tellez said. "I liked drawing in art and making things out of clay."

"My favorite class was social studies," seventh grader Brennaly Vazquez said. "I learned a lot of new things."

They also enjoyed doing projects in a variety of classes. In shop the seventh graders painted wooden ducks and the eighth graders made CO2 cars which they later raced. "Shop was my favorite class," eighth grader Lindsay DelToro said. "I like how I can be creative and make cool things."

"I enjoyed making rockets because they were fun," eighth grader Antonio Loarca said. "I liked seeing how high my rocket went in the sky."

In social studies, the seventh graders made Across Nebraska Projects. "I liked doing the Trip Across Nebraska project in social studies," seventh grader Cameron Yager said. "It was easy planning out the trip but hard coming up with ideas of where to go, eat, etc."

In eighth grade, the students made their own political parties and then ran against each other. "I really liked debating against my classmates," eighth grader Blake Cerny said. "I liked challenging others on their beliefs on different topics."

"I liked doing the Canyons project in English," seventh grader Faith Sherman said. "I liked creating the posters and coloring them."

Jr. high also brought memorable times. "I liked working on our hallway for Spirit Week. We made a lot of memories working on it," seventh grader Malikhi Gooding said.

Q: What's your favorite class?

A: Shop, because I like to build things.



Trevin Steuk

Q: What's your favorite class?

A: English, I like the books we read.



Sierra Sherwood



Faith Elkins



Laura Garcia



Kendall Kasl



Antonio Loarca



Max Novak



Jorge Reyes



Sierra Sherwood



Ella Vyhnaek



Troy Dawes



Maribel Garcia



Malikhi Gooding



Joshua Gordon



Waiting for the Spirit Week Parade to begin, the eighth graders show off their float. They worked hard to make their float look good and used a Hawaiian theme.

In shop, seventh graders Maribel Garcia and Kaitlyn Bolton add the plastic opening to their piggy bank by clamping it down.





Hadley Brandt



Blake Cerny



Lindsay DelToro



Bryan Martin



Emely Morales



Thor Nerud



*The 7th grade class* is ready to enjoy their first Spirit Week Parade. The class worked together to decorate the float and to bond as a class.

# 7th Grade



Paxton Behrens



Kaitlyn Bolton



Javier Cornejo



*Showing their musical talents*, the seventh graders do a song and dance routine they learned in music class for the Christmas Concert.



Royce Gutierrez



Kadyn Kemerling



Erik Paiz



Landon Shaw



Faith Sherman



Trevin Steuk



Annaleah Tellez



Brennaly Vazquez



Dominick Winter



Cameron Yager



*Decorating the hallway for Spirit Week*, eighth grader Ella Vyhnaelek creates a tornado to go with the Wizard of Oz theme.

*At the Jr. High Dance*, 8th graders Thor Nerud, Emely Morales, Lyberty Bartlett, Sierra Sherwood, Hadley Brandt, Faith Elkins, Ella Vyhnaelek, Kendall Kasl, & Max Novak dress up to dance the night away.

# LOOKING FOR THE WIN

and improvement along the way



**JH Football.** BR: Coach Brandon Sullivan, Kadyr Kemerling, Royce Gutierrez, Antonio Loarca, Max Novak, & Coach Spencer Kotas. MR: Laura Garcia, Erik Paiz, Landon Shaw, Jorge Reyes, Malikh Gooding, & Trevin Steuk. FR: Thor Nerud, Troy Dawes, Blake Cerny, Paxton Behrens, & Bryan Martin.

Whether it was scoring a touchdown or hitting the ball over the net, the players tried their best to improve and succeed on the court and on the field.

The team had 15 boys and 1 girl. "I really liked playing football. Scoring a touchdown was my favorite memory this season," eighth grader Laura Garcia said. "It's what my goal was all along so to actually run the ball in was fantastic."

Even though the junior high football team went 1-4, they were happy for their win. "The Sterling game was my favorite game because it was the first game we won this season," seventh grader Troy Dawes said. "That was one of our goals, to at least get one win, and we did."

The coaches were happy with the effort put in by the team. "The team was very coachable and hard working. I really wanted the team to rely on their teammates for clean-up tackles, and they reached their goal," Coach Brandon Sullivan said.

The junior high volleyball team was focused on practicing and improving on their positions on the court, communicating

**JH Volleyball.** BR: Coach Claire Tachovsky, Hadley Brandt, Kendall Kasl, Sierra Sherwood, Ella Vyhnalek, & Lindsay DeToro. FR: Faith Elkins, Annaleah Tellez, Kaitlyn Bolton, & Brennalay Vazquez.



as a team, and hitting the ball. "I like to be active and I like playing sports," seventh grader Kaitlyn Bolton said. "I also feel like I improved on my serving."

One thing that caused some frustration was not having the same coach all of the time. Even though Claire Tachovsky was their coach, there were games that she couldn't attend because she was also the varsity coach so Lisa Lautzenhiser stepped up and filled in.

"It was hard to go back and forth between coaches," eighth grader Faith Elkins said. "You get to know how to work under one coach, and then it changed with the next coach."

There were some favorite games. "My favorite game was Hampton," eighth grader Sierra Sherwood said. "It was 18-24, and I came in and served. I kept serving until we won the game."

"My favorite game was Meridian," seventh grader Brennalay Vazquez said. "Even though we lost, I feel we really learned a lot in that game."

"The girls always did their best. I wanted them to learn the rules of the game and to play well. I think they did that," Coach Tachovsky said. The girls ended their season with a record of 4-6.



**Jumping high to get a better strike angle,** eighth grader Lindsay Del Toro leaps to hit the ball over the net for a kill.

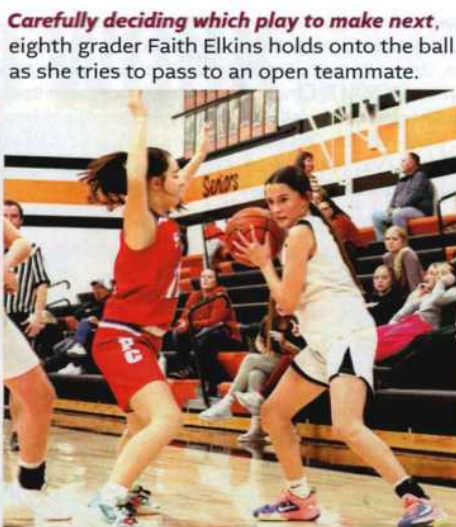
**Pulling away from his Sterling opponent,** seventh grader Paxton Behrens rushes as eighth grader Thor Nerud separates him and his offender.



**Stretching her arm as far as she can,** seventh grader Kaitlyn Bolton jumps and reaches to hit the ball back to keep the ball in play with the help of eighth graders Faith Elkins and Lindsay DeToro.



**Jumping past his Hampton opponent,** eighth grader Jorge Reyes leaps high to get in range for a clean layup.



**Carefully deciding which play to make next,** eighth grader Faith Elkins holds onto the ball as she tries to pass to an open teammate.



**Driving past his High Plains opponent,** eighth grader Max Novak seizes the opportunity to run through an opening and go in for a layup.

Improving their game and having fun was what the junior high basketball teams were doing their best to accomplish, whether it was shooting around at practice or scoring in games, they made the most of their year.

Before the boys were on the court, they set goals for themselves to complete over the season. "I like to think that I improved because we did better as the year went on, but that was a team effort," seventh grader Landon Shaw said.

The boys also showed their skills through winning games. The favorite game of many was at the Bee tournament where the boys went against a Lincoln team and played them to get third place. "Going against the Lincoln Clippers was my favorite game because it was an intense game. In the last quarter we won by 3. It was so exciting to pull off the win and to place in the tournament," eighth grader Thor Nerud said. The boys ended their season with a record of 5-7.

The main goal for the girls was to always improve. "I started playing better and helping my team out. I even became a better teammate as the season went on," eighth grader

Kendall Kasl said.

The girls made many memories and even had before game rituals. "One of my favorite memories was when we were playing McCool Junction, and we almost beat them. Mr. Kotas was coaching us," seventh grader Kaitlyn Bolton said. "At halftime, we were up by 5; then we started to lose energy. Unfortunately, we lost by four points."

"My favorite game was the Meridian game. It was a fun and exciting game," seventh grader Maribel Garcia said. "At the beginning of the season, I didn't know if I wanted to play or not so I just decided to try something new, and I ended up liking it."

The girls were excited for their wins against Hampton. "The team was so excited to win against Hampton," eighth grader Hadley Brandt said. "It was cool that we did it twice, and from those wins, we gained more confidence."

"From the start to the finish, the girls improved a lot. They started handling the ball better and made smarter decisions out on the floor," Coach Brandon Bruha said. The girls finished off their season at 2-8.

# TAKING IT to the HOOP

through practice  
and skills

**JH Boys Basketball.** BR: Coach Brandon Sullivan, Landon Shaw, Thor Nerud, Trevin Steuk, Jorge Reyes, Max Novak, Paxton Behrens, & Bryan Martin. FR: Dominick Winter, Josh Gordon, Antonio Loarca, Kadyr Kemerling, & Royce Gutierrez.



**JH Basketball.** BR: Faith Elkins, Kendall Kasl, Ella Vyhnaek, Hadley Brandt, Kaitlyn Bolton, & Coach Brandon Bruha. FR: Maribel Garcia, Annaleah Tellez, Brenna Vazquez, & Laura Garcia.



JH Volleyball,  
Football, Basketball



**Getting ready to throw the shot put,** seventh grader Malikhi Gooding lowers himself to launch it far.

Hard working, competitive, and dedicated were a few words to describe the junior high track athletes. The athletes did their best to improve throughout the season.

Giving it their all and working to beat PR's helped them improve. "We have a very dedicated team that has PR'd all year long," Coach Brandon Sullivan said.

"I would describe our team as very competitive. We didn't give up. We worked hard. It was awesome," Coach Spencer Kotas said.

For the girls, seventh grader Kaitlyn Bolton placed first in discus at Crossroads Conference with a throw of 83'5. "I was really nervous at first, but after seeing how the other girls were throwing, I felt pretty confident."

Also placing first at the Crossroads Conference was eighth grader Faith Elkins who won with the time of 17.82 in the 100 meter hurdles. "I started out pretty well, but towards the end it got worse. I went into my race confident, and once I won it felt pretty good," Elkins said.

There were favorite meets. "My favorite meet was in McCool Junction because I like the track,"

**At the McCool Junction Relay Meet,** seventh grader Maribel Garcia runs with the baton to pass it to her teammate eighth grader Kendall Kasl in the 4 x 2 race.



**JH Track Team.** BR: Malikhi Gooding, Erik Paiz, Cameron Yager, Troy Dawes, Blake Cerny, Jorge Reyes, & Paxton Behrens. 3rd Row: Bryan Martin, Javier Cornejo, Trevin Steuk, Antonio Loarca, Max Novak, Kadyr Kemerling, & Landon Shaw. 2nd Row: Coach Spencer Kotas, Sierra Sherwood, Kendall Kasl, Hadley Brandt, Ella Vyhnaek, Faith Elkins, Kaitlyn Bolton, & Coach Brandon Sullivan. FR: Royce Gutierrez, Brennaly Vazquez, Maribel Garcia, Annaleah Tellez, Laura Garcia, & Josh Gordon. Not pictured: Thor Nerud.



**Running the 400 meter relay,** eighth grader Bryan Martin pushes himself to the finish line.

seventh grader Annaleah Tellez said, "and I made new friends."

"Making new friends at the meet was good. At the Fairbury meet we got to eat snow cones, and they tasted so good," eighth grader Lindsay DelToro said.

A lot of students liked the last meet at McCool Junction. "At our last meet, my friends and I messed around, splashing water at each other after our relays were over," eighth grader Antonio Loarca said.

From having only one athlete for the past two years to having seven wrestlers, the wrestling team increased in size and skill, which helped at practices and at meets. "There were many new wrestlers. Because of that, there was a lot of learning and improvements made throughout the season," Coach Chris Nelson said.

There were many reasons to join the wrestling program. "I joined wrestling because I've been doing club wrestling since third grade," seventh grader Brennaly Vazquez said, "and I like wrestling,"

"I liked that I got to meet new people at the meets," seventh grader Erik Paiz said. "My favorite meet was when I placed third."

"I thought I'd try it out. At first I didn't know what to expect, but overall I liked it," seventh grader Cameron Yager said.

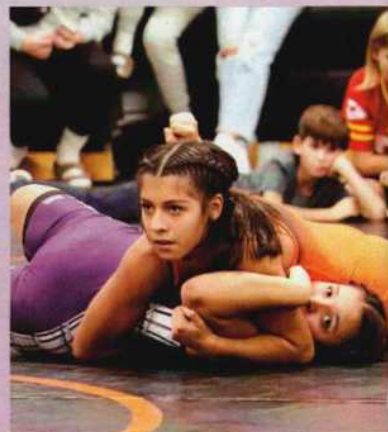
# LARGER NUMBERS

helps at practices and meets



**JH Wrestling Team:** BR: Malikhi Gooding, Cameron Yager, Erik Paiz, Bryan Martin, and Coach Chris Nelson. FR: Brennaly Vazquez and Lindsay DelToro. Not Pictured: Javier Cornejo.

**At the Dorchester Invite,** seventh grader Brennaly Vazquez uses all her strength to pin her opponent at the Dorchester Meet.



# HARD WORK brings to the junior high AWARDS

**Science Awards:** BR: Sierra Sherwood, Ella Vyhnaelek, and Troy Dawes. MR: Joshua Gordon, Max Novak, Trevin Steuk, and Landon Shaw. FR: Brennaly Vazquez, Kendall Kasl, Paxton Behrens, and Thor Nerud. Not Pictured: Lyberty Bartlett.



**English Awards:** BR: Max Novak, Ella Vyhnaelek, Landon Shaw, and Trevin Steuk. FR: Brennaly Vazquez, Kendall Kasl, Paxton Behrens, and Thor Nerud. Not Pictured: Maribel Garcia.

Staying up late to finish assignments or projects, finally paid off at Honors Night. Students that improved and advanced in academics and extracurriculars were given awards by their teachers. "I put a lot of work and effort into this school year and it paid off," seventh grader Landon Shaw said.

Teachers awarded the top students in math, science, English, social studies, art, computer, guidance and music. The top guidance awards went to Landon Shaw, Ella Vyhnaelek, Max Novak, and Sierra Sherwood. Paxton Behrens, Troy Dawes, and Kaitlyn Bolton were awarded 7th grade outstanding keyboarding students. In Intro to Business Technology those students who received above a 97% were Hadley Brandt, Lindsay Del Toro, Faith Elkins, Ella Vyhnaelek, Antonio Loarca, Sierra Sherwood, Max Novak, and Kendall Kasl.

Top art students were seventh grader Kaitlyn Bolton and eighth grader Lindsey DelToro. Top students for music included: Troy Dawes, Maribel Garcia, Max Novak, and Ella Vyhnaelek. Top readers were Max Novak and Trevin Steuk.

Seventh grade students who had a high NWEA Growth Progress in math included: Maribel Garcia, Landon Shaw, Annaleah Tellez, and Faith Sherman. The top Academic Growth medal for NWEA was given to Troy Dawes.

Eighth grade students who had high NWEA Growth Progress in math were Lyberty Bartlett and Blake Cerny. The top Academic Growth medal for NWEA was given to Laura Garcia.

Certificates were also awarded to those who participated in Reading Classic, Drama, Quiz Bowl, Student Council, Spelling Contest, and Honor Roll. "It felt good getting rewarded for my work because I really care about all of my grades," eighth grader Ella Vyhnaelek said.

After the awards, punch and cookies were served, everyone went home feeling proud of all their well deserved accomplishments. "Not only was getting my math medal my favorite part, but also the cookies were great," said eighth grader Sierra Sherwood.



**Math Awards:** BR: Sierra Sherwood, Ella Vyhnaelek, Landon Shaw, & Troy Dawes. MR: Josh Gordon, Max Novak, Trevin Steuk, & Antonio Loarca. FR: Brennaly Vazquez, Kendall Kasl, Paxton Behrens, & Thor Nerud. Not Pictured: Lyberty Bartlett & Lindsay DelToro.



**Social Studies Awards:** BR: Kaitlyn Bolton, Sierra Sherwood, Ella Vyhnaelek, Landon Shaw, & Troy Dawes. MR: Josh Gordon, Max Novak, Trevin Steuk, & Antonio Loarca. FR: Brennaly Vazquez, Kendall Kasl, Paxton Behrens, & Thor Nerud. Not Pictured: Annaleah Tellez.

**Guidance/Art/Computer/Music Awards:** BR: Sierra Sherwood, Ella Vyhnaelek, & Troy Dawes. MR: Antonio Loarca, Max Novak, & Landon Shaw. FR: Kaitlyn Bolton, Kendall Kasl, & Paxton Behrens. Not Pictured: Lindsay DelToro, Maribel Garcia, Hadley Brandt, & Faith Elkins.

# COMPETING and ACHIEVING

to reach  
the top



**Science Olympiad Team.** BR: Thor Nerud, Hadley Brandt, Ella Vyhnaelek, Kendall Kasl, Sierra Sherwood, Troy Dawes, Blake Cerny, & Paxton Behrens. FR: Faith Elkins, Antonio Loarca, Max Nerud, Trevin Steuk, Landon Shaw, Malikhi Gooding, Javier Cornejo, & Joshua Gordon. Not pictured: Coach Randy Klooz.

**CRC Quiz Bowl Team.** BR: (Competing) Ella Vyhnaelek, Blake Cerny, Trevin Steuk, Troy Dawes, Thor Nerud, & Joshua Gordon. FR: (Alternates) Lyberty Bartlett & Kendall Kasl, Max Novak (Captain), & (Alternates) Faith Elkins & Trevin Steuk. Not Pictured: Coach Sandy Severance.



Competing academically gave students a chance to show off what they had learned in the classroom and against other schools.

For the Quiz Bowl Team, students competed at the AMI Quiz Bowl, CRC Quiz Bowl, GFWC Middle School Qz. Bowl, and the ESU#6 Middle School Qz. Bowl. "I learned to give an answer even if it's wrong," seventh grader Troy Dawes said.

The CRC Quiz Bowl team placed third at Meridian. "It was quite challenging but at least we won third place which was really exciting," eighth grader Ella Vyhnaelek said.

The A team at the ESU#6 Middle School Qz. Bowl also placed third. "Being the captain of the quiz bowl team was my favorite part of being in quiz bowl. It was also amazing to place third," Captain Max Novak said.

Students also competed in the County Spelling Contest. Kendall Kasl placed fourth and Troy Dawes placed third. "The best part of being in the spelling bee was that I got fourth place," eighth grader Kendall Kasl said.

"It wasn't that hard spelling the words so I'm proud of how I

placed," seventh grader Troy Dawes said.

Some students didn't think that they would make it to the spelling bee. "I was very surprised how I even got into the spelling bee," eighth grader Lindsay DelToro said. "I was very proud of myself for making it in."

Students in the Science Olympiad engaged in many events such as Bridge Building, Catapult, Eggdrop, and Write It Do It. "I enjoyed meeting new people while competing," eighth grader Sierra Sherwood said. "It made it more fun."

"The Write It Do It was one of my favorite events to compete in," seventh grader Trevin Steuk said. "I wanted to give it a try so I decided to enter, and it was fun."

Dorchester brought back and hosted the Reading Classic. Students read 20 books between them and competed against Shickley. Dorchester placed 2nd. "I was glad we were able to read and compete again," eighth grader Max Novak said. "Even if we only competed against one team, two teams dropped out right before so really it was beating two teams."

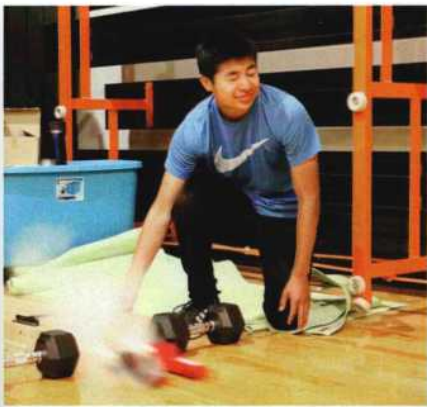


**JH County Spelling Contest.** BR: Troy Dawes, Erik Paiz, & Trevin Steuk. FR: Lindsay DelToro, Brennaly Vazquez, & Kendall Kasl. Not pictured: Sponsor Sandy Severance.

**JH Quiz Bowl Team.** BR: Thor Nerud, Troy Dawes, Blake Cerny, & Ella Vyhnaelek. 2nd Row: Faith Elkins, Hadley Brandt, & Kendall Kasl. FR: Joshua Gordon, Trevin Steuk, Max Novak, & Coach Sandy Severance. Not Pictured: Lyberty Bartlett.



**Reading Classic Team:** Coach Sandy Severance, Trevin Steuk, Maribel Garcia, Paxton Behrens and Max Novak. The team placed second.



**In the gym**, eighth grader Antonio Loarca starts the CO2 car race and hopes to win. The car blasts away, leaving smoke behind.

**Exploring the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge**, eighth graders Sierra Sherwood, Faith Elkins, and Hadley Brandt explore the items found on the Bertrand that went down in 1865 near Omaha.



**Waddling to the end**, seventh graders Troy Dawes, Javier Cornejo, Erik Paiz, Royce Gutierrez, Faith Sherman, and Kadyn Kemerling race the ducks they made in shop.

Junior high was a time where students learned and also had fun both inside and outside of the classroom.

In seventh grade, in shop, students learned how to use machines and designed and created wooden ducks and their names. "I learned how to use the tools in shop while I was making my wooden duck," seventh grader Annaleah Tellez said.

"I enjoyed learning how to build my wooden duck and to paint it, too," seventh grader Brennaly Vazquez said.

In Intro to Business, they created stop motion videos. "It looked cool when the video was put together. We decided on what we wanted to make," said seventh grader Maribel Garcia. "I already knew the skills of how to do claymation, but I still enjoyed it," said seventh grader Joshua Gordon.

The eighth graders made CO2 cars and raced them in the gym. "It was fun racing our CO2 cars to see who would get first," eighth grader Antonio Loarca said. "It was also cool to see who could have the best design."

In May, the junior high students went to the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge in Missouri Valley, Iowa for a field trip.

The refuge has a part of it set up as a museum. The steamboat, the Bertrand, went down in 1865 near Omaha on its way to the gold field in Montana. In 1969, they excavated the cargo from the vessel, and it now resides at the refuge. "I liked seeing the ammunition they used in the Civil War," eighth grader Blake Cerny said.

"I liked seeing the rubber raincoat," eighth grader Sierra Sherwood said. "I imagine that it would be heavy."

When they headed inside the museum, they learned more about history by doing a scavenger hunt with partners. "Getting to learn more about the history of settlers while searching for answers was something that I enjoyed," eighth grader Laura Garcia said.

They also looked out at the wildlife in the viewing area. "Watching the animals was interesting," eighth grader Lyberty Bartlett said. "I liked watching the turtles on the logs and the goose which was sitting on her eggs."

# PROJECTS

exploring new places outside of the classroom

# and FIELD TRIPS



**Outside the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge** in Missouri Valley, Iowa, the junior high enjoy nature. The students were able to see wildlife on the water and see relics from the Bertrand.

**Learning more about history**, the junior high explore and answer questions about striking it rich in the gold fields and the materials needed on a scavenger hunt at the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge.





**After playing chess**, the maid (Mya Mahlin) cleans up the mess that Randy (Max Novak) made because he didn't like that Carl (Troy Dawes) won.

**After the Schwan's driver comes to**, Mrs. Barge (Ella Vyhnaelek) begins to determine that the Schwan's driver (Hadley Brandt) was really a detective and not a Schwan's driver at all.



**Catching everyone off guard**, the maid (Mya Mahlin) ties up the cast (Myles Vyhnaelek, Johnathan Ward, Troy Dawes, and Max Novak) and reveals that you can't trust the maid, and that it was a bad gene pool.

At the Wolvesmede manor, mysteries were everywhere. For example, why was a Schawn's ice cream driver making rounds on such a miserable night... and what happened to the maid?

The play was full of quick-witted humor, suspense, mystery, and surprise. The curse of Wolvesmede was always in the back of every character's mind. Was all of the bad luck because of the curse or was it just a bad gene pool? Randy (Max Novak) thought it was the bad gene pool, while Carl (Troy Dawes) was sure it was the curse. "It was fun to banter back and forth over who was right," eighth grader Max Novak said. "I still say it was the bad gene pool."

The cast really put their all into it, with every character shining strong, adding a new level of intrigue. Accident-prone Cornelia (Kendall Kasl) often caused a stir in the Von Ominous household. Consistently spilling her hot coffee and "stealthily" adjusting her gaudy wig, she never failed to tell others about her father, Horatio Von Ominous, the inventor and writer of warning labels.

While some students had already been a part of the play, some of the newer members took on the challenge. "I felt lucky to receive the part that I did," said seventh grader Troy Dawes. "It was my first

# MYSTERY at the MANOR

**JH Play.** BR: Director Mrs. Sarah Vyhnaelek, Hadley Brandt, Kendall Kasl, Ella Vyhnaelek, Troy Dawes, Myles Vyhnaelek, and Amber Kotas (HS Mentor). FR: Owen Vyhnaelek (HS Mentor), Max Novak, Johnathan Ward, Joshua Gordon, Mya Mahlin, Andrea Pavlish (HS Mentor), and Director Mrs. Karma Ridpath.



year, but Mrs. Ridpath trusted me."

Each scene was unique, exciting, and the cast enjoyed performing them. "My favorite scene was hiding the Schwan's driver," sixth grader Myles Vyhnaelek said. "When the audience finally finds out the reason, it turns out to have been because she had a hammer hit her in the head."

Though it was fun, and had lots of delightful moments, there were a few bumps in the road such as the lack of crew members. "My least favorite part of being in the play was being the only one in the crew," seventh grader Joshua Gordon said. "I had to do a lot of stuff because it was just me until the high school students stepped in at the end and help me a lot."

"Before school practices were one of my least favorite parts," eighth grader Kendall Kasl said. "It's hard to get up that early."

Despite this and other bumps throughout the makings of the play, the junior high managed to pull through with a magnificent performance.

"I continue to think this is an excellent

**Wolvesmede brings drama to the junior high**

opportunity for students to try out drama, and they did an excellent job,"

Director

Karma

Ridpath said.



**Preparing coffee and cookies**, Cornelia (Kendall Kasl) and Mrs. Barge (Ella Vyhnaelek) set the table for Clark (Myles Vyhnaelek) and Russell (Johnathan Ward) as they discuss the strange happenings at Wolvesmede.

# 6th Grade

# HAVING more FUN

but more expectations



Jennifer Acosta



Juan Armas



Brenden Bergmeyer



Justin Blanco



Araceli Garcia



Ingrid Gonzales



Owen Hamilton



Braxton June



Grayson Leavitt



Jemerson Lopez



Mya Mahlin



Hunter Sherwood



Legend Smith



Marlea Vernon



Mason Vyhnaek



Myles Vyhnaek



Johnathan Ward



Broden Whitney



Payton Zoubek



Mr. Brian Rut

If there was one word to describe the sixth grade class, it would be fun. "My teachers try their best to still let us have fun," Jennifer Acosta said. "Even if we're learning, they add interesting activities to make it engaging."

Each child had a subject that they enjoyed. "My favorite subject was math," Brenden Bergmeyer said, "because it comes easier to me."

"My favorite subject was reading," Araceli Garcia said. "It was easy, and we did fun activities."

There were also subjects that students disliked. "My least favorite subject was math," Braxton June said. "I'm just not good at it."

"P.E. was my least favorite subject," said Grayson Leavitt. "I'm not an active person."

In class, activities or projects were common. Reading added more novel studies. Between reading and WIN, the students read eight novels, and some even read nine with an optional book. "I really liked reading all of the novels," Ingrid Gozales said. "Mrs. Ridpath, our reading teacher, really challenged us to increase our reading skills."

Students also worked on learning vocabulary.

"We reviewed vocabulary as a class," Mya Mahlin said. "Then everyone knew what was going on."

Social studies had many fun projects. "The Social Studies Olympics was really fun," Hunter Sherwood said. "I like that it had sports as well as social studies."

They concluded the year with a field trip with the 4th and 5th graders to Pioneer's Park in Lincoln, as well as the Saline County Museum in Dorchester. "It was fun to see Pioneers Park and to be able to run around the park, too," Payton Zoubek said.

**Tossing rings at the Elementary Carnival.** Braxton June tries to win a prize.



**For their social studies class,** the sixth graders perform in the Social Studies Olympics by throwing javelins in the gym. The students encountered many different events, just like the Olympics.

**Working on a watercolor project.** Grayson Leavitt admires Jenny Acosta's painting.



Mya Mahlin



Q: What's your favorite movie?

A: Both of the "Mean Girls" movies.

Brenden Bergmeyer



Q: What's your favorite TV show?

A: "Family Guy" because it's entertaining.

JH Drama/  
6th Grade

# ACTIVITIES and PROJECTS

5th Grade

make learning fun



Dacoda Bartlett

Between classroom field activities, the learned many new things. Both classes were busy with especially in social studies and science doing the projects. It's more fun to activities than to just read a book," said Harrison Vyhnalek.

trips and students things. projects, classes. "I love do hands-on fifth grader

Loud, enthusiastic, and energetic were a few words to that described the fourth grade class, but they kept busy learning. For the 100th day of school, they built towers made of 100 popcorn kernels and toothpicks. "Eating the popcorn at the end was my favorite part of the day," fourth grader Ila Von Busch said.

"The fifth graders are energetic, loud, and were a unique class," fifth grade teacher Mr. Brent Zoubek said.

The fifth grade were also busy. This was the first year that students could compete in the County Spelling Contest. "My favorite part was the spelling part of the contest," David Loarca said. "Some of the words were hard, but I did my best."

Students also had made many accomplishments. "The best thing that I accomplished was reading books and going to school," fifth grader Alexa Reyes said.

"I got the chance to make my handwriting better as a fifth grader," Edgar Tercero said.

One popular activity was reading the book *Holes* by Louis Sachar in fifth grade. "I like to read books similar to the book *Holes*," Miguel Loarca said. "After we read it in class, I looked for other books that were similar."

The classes also took many field trips. The fourth grade took a trip to Beatrice for Pioneer Day to learn what life was like during homesteading. They learned the hardships that the Oregon trail pioneers went through. There, they learned how to wash cloths, make corn husk dolls and candles, sew, shuck corn, and cut wood. "We went on a wagon train ride, and we also picked corn," Ian Turquiz said.

The 4th and 5th (and 6th) grades also took a field trip in May to the Saline County Museum and Pioneers Park. "It was fun to see things that we've been learning about all year," fifth grader Aleah Wendelin said.

Q: What was the hardest rule you had to follow?

A: "Working quietly."



Edgar Tercero, 5

Q: What was your favorite thing about the 100th day project?

A: My team got the new record of 75 inches.



Lillian Pracheil, 4



Mahayla Hetrick



David Loarca



Miguel Loarca



Darian Ramos



Edgar Tercero



Bethany Vazquez



Harrison Vyhnalek



Taylynn Winter



Miguel Gonzalez



Adesyn Kemerling



Jaxson Nerud



Danica Ogundipe



**In science**, fifth graders Kasen Fuller, Mahayla Hetrick, Miguel Loarca, Xavier Smith, Shane Dawes, & Darian Ramos are amazed by Mr. Zoubek making the mini volcano erupt by using just a few chemicals.

**Making projects in social studies**, 5th graders Conner Shaw and Alexa Reyes show their American Revolution dioramas to the class.



Embry Brandt



Shane Dawes



Kasen Fuller



Estela Garcia



Alexa Reyes



Conner Shaw



Boone Smith



Xavier Smith



Mr. Brent Zoubek

## 4th Grade



Baila Brandt



James Cowins



Lillian Pracheil



Annie Smith



Isaac Steuk



Harvey Thalken



Ian Turquiz



Weston Vernon



Ila Von Busch



Aleah Wendelin



Mrs. Cassidy Bruha

*In science*, the fourth graders learn about elevation and motion to see how far the toy cars go according to the ramp's height.



*In fifth grade social studies*, Boone Smith, Bethany Vazquez, David Loarca, & Shane Dawes play board games that they made about the silk road and trading empires in Asia & Europe.



*Learning about famous people was fun* for the fourth graders. They made bottle biographies to represent famous Nebraskans like Bob Devaney, Solomon Butcher, and Crazy Horse.



*Celebrating 100 days of school*, 4th Grader Isaac Steuk builds a popcorn tower using 100 pieces of popcorn and sets a new 4th grade record.

# 3rd Grade



Daniel Agler



Annsley Albracht



Ava Bergmeyer



Aubrianna Brown



Mackenzie Cowins



Rhett Elkins



Brody Hansen



Hunter Havlat



Ryan Killinger



Lennon Kohout



Madelyn Lopez



Sawyer Nerud



Amelia Pracheil



Sullivan Smith



Brayden Vazquez



Quinn Vrtiska



Jasmine Ward



Aubrey Whitney



Mrs. Brenda Nerud

# 2nd Grade



Weston Brandt



Grayden Easley



Kaleb Fuller



Steven Garcia



Hannah Havlat



Yamileth Larios



Samuel Loarca



Kenzi Schweitzer



Melissa Tellez



Zayn Vazquez



Onile Vodicka



Finley Vrtiska



During the embryology unit for both 3rd and 2nd graders, second graders Lennon Kohout, Raelyn Neeman, and Steven Garcia take turns holding the newborn baby chick. "I love holding the baby chicks," Neeman said. "You have to hold them very carefully."



Hank Willison



Mrs. Lisa Lautzenhiser

Celebrating 100 days of school, the third grade class needed to use 100 items with a variety of materials such as cotton balls, Fruit Loops and other household items to create their masterpieces.

# EXCITED + LEARN

growing each day



Daniel Garcia



Matthias Gustafson



Aubrey Pracheil



Riggim Roesler



Sylas Sladek



Everly Smith



AnnaBelle Agler



Eletta Andersen



Ina Mae Andersen



Elias Bautista



Daisy Magana



Raelyn Neeman



Karson Palky



Chloe Schweitzer

Helpful, kind, and social were a few words to describe the second and third graders. "They have wonderful hearts and have grown as readers," second grade teacher Mrs. Lisa Lautzenhiser said. "Their growth by the end of the year is amazing."

"I love that my students are always eager to learn," third grade teacher Mrs. Brenda Nerud said. "They can work independently but still need my help."

The students were excited to learn. "I like to learn about math," third grader Hunter Havlat said, "so I can do harder problems."

"I really want to get good at reading because I want to become a better reader," second grader Grayden Easley said.

Besides learning, they enjoyed spending time at recess. "My favorite thing about recess is 4-square because you can be king," second grader Raelyn Neeman said.

There also had many classroom holiday parties. "My favorite holiday classroom party was Christmas," third grader Lennon Kohout said, "because we got a book, a blanket, and we ate delicious snacks."

"Halloween was my favorite classroom party because we wore costumes," second grader Hank Willison said.

They also enjoyed Field Day where they ran, jumped, and played games. "My favorite part of the Field Day was the tug-of-war," second grader Steven Garcia said. "We like to play boys versus girls."

"Hurdles was my favorite Field Day activity," third grader Annsley Albracht said, "because you try to go as fast as you can."

For their field trip, the classes went to Morrill Hall and the Audubon. "My favorite part of the field trip was Morrill Hall," third grader Aubrianna Brown said. "It was cool to see lots of extinct animals and bones."

"I really liked visiting the Audubon because we went fishing," second grader Kaleb Fuller said.



At Dr. Suess's Birthday Party, the second grade class gather around the hat-shaped cupcakes that represent Suess's *The Cat in the Hat*.



On Grandparents' Day, third grader Brayden Vazquez and his grandmother are taking pictures while spending this heartwarming time together.

Daisy Magana, 2



Q: What's your favorite class?

A: I like art because I get to be creative.

Sylas Sladek, 3



Q: What's your favorite class?

A: I like science because I get to learn many things.

# the BASICS

# LEARNING

1st  
Grade

through exploration and play



Gianna Albracht

Energetic, social, well-mannered and sweet were just a few words to describe the kindergartners and first grade classes. The kindergartners focused on sense, letters and their sounds. They also had a fun time learning how to add and subtract. "Adding and subtracting was fun. I like counting numbers," first grader Elijah Pracheil said.

First grade focused on learning short and long vowels, telling time, and graphing data. "My favorite subject is science because we do fun projects," first grader Devanie Warning said.

"I really had fun doing the cloud project. I thought it was very cool," first grader Soren Ogundipe said.

The students had many opportunities to learn. "My favorite thing at school was art. Playing with the clay was really fun; I liked the feeling," kindergartner Ian Andersen said.

Both grades liked playing games in P.E. "I liked bowling in P.E. It was fun to knock the pins down," first grader Audric Thalken said. Some other favorite games were sharks and minnows and dead-in-line tag.

At the beginning of the year, the kindergarten class went to the Roca Berry Farm for a field trip. "A lot of kids don't get to experience this with their families so it's a fun experience for them," kindergarten teacher Bailey Schindler said.

In May, the kindergartners went to the local splash pad for their end-of-the-year field trip. "I liked the splash pad because we could get wet, cool off, and play with friends," kindergartner Ester Loarca said.

The first grade class also went to the Hastings Museum. They learned about the invention of Kool-Aid and looked at the museum's exhibits. "Making Kool-Aid was really fun," first grader Natalia Vazquez said.

"It was cool to see how Kool Aid changed from a long time ago until now," first grader Bernyce Vazquez said.

The students also participated in field day in May. "I ran super fast to win my races. I liked going against my classmates and winning," kindergartner Carlos Avila said.



Jesse DelToro



Angel Gonzalez



Isaiah Havlat



Soren Ogundipe



Madisyn Steuk



Isaac Tercero



Audric Thalken



Ezra Thalken

## Kindergarten



Ian Andersen



Carlos Avila

**Getting into the Christmas spirit,** first grade teacher Mrs. Amanda Clouse helps first grader Easton Palky make a gingerbread house.



**Celebrating Dr. Suess's Birthday,** the kindergartners show off their Cat in the Hat hats and enjoy red and white cupcakes that are shaped like hats.

Q: What's your favorite animal?

A: I like hedgehogs because they're really cute and spikey.



Michell Gutierrez, K

Q: What's your favorite movie?

A: My favorite movie is "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory" because I like chocolate.



Loren Pracheil, 1



Kyra Barley



Breckin Barlow



Damien Beckley



Zeppelin Dalebout



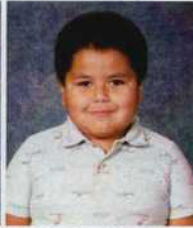
Easton Palky



Elijah Pracheil



Loren Pracheil



Alex Rodriguez



Allison Turquiza



Bernyce Vazquez



Natalia Vazquez



Devanie Warning



Mrs. Amanda Clouse

*Enjoying their field trip*, the first grade class gather around the Kool-Aid Man Statue at the entrance to the Hastings Museum. The students enjoyed the day by learning about how Kool-Aid was started by a man from Hastings, Nebraska, Edwin Perkins.



Kimberly Bautista



Pedro Garcia



Michell Gutierrez



Hayden Havlat



Ester Loarca



Dayra Lopez



Kathi Lopez



Kypton Pracheil



Blair Railsback



Andre Reyes



Hoyt Roesler



David Tercero



Lainey Warning



Mrs. Bailey Schindler



*Learning to play together*, kindergartners, Ian Andersen, Hayden Havlat, and Lainey Warning build with blocks during play time.



*Celebrating 100 days of school*, first grader Kyra Barley counts the cereal to make it to 100.



**Stacking Play-Doh.** Mrs. Amanda Easley and afternoon preschooler Joseph Gutierrez work together to stack them high. Mrs. Easley helped in the afternoon class.



**Afternoon Preschool Graduation.** BR: Joseph Gutierrez, Wyatt Brown, Gavin Hansen, Wilder Thalken, Jayzen Winter, and Cooper Busboom. FR: Zayd Hitchins, Olivia Loarca, Hollis Kohout, Aubree Palky, and Kyler Neeman.



Marilyn Magana-Hanson



Ryker Noonan



Waylon Olson



Colsen Pracheil



Lydia Pracheil



Jade Railsback



Exander Ruiz



Cooper Busboom



Joseph Gutierrez



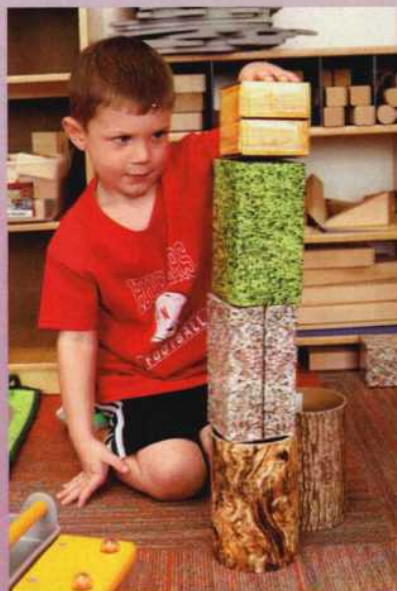
Gavin Hansen



Zayd Hitchins



Hollis Kohout



**Playing with blocks,** morning preschooler Landry Easley builds a tower and tries not to knock it over as he continues to add more blocks.



Jayzen Winter



Mrs. Dawn Persing



Mrs. Robin Musil



**Enjoying the slide,** morning preschoolers BR: Exander Ruiz, Waylon Olson, & James Havlat; 3rd Row Marilyn Magana-Hanson & Emerson Scott; 2nd Row: Jade Railsback, Lydia Pracheil, & Brooks Barlow. FR: Colsen Pracheil, Landry Easley, & Ryker Noonan play outside for recess.



**Sitting comfortably,** afternoon preschooler Wyatt Brown finds a great spot to read his book.

## Morning Preschool

# PLAY <sup>of</sup> LEARN

exploring through activities



Brooks Barlow



Landry Easley



Bennett Gallagher



James Havlat



Emerson Scott

## Afternoon Preschool



Wyatt Brown



Olivia Loarca



Kyler Neeman



Aubree Palky



Wilder Thalken

Energetic, kind, and hard working were all ways to describe the preschool classes.

The preschool classes were split into two classes, morning and afternoon. The morning class (three-year-olds) learned about days of the week, hatching butterflies, and colors. "The morning group is fun, energetic, creative, and wants to learn," preschool para Dawn Persing said. "They are always full of questions about everything."

The afternoon preschoolers (four-year-olds) learned about space, music, and doing crafts each week. "My favorite part of preschool is doing crafts," afternoon preschooler Hollis Kohout said. "I can give them to my mom."

The preschool class had a dramatic play area where they could play house or dress up. They also had many different themes. "The best part of preschool is playing with dollies," morning preschooler Marlyn Magana-Hanson said. "I get to dress them up."

Some loved going outside of the classroom. "I liked going outside," morning preschooler Brooks Barlow said. "My mom got me Spiderman mittens so I can show them off."

"I like going to the gym when it's cold outside," afternoon preschooler Cooper Busboom said. "We played tag in the gym, which is fun."

The preschoolers were creative and very inquisitive about new things. The morning class liked painting and playing in the block center. "I like art and crafts," morning preschooler Emerson Scott said. "I can be creative."

The afternoon class loved playing with each other and learning new things. "I like playing with my friends," afternoon preschooler Zayd Hitchins said. "I like playing new games with them."

"I like playing Legos with my friends," the afternoon preschooler Gavin Hansen said. "It's fun to build things."

"They are fun to teach," preschool teacher Robin Musil said. "I love it when they get excited when they learn something new."



In their dramatic play area, morning preschoolers Marilyn Magana-Hanson, Landry Easley, Lydia Pracheil, and Jade Railsback dress up in fun ways.



**Holding up a camera**, morning preschooler Lydia Pracheil pretends to be a photographer.



Zayd Hitchins, PM

Q: What do you want to be when you grow up?

A: a Zookeeper



Waylon Olson, AM



Q: What do you want to be when you grow up?

A: a Policeman

Every student wanted to “Raise the Bar” to show what they were capable of, to improve themselves, and to make Dorchester shine above the rest.

Academic competitions “Raised the Bar” in many ways. Quiz bowl teams had great achievements as both junior high and high school teams placed 3rd at CRC, and the girls placed first at the Young Women’s Quiz Bowl. “It was really close against Nebraska Lutheran,” junior Gabby Theis said, “but we pulled it off and took home first.”

Teachers “Raised the Bar” by having more field trips so students could benefit academically. The juniors went to the Saline County Museum and the Homestead National Historical Park. “We used GPS trackers for a scavenger hunt which was really cool,” junior Julian Tellez said.

The freshmen went to Great Platte River Road Archway in Kearney. “It was also cool how the escalator made you feel like you were actually going up into the past,” freshman Emilia Perez said.

Mrs. Jill Choyeski, the guidance counselor, also added many field trips to visit colleges. The 8th grade went to UNK; the freshmen went to Peru State College; the sophomores went to UNL, and the juniors went to Doane. “I really liked seeing the campus,” junior Angelina Cornejo said. “It was really pretty.”

Some students went on career-specific field trips. Seniors Israel Cornejo and Jacob Hatfield went to Horizontal Boring in Exeter to participate in welding, tunneling, and other job-related activities. “I really liked what they do there,” Cornejo said.

Others went to Careers in Healthcare Day at SCC. “I never thought about doing healthcare until I went,” senior Ashton Jirsa said.

Three seniors (Victoria Leavitt, Amber Kotas, and Hailey Schweitzer) “Raised the Bar” and were awarded the NSAA Currency Believers and Achievers Award. Schweitzer also was a finalist, one of 48. “I was surprised to make it to finals,” said Schweitzer, “but I was happy that my involvement and my academic success were rewarded.”

Senior Nancy Alcaide and junior Gabby Theis “Raised the Bar” artistically by placing first and third in the Hope Crisis Art Contest. “I was glad that my art could be used for a great cause,” Alcaide said.

Students in many ways chose to “Raise the Bar” and put themselves at the top of the class academically and with continued successes.

For Spanish class, junior Andrea Pavlish uses the science classroom to make chocolate chip pancakes for her class to enjoy.

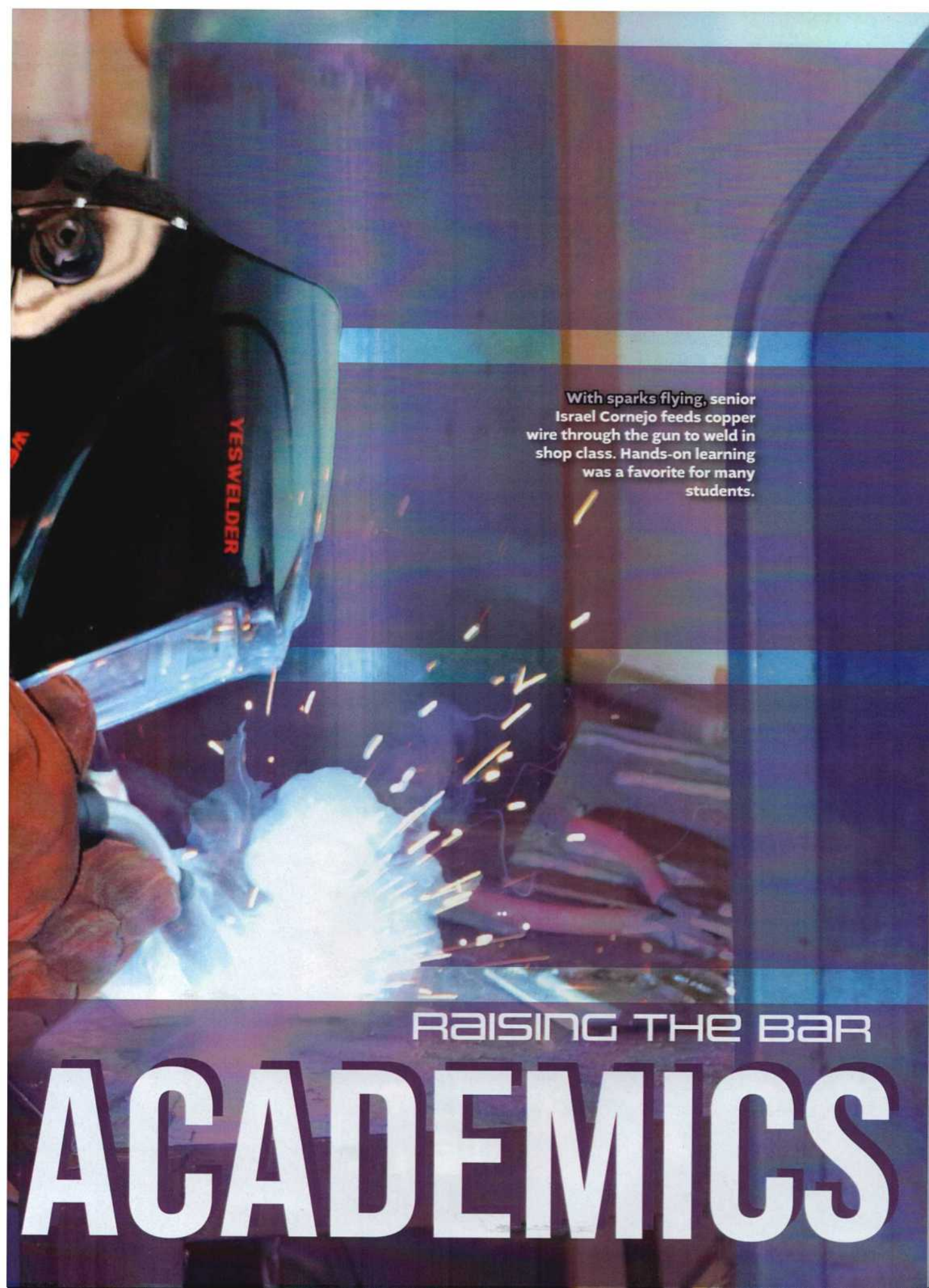


Working to start an art project, senior Suyapa Armas uses a blow dryer to hurry up the drying process on the canvas so she can start painting on it.



Wearing drunk goggles, senior Quinn Kasl completes several activities, including a paper maze of a brain. “It was really hard to do with the goggles,” Kasl said.



A close-up photograph of a student wearing a black welding mask and gloves, using a blue and black 'YESWELDER' torch to weld a metal piece. Bright sparks are flying from the point of contact. The background is a blurred workshop environment.

With sparks flying, senior Israel Cornejo feeds copper wire through the gun to weld in shop class. Hands-on learning was a favorite for many students.

RAISING THE BAR

# ACADEMICS

# HOMESCHOOLERS *in* PUBLIC SCHOOL

*new Nebraska law allows homeschoolers in the action*

A new law brought new students. The law, LB 705, allowed homeschooled students to participate in activities if they took five credit hours a semester of coursework, which equaled one class a semester.

Two students took advantage of this law change, freshman Tessa Martin and her brother eighth grader Bryan Martin. "My favorite part of being allowed to participate is meeting new people and making friends," Tessa said.

Tessa participated in choir, took the freshmen computer class, Information Technology, and was in the musical. "I really like to sing so it was important that I get to be in choir," Tessa said. "It's a lot better to be able to sing with a full choir so I'm glad I have the opportunity to do that."

Her brother, Bryan, enjoyed sports and was in all junior high sports including football, basketball, wrestling, and track. "It was great to play in all of the sports," Bryan said. "I especially liked it when I made a touchdown in football."

Bryan also took the computer class for junior high students and was in junior high music and junior high shop

classes. "It was really fun to make CO2 cars and then race them," Bryan said. "There were some really cool cars, and it was exciting to see whose car would win."

Not only did the homeschooled students benefit from the change, but also the activities they participated in. "I think both have been a great addition to the vocal program," music teacher, Steve Jirsa said. It's always great to add more voices."

"Bryan was also a great addition to the athletic programs," the junior high football, boys basketball, and track coach, Mr. Sullivan said. "He really was an asset to the teams."

The new law offered more opportunities to students and gave students a chance to make friends along the way. "I'm really glad we've chosen to come to Dorchester," Bryan said. "The kids have been great, and I've loved being involved in what I love to do."

This new law presented much more than extra classes, or the opportunity for free extracurricular activities, it gave students the chance to make friends, learn new things, and be a part of something that they couldn't before.

Using an iPad to control the motions, freshman Tessa Martin maneuvers her robot down the track.



Measuring out the glue carefully, freshman Lily Lehr gathers the ingredients needed to make slime in biology.



Waiting for test results, junior Baylor Behrens and senior Victoria Leavitt figure out the conductivity and PH of the school's water in chemistry.



Making sure both sides are even, freshman Colton Harrison builds his miniature golf course in info tech.



Searching for bugs, sophomore Bailey This attempts to scoop up a worm for biology. Students went on a bug or worm search.

**Blowing on a flaming marshmallow,** freshmen Jonathan Hernandez and Livia Schweitzer learn about the differences between physical and chemical changes.



**Filling in the outlines,** junior Atley Zoubek colors in bubbled letters for her historical figure poster in English 11.



**Working carefully,** junior Ariana Tellez and Angelina Cornejo spin the rotor to create electricity in general science.



**Cutting the cardboard,** juniors Gabby Theis, Owen Vyhnaek, and senior Owen Real plan out their cardboard trenches to simulate WWI trenches in American History.



**Watching his Rube Goldberg machine work,** senior Jacob Hatfield incorporates all six simple machines to create a contraption that would crack a walnut.



**Arranging his pasta for the best possible outcome,** junior Joseph Peacock tests his car made out of noodles in general science.

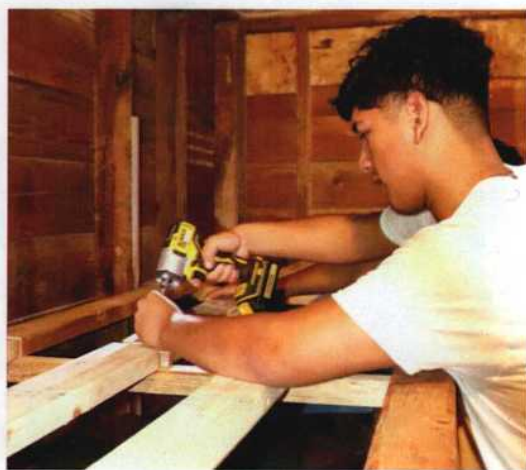




**Drawing in abstract ways,** sophomore Micaela Loarca tries to recreate an old drawing of symbols that represented animals from the past in the cave dwelling art unit.



**Carefully putting in the nails for the foundation,** senior Victor Lopez assists in building a shed while in shop class.



**Choosing which colors to blend,** senior Dusty Banks paints a pig on a canvas for art class.

**Taping the cardboard to make a trench,** juniors Andrea Pavlish, Mackenzie Luzum, and Baylor Behrens create cover for their WWI trench warfare simulation in American history.



**Shocked at how much the bag is blowing up,** juniors Owen Vyhnaek and Baylor Behrens wait as the chemical creates gas, filling it up to its limits.



**Painting over sketched lines,** junior Angelina Cornejo paints a car on the wall of the art room.

Showing her examples of what to write, junior Baylor Behrens helps second grader Kenzi Schweitzer fill out her Veterans Day card.



Holidays are important to celebrate, and Veterans Day was no different. Veterans Day was a day to recognize all of the accomplishments and hardships that veterans had to go through and honor them for their service to our country. "I think Veterans Day is good because it allows us to make them feel appreciated for what they have done," sophomore Adrian Alcaide said.

However, many people such as the younger generations aren't as informed when it comes to understanding why Veterans Day is celebrated in the first place so it was important to understand the reasons for Veterans Day and to appreciate veterans.

Before the Veterans Day program, Veterans also had the chance to mingle with high school students who enjoyed asking them questions and hearing stories of the time each served.

"I really enjoyed talking to the veterans," sophomore Bailey Theis said. "In some ways I can't even imagine what they experienced. It's great to hear their

# DEAR VETERANS, THANK YOU

*for all that you do*

stories. It made my heart fill with joy as I listened to them. Just knowing that they have someone to share their stories with made them proud and happy that a new generation cares."

"I think it's important to honor our veterans because if we didn't show our appreciation, some people wouldn't understand how big of a sacrifice that all veterans went through and leave them oblivious as to why we celebrate Veterans Day," senior Amber Kotas said.

Another way to appreciate veterans was by taking care of their needs. The FBLA provided veterans with food and drinks before the ceremony. "I helped by handing out coffee and cinnamon rolls to them," junior Atley Zoubek said. "They were very appreciative."

A way to honor veterans was as simple as writing a card, which all of the students did during Longhorn Lineup in November. Longhorn Lineup was a monthly gathering of students from various ages who met in groups of approximately eight students and a teacher to learn how to be better people and citizens and to do activities to help others.

The meaningful thoughts and gratitude shared could mean a lot to veterans. "I wrote in cards, *Thank you veterans for your*

*service,*" junior AyLynn Schwisow said. "I also thanked those in my family who were serving or had already served our country."

"We made cards with the younger kids and sent them out to local veterans," sophomore Caden Axline said. "I think it will really mean a lot to them because of how many people and children are participating."

Other ways that gratitude was shown to our veterans was the bestowing of the Quilt of Valor, which is a symbol of thanks, solace, and remembrance given to veterans for putting themselves in harm's way to protect our lives and freedoms. "It's really cool when they do the Quilt of Valor ceremony during our Veterans Day program," freshman Jace Yager said. "You can tell how much it means to them and their families."

Overall, Veterans Day was a time to admire and honor the veterans for all that they have done for us. It was also a time for grieving as we can remember all of those in the military that sacrificed their lives for us. "I really like that we honor our veterans," freshman Briana Tellez. "Their sacrifice is important to never forget."



Testing a box drop, senior Victoria Leavitt checks to see if her design can save the egg in chemistry.



Cutting out cookies, freshmen Jace Yager, Senaida Tercero, Tessa Martin, and Lily Lehr use a 3-D printed cookie cutter.



Roasting marshmallows over a Bunsen Burner, junior Andrea Pavlish and senior Stephanie Korinek make s'mores in science.

# BEYOND THE *competing academically* CLASSROOM

Competing academically may seem like an oxymoron, ; however, students in Speech, Quiz Bowl, and One Act showed that they could do it well.

The Quiz Bowl team participated in many competitions, including the Women's Quiz Bowl, CRC Quiz Bowl, ESU #6 Quiz Bowl, Central City Quiz Bowl, and the Underclassmen Quiz Bowl. "My favorite quiz bowl was the Women's Quiz Bowl," senior Victoria Leavitt said. "Mostly because we got first, and it felt good to win rounds consecutively."

At the Women's Quiz Bowl, Team A (Andrea Pavlish, Victoria Leavitt, Gabby Theis, and Amber Kotas) placed first after a tie-breaking final question. "It was nerve-wracking buzzing in for that last question," Captain Andrea Pavlish said. "I knew if I got the question wrong, I would feel guilty for the rest of the afternoon."

At CRC, Team A (Andrea Pavlish, Victoria Leavitt, Ashton Jirsa, Gabby Theis, Bailey Theis, Baylor Behrens, and Owen Vyhnaek) placed third. "I was happy to learn that we made it to at least third," senior Ashton Jirsa said. "It was really close so we weren't far from bringing home second."

For the first time, the team attended the Central City Quiz Bowl and played against schools of all sizes. "Our last round, we

played against Seward A," junior Gabby Theis said. "Their captain probably could've beat all of us by himself."

The One Act performed *The A.I. Play* by Don Zolidis, a story of a graduating senior (Amber Kotas) who used A.I. to write her forgotten paper for class. To her shock, her teacher finds her essay exceptional and sends her off to a fancy school where it turns out all of the students have also used A.I. After finding out they are all in a giant plot by A.I. to study humans and take over the world, the group attempts to escape by using their limited social skills. "My favorite scene is where I jumped over the wall like a spy," sophomore Bailey Theis said. "I tripped and fell multiple times during practice and couldn't stop laughing."

At Districts in Pawnee City, One Act placed eighth. "I was upset we didn't place any higher," senior Amber Kotas said, "especially considering how hard we worked." Ashton Jirsa, Amber Kotas, Kayli Carey, Owen Vyhnaek, and Andrea Pavlish received Outstanding Performance Awards.

At CRC, the One Act team placed third against half of the conference. Ashton Jirsa, Amber Kotas, and Owen Vyhnaek received Best Acting Awards. "Even though we were up early to be able

**Speech Team:** BR: Andrea Pavlish, Ashton Jirsa, and Coach Karen Hrdlicka. FR: Megan Gordon, Victoria Leavitt, Baylor Behrens, and Kayli Carey.



to compete first, I still feel like we were as energetic and motivated as always," freshman Emilia Perez said.

Early in the second semester, the speech team made its debut. The team grew to its largest size since 2016, competing at Shelby-Rising City, Meridian, David City, McCool Junction, and Districts in Humboldt-Table Rock-Steinauer. "I joined speech because I wanted to improve my speaking skills," junior Baylor Behrens said.

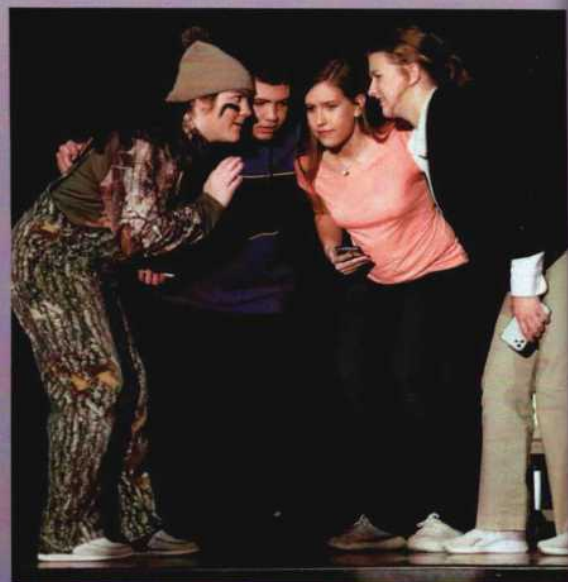
Even though no one made it to State, nearly all of the speech team finaled in at least one event. "At my very first meet I finaled in Novice Persuasive," sophomore Megan Gordon said. "I was so shocked to see my name when they revealed the paper of finalists."

In each activity, not only was there expansion by numbers, but also expansion by skills. "I was worried the first few weeks when we were slow to get off the books in One Act," junior Ariana Tellez said, "but then we pulled it together and all was good."

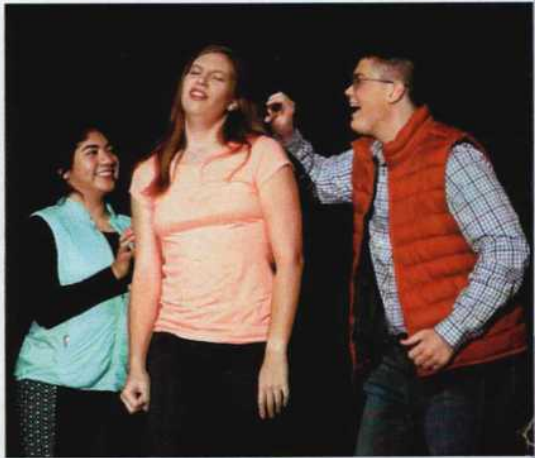


**Women's Quiz Bowl:** Gabby Theis, Andrea Pavlish (Captain), Coach Sandy Severance, Amber Kotas, and Victoria Leavitt took home the first place trophy.

**Plotting their escape,** Bobbi Jo (Bailey Theis), Ryder (Owen Vyhnaek), Eleanor (Amber Kotas), and Ali (Andrea Pavlish) brainstorm some new ideas.

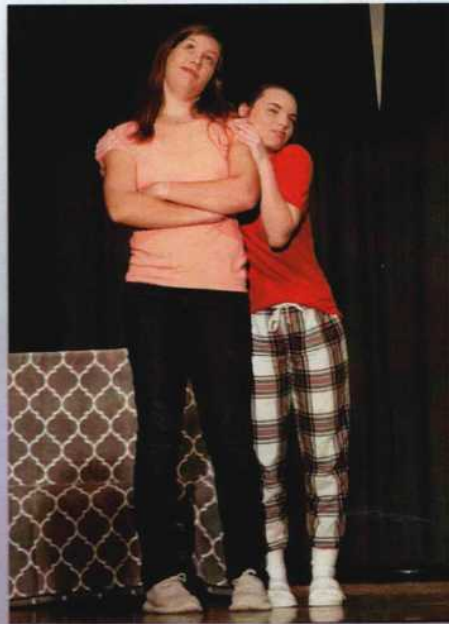


**Quiz Bowl:** BR: Bailey Theis, Amber Kotas, Owen Vyhnaelek, Ashton Jirsa, & Andrea Pavlish. MR: Hailey Schweitzer, Victoria Leavitt, Lily Lehr, Addison Lehr, Colton Harrison, & Baylor Behrens. FR: Quinn Kasl, Megan Gordon, Coach Sandy Severance, Madison Theis, & Gabby Theis.



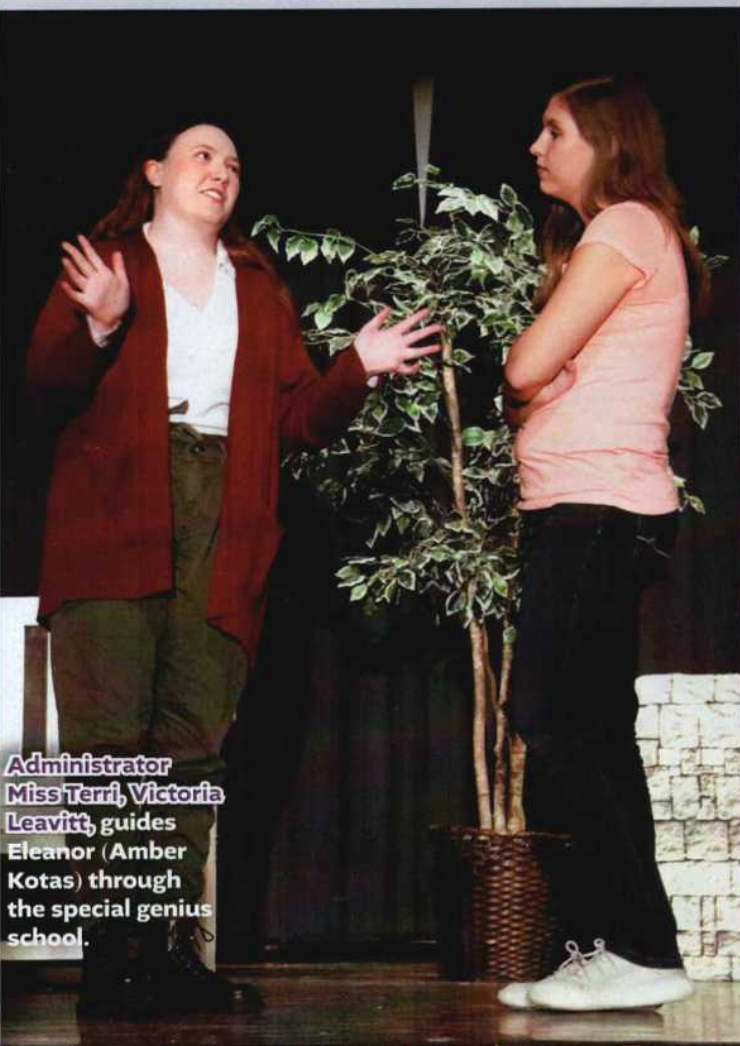
**Excited that their daughter** Eleanor (Amber Kotas) got into the special genius school, Mom (Emilia Perez) and Dad (Ashton Jirsa) praise their previously disappointing daughter for her good work.

**One Act :** BR: Bailey Theis, Andrea Pavlish, Amber Kotas, Owen Vyhnaelek, Ashton Jirsa, Victoria Leavitt, & Director Karen Hrdlicka. FR: Director Steve Jirsa, Megan Gordon, Michael Maldonado, Emilia Perez, Kayli Carey, Briana Tellez, Mitzu Real, & Ariana Tellez.

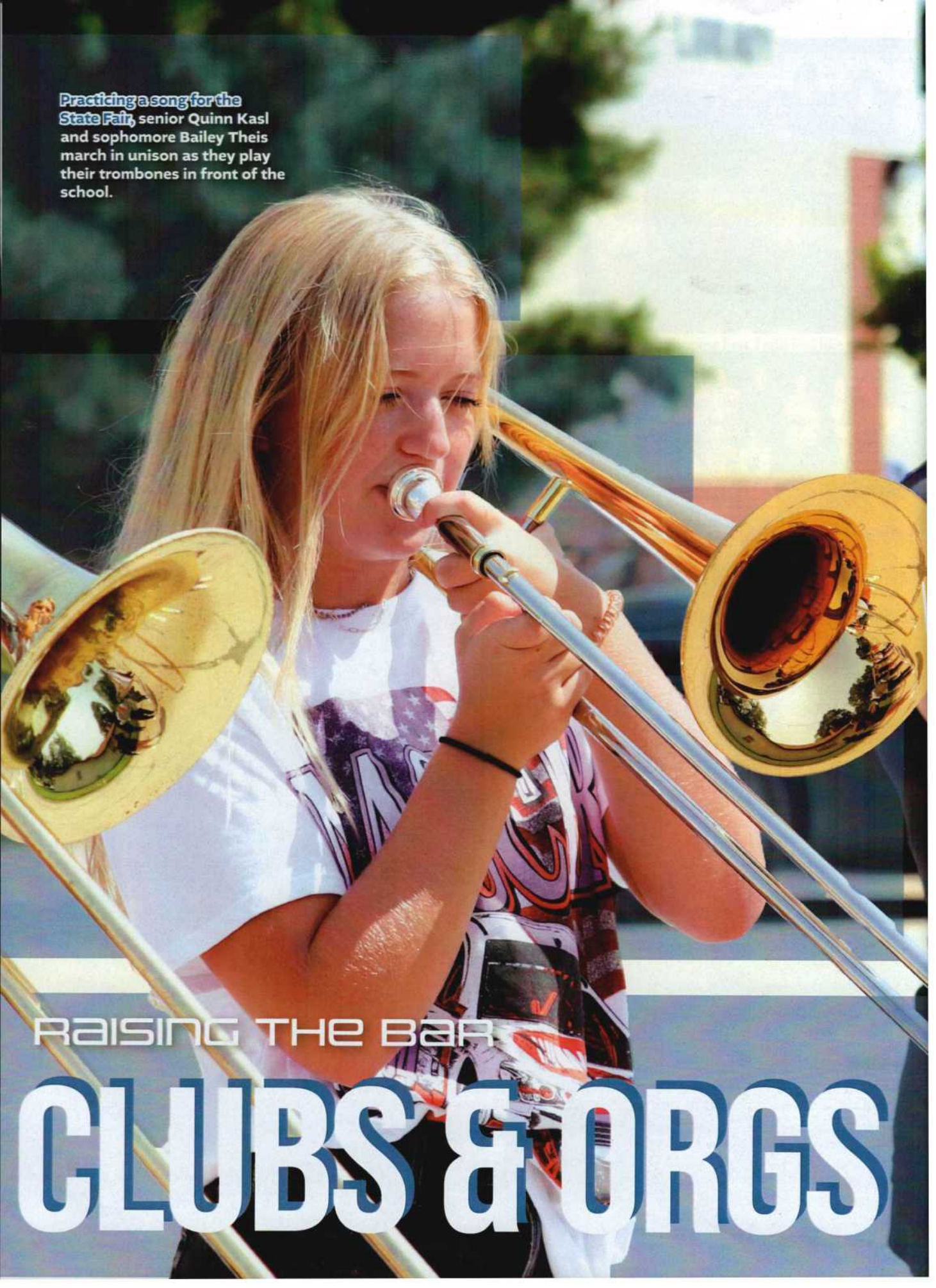


**Being a good friend,** Tay (Kayli Carey) reassures her best friend Eleanor (Amber Kotas) that she can get her essay done by midnight for English class.

**Making sure the students don't escape from the school,** the guards (Briana Tellez and Mitzu Real) tell the students to stay away from them and their scary dog, too.



**Administrator Miss Terri, Victoria Leavitt,** guides Eleanor (Amber Kotas) through the special genius school.

A young woman with long blonde hair is playing a trombone. She is wearing a white t-shirt with a graphic design. The background is a blurred outdoor setting, likely a school courtyard or field. The lighting is bright, suggesting it's daytime.

Practicing a song for the State Fair, senior Quinn Kasl and sophomore Bailey Thisis march in unison as they play their trombones in front of the school.

RAISING THE BAR

# CLUBS & ORGS

Putting in the effort in extracurricular activities was just one way students were **"Raising the Bar."**

The journalism program had their hand in **"Raising the Bar"** at State Journalism, sending 12 out of 13 students and bringing back 27 event medals (a new school record,) as well as Advisor Sandy Severance being awarded the Outstanding Service Award from the NSAA. They also placed 3rd, just shy of 2nd place by 12 points. "It was so exciting to see how well we did, especially with such a small school against much larger schools," senior Hailey Schweitzer said.

There were also four State Champions from journalism, with one from senior Hailey Schweitzer and three from junior Andrea Pavlish. "I couldn't believe how many firsts I got," Pavlish said. "It was great to receive one, but then I kept getting more."

The yearbook was also recognized nationally by appearing in Walsworth's *Possibilities* book of the best yearbooks in the nation. "I never thought we'd ever be in the book so it was an extraordinary honor," Advisor Sandy Severance said.

Another instance of **"Raising the Bar"** was from FBLA. Juniors Gabby Theis, Baylor Behrens, & Atley Zoubek placed 4th in Digital Video Production at SLC. "It was really fun to participate in and place so high," Zoubek said.

In music, senior Ashton Jirsa made All-State Choir for the fourth year in a row, one of only two students statewide to do so. "I was glad to have made it again," Jirsa said. "I was always worried I wouldn't."

Jirsa also received a 1 during music contest, along with junior Andrea Pavlish and senior Amber Kotas; Kotas was also recognized as having a perfect score. "It really surprised me getting acknowledged as one of the best at music contest," Kotas said.

Choir received a 1 as well, and Band took home a plaque for receiving all 1's.

Student Council **"Raised the Bar"** by holding a Make-A-Wish Silent Auction at the Elementary Spring Concert, collecting \$1,000.

NHS held a blood drive where they collected 39 pints of blood, potentially saving 117 lives. "It was exciting to know that we were actually making a difference," junior Owen Vyhnaelek said.

It was clear that in order to be as successful as we were, everyone gave their all to **"Raise the Bar."**



Performing her solo she sang for District Music Contest, senior Veronica Tercero sings *Bring Him Home* from *Les Misérables* at the Spring Concert.



Handing out snacks and treats, freshman Livia Schweitzer helps at the FBLA blood drive by helping those who donated blood to recover at the canteen.



Showing off his muscles, Ryder (Owen Vyhnaelek) explains to Eleanor (Amber Kotas) how they can escape the gifted institute in the *A.I. Play*.



# SUPPORT FOR OTHERS

*focuses students on helping the community*

Helping others and enhancing the community was a focus for the FBLA.

Members helped host the annual trunk-or-treat by dressing up and passing out candy, but instead of using vehicles, they used tables in the back gym due to the weather. "My favorite activity was trunk or treat," senior Hailey Schweitzer said. "Seeing the kids in their costumes was fun."

In October, they hosted the Red Cross blood drive. "I helped by scanning ID's into the system to confirm their appointment," junior AyLynn Schwisow said. "I also donated blood."

At the Veteran's Day program, they handed out breakfast to the veterans. In addition, they also helped promote being environmentally friendly by wearing green to school during Going Green Day. "It was cool to see everyone wearing the colors to support the environment," freshman Livia Schweitzer said.

Before winter break, the chapter volunteered at Morning with Santa where members helped kids create seasonal crafts, handed out goody-bags, and put on temporary tattoos. "I helped at Morning with Santa by helping the kids make crafts," junior Atley Zoubek said.

Once spring hit, they prepared to

**At their shark-themed table,** sophomore Chase Tachovsky, freshmen Lily Lehr, Livia Schweitzer, & Jace Yager wear silly glasses and hand out ocean-themed candy.



compete at State Leadership Conference, SLC, in Kearney. There were tests that were needed to be studied for, projects that needed to get done, and speeches that had to be practiced. "I was entered in Personal Finance, Agribusiness, and Organizational Leadership," senior Amber Kotas said. "I was also a delegate for Dorchester, which I thought was pretty cool."

At the end of the year, they went on their first field trip to the Farmer's Cooperative to learn about how each department in the business worked together to make things run smoothly. "I thought that taking a field trip to the Farmer's Cooperative was very interesting," junior Mackenzie Luzum said. "It's pretty cool how such a big business can run so well in such a small town."



**AWARDS**  
From SLC

DIGITAL VIDEO PRODUCTION 4TH

GABBY THEIS, ATLEY ZOUBEK,  
& BAYLOR BEHRENS

ACCOUNTING II 7TH

ANDREA PAVLISH

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING 9TH

BAYLOR BEHRENS

AGRIBUSINESS HONORABLE MENTION

ANDREA PAVLISH

**All dressed in green,** BR: Caden Axline, Andrea Pavlish, Amber Kotas, Chase Tachovsky, Owen Vyhnaelek, Baylor Behrens, Mackenzie Luzum, & Hailey Schweitzer. FR: Addison Lehr, Kayli Carey, Atley Zoubek, Quinn Kasl, & Gabby Theis for Going Green Day to gain points for SLC.



**Waiting for customers,** seniors Jacob Hatfield, Makayla Schlueter and Stephanie Korinek hand out candy at their Starbucks-themed table for Trunk-or-Treat.

**State FBLA.** BR: Kayli Carey, Addison Lehr, Caden Axline, Owen Vyhnaelek, Amber Kotas, Lily Lehr, Chase Tachovsky, & Andrea Pavlish. FR: Quinn Kasl, Livia Schweitzer, Gabby Theis, Atley Zoubek, Baylor Behrens, Hailey Schweitzer, & Mackenzie Luzum show off their awards.

**Pouring apple cider into a cup,** junior Atley Zoubek helps serve drinks and breakfast to veterans before the Veterans Day program to thank the ones that served our country.

**After giving blood at the blood drive,** junior AyLynn Schwisow picks out a free T-shirt. Schwisow also helped work at the blood drive.



**Gathered around the Clauses,**

BR: Kayli Carey, Lily Lehr, Chase Tachovsky, Livia Schweitzer, Baylor Behrens, Hailey Schweitzer, Caden Axline, & Owen Vyhnaek, FR: Amber Kotas & Addison Lehr spend a morning volunteering at Morning with Santa.



**FBLA.** BR: Lily Lehr, Andrea Pavlish, Jacob Hatfield, Owen Vyhnaek, Amber Kotas, Chase Tachovsky, & Bailey Theis. MR: Kayli Carey, Atley Zoubek, Stephanie Korinek, Jace Yager, Addison Lehr, Baylor Behrens, Makayla Schlueter, & Caden Axline. FR: Sponsor Cassidy Bruha, Mackenzie Luzum, Gabby Theis, Livia Schweitzer, Hailey Schweitzer, Quinn Kasl, & Mitzu Real. Not Pictured: Sponsor Claire Tachovsky, & AyLynn Schwisow.

**Severely unimpressed,** the evil stepmother, (Megan Gordon), and stepsisters, (Jennifer Acosta and Grayson Leavitt), scoff at Cinderella (Amber Kotas) who is unfit for the festival.



**Clinging to each other in fear,** the baker, (Ashton Jirsa) and the baker's wife (Kayli Carey) scoot away from the witch (Andrea Pavlish).



**Yearning for their respective princesses,** Rapunzel's prince (Max Novak) and Cinderella's prince (Owen Vyhnaelek) sing about the agony they are in.



**Musical Cast & Crew.** BR: Director Steve Jirsa, Ella Vyhnaelek, Kayli Carey, Ashton Jirsa, Owen Vyhnaelek, Amber Kotas, Troy Dawes, Victoria Leavitt, Mitzu Real, and Director Karen Hrdlicka. MR: Andrea Pavlish, Tessa Martin, Mackenzie Luzum, Bailey Theis, Madison Theis, Grayson Leavitt, Megan Gordon, Jenny Acosta, Ariana Tellez, Emilia Perez, and Mason June. FR: Max Novak, Micaela Loarca, Briana Tellez, and Myles Vyhnaelek.

# THE WAGER AT THE WOODS

*brings a curse, cows, a beanstalk, and magic*

After discovering her secret romance, the witch (Andrea Pavlish) scolds Rapunzel (Mitzu Real) for leaving the tower.



After an impromptu rescue from the wolf's belly (Mason June), Little Red Riding Hood (Emilia Perez) and her grandmother (Ariana Tellez) are grateful to be saved by the baker (Ashton Jirsa).

**Thespians:** BR: Victoria Leavitt, Andrea Pavlish, Amber Kotas, Owen Vyhnaelek, Ashton Jirsa, Bailey Theis, & Sponsor Karma Ridpath. MR: Megan Gordon, Madison Theis, Baylor Behrens, Kayli Carey, Nancy Alcaide, & Michael Maldonado. FR: Briana Tellez, Ariana Tellez, Emilia Perez, Mackenzie Luzum, & Mitzu Real.



What do two cows, a childless couple, a witch, and a beanstalk all have in common? They were all part of the musical, *Into the Woods, Jr.* with the story by James Lapine and songs by Stephen Sondheim.

In the musical, a spiteful witch (Andrea Pavlish) places a curse on the baker's family (Ashton Jirsa and Kayli Carey) that prohibits them from having children. To lift the curse, they must bring back three special ingredients in three days to the witch: a cow as white as milk, a cape as red as blood, and hair as yellow as corn.

From bringing dead cows back to life to literally escaping from the belly of the beast, characters

played out the story. "My favorite part was the cows," junior Mackenzie Luzum said. "It was sweet watching the real bond between Jack and Milky White because the actresses playing them were sisters so when the cow (Madison Theis) puts her head on Jack's (Bailey Theis) shoulder, it felt more believable."

"I thought it was hysterical on the second night when Milky White (Madison Theis) started jump roping and hit the mikes hanging above," senior Mitzu Real said. "It really just added to the play."

Rehearsals had to be worked around snowstorms, after track practice, and other events. "Andrea Pavlish brought spaghetti to one practice for everyone," sophomore Bailey Theis said. "I was so happy because I love Italian food, and I was starving after track practice."

When opening night came, the cast took pride in the production. "I was really nervous for how it was going to turn out when we were just a week away," senior Ashton Jirsa said, "but then everything came together, the curtain opened, and it was fantastic."

**Angered by a lack of compliance,** Jack's mother (Ella Vyhnaelek) scolds Milky White (Madison Theis) and Jack (Bailey Theis).



**Worried about her lost son,** Jack's mother (Ella Vyhnaelek) pleads with Cinderella's prince (Owen Vyhnaelek) to send help. While the servant (Myles Vyhnaelek) baker (Ashton Jirsa), his wife (Kayli Carey), and new cow (Mackenzie Luzum) look on.



**Serenading the audience,** narrator (Victoria Leavitt) and the baker (Ashton Jirsa) close the story.

# THE PERFECT HARMONY

*creates musical performances for everyone*

Whether students preferred singing songs or playing instruments at games, being in band or choir offered many musical opportunities. "My favorite memory from choir was going to Doane Honor Clinic," junior Andrea Pavlish said. "Just Ashton Jirsa and I went, and it was really a great learning experience."

Band and Choir had many performances including the Christmas Concert, the Spring Concert, the District Music Contest, elementary lunch, and Graduation. The band also played at the State Fair, Yorkfest (where they placed second), Veterans Day Assembly, and Memorial Day service and played during home games. The choir also performed at the Dorchester Methodist Church. "I liked playing at the State Fair because I really enjoyed the rides," freshman Briana Tellez said.

At Districts, the choir earned a 1 rating and the band received all 1's on their performance, which earned them a plaque. The band performed *Kitty Hawk March* and *Night Vision*. The choir performed *The Seal Lullaby* and *Elijah Rock*. "Elijah Rock was my favorite because we sounded very good together as a choir," sophomore Bailey Theis said.

There were also many soloists at

At the Christmas Concert, junior Andrea Pavlish and senior Amber Kotas perform a duet to *Mary, Did You Know?*



Districts. Ashton Jirsa performed *La donna e mobile* and received a Superior rating. Also receiving Superior Ratings were senior Amber Kotas who performed *I Dreamed a Dream* and junior Andrea Pavlish who performed *Reflection*.

Receiving a 2 rating were seniors Victoria Leavitt who performed *Live Out Loud*, Bryer Shaw who performed *Castle on a Cloud*, Veronica Tercero who performed *Bring Him Home*, and sophomore Bailey Theis who performed *There are Giants in the Sky*. Seniors Victoria Leavitt and Ashton Jirsa performed a duet, *I Think I Got You Beat*, which received a 3 rating.

The band received all 1's at Districts. "My favorite memory was making it to All State Choir for my 4th year in a row because it was my last year and my proudest accomplishment," senior Ashton Jirsa said.



As part of pep band, sophomore Micaela Loarca plays *Everybody Talks* at a football game. "I liked playing this song because it's the first song I've been able to memorize."



At the State Fair in Grand Island, the band performs *Anchors Aweigh* to the State Fair audience.



**Choir:** BR: Bailey Theis, Troy Dawes, Ashton Jirsa, Owen Vyhnaelek, Amber Kotas, Andrea Pavlish, Ella Vyhnaelek, & Director Steve Jirsa. MR: Megan Gordon, Lindsay DelToro, Bryer Shaw, Mason June, Victoria Leavitt, Kayli Carey, Emilia Perez, & Max Novak. FR: Laura Garcia, Veronica Tercero, Ariana Tellez, Briana Tellez, Tessa Martin, Maribel Garcia, & Mitzu Real.

## SPECIAL: Awards

CRC HONOR BAND	ASHTON JIRSA
WAYNE STATE HONOR CHOIR	ASHTON JIRSA & ANDREA PAVLISH
CLASS D ALL STATE BAND ALL STATE CHOIR (4 YEARS)	ASHTON JIRSA
CRC HONOR CHOIR	ASHTON JIRSA*, ANDREA PAVLISH*, BRYER SHAW, AMBER KOTAS, MITZU REAL, VICTORIA LEAVITT, KAYLI CAREY, OWEN VYHNALEK, VERONICA TERCERO

\*MEDALED



**At the Spring Concert,** senior Ashton Jirsa sings *La donna é mobile*. Jirsa made All State Choir all 4 years, one of only two students in the whole state.

**Performing at a football game,** sophomore Adrian Alcaide plays *Ex's and Oh's* with the pep band.



**Showcasing their musical talent,** the choir sings *Follow the Drinking Gourd* at The Spring Concert.



**Band:** BR: Andrea Pavlish, Bailey Theis, Adrian Alcaide, Amber Kotas, Owen Vyhnaek, Ashton Jirsa, Troy Dawes, Thor Nerud, & Director Steve Jirsa. 3rd Row: Kendall Kasl, Colton Harrison, Victoria Leavitt, Paxton Behrens, Ella Vyhnaek, Mason June, Landon Shaw, & Caden Axline. 2nd Row: Annaleah Tellez, Quinn Kasl, Trevin Steuk, Emilia Perez, Hadley Brandt, Livia Schweitzer, Brennalay Vazquez, Max Novak, & Mackenzie Luzum. FR: Mitzu Real, Laura Garcia, Joshua Gordon, Briana Tellez, Micaela Loarca, Ariana Tellez, Savannah June, Antonio Loarca, & Maribel Garcia. Not Pictured: Kadyn Kemerling, Cameron Yager, & Dominick Winter.

*Taping the tied-up balloons together, junior Baylor Behrens prepares the decoration for the Jr. High and High School Honors Night.*



*The new members inducted into National Honor Society were Gabrielle Theis, Chase Tachovsky, and Bailey Theis during the 44th ceremony for Dorchester NHS.*



*Senior Kayli Carey escorts the new inductee Bailey Theis to the front of the stage after being tapped and given a rose.*



**National Honor Society Members.** BR: Andrea Pavlish, Amber Kotas, Owen Vyhnalek, & Ashton Jirsa. MR: Madison Theis, Baylor Behrens, Addison Lehr, Victoria Leavitt, & Atley Zoubek. FR: Hailey Schweitzer, Advisor Sandy Severance, Kayli Carey, & Quinn Kasl.

# AND SERVICE LEADERSHIP

NHS President, senior Amber Kotas, addresses the audience to welcome them to the Sr. High Honors Night.



*shows in all that NHS students endeavor*

In March, Mrs. Severance appeared with NHS applications in hand to give to eligible students. To even fill out an application, students had to have a GPA of at least 92%. In the application, students listed all of their awards, leadership positions, and other activities. The papers were then used by the NHS faculty to judge the applicant's character, service, leadership, and scholarship (the four qualities one must have to become a member).

On Honors Night, the new members were then inducted. "As soon as I realized they were saying my name I felt proud of myself," sophomore Chase Tachovsky said. "It felt good to be inducted."

NHS members kept busy. In the early spring, NHS was in charge of the American Red Cross Blood Drive. "I was in charge of checking people into their appointments," senior

Ashton Jirsa said. "Helping with the blood drive was my favorite part of being in NHS because I knew I was helping save lives."

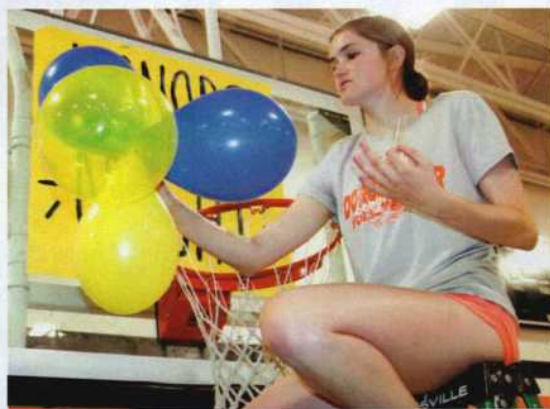
They also hosted Jr. High and High School Honors Nights. Right before Honors Night, NHS sponsored and hosted the Honor Roll Pizza Party for qualifying students. "Since I live in Crete, I was in charge of picking up the pizza," senior Victoria Leavitt said.

They also created the programs, decorated the gym, welcomed the guests, and distributed cookies and punch for Honors Night. "I announced the Student Leadership Awards," senior Addison Lehr said. "It felt nice to give those deserving students recognition."

The NHS members were able to show their service and leadership in many ways. "I was glad we were able to help the school and community in so many ways," senior Hailey Schweitzer said.



Not only does senior Ashton Jirsa give blood at the NHS-sponsored blood drive, but he also helped during the drive.



Looking for the perfect spot to put the balloons, senior Addison Lehr helps decorate the backboard above the stage for when students receive their awards at Honors Night.

Greeting the blood donors, junior Atley Zoubek and senior Madison Theis give donors Red Cross beach towels or long sleeved t-shirts.



NHS

FAVORITE NHS Activity

RUNNING THE BLOOD DRIVE

ASHTON JIRSA, 12

INDUCTING NEW MEMBERS

AMBER KOTAS, 12

DECORATING THE GYM FOR HONORS NIGHT

ATLEY ZOUBEK, 11

# THE HELPFUL WORKERS

*serve others in and outside of the school*

Always ready to lend a hand and to help better the community, the Student Council and D-club worked hard to volunteer their time, helping the community, and raising money for charities.

The first thing on the Student Council's agenda was planning Spirit Week dress up days. "My favorite thing to do for Student Council is picking dress up days for Spirit Week," freshmen Lily Lehr said. "Out of all the days, Barbie Day was my favorite by far."

The next thing on the agenda was preparing stuffed animals and candy that helped spread love and kindness on Valentine's Day. "I like delivering Valentines because it makes them so happy," sophomore Savannah June said. "I also like receiving them because it makes me feel good."

The last thing on their agenda was the Make-A-Wish Auction. Student Council members brought two items to be raffled off. Then papers were kept next to the items for people to try to outbid others and win their item. "The action is a great way to raise money for the Make-A-Wish cause," senior Amber Kotas said. "We always do a good job and raise lots of money. We raised \$1000 this year."

D-Club did their part by running the

**At the Student Council Make-A-Wish Auction,** kindergartner Hayden Havlat, Samantha Havlat, & 2nd grader Hunter Havlat check the bids.



scoreboard, concessions, and running stats during the JH Volleyball Tournament and the Alumni Basketball Tournament. "I enjoy helping out with the Alumni Basketball Tournament because it is fun to see former students play basketball and be competitive," junior Owen Vyhnaek said. "I also helped out at the JH Volleyball Tournament by doing lines."

The D-Club also helped set up and decorate for the Athletic Banquet. "I helped do streamers, and I kept messing up," sophomore Bailey Theis said. "I eventually gave up and just let Gabby Theis finish it."

Student Council and D-Club did a great job of helping within their community and giving back. "I am so happy that I am able to make a difference in my community," senior Addison Lehr said. "I also have fun doing these activities with my friends."



**Handing out Valentines to 2nd grader Kenzi Schweitzer,** freshman Livia Schweitzer delivers stuffed animals and candy that were sold by the Student Council.



**Keeping the road clean,** 7th graders Brenna Vazquez, Kaitlyn Bolton, 8th grader Kendall Kasl, and 5th grader Bethany Vazquez pick up trash that was left on the road. Student Council sponsored the trash pickup and anyone could help.



**Student Council.** BR: Bailey Theis, Paxton Behrens, Amber Kotas, Ella Vyhnaek, Andrea Pavlish, Lily Lehr, & Sponsor Stacy Lutjemeyer. MR: Livia Schweitzer, Sierra Sherwood, Baylor Behrens, Thor Nerud, Addison Lehr, Stephanie Korinek, & Emilia Perez. FR: Quinn Kasl, Gabby Theis, Michael Maldonado, Atley Zoubek, Hailey Schweitzer, Ariana Tellez, & Savannah June.

## FAVORITE Event

"I LIKE BEING A PART OF CHOOSING THE SPIRIT WEEK DAYS AND KNOWING ABOUT ALL OF THE EVENTS AHEAD OF TIME."

EMILIA PEREZ, 9  
D-CLUB

"I LIKED SETTING UP FOR THE ATHLETIC BANQUET BECAUSE WE DIDN'T HAVE TRACK PRACTICE."

GABBY THEIS, 11  
D-CLUB

"I LIKED THE MAKE-A-WISH RAFFLE BECAUSE I LIKE GOING OUT AND GETTING PRIZES TO BE BID ON!"

MICHAEL MALDONADO, 9  
STUDENT COUNCIL



**Decorating for the Athletic Banquet** D-Club member, junior Ariana Tellez makes sure the streamers are twisted to put on the tables.

**Setting up for the Athletic Banquet**, sophomore Carter Cerny carries tables. The D-Club helped run the Athletic Banquet by setting up and tearing down the event.



**New D-Club Members, BR:** Frank Matejka, Hunter Wake, & Mason June. **FR:** Savannah June, Lily Lehr, & Emilia Perez. **Not Pictured:** Jace Yager, Megan Gordon, Colton Harrison, & Briana Tellez.



Stu. Council  
D-Club



**D-Club. BR:** Carter Cerny, Jacob Hatfield, Amber Kotas, Owen Vyhnaek, Ashton Jirsa, Andy Drake, & Victor Lopez. **3rd Row:** Sponsor Brandon Bruha, Addison Lehr, Bailey Theis, William Paiz, Adrian Alcaide, Marcos Gonzalez, Chase Tachovsky, Owen Real, Stephanie Korinek, & Sponsor Corey Bird. **2nd Row:** Hailey Schweitzer, Kayli Carey, Madison Theis, Caden Axline, Baylor Behrens, Atley Zoubek, Makayla Schlueter, Nancy Alcaide, & Gabby Theis. **FR:** Elsy Loarca, Micaela Loarca, Isabella Cornejo, AylYnn Schwisow, Quinn Kasl, Ariana Tellez, & Mitzu Real.

## JEA COMPETITION

**Andrea Pavlish:** Excellent in YB Theme Copy Wr.

**Hailey Schweitzer:** Superior in YB Theme Copy Wr., Hon. Mentions in YB Layout & YB Sports Feature Wr.

**Mackenzie Luzum:** Hon. Ment. in YB Newspaper Layout

**Gabby Theis:** Hon. Mention in Action Photography

**Mitzi Rea:** Hon. Mentions in Action Photo. & Advertising

**Bailey Theis:** Hon. Mention in Feature Photography

**Joseph Peacock:** Hon. Mention in YB Feature Wr.

**The Team of Hailey Schweitzer, Andrea Pavlish, & Gabby Theis:**

Excellent in YB Theme Development

## NEBRASKA PRESS WOMEN'S HS COMPETITION

**Hailey Schweitzer:** Hon. Mention in YB Photo

**Jacob Cerny:** Hon. Mention in YB Copywriting, 2nd in YB Photo

**Gabby Theis:** Hon. Mentions in YB Photo & Double-Truck Layout

**Joseph Peacock:** Hon. Mentions in YB Copywriting, News Story, & Yearbook Photo

**Andrea Pavlish:** Hon. Mention in Graphics/Photo Ill., 3rd in YB Copywriting

**Mackenzie Luzum:** 3rd in YB Photo, 2nd in Sports Story

**Ariana Tellez:** Hon. Mention in Sports Story

**The Team of Hailey Schweitzer & Bailey Theis:** 3rd in Video Sports Story

## NSAA STATE COMPETITION

**Hailey Schweitzer:** 1st in Newspaper Layout, 4th in YB Theme Copy WR., 5th in YB Layout, 6th in YB Feature Wr., 6th in Photo/Artistic Ill.,

**Andrea Pavlish:** 1st in Editorial Wr., 1st in Action Photo., 1st in YB Layout, 2nd in YB Feature Wr.

**Gabby Theis:** 3rd in Ed. Cartooning, 3rd in Newspaper Layout, 5th in Sports News Wr., 8th in Feature Photo.

**Joseph Peacock:** 3rd in Editorial Wr., 6th in Newspaper Feature Wr., 7th in Action Photography

**Mackenzie Luzum:** 5th in Newspaper Layout, 6th in YB Theme Copy, 7th in Newspaper Sports Feature Wr.

**Ariana Tellez:** 6th in Sports News Writing

**Bailey Theis:** 7th in YB Sports Feature Writing

**Megan Gordon:** 6th in Editorial Writing

**Rosie Lopez:** 3rd in Advertising

**Michael Maldonado:** 7th in Advertising

**Jace Yager:** 8th in Advertising

**Ariana Tellez & Briana Tellez:** 7th in Broadcast Public Service Announcement

**The Team of Hailey Schweitzer, Andrea Pavlish, & Gabby Theis:** 3rd in YB Theme Development

**DHS placed 3rd overall in Class C (schools of 149 or below) with 340 points out of 26 schools competing at State, and 43 schools overall. (Only 12 pts. from 2nd place and over 100 points more than 4th).**



*Standing on top of the podium, senior Hailey Schweitzer relishes first place. She made many trips to have many medals placed around her neck, but this was her first at #1. "It was exciting to finally place first," Schweitzer said.*

# OF THE GREATEST HONORS

for recording and reporting the year

Being in journalism was more than just taking pictures and writing. It was a chance to be creative and record special moments. "It makes me feel appreciated to be a part of something I can contribute to," freshman Emilia Perez said.

To improve their skills, students attended workshops: Walsworth's at Mahoney State Park, the NHSPA Convention at UNL, and a new one by Josten's at the Amazing Pizza Machine in Omaha for upperclassmen. "I liked the NHSPA workshop because it taught me how to take pictures better," freshman Michael Maldonado said.

"The new workshop was fun because it had bumper cars, and gave good ideas for designs," sophomore Bailey Theis said.

Good news came in the spring

when the DPS Yearbook made it into Walsworth's *Possibilities* book for the first time ever. "I was surprised because we're such a small book, and we've never had that honor," Adviser Sandy Severance said.

One highlight of the year was attending State Journalism in Norfolk. Twelve out of thirteen students qualified for State (a new school record). "I liked trying to make it to State," sophomore Megan Gordon said. "It was stressful, but I enjoyed the challenge."

Two students had to drop categories because they could only have two onsite events. Joseph Peacock dropped YB Feature Layout, and Andrea Pavlish dropped Editorial Cartooning and YB Theme Copy. "Luckily, when we dropped the events, it opened up two more DHS students to add events since they were alternates," junior Andrea Pavlish said.

A total of 30 medals were brought home, with four state champions, one for Hailey Schweitzer and three for Andrea Pavlish. "It was exciting to finally place first," senior Hailey Schweitzer said.

However, no one could be more proud than their advisor who also received the Outstanding Service Award from the NSAA, only the third advisor to ever receive it. "I never expected to win this award because most of the time they don't notice small schools, but my hard work paid off," Severance said. "I'm astounded by how well we performed during State as well; It's really been a rewarding year."

### State Journalism.

Gabby Theis, Michael Maldonado, Hailey Schweitzer, Rosie Lopez, Megan Gordon, Jace Yager, Advisor Sandy Severance, Bailey Theis, Briana Tellez, Andrea Pavlish, Ariana Tellez, Joseph Peacock, and Mackenzie Luzum.



### Winning awards for the JEA Competition

were BR:

Bailey Theis, Andrea Pavlish, Hailey Schweitzer, & Joseph Peacock.

FR: Mackenzie Luzum, Gabby Theis, & Mitzu Real.



Waiting for the perfect shot, junior Ariana Tellez finds the best angle and gets the photo.

**Journalism.** BR: Bailey Theis, Andrea Pavlish, & Joseph Peacock.

MR: Gabby Theis, Rosie Lopez, Michael Maldonado, Jace Yager, Megan Gordon, & Emilia Perez. FR: Mackenzie Luzum, Hailey Schweitzer, Advisor Sandy Severance, Ariana Tellez, & Briana Tellez.



Winning Awards from Nebraska Press Women's Competition were Ariana Tellez, Mackenzie Luzum, Joseph Peacock, Andrea Pavlish, Hailey Schweitzer, & Gabby Theis. Not Pictured: Bailey Theis.

**T**he athletes kept **"Raising the Bar"**. They broke many records as a team and as individuals and competed at levels not seen in years.

The volleyball team placed fourth in the CRC Tournament, which hadn't been done in a long while. Senior Hailey Schweitzer broke the school record for assists in a season, and she also ended her volleyball career with more than one thousand assists. "Our season was the best Dorchester volleyball has had in a long time," junior Baylor Behrens said. "The hard work ethic and fight this group of girls has is outstanding."

Football faced many challenges, but they came out strong and beat Saint Edward 34 to 26. "We never gave up," junior Owen Vyhnalek said.

Senior Marcos Gonzalez also broke four football records (field goal, most tackles in a season and in a career and all time leading scorer. "He really did a great job for us," Coach Brent Zoubek said.

The girls basketball team **"Raised Many Bars"** by breaking two records. Junior Gabby Theis broke the record for the most three-pointers in a game, and the team broke the amount of assists in a season. "I was so proud of how the girls played," Coach Brandon Bruha said. "They really gave it their all."

The girls also finally beat BDS, a team they hadn't beaten in a long time. They also placed third at CRC, a feat not seen in years. "You could just see the way our team flowed together and all the hard work we put in really showed through," senior Addison Lehr said.

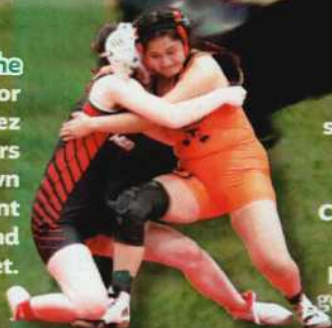
The wrestling team was able to **"Raise the Bar"** by growing larger than in many years. The girls and boys teams each had five wrestlers. "It was great to have so many out for wrestling," senior Jacob Hatfield said. "It really made a difference in meets and practices."

In track, athletes **"Raised the Bar"** as well. The girls track team brought home the first place plaque from the Turkey Creek Relays.

They also sent three athletes to State, sophomore Bailey Theis and senior Amber Kotas in shot put and junior Baylor Behrens in the 300 meter hurdles. Theis placed fifth and Kotas placed fourth. "It was exciting to end my career on the podium," Kotas said. "It was the best throw I've ever had."

No matter the sport, the athletes continued to **"Raise the Bar"** to new heights and set their eyes on being better than ever before.

**Owning the mat,** junior Ariana Tellez maneuvers to take down her opponent at the Friend meet.



**Trying to score,** senior Owen Real soars above the College View Academy player as he goes up for a layup.



**Rising above the net,** senior Stephanie Korinek makes sure to get the volleyball over her College View Academy opponent and into an empty zone to get a point.





Rushing down the field, sophomore Chase Tachovsky pushes away the opponent from Saint Edward so he can get to the end zone and score a touchdown.

RAISING THE BAR

# SPORTS

# SCORES

OPPONENT	US-THEM
St. Edward	59-26
Red Cloud	14-66
Harvard	32-34
Meridian	28-34
Sterling	6-44
Lewiston	6-59
Parkview Christian	17-54
Pawnee City	25-52

## Special Recognition

*1st Team All District*  
Chase Tachovsky (Punter)

*2nd Team All District*  
Chase Tachovsky (Offensive End)  
Marcos Gonzalez (Defensive Back & Kicker)

*Honorable Mention All District*  
Owen Real (Defensive Back)  
Andy Drake (Offensive End)

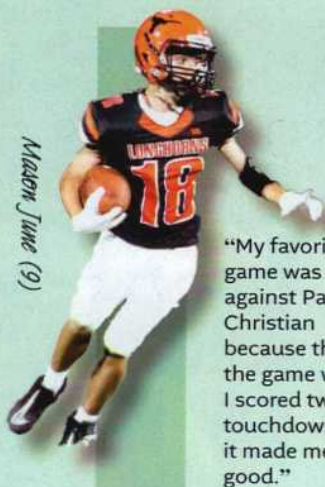
*Six Man Coaches Association*  
*All State Honorable Mention*  
Chase Tachovsky (Defense)



*Finishing off the job,* seniors Victor Lopez & Owen Real and sophomore Chase Tachovsky come to aid sophomore Carter Cerny to take down their St. Edward opponent.



**Football.** BR: Head Coach Brent Zoubek, & Assistant Coach Spencer Kotas. 3rd Row: Student Managers Landon Shaw, Mason Vyhnaek, Payton Zoubek, Paxton Behrens, Thor Nerud, & Trevin Steuk. 2nd Row: Caden Axline, Carter Cerny, Chase Tachovsky, Owen Vyhnaek, Ariana Tellez, Frank Matejka, & Mason June. FR: William Paiz, Victor Lopez, Marcos Gonzalez, Andy Drake, Owen Real, & Ashton Jirsa.



Mason June (9)

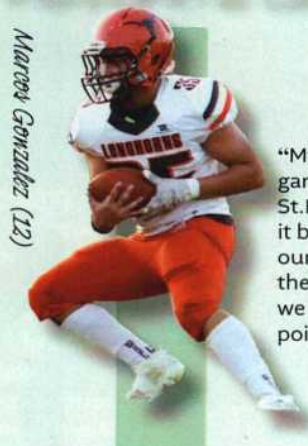
"My favorite game was against Parkview Christian because that's the game where I scored two touchdowns, and it made me feel good."



Andy Drake (12)

"My favorite game was against Meridian because I played well, but it also made me sad because we lost."

## WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE GAME?



Marcos Gonzalez (12)

"My favorite game was against St. Edward. I liked it because it was our first game of the season and we won by 33 points."

**T**he football season was full of commitment, responsibility, and perseverance. "No matter what the score was, we were always giving our all," senior Owen Real said.

The season started off well with a win against St. Edward. "I was excited at the start of the night," sophomore Chase Tachovsky said. "It made me feel good knowing we won our first game."

Unfortunately, that was the only win of the season. Many games were close, but didn't end with a notch in the win column. "It was frustrating that we didn't win more games," senior Andy Drake said. "I know there were a few that we could have and should have won so it was frustrating to be so close and

not win."

One of the toughest and closest games was the Homecoming game against Meridian. It was a night of high hopes and extreme excitement. "I was confident we'd win," freshman Mason June said. "We had more motivation than usual because it was Homecoming."

The end of the game rang the death blow with a 28-34 loss. "It was a heartbreaking game," junior Owen Vyhnalek said. "It was important to win since it was Homecoming so we felt the sting of the loss even more."

Another close game was the Harvard game. "We did so well, but just didn't pull off the win," sophomore Carter Cerny said.

There were many records broken though. Senior Marcos Gonzalez broke the field goal record with

43 yards; he broke the all time leading scorer with 378 points; he broke the most tackles in a season with 80; and he broke the most tackles in a career with 193 1/2. "I was surprised to break so many records," Gonzalez said. "I just always tried to do my best on the field."

The season was a teaching, learning and intense experience. "I learned that not everything goes your way, but you still have to fight rather than complain," freshman Frank Matejka said. "I learned a lot from watching the upperclassmen and listening to them."

The team learned to persevere through it all. "The team's unity sometimes after close games might fall apart, but ours never did. They always went to work, played together and continued to strive," Head Coach Brent Zoubek said.



**ALL  
IN  
for a  
TOUCDOWN**



*Using teamwork, sophomore Carter Cerny, & seniors Owen Real & Marcos Gonzalez work together to bring down their Red Cloud opponent.*

*During the St. Edward game, sophomore Chase Tachovsky takes the ball down the field while senior Victor Lopez assists in the play.*



*Taking down his Harvard opponent, junior Owen Vyhnalek wraps him up & stops the play.*

Overcoming, exciting, and challenging were three words used to describe the volleyball season. They faced many challenges and excelled to a recordbreaking season.

The new Assistant Coach Amanda Clouse really had to step up in a big way fast because Head Coach Claire Tachovsky missed the first games of the season. "I felt nervous going into the first games with Coach T. absent. I wanted to make sure I carried our team as she would," Clouse said.

However, the team really pushed to do their best. Senior Hailey Schweitzer, the Longhorns' setter, took control

of the court and helped her team achieve a winning season. Schweitzer also accomplished 1,000 career assists during the game against Harvard, which was very impressive because her first year on the team she was a libero. "I was confused at first because everyone started cheering really loudly," Schweitzer said. "Then I realized it was for me. After the game I was still shocked but nevertheless excited."

Schweitzer also broke the school record for the most assists in a season, 667 assists surpassing the old record of 492 assists in 2018. The team also broke the school kill record for a season having 799 kills beating the old record of 668 kills in 2015. "It was so awesome breaking so many records," junior Baylor Behrens said. "It was even greater breaking it as a team."

The Longhorns also placed fourth in the CRC volleyball tournament, the best they have ever done in Dorchester history. "Getting fourth wasn't what we wanted, and I know we all could have played better, especially me," junior Gabby Theis said, "but it is still better than what we have ever done."

The season ended shorter than what the team had hoped with their loss to Diller-Odell at Subdistricts. The girls were tied with two sets each, but lost the last set. "I would have liked to have made it to at least Districts," senior Amber Kotas said. "Even though it was close, we still hoped for so much more, but I wouldn't have wanted to end my senior season any other way, fighting until the end."



SWING

BIG

get a

KILL

**Getting up over the net to block the ball,** seniors Amber Kotas and Addison Lehr block their opponents hit back over the net in the College View Academy game.

**Setting up the offense,** senior setter Hailey Schweitzer makes a quick decision on who to set to during the Sterling game, which they went on to win.

**Pounding the ball to the ground,** junior Baylor Behrens hits around the blocker to help her team win against Sterling.



# SCORES

OPPONENT	US-THEM
East Butler	3-1
St. Edward	3-0
Weeping Water	1-2
Palmyra	0-2
College View Academy	3-0
Giltner	2-0
Hampton	2-0
Red Cloud	3-1
Cedar Bluffs	2-0
Nebraska Lutheran	2-0;0-2
Harvard	3-0
Osceola	3-1
Shelby/Rising City	1-2
High Plains	2-0;2-0
OCA	2-0
Sterling	3-1
Diller-Odell	0-2;2-3
Meridian	0-2;1-3
Cross County	1-3
Parkview Christian	3-0
BDS	0-2;0-3
McCool Junction	2-0

Volleyball



*Celebrating a kill to take the set against Cross County, juniors Baylor Behrens, Gabby Theis, senior Hailey Schweitzer and junior Atley Zoubek, come together to celebrate sophomore Bailey Theis's kill and winning the set.*

**Girls Volleyball.** Back Row: Head Coach Claire Tachovsky, Atley Zoubek, Baylor Behrens, Bailey Theis, Gabby Theis, and Assistant Coach Amanda Clouse. Middle Row: Briana Tellez, Savannah June, Livia Schweitzer, Micaela Loarca, Jace Yager, Lily Lehr, and Emilia Perez. Front Row: Quinn Kasl, Madison Theis, Addison Lehr, Amber Kotas, Stephanie Korinek, Hailey Schweitzer, and Kayli Carey.

*CRC 1st Team All Conference  
Hailey Schweitzer & Bailey Theis*

*CRC All Conf. Hon. Mention  
Baylor Behrens*

*Omaha World Herald &  
Lincoln Journal Star Hon.Ment.  
Hailey Schweitzer & Bailey Theis*

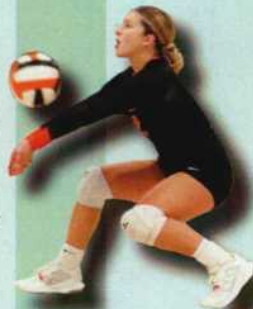
## WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE GAME?

**Bailey Theis,** "High Plains at CRC was my favorite game because my coach cheered for me, and it made me really happy."



Bailey Theis (10)

**Gabby Theis,** "My favorite game was when we played Diller-Odell in Subdistricts because I feel like that I played the best I did all year."



*Gabby Theis (11)*

**Atley Zoubek,** "My Favorite game was when we played Diller-Odell for the second time because we played amazing."



Atley Zoubek (11)

# SCORES

OPPONENT	US-THEM
Deshler	15-42
Meridian	22-45
High Plains	27-59
BDS	18-56
Harvard	29-31; 28-47
Osceola	17-55
Cedar Bluffs	31-57
Heartland Lutheran	33-46
Lewiston	29-57
Sterling	16-48
College View Academy	31-52; 29-43
Cross County	9-67
Shelby-Rising City	51-59; 22-59
Hampton	35-50; 29-51
East Butler	35-61
Nebraska Lutheran	32-68
McCool Junction	25-72

## CRC

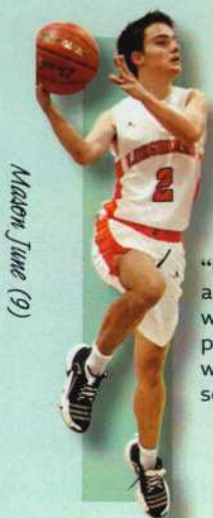
All Conference  
Honorable Mention  
Owen Real



Trying his best to keep the ball away from his opponents, sophomore Hunter Wake gets low to keep the ball in motion as senior Owen Real stays in position to assist.



**Boys Basketball.** BR: Assistant Coach Brandon Sullivan, Chase Tachovsky, Owen Vyhnaek, Frank Matejka, Mason June, and Coach Corey Bird. FR: Student Managers Max Novak and Thor Nerud, Owen Real, Andy Drake, and Student Managers Paxton Behrens and Trevin Steuk.



Mason June (9)

"I was concerned about how we would be able to pull off strategies when everyone is so exhausted."



Owen Real (12)

"I started to wonder if we would even be able to make it through the entire season."

## WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST CONCERN?



Frank Matejka (9)

"I was worried by how much more we would be expected to play."

The boys basketball team was so small, they could have taken a minivan to the games instead of the bus. Having just six players for most of the season created a challenge that most teams couldn't possibly fathom.

When the boys showed up for the first basketball meeting, they weren't sure how many would be on the team. "I was worried that we wouldn't have enough players to even play," sophomore Chase Tachovsky said. "When the season began, there were only the six."

The boys had to have incredible stamina and versatility to play multiple positions. They also needed to be in shape because there was no depth on the bench which meant that they rarely had time for a break

with only one person to sub in. "Not being able to get a break is the hardest part of being part of a small team," senior Owen Real said. "No matter how in shape we are, it is hard to play for thirty-two minutes. You really start to get tired by the fourth quarter when you don't have a lot of breaks."

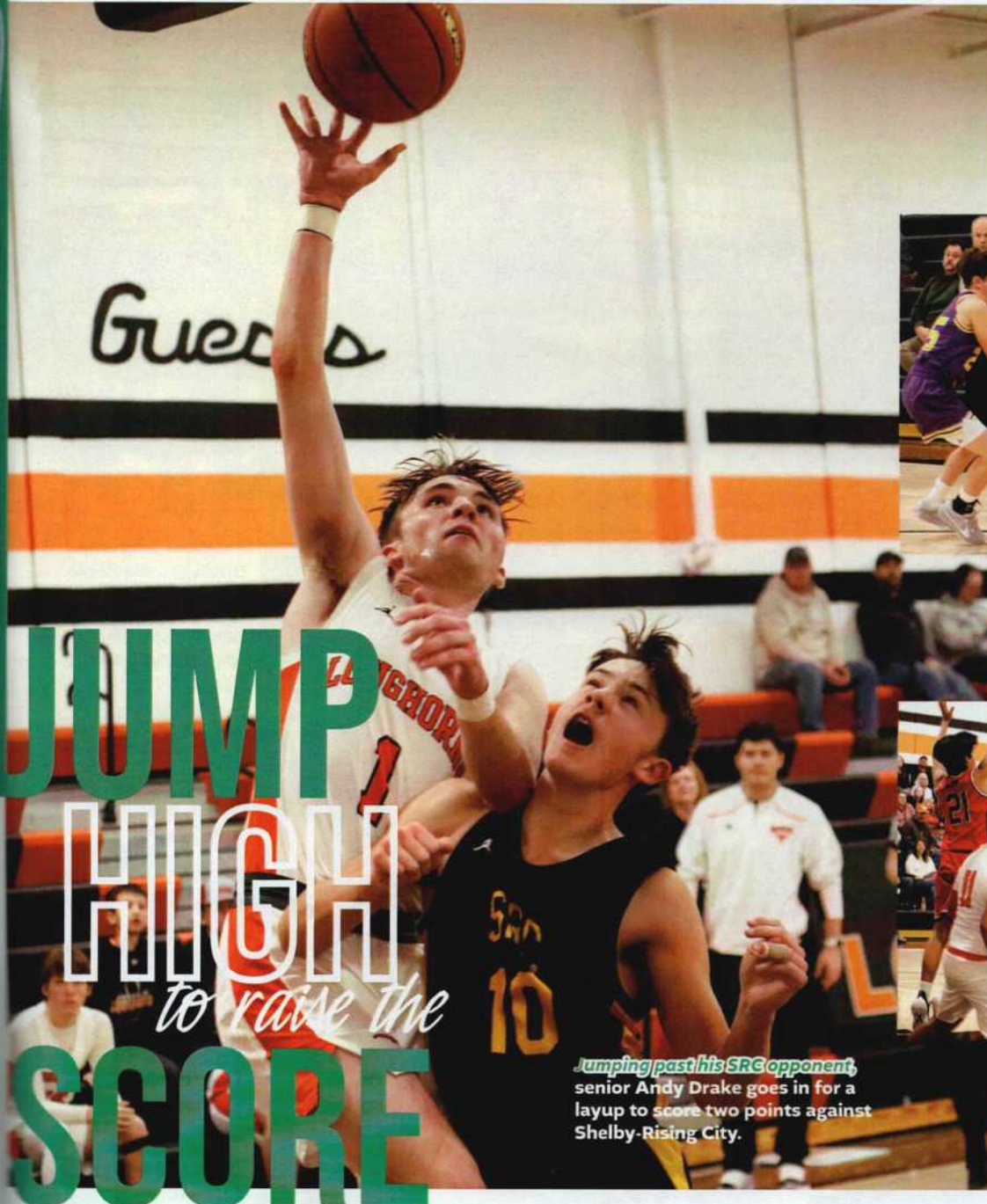
They also had to watch out for the risk of getting hurt, which happened for a few games when Chase Tachovsky was injured. If the boys ran into foul trouble, they had to be very smart because if one was to foul out there would be no one else to sub in for them. "I always had to be concerned about fouling too much," junior Owen Vyhnalek said. "There was one game where I had four fouls, and I know I held back. I think it affected that game because we lost by just two points."

One positive of having such a small team was that it could really bond them together. "It was

great getting to know each other more. Being so small helped us to know what the other would do in the game, too," freshman Mason June said.

Then a miracle happened after Holiday Break when the team gained a player. Sophomore Hunter Wake moved from Pawnee City bringing renewed energy and a new dynamic to the group. There were now more options for rotations, strategies, and teamwork. "I felt very relieved adding another player," senior Andy Drake said. "Now there was going to be more help."

This team gave it their all. They might not have won any games, but they never gave up. "The record doesn't show how much heart these boys had," Head Coach Corey Bird said. "They played their hardest under some difficult circumstances, and I'm extremely proud of them."



# JUMP HIGH to raise the SCORE



**Seizing the opportunity,** sophomore Chase Tachovsky tries to dash past his Deshler opponent to score for his team.



**Jumping past his SRC opponent,** senior Andy Drake goes in for a layup to score two points against Shelby-Rising City.

**Eager to shoot and score,** junior Owen Vyhnalek tramples through while senior Owen Real waits to get the rebound.

**B**reaking school records, an all-time high winning record, and making heads turn, the girl's basketball team dominated the court. "We were playing at the highest level we have ever done," senior Madison Theis said.

Early in the season, the Longhorns were up against BDS. With the thirst for victory, they managed to take them down, breaking the twelve-year losing streak. "Playing BDS was one of my favorite games because never in my career have we ever beaten them, until now," junior Atley Zoubek said. "The look on the other team's faces was pure defeat, and the celebration in the

locker room made this game even better."

The CRC Tournament made everyone take notice. In the first round, they crushed Hampton. In the second round, they faced Osceola, whom they previously lost to earlier. "I was a bit nervous because I knew we could beat them," senior Hailey Schweitzer said.

The Longhorns gave it all they had to win third place, beating High Plains. "Winning the 3rd place CRC plaque and medal was amazing," senior Amber Kotas said. "I knew our team had the potential to do great things."

Even though their time on the court was cut off sooner than they wanted, the Lady Longhorns made every second count. "Our record was one of the best in our school's history even if we didn't make our goal of District

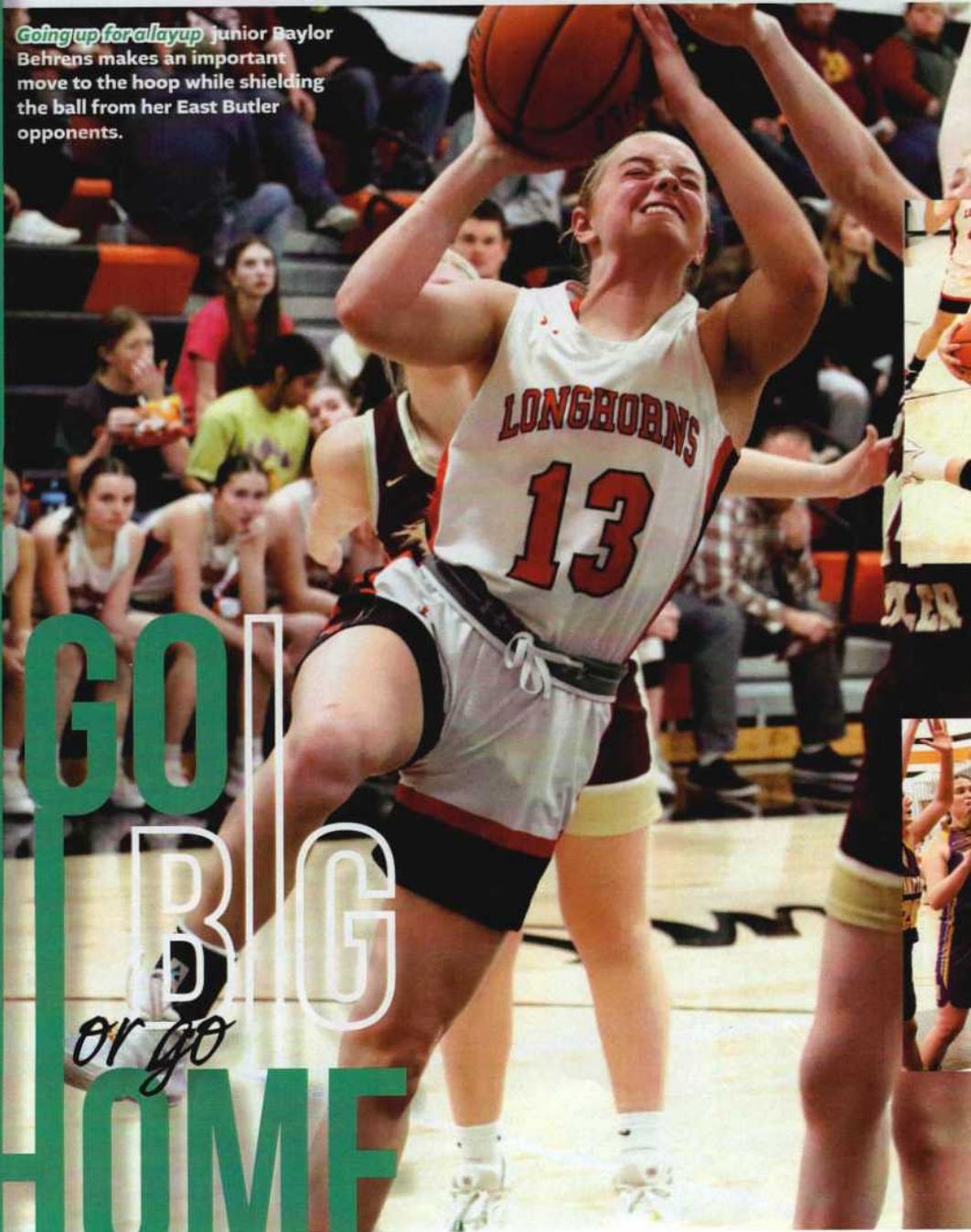
finals," senior Addison Lehr said.

Many achievements and big milestones were accomplished. The team broke the school record for season assists with 248. Gabby Theis broke the school record for most 3-pointers scored in a game with eight. "I couldn't believe it at first," junior Gabby Theis said.

Coach Brandon Bruha hit his 100th career win at Lewiston. "I was surprised to see all of the signs in the stands," Bruha said.

The record doesn't show how great the season was. "The team worked hard preparing for every game. I believe we were one of the top 16 teams in class D-1, but we got stuck in a tough sub-district and weren't able to really prove it," Bruha said.

**Going up for a layup** Junior Baylor Behrens makes an important move to the hoop while shielding the ball from her East Butler opponents.



**Driving to the hoop,** junior Gabby Theis maneuvers past the Deshler opponents to get a layup on the right side.



**Aiming to take the shot,** senior Hailey Schweitzer gets an open look in the lane with the Hampton Hawks out of position.

# GO BIG or go HOME



**Girls Basketball Team.** BR: Savannah June, Livia Schweitzer, & Micaela Loarca. 3rd Row: Assistant Coach Brent Zoubek, Atley Zoubek, Jace Yager, Bailey Theis, Lily Lehr, Gabby Theis, Baylor Behrens, & Head Coach Brandon Bruha. 2nd Row: Student Managers Brennalay Vazquez & Hadley Brandt, Quinn Kasl, Kayli Carey, Hailey Schweitzer, & Student Managers Kendall Kasl & Kaitlyn Bolton. FR: Addison Lehr, Amber Kotas, & Madison Theis.

**Celebrating a long-awaited victory,** seniors Madison Theis, Hailey Schweitzer, junior Baylor Behrens, senior Addison Lehr, and junior Gabby Theis run back to their bench after the final buzzer sounds securing their win over BDS.

# SCORES

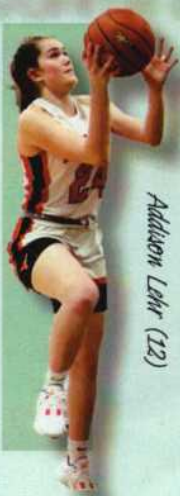
OPPONENT	US-THEM
Deshler	26-41
Meridian	34-49
High Plains	35-29; 35-20
BDS	33-26
Harvard	57-13
Osceola	37-42; 49-25
Cedar Bluffs	57-17
Heartland Lutheran	67-22
Lewiston	48-11
Sterling	25-17
College View	42-23; 44-22
Cross County	25-50
Shelby-Rising City	39-29
Hampton	67-28; 65-39
McCool Junction	31-51; 34-49
East Butler	40-32
Nebraska Lutheran	40-37
Diller-Odell	45-48

**CRC 1st Team All Conference**  
Baylor Behrens

**Omaha World Herald & Lincoln Journal Star Hon.Ment.**  
Baylor Behrens & Gabby Theis

## WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE GAME?

“My favorite game was the second round of the Crossroads Conference Tournament. We were up against the number four seed, Osceola. We blended so well as a team and dominated the court overall. Osceola had previously beaten us so getting revenge felt super amazing.”



Addison Lehr (12)

“My favorite game was the BDS game because I never felt more excited to play them since we had a really strong team this year. Watching my teammates go crazy when we beat them was awesome.”



Bailey Theis (10)

“My favorite game was the BDS game. This was the first time we beat BDS after losing to them for years. I will never forget the screaming and cheering in the locker room after we won. We were all spraying each other with water bottles. I will cherish that memory forever.”



Amber Kotas (12)

# RECORDS

ATHLETE	WIN-LOSE
Marcos Gonzalez	23-10
Jacob Hatfield	18-16
William Paiz	5-20
Victor Lopez	2-7
Mitzu Real	4-15
AyLynn Schwisow	5-15
Ariana Tellez	2-1
Isabella Cornejo	20-12
Adrian Alcaide	5-10
Briana Tellez	1-15
Emilia Perez	2-6



*Trying to escape*, senior Jacob Hatfield tries to bridge and get up quickly before his opponent can get up at the CRC Invite at East Butler.



*Taking control of the match*, senior William Paiz goes in for the pin and takes the win at the CRC Invite at East Butler.



**Wrestling.** BR: Coach Chris Nelson, Jacob Hatfield, Marcos Gonzalez, Adrian Alcaide, and William Paiz. MR: AyLynn Schwisow, Isabella Cornejo, Stephanie Korinek, and Emilia Perez. FR: Mitzu Real, Briana Tellez, and Ariana Tellez.

## WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE MEET?



*Emilia Perez (9)*

"My favorite meet was actually the dual against Friend and Meridian. All I had to do was weigh in and walk onto the Mat. I won because there was no one in my weight class."



*AyLynn Schwisow (11)*

"I liked the Malcolm Meet the most. I tried my hardest in all my matches and won a match I really wanted to win."



*Mitzu Real (12)*

"My favorite meet was the West Point Invitational. My matches went well overall, and I learned a lot of different moves that day."

**D**etermination, strength, and endurance were all factors that went into wrestling. This season, the wrestling teams had a higher number of athletes. "When I first started wrestling we only had two girls on the team; now we have six," junior AyLynn Schwisow said. The girls team increased from three to six over last year.

Having a girls-sanctioned team for a second year seemed to have brought out more wrestlers overall, also affecting how many boys went out. "I thought we were going to have less people overall, and I expected only two boys to go out for wrestling," senior Marcos Gonzalez said. "It was great that five were on the boys

team."

The season started with a dual at Friend against Friend and Meridian. The girls' wrestling team won against both. "I was nervous at first because it was my first time wrestling someone else from a different school," freshman Briana Tellez said. "After my matches, I realized it wasn't too bad."

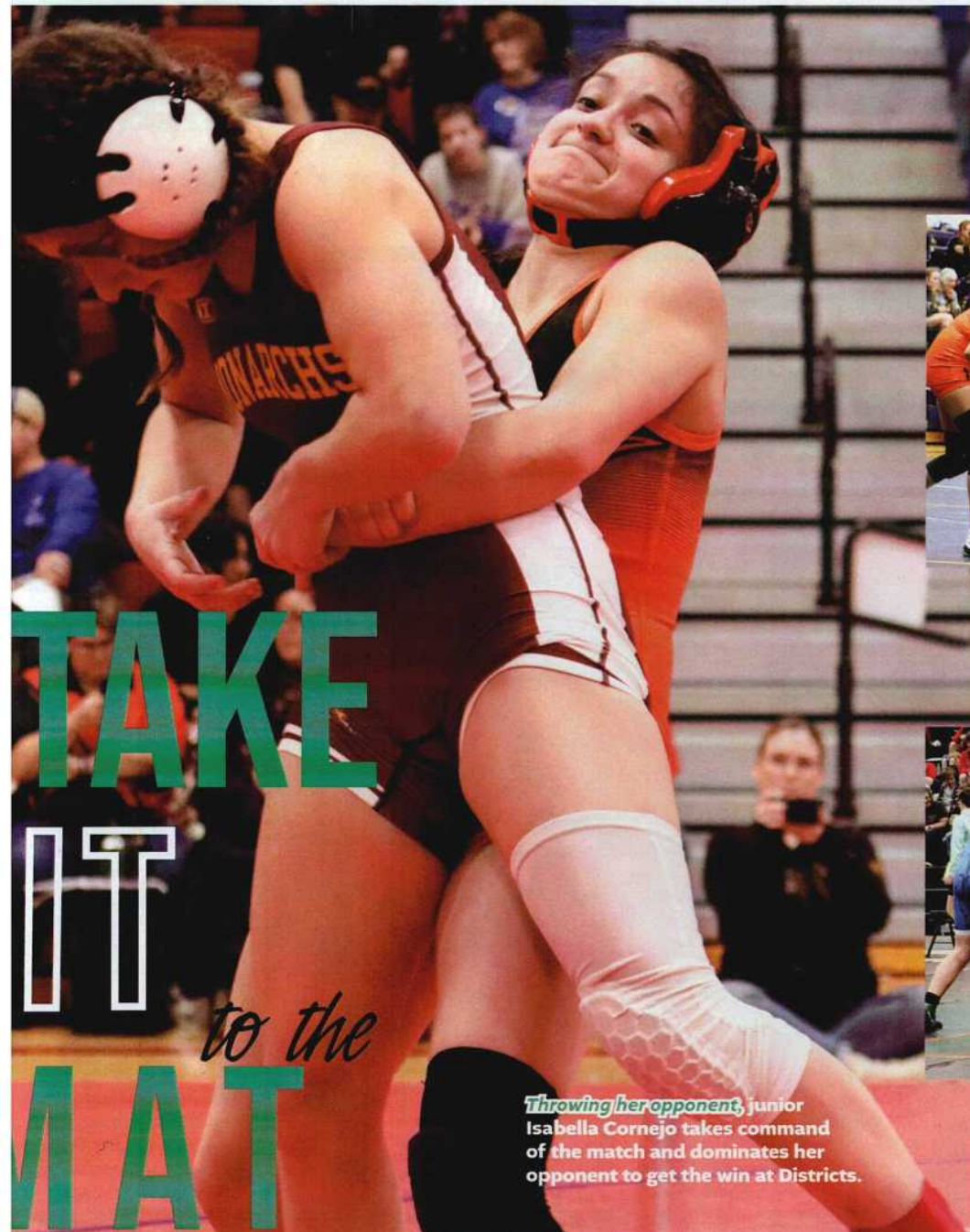
Having more people on the team came with more opportunities. "I liked the amount of wrestlers we had," junior Isabella Cornejo said. "It made me happy to see the team grow."

"I was glad to see the sport grow and become more popular," senior Jacob Hatfield said. "It wasn't fun when I was the only wrestler my freshman year."

Large numbers of wrestlers brought better

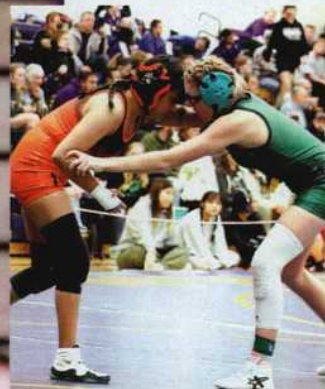
practices and more chances to place as a team. "This season was so exciting because we had so many go out," Coach Chris Nelson said. "Having a larger team of wrestlers to work with made more opportunities open up. There were more wrestlers to wrestle with. I still remember when we only had one wrestler, and I had to wrestle him in practice or he'd have no one to wrestle with."

In the past years, there might have been less wrestlers, but the sport continues to grow. "Even though we had a larger team, we were still there for each other. We cheered each other on at meets and really got to know each other. I liked how everyone was close with one another," said freshman Emilia Perez. "It wasn't just a team, it was more like family."



**TAKE  
IT  
to the  
MAT**

**Throwing her opponent,** junior Isabella Cornejo takes command of the match and dominates her opponent to get the win at Districts.



**Concentrating on getting a takedown,** freshman Briana Tellez gets in position to take down her opponent at Raymond Central.



**Going in for a double,** senior Marcos Gonzalez gets low and shoots to get a takedown at the Friend Dual.

**R**unning, jumping, and throwing were skills that were needed to excel in track. The athletes did their best to improve throughout the season and place in events.

The girls placed at many meets including first at the Turkey Creek relays and third at many others. "I was really proud of our team placing first," junior Gabby Theis said. "We haven't done that in a long time."

The boys track team was very small with only six boys so it was harder for them to place as a team, but the boys still did very well individually. The team didn't have one meet where they didn't get a medal. "I was excited to place first

in the 100 meters and the 400 meters at Thayer Central," sophomore Chase Tachovsky said.

The weather for track was very unpredictable. There were really hot days and rainy days and also cold days where there was snow on the ground. "My least favorite meet was Friend. It was freezing and it rained," junior Atley Zoubek said.

"My favorite meet was Districts because it was warm," senior Quinn Kasl said.

At the Paul Underwood Meet, shirts were given for first place. "I love the Paul Underwood Meet because I took home a gold medal in the 4 x 4, the 4 x 1, and I got a silver in the 300 hurdles and a bronze for triple jump," senior Addison Lehr said. "I even got a shirt."

The CRC meet was a very big meet with 12

teams competing. "I always enjoy the CRC meet," Coach Corey Bird said. "That is the athletes' first taste of the major meet prior to Districts."

At Districts, three girls qualified for State. Two of the three threw the shotput, Bailey Theis and Amber Kotas. Two stood on the podium at State, Amber Kotas who placed fourth and Bailey Theis who placed fifth. Baylor Behrens also qualified for the three hundred hurdles but didn't place. "I couldn't think of a better way to end my senior year than by beating my personal record and getting fourth at state," senior Amber Kotas said. "I was happy I met all my goals, and it helped having the support of my teammates and coaches behind me."



# GO FAST or be LAST



**Running the 100m,** freshman Colton Harrison finishes up his last stretch as he races to the finish line. He finished with a time of 13.02.



**Finishing her last hurdle,** senior Madison Theis works to get her best time at the Doane Invite. Her time was 12.08.

**At the Doane Invite,** junior Owen Vyhnalek uses all of his strength to launch the shot put high in the air and throws 33' at the first invite of the season.

## MEETS

MEETS	DATES
Doane Invite @ Crete	3/14
@ Thayer Central Invite	3/19
Turkey Creek Relays @ Friend	3/26
Mustang Invite @ Friend	4/03
Del Wicks Invite @ Deshler	4/11
@Friend Invite	4/16
@McCool Junction	4/22
CRC Meet @ Osceola	4/27
@ McCool Junction	5/2
District Meet @ Pawnee City	5/8
State Meet @ Omaha	5/17-18

## State Qualifiers:

Amber Kotas in Shot Put (4th)

Bailey Theis in Shot Put (5th)

Baylor Behrens in 300m Hurdles



*In the high jump,* senior Stephanie Korinek flies through the air to get over the bar at McCool Junction. She placed 6th by jumping 4'6".



**Track.** BR: Coach Brandon Bruha, Chase Tachovsky, Hunter Wake, Owen Vyhnaek, Jacob Hatfield, Mason June, Colton Harrison, and Coach Corey Bird. 3rd Row: Atley Zoubek, Addison Lehr, Lily Lehr, Bailey Theis, Amber Kotas, Jace Yager, Stephanie Korinek, Baylor Behrens, and Coach Brian Rut. 2nd Row: Quinn Kasl, Gabby Theis, Hailey Schweitzer, Kayli Carey, Madison Theis, Emilia Perez, and Livia Schweitzer. FR: Ariana Tellez, Briana Tellez, Micaela Loarca, Megan Gordon, and Mitzu Real.

## WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE MEET?

My favorite meet was the Tom White Meet at McCool Junction because my 4x1 team got first place, and I got a t-shirt. Kayli Carey's best event was the 100m. She gave her best time of 13.65 at Districts.



Kayli Carey (12)

My favorite meet was CRC. I definitely felt like it was my fastest meet because I had hard competition. Chase Tachovsky's best event was the 100 meters. His best time was 11.64 at McCool Junction.



Chase Tachovsky (10)

My favorite meet was at State. I ended my senior year with a State medal. Amber Kotas's best event was the shot put. Her best throw was 39'5.75" at State which made her place 4th.



Amber Kotas (12)

# RAISING THE BAR CLOSING

**A**lways **"Raising the Bar,"** the students of Dorchester stopped at nothing to go **above and beyond** in everything that they did. They broke many records, going far in their athletics, academics, clubs, and anything they put their efforts into.

Girls basketball **"Raised the Bar"** and brought home a third place finish at the CRC tournament, broke the team record for season assists, and junior Gabby Theis broke the record of 3-pointers scored in a game. "It was so exciting to do so well," Theis said.

Journalism stopped at nothing to **"Raise the Bar"** higher at State Journalism. They brought home 4 state champions and had 12 of 13 journalists make it to State with 30 events. They were also only 12 points away from getting runner-up. "I was excited that we did so well, but I was sad that we were so close to taking second," journalism advisor Sandy Severance said.

Mrs. Severance was also recognized for her hard work and excellence by receiving the NSAA Outstanding Service Award in Journalism. "It was very special because I remember when they started this two years ago I never thought I'd be recognized so I was surprised to receive the honor," Severance said.

At the Doniphan State Trap shoot, three Dorchester students (eighth grader Blake Cerny, and seventh graders Paxton Behrens and Landon Shaw) **"Raised the Bar"** by bringing home the second place 4-H team trophy. Cerny also medaled as the 13th overall junior and Behrens as the 20th out of 899 juniors. "I was

really proud of how well I performed," Cerny said.

With graduation, the seniors continued to **"Raise the Bar."** The seniors accumulated over \$500,000 in scholarships. "The scholarship money helps students pursue their career goals," guidance counselor Jill Choyeski said.

Ending the year off with a bang, three state tracksters qualified for State Track. Baylor Behrens in 300 meter hurdles and Bailey Theis and Amber Kotas in shot put. Theis and Kotas **"Raised the Bar"** by taking home 5th and 4th respectively. "I was so excited to throw the best I ever did and then place 4th at my last track meet," Kotas said.

In every way and every day, students and faculty were **"Raising the Bar"** to make the year simply **Above the Rest**



Photo: A  
2024

**Raising their eyes to the sky**, seniors Makayla Schlueter and Amber Kotas watch as the sun slowly covers the moon. The students went out to the football field to view the once-in-two-decades event.



**State Journalism:** 1. Gabby Theis, Andrea Pavlish, & Hailey Schweitzer 3rd in YB Theme Dev. 2. Michael Maldonado 7th in Adv. 3. Bailey Theis 7th in YB Sp. Feature Writ. 4. Ariana Tellez 6th in Sp. News Writ. 5. Joseph Peacock 3rd in Ed. Writ., 6th in News Feature Writ., 7th in Action Photo. 6. Rosie Lopez 3rd in Adv. 7. Hailey Schweitzer 1st in News Layout, 4th in YB Theme Copy Writ., 5th in YB Layout, 6th in YB Feature Writ., & 6th in Photo/Artistic Ill.

**State Journalism:** 1. Andrea Pavlish 1st in Ed. Writ., 1st in Action Photo., 1st in YB Layout, & 2nd in YB Feature Writ. 2. Gabby Theis 3rd in Ed. Cartooning, 3rd in News Layout, 5th in Sp. News Writ., 8th in Feature Photo. 3. Mackenzie Luzum 5th in News Layout, 6th in YB Theme Copy Writ., 7th in News Sp. Feature Writ. 4. Megan Gordon 6th in Ed. Writing. 5. Briana & Ariana Tellez 7th in Broadcast PSA. 6. Jace Yager 8th in Adv.



**Placing 2nd with their team at the State Trap Shoot** are Landon Shaw, Blake Cerny, & Paxton Behrens. Individually, Cerny placed 13th & Behrens placed 20th.



**At the Nebraska Attorney General Youth Conference,** junior Owen Vyhnalek visits the capitol as one of only 54 students chosen statewide to attend. The group also listened to guest speakers and had lunch at the Governor's Mansion.

**At the State Principal's Conference,** Mr. Jake Wiese was recognized by the NSASSP as Nebraska's Outstanding New Principal for 2023. Here he is with the award and his family.



**Being recognized as the 2024 NRCSA Outstanding Elementary Teacher of the Year** is Karma Ridpath, along with her current & former superintendents and principal including Dr. Cogswell (far left) and Mr. Wiese (far right).



**In the 23-24 VFW Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest,** senior Hailey Schweitzer's entry, *This is Us*, won 1st place for Nebraska and will compete nationally.



**National recognition for the yearbook.** The 2023 yearbook was featured in Walsworth's *Possibilities* book as one of the best.

# BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!



**At the Turkey Creek Relays,** the girls track team took home the 1st place trophy.



**The local Patriot's Pen winner** is Araceli Garcia for her essay, "How Are You Inspired by America?" She was awarded a certificate and cash prize from the VFW.



**In the Hope Crisis Center's Youth Expression Art Contest,** Nancy Alcaide (left) placed 1st and Gabby Theis (right) placed 3rd.



## Believers and Achievers Honorees.

Victoria Leavitt, Amber Kotas, & Hailey Schweitzer were selected locally, & Schweitzer was chosen one of 48 finalists.



**At State Journalism,** Mrs. Sandy Severance is awarded the 2024 NSAA Outstanding Service in Journalism Award, only the 3rd adviser to receive the honor.



**State Track Qualifiers,** Baylor Behrens in 300m hurdles, Amber Kotas and Bailey Theis in shot put. Kotas placed 4th and Bailey placed 5th.

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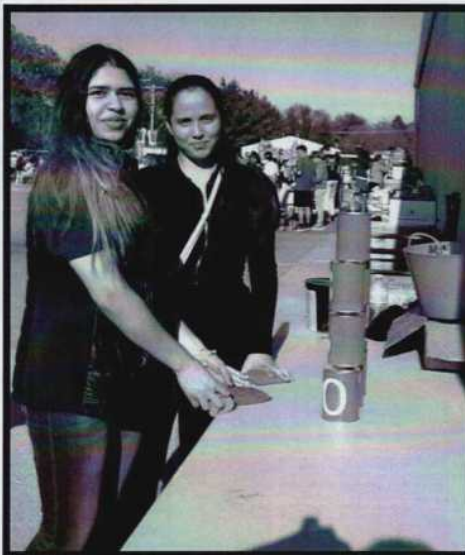
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**Helping with the Elementary Carnival,** junior Alisson Nuñez and Emely Morales run a carnival game.

ABLOOM Floral & Gifts 1334 Hawthorne Crete, NE 826-2294	Crete Veterinary Clinic Crete, NE 826-2497
Allen Insurance Agency Lynette Allen Crete, NE 826-4321	Crystal's Bakery 1144 Main Ave. Crete, NE 381-0098
Barren Acres Editing khrdlicka.barrenacres @gmail.com Crete, NE 826-0105	Daniel Nails & Spa 925 E Hwy 33 Suite #1 Crete, NE 418-7158
Basic Body Works Susan E. Swanson Crete, NE 826-3282	Epicentro 3 123 E. 13th St. Crete, NE 381-0011
Bauer Insurance 1241 Main Ave Crete, NE 826-5141	Fenix Auto Sales 1345 Main Ave. Crete, NE 826-6394
Beatrice Concrete 1320 W. 11th St. Crete, NE 826-2779	First Interstate Bank 1301 Main Ave Crete, NE 826-4349
Burger King 428 E 13th St. Crete, NE 418-7169	Glam Revival A Salon and Spa 125 W. 13th St. Crete, NE 826-3008
The Corner Liquor Store 585 West Hwy 33 Crete, NE 826-3435	Hanson, Hroch & Kuntz 1331 Main Crete, NE 826-4354
Crete Auto Supply (NAPA) Crete, NE 826-2777	HOTWORX 1236 Main Ave. Crete, NE 418-7260
Crete Dental Center James E. Jirovec, DDS Crete, NE 826-2645	L&N Nail Creation 1339 Main Ave. Crete, NE 826-3696
Crete Inn 1515 Blue Acres Dr. Crete, NE 826-4341	Moser Accounting Taxes • Payroll • Bookwork Crete, NE 826-2155
Crete Machine, Inc. 1830 W. 12th St. Crete, NE 826-2174	New Beginnings 1302 Main Ave Crete, NE 826-2332

BE = Back Endsheets

9th Street Grill 915 Main Ave. #1 Crete, NE 826-4040	Sack Lumber Company 125 E. 11th St. Crete, NE 826-2104	Siedhoff Collision Center Crete, NE 826-2525	Sharon's Salon Sharon Axline Dorchester, NE 946-2751
O'Reilly Auto Parts 1851 Cardinal Lane Crete, NE 826-1080	Sapp Brothers 1305 Linden Ave. Crete, NE 826-2244	Solheim Law Firm 1100 Main Ave Crete, NE 381-3765	WEBER FEEDYARDS Dorchester, NE 946-4551

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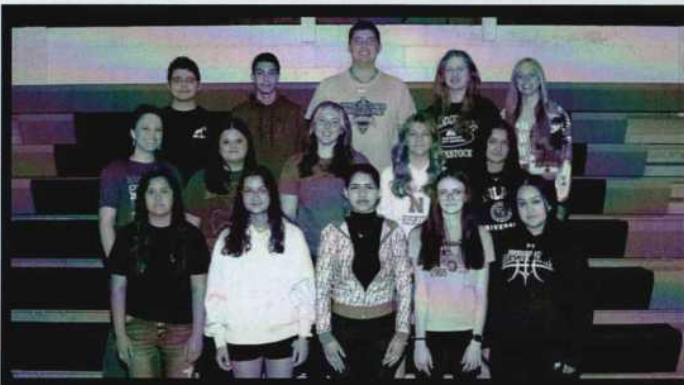
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Top: (Left) Max Novak (Captain), Ella Vyhnalek, Blake Cerny, & Joshua Gordon take 3rd at ESU#6 Quiz Bowl. (Right) Elementary County Spelling Contest. Edgar Tercero, Shane Dawes, Boone Smith, Legend Smith, & Araceli Garcia. Front: Jennifer Acosta (placed 2nd).

Above: The 7th Grade and the 8th Grade show off their Beach and Wizard of Oz hallways. They also show off their Hallway Day outfits during Spirit Week.



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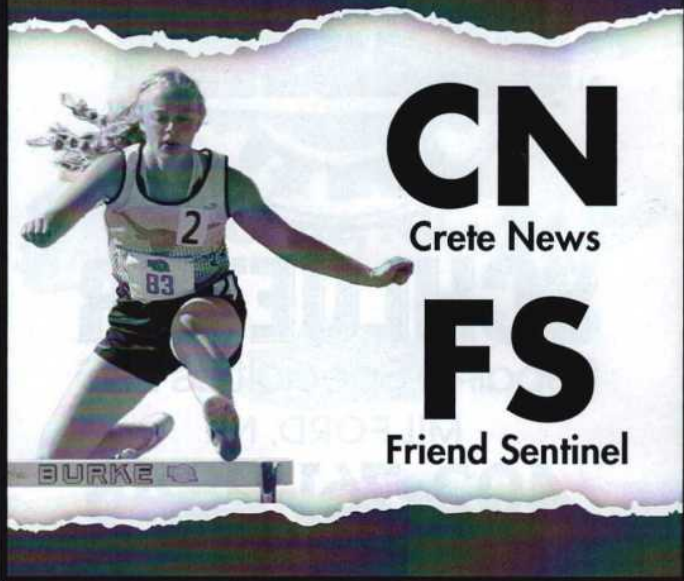
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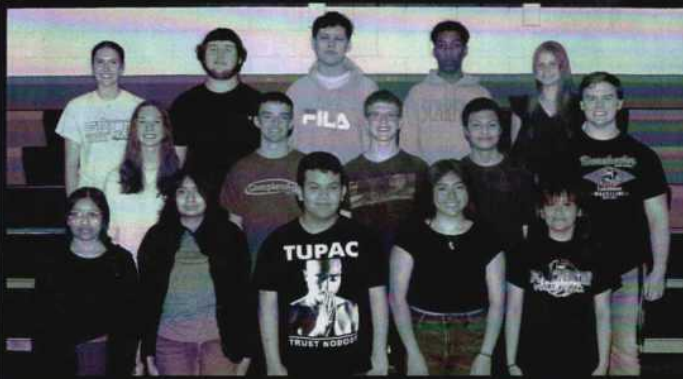
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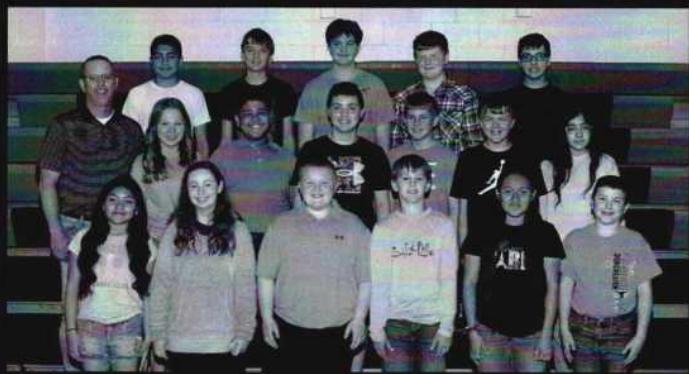
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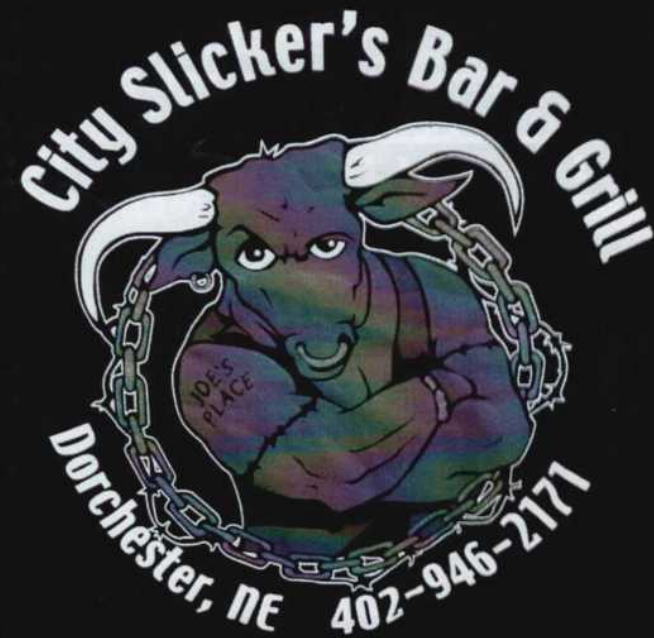
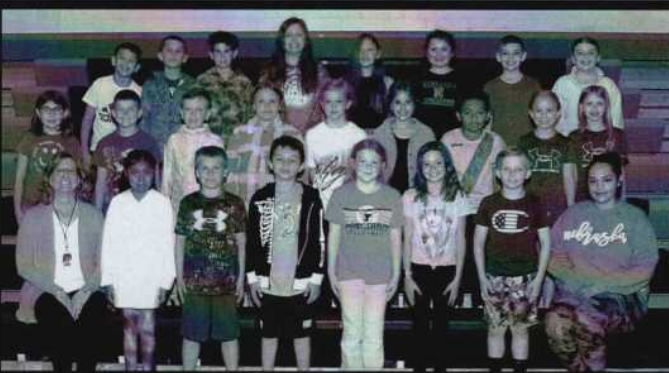
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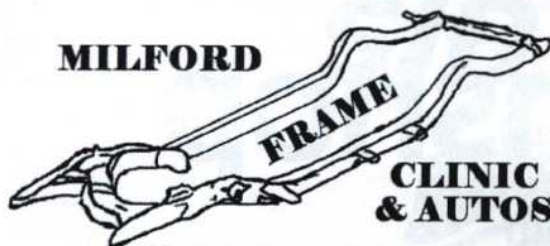
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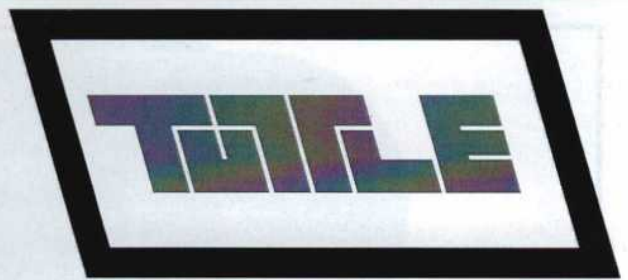
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The DHS football team on the scrimmage line with the newly built Crows Nest behind.



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The High School Quiz Bowl placed 3rd at CRC Quiz Bowl. Coach Sandy Severance, Gabby Theis, Bailey Theis, Addison Lehr (Alt.), Owen Vyhnalek, Andrea Pavlish (Captain), Ashton Jirsa, Amber Kotas (Alt.), Victoria Leavitt, Madison Theis (Alt.) & Baylor Behrens.

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The Girls Basketball Team with 3rd place plaque at CRC Tourney. BR: Asst. Coach Brent Zoubek, Savannah June, Bailey Theis, Jace Yager, Baylor Behrens, Atley Zoubek, Lily Lehr, Micaela Loarca, Gabby Theis, Livia Schweitzer Livia Schweitzer, Quinn Kasl, & Coach Brandon Bruha. FR: Madison Theis, Kayli Carey, Amber Kotas, Hailey Schweitzer, & Addison Lehr.

Top Left: Senior Kayli Carey signs with Midland University for track. Top Right: Raising the bar, Junior Owen Vyhnaek & sophomore Carter Cerny assist the Harvard player up after the play which surprised the other team.



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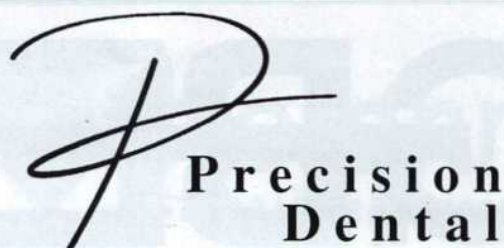
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Top Left: The 7th grade at the JH dance (the 1st in a long time). Troy Dawes, Landon Shaw, Paxton Behrens, Trevin Steuk, Kaityn Bolton, Brenna Vazquez, Cameron Yager, Malikki Gooding, Javier Cornejo, & Erik Paiz. Top Right: Mrs. Lutjemeyer & Mrs. Severance dress up for Spirit Week.

Left: The Volleyball Team celebrates senior Hailey Schweitzer making 1000 assists in her VB career. Right: Fourth graders Harvey Thalken, Miguel Gonzalez, Jaxon Nerud, & Ian Turquiza enjoy popcorn as part of the first ever popcorn days at school.



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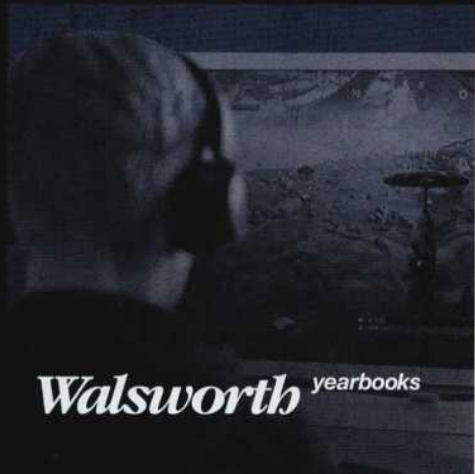
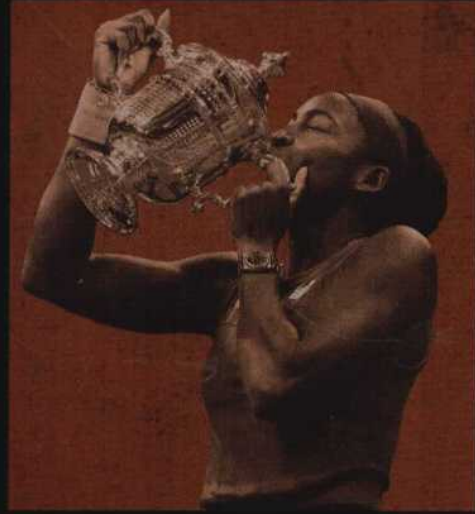
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# YEAR IN RE VIEW



2023-2024



YEAR  
IN RE  
VIEW  
entertainment

# beyond wildest dreams

Taylor Swift performs her 44-song setlist to a sold-out crowd during her record-breaking Eras Tour, which became the first concert tour in history to gross over \$1 billion. The ongoing tour generated over \$6.4 billion in economic impact in the U.S. and Canada, turning Swift into a billionaire herself and paving the way for her to break the record for most No. 1 albums by a woman in history. Along with releasing three new albums, premiering a concert film and becoming the first person to ever win four Album of the Year Grammys, Swift shared the wealth by donating to local food banks at each tour stop and providing bonuses totaling over \$55 million to her Eras Tour workers.

Photo credit: Newscom



## SHE'S A MASTERMIND

Taylor Swift announces the *Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour* concert film, with tickets selling for \$19.99 in honor of her 1989 (*Taylor's Version*) album. The movie notably cut out major distributors as Swift secretly worked with AMC Theatres directly. This meant she negotiated to keep 57% of the movie revenue, money that otherwise would have gone to a distributor, spurring other performers, like Beyoncé, to do the same.

Photo credit: Zach Field



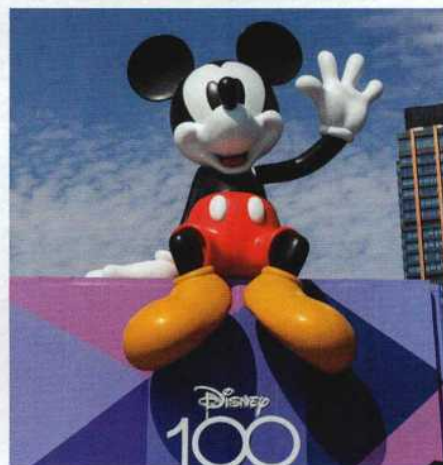
## IT'S A BARBIE WORLD

Actor Margot Robbie stars as Stereotypical Barbie in the Greta Gerwig-directed hit movie *Barbie*. Moviegoers everywhere painted theaters pink as they flocked to see the film, which raked in over \$1.4 billion worldwide and marked a historic milestone as the highest-grossing female-directed film of all time. The movie's soundtrack also broke records, with hits like Dua Lipa's "Dance The Night" and Billie Eilish's "What Was I Made For?" gaining viral popularity through streaming and social media platforms.

Photo credit: Newscom

## BARBENHEIMER BONANZA

The simultaneous release of Greta Gerwig's *Barbie* and Christopher Nolan's *Oppenheimer* on July 21, dubbed "Barbenheimer" by fans, quickly becomes the cultural phenomenon of the summer. The contrasting worlds of the glittery-pink, feel-good musical comedy and the dark, historical biopic took social media by storm and sparked an unexpected alliance between the two films. Deemed as the "great pop culture unifier of the year," the frenzy offered a box office revival as the fourth-strongest opening weekend ever in cinemas. Photo credit: Newscom



## 100 YEARS OF MAGIC

Disney celebrates its 100th anniversary on Oct. 16. The company, founded in 1923 by Walt Disney, became known for creating classic animated films like *Snow White* and *Cinderella*, as well as contemporary fan favorites, including the *Frozen* franchise. Disney celebrated this anniversary with special events at their theme parks, exclusive merchandise and the release of *Once Upon a Studio*, an original short film that followed Mickey Mouse as he gathered some of Disney's most legendary characters for a group photo. Photo credit: Newscom



## A NEW RENAISSANCE

Thirty-two-time Grammy winner Beyoncé performs to one of five sold-out crowds at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, England, during her 56-show *Renaissance* World Tour. The global tour stopped at a number of cities scattered across the U.S. and Europe, grossing a whopping \$579 million and boosting the American economy by \$4.5 billion. Her first solo headline tour in seven years, Beyoncé's *Renaissance* spanned almost three hours in length and saw fans of all ages dressed head to toe in dazzling sci-fi disco-themed outfits fit for a queen.

Photo credit: Newscom



## THAT'S MY QUARTERBACK

American football players Marcus Mariota, Patrick Mahomes and Kirk Cousins attend the Hollywood premiere of Netflix's new television documentary series "Quarterback." The show became a hit as it took viewers behind the scenes of what life was like in the NFL for the three pro quarterbacks, with plans for a second season soon announced. Netflix's "Beckham," another sports documentary series that followed soccer icon David Beckham's meteoric rise and career, hit #1 on Netflix charts while garnering 30 million views and 145 million hours of viewing time in just three weeks. Photo credit: Newscom

## POPULAR ARTISTS OF THE YEAR

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| ARIANA GRANDE | OLIVIA RODRIGO |
| BAD BUNNY     | PESO PLUMA     |
| ED SHEERAN    | POST MALONE    |
| FEID          | SZA            |
| HARRY STYLES  | TAYLOR SWIFT   |
| JUNGKOOK      | THE WEEKND     |
| KAROL G       | ZACH BRYAN     |
| LANA DEL REY  |                |
| MILEY CYRUS   |                |



Photo credits: Newscom

# YEAR IN RE VIEW

entertainment

## TOP 10 MOST-FOLLOWED INSTAGRAM ACCOUNTS

1. **CRISTIANO RONALDO**  
@cristiano  
619M followers
2. **LIONEL MESSI**  
@leomessi  
498M followers
3. **SELENA GOMEZ**  
@selenagomez  
429M followers
4. **KYLIE JENNER**  
@kyliejenner  
399M followers
5. **DWAYNE "THE ROCK" JOHNSON**  
@therock  
396M followers
6. **ARIANA GRANDE**  
@arianagrande  
380M followers
7. **KIM KARDASHIAN**  
@kimkardashian  
364M followers
8. **BEYONCÉ KNOWLES**  
@beyonce  
319M followers
9. **KHLOÉ KARDASHIAN**  
@khloekardashian  
311M followers
10. **KENDALL JENNER**  
@kendalljenner  
294M followers

## THE SUMMER'S SPINOFF

Actors Lola Tung, Christopher Briney and Gavin Casalegno star in the hit series "The Summer I Turned Pretty." Season 2, based on Jenny Han's bestselling books, continued Belly Conklin's journey as she navigated her relationships with Conrad and Jeremiah Fisher. Renewed for a third season on Prime Video in August, the show sparked viral TikTok hashtags, with #TeamConrad and #TeamJeremiah amassing over 5.2 billion views as fans picked sides in the love triangle.

Photo credits: Newscom



# she's got guts

American singer-songwriter Olivia Rodrigo performs on the "Today" show at Rockefeller Center in New York City on Sept. 8 after the release of her second studio album, *GUTS*. The album's lead single, "Vampire," became Rodrigo's third song to debut atop Billboard's Top 100 chart. Amid her rising success, the three-time Grammy-winning 21-year-old announced her *GUTS* World Tour, featuring 77 stops (and counting) across North America and Europe over a six-month span. Photo credit: Newscom

## EXPANDING THE KINGDOM

Link's adventure continues in *The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom*, the long-awaited sequel to *Breath of the Wild* and part of the *Zelda* franchise. Building upon the open-world exploration of the previous game, *TOTK* expanded from the surface of Hyrule to floating islands in the sky and an underground area known as the Depths. New challenges, abilities and secrets captivated players and helped *TOTK* win universal praise and numerous nominations and wins from Gamescom, The Golden Joystick Awards and The Game Awards. *Photo credit: Zach Field*



## NETFLIX SUITS UP

After its series finale in 2019, "*Suits*" makes a comeback on Netflix. A Netflix record-breaker, the nine-season legal drama accrued 3.14 billion viewing minutes, surpassing "*Manifest*" and ranking eighth among top TV shows. Notable for hosting stars like Meghan Markle, the show witnessed a 27% surge in demand within its first month on the streaming platform. *Photo credit: Newscom*



## THE HUNGER GAMES RETURN

Lionsgate releases the newest installment of *The Hunger Games* franchise, titled *The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*, in theaters on Nov. 17. The haunting origin tale was set 64 years before the events of the first film and followed Snow's rise to power, long before he became the president of the Capitol. The prequel, starring Rachel Zegler as Lucy Gray Baird and Tom Blyth as young Snow, garnered an estimated \$44 million at the box office in its opening weekend. *Photo credit: Newscom*

## TOP REALITY TV SHOWS OF THE YEAR

- SQUID GAME: THE CHALLENGE
- THE MASKED SINGER
- THE GOLDEN BACHELOR
- THE CHALLENGE
- DANCING WITH THE STARS
- THE GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF
- SURVIVOR



*Photo credit: Newscom*

# YEAR IN RE VIEW

news & trends



## STRIKING IN SOLIDARITY

Actors Adam Sandler and Ben Stiller walk the picket line of the SAG-AFTRA strike in New York City. The Writers Guild of America (WGA) and the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) both went on strike in the summer over wages, streaming residuals and job security related to AI. Both groups reached agreements with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) in the fall and called off the strike. *Photo credit: Newscom*



# driving change

President Joe Biden becomes the first sitting president to join a picket line as he speaks to union workers from three major car companies leading a historic strike under Union Auto Workers President Shawn Fain on Sept. 15. The strike began when dissatisfaction with stagnant wages and rising profits led the workforce to unite and cease operations. Striking came to an end on Oct. 30, as Ford, Stellantis and General Motors tentatively agreed to deals in line with UAW demands.

*Photo credit: Adam Schultz/The White House*



## MCCARTHY OUSTED, JOHNSON SWORN IN

Congress successfully elects Rep. Mike Johnson as Speaker of the House following the failed attempts of three other Republican nominees. On Oct. 3, former House Speaker Kevin McCarthy was voted out of his position as a result of a motion filed by Rep. Matt Gaetz, leaving the House unable to conduct business for three weeks. This was the first time in American history a House speaker was removed from office before the end of their term.

*Photo credit: Newscom*

## ENTER THE SPHERE

The Sphere in Las Vegas, Nevada, opens on Sept. 29, boasting an 18,600-seat auditorium with cutting-edge audio and video technologies. The Sphere was designed for award shows, concerts and various entertainment events, including ring sports and esports tournaments. The Sphere's innovative design and state-of-the-art features made it a versatile venue that creates an unparalleled immersive experience for a wide range of audiences. *Photo credit: Harold Litwiler/Flickr*



## UNDER PRESSURE

A recent study reveals that New York City, home to 421 skyscrapers, is sinking under the weight of its own buildings. Researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Rhode Island studying sea-level rise in coastal cities found that the collective weight of the city's 1,084,954 buildings – amounting to a staggering 1.68 trillion pounds – was causing NYC to gradually sink by up to 2 millimeters per year. This, compounded with melting ice sheets linked to rising sea levels, posed a heightened flood risk to the Big Apple.

*Photo credit: Adam Schultz/The White House*



*Photo credit: Newscom*



First Lady  
Rosalynn Carter

U.S. Supreme Court  
Associate Justice  
Sandra Day O'Connor

U.S. Senator  
Dianne Feinstein

## WOMEN OF LEGACY

The nation pays its final respects to former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, retired U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and sitting U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, all of whom died in 2023. Carter was known for her advocacy of mental health during a time when it was not widely discussed, while O'Connor was the first woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. At the age of 90, Feinstein was the oldest sitting senator and longest-serving female senator in U.S. history, but had recently faced calls to step down amid health concerns. *Photo credits: Newscom*

# YEAR IN RE VIEW

news & trends

# it's a love story

Fans hold giant cutouts of Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce during a game between the Philadelphia Eagles and Kansas City Chiefs on Nov. 20. The pair started dating after Kelce admitted to trying to give Swift his phone number via friendship bracelet at her Eras Tour stop in Kansas City, and the singer attended several Chiefs games throughout the season. Kelce's jersey sales skyrocketed by 400%, and Chiefs viewership soared amid their romance.

Photo credit: Newscom

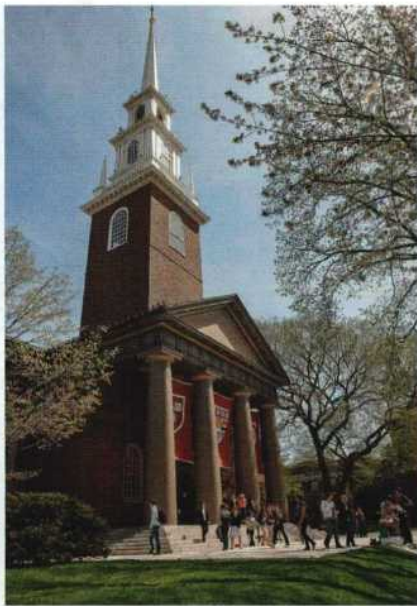


## GOOD-BYE TO AN OLD FRIEND

Matthew Perry is pictured in a cast photo from the hit TV show "Friends." On Oct. 28, Perry died in his home in Los Angeles at the age of 54. Millions of fans around the world mourned Perry, who became famous for playing the character Chandler Bing on the hit '90s sitcom.

Photo credits: Newscom





## SUPREME ADMISSIONS

The Supreme Court rules 6-3 to end affirmative action in college admissions, reversing 45 years of legal precedent. The ruling prohibited colleges and universities from factoring race into admissions. Many institutions faced increased pressure after the announcement to end legacy admission practices, which some said restricted diversity efforts and provided an unfair advantage to students whose parents had attended. *Photo credit: Newscom*

## JUSTICE FOR JUSTICES

On Nov. 13, the Supreme Court adopts an ethical code of conduct for justices for the first time in its history. The court faced pressure to increase accountability amid controversies related to justices receiving undisclosed personal gifts from wealthy donors. Critics of the new ethics code described it as ineffectual and felt it failed to provide serious consequences for violations. *Photo credit: Newscom*



## WORDS OF THE YEAR

### AUTHENTIC

**Merriam Webster**

**AUTHENTIC (adjective):** not false or imitation; true to one's own personality, spirit or character

*Runners-up:* deepfake, coronation, dystopian, implode

### RIZZ

**Oxford**

**RIZZ (noun):** style, charm or attractiveness; the ability to attract a romantic partner; short for charisma

*Runners-up:* situationship, prompt, de-influencing, Swiftie



## GENEROSITY IN BILLIONS

Billionaire philanthropist MacKenzie Scott donates more than \$2 billion to over 300 organizations, following her pledge to donate the majority of her wealth. Since her 2019 divorce from Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, Scott had given more than \$16.5 billion to 1,900 nonprofit organizations. While her philanthropy faced both praise and criticism, a report indicated slightly over half of surveyed nonprofits found her grants eased fundraising, with 88% considering it their largest unrestricted grant. *Photo credit: Newscom*

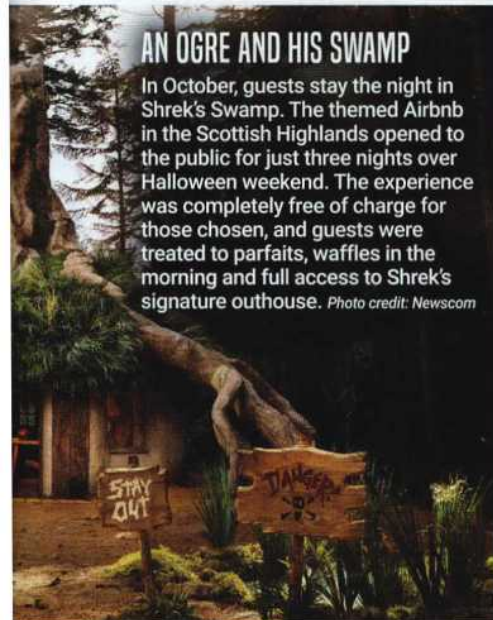
## AN OGRE AND HIS SWAMP

In October, guests stay the night in Shrek's Swamp. The themed Airbnb in the Scottish Highlands opened to the public for just three nights over Halloween weekend. The experience was completely free of charge for those chosen, and guests were treated to parfaits, waffles in the morning and full access to Shrek's signature outhouse. *Photo credit: Newscom*



## A MCBLAST FROM THE MCPAST

McDonald's much-anticipated restaurant spinoff, CosMc's, opens its first drive-thru in Bolingbrook, Illinois, on Dec. 7, ahead of the tentative 2024 debut. The limited chain, themed around the '80s and '90s alien character CosMc, aimed to capitalize on nostalgia. McDonald's planned to unveil approximately 10 pilot CosMc's locations by the end of 2024, initially targeting the Dallas-Fort Worth and San Antonio metro areas. *Photo credit: Newscom*



# YEAR IN RE VIEW

sports

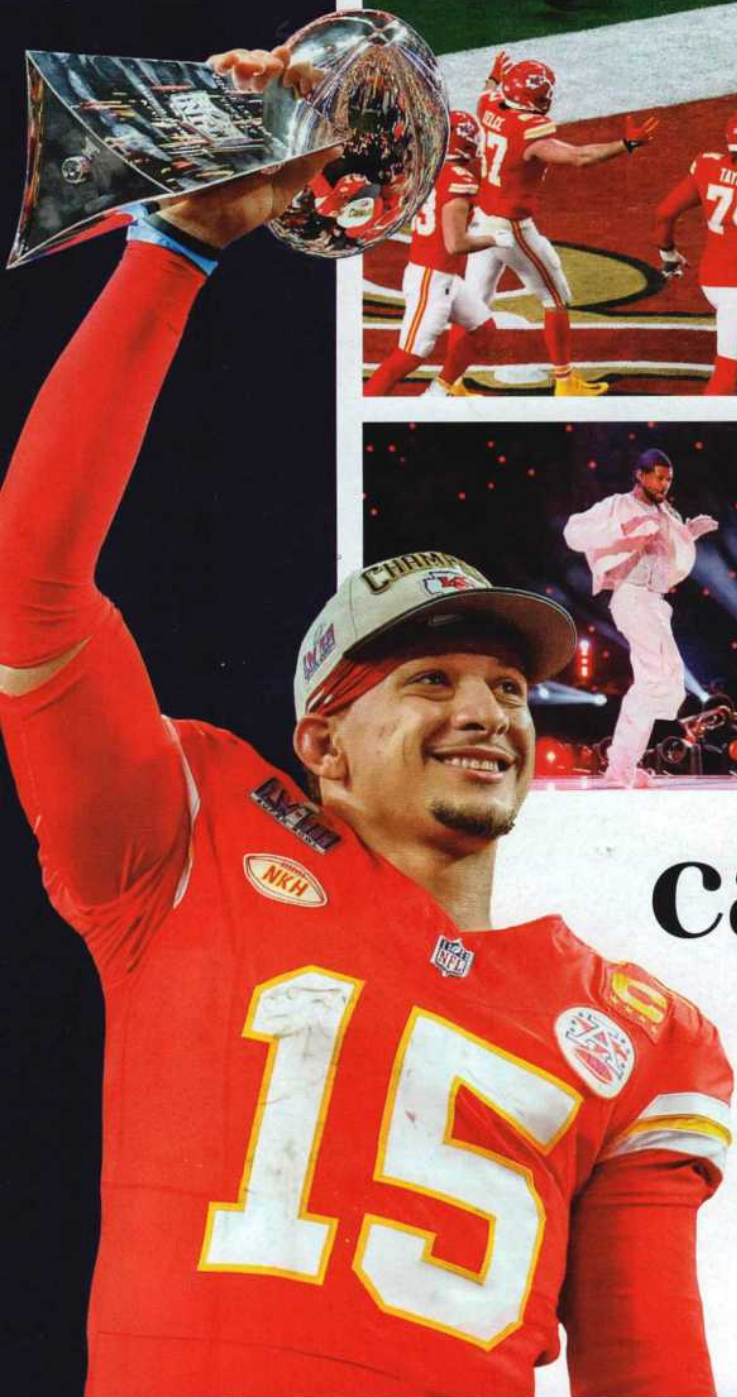
## SHO-TIME!

Japanese baseball star Shohei Ohtani laughs after an MLB game between the Los Angeles Angels and the Atlanta Braves on July 31. A free agent once the season was over, Ohtani had plenty of reason to celebrate after he signed a 10-year, \$700 million contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers. It was the largest contract in pro sports history for the two-way All-Star player who both hits and pitches. *Photo credit: Newscom*



# call it a dynasty

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes shows off the Lombardi Trophy after leading his team to a 25-22 overtime victory over the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl LVIII on Feb. 11 in Las Vegas. After a halftime performance by Usher, the game came to a dramatic end when Mahomes threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to receiver Mecole Hardman to clinch the win. For Mahomes and the Chiefs, it was their second-straight Super Bowl title and third in five years. *Photo credits: Newscom*





### A MAGICAL MATCH-UP

Inter Miami CF owners Jorge Mas, Jose Mas and David Beckham introduce Argentine soccer star Lionel Messi as the club's newest signing to a sold-out crowd at DRV PNK Stadium. The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner and FIFA World Cup champion signed a multiyear contract in July that will earn him upwards of \$60 million per year from his salary, signing bonus and team equity. The acquisition became the biggest signing in MLS history since Beckham's arrival at LA Galaxy back in 2007. *Photo credit: Newscom*

### HAIL TO THE WOLVERINES

Michigan quarterback J.J. McCarthy hands the ball off to running back Donovan Edwards during the first quarter of the College Football National Championship Game on Jan. 8 in Houston. Edwards scored a 41-yard touchdown on the play, which got the Wolverines off and running to a 34-13 victory over the Washington Huskies. Michigan finished the season 15-0 and claimed its first football national title in 27 years. *Photo credit: Newscom*



### A NEW LEGEND

Nineteen-year-old Coco Gauff kisses her trophy after winning the U.S. Open on Sept. 9. The win made Gauff the first American teenager to secure the Grand Slam title since Serena Williams in 1999. After beating Aryna Sabalenka in the final round, Gauff held career-high rankings of world No. 3 in singles and world No. 1 in doubles by the Women's Tennis Association. *Photo credit: Newscom*



### HUSKERS MAKE HISTORY

A Nebraska National Guard KC-135R Stratotanker and a South Dakota National Guard F-16 capture an aerial view of Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, Nebraska, on Aug. 30. The flyover celebrated Volleyball Day at the University of Nebraska, a historic event where an attendance of 92,003 fans became the largest crowd in the world to witness a women's sporting event. In addition to breaking the world record, the Nebraska Cornhuskers also reigned victorious in their match against the University of Nebraska at Omaha, winning in a 3-0 sweep. *Photo credit: Jeremiah Johnson/The National Guard*



### LONE STAR LEGENDS

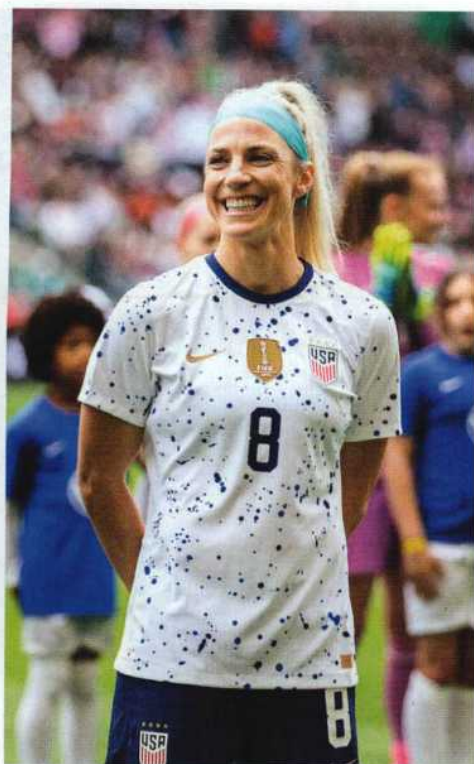
Players from the Texas Rangers celebrate after defeating the Arizona Diamondbacks 5-0 in Game 5 of the World Series on Nov. 1 to clinch the series win. It was the first world championship in team history for the Rangers, who were founded in 1961. Shortstop Cory Seager won series MVP for the Rangers by slugging three home runs. *Photo credit: Newscom*

# YEAR IN RE VIEW

sports

## LEAVING IT ALL ON THE FIELD

U.S. Women's National Soccer Team superstars Megan Rapinoe, 38, and Julie Ertz, 31, announce their retirement from women's soccer. Three-time Olympian Rapinoe ranked among the top 10 in USWNT history for goals and assists, with over 63 goals and 73 assists. Two-time Olympian Ertz expressed a desire to spend more time with her family, especially her one-year-old son, Madden. *Photo credits: Newscom*



# brotherly love

NFL stars and famous brothers Jason Kelce and Travis Kelce experience newfound success off the football field. Amid Travis's high-profile romance with pop star Taylor Swift, the loveable duo also gained attention with their widely listened-to *New Heights* podcast. The show, where the brothers entertained listeners with humorous takes on their football experiences weekly, emerged as one of the year's most followed new podcasts and was crowned Spotify's No. 1 sports podcast globally. *Photo credits: Newscom*

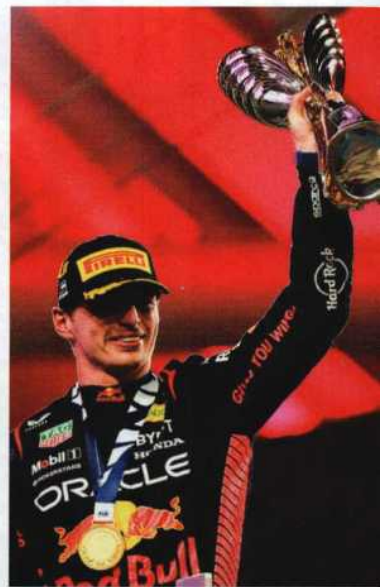




## RAISE THE ROOF

Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas signs the final beam for the first stadium in the world dedicated to women's professional sports. The \$125 million National Women's Soccer League stadium, scheduled to open in March 2024, would be the home of the Kansas City Current and had the capacity for 11,500. Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes and his wife, Brittany, became co-owners of the club in early 2023.

Photo credits: Newscom



## VERSTAPPEN UNSTOPPABLE

Max Verstappen celebrates winning the F1 Grand Prix of Abu Dhabi on Nov. 26. Verstappen and the Red Bull team enjoyed a dominant season on the Formula One tour, winning 21 of 22 races. It was the third consecutive season championship for Verstappen's Red Bull team. Photo credit: Newscom

## KIND OF A BIG DILL

Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in the United States for the fifth year in a row. Nearly one in five American adults reported having played at least one game within the last year, and there were no signs of slowing down. A mash-up of tennis, pingpong and badminton, Pickleball attracted enthusiasts of all ages with its accessible gameplay, affordability and social appeal.

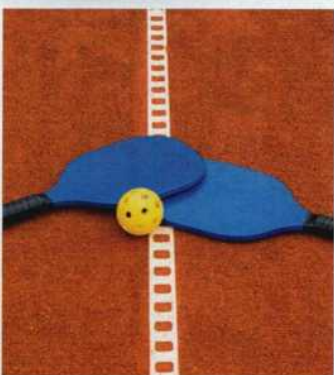
Photo credit: Aleksander Saks/Unsplash



## RUN IT BACK

Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa celebrates with head coach Mike McDaniel near the end of Miami's blowout win over Denver on Sept. 24. Miami racked up more than 700 yards in the historic 70-20 win, marking a rare "scorigami" final score never witnessed in NFL history. This was only the third time in NFL history that a team scored 70 points or more in a single game.

Photo credit: Newscom



## ALL FORE THE CUP

Team Europe celebrates as they pose for a photo after winning the Ryder Cup on Oct. 1. The biennial event was hosted in Italy for the first time in history at the Marco Simone Golf and Country Club and lured thousands of golf fans across the world to spectate the battle between the European and American pro golfers. Europe secured a 16½-11½ victory over the United States, reclaiming the Ryder Cup and extending their undefeated streak on home soil to 30 years.

Photo credit: Newscom

# YEAR IN RE VIEW

science, technology  
& planet

## PAINT THE NIGHT

Swirling colors dance across the Alaskan night sky on Sept. 5. The rare celestial sight, usually reserved for higher latitudes, was seen all around the world for several nights this fall and winter thanks to a strong geomagnetic storm. Scientists predicted these shows to be the brightest in 20 years, with parts of the northern lights even reaching into Oklahoma. *Photo credit: Newscom*

## ON THE BRINK OF ERUPTION

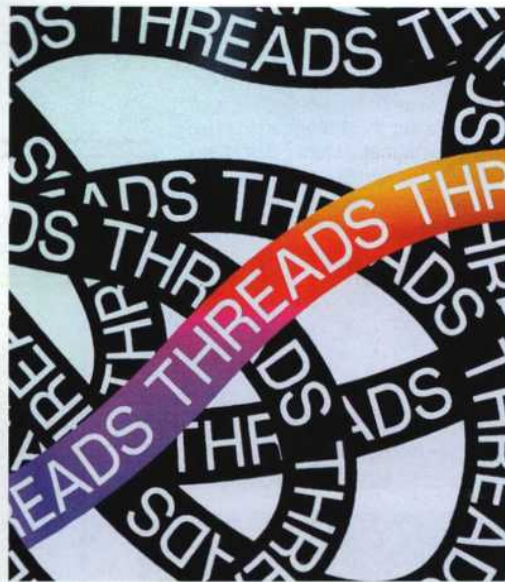
Following an initial eruption on Dec. 18, the Icelandic Meteorological Office warns of heightened volcanic activity as magma accumulates beneath the Earth's surface in Grindavik, Iceland. Situated atop tectonic plates, the town was rattled by thousands of earthquakes over the course of a few weeks, triggering a Civil Protection Service Level of Emergency to evacuate citizens. While the initial eruption released pressure, scientists noted rising land as magma continued to pool underneath the Svartsengi geothermal power plant. *Photo credit: Newscom*



# the future of medicine

Scientists and doctors around the world research ribonucleic acid (RNA) therapies to treat a variety of viruses, diseases and other health issues. RNA medicines gained huge momentum in 2021 with the successful development of the COVID-19 vaccine, a messenger RNA (mRNA) treatment. Researchers continued to find new uses for this highly-targeted form of treatment and predicted its potential for immunotherapy, anti-viral treatments and tissue regeneration.

*Photo credit: Newscom*



## CLASH OF THE GIANTS

Threads makes its debut in early July shortly before its direct competitor Twitter officially rebrands to X. Launched by Meta, which also owns Instagram and Facebook, the brand-new social media platform was designed for sharing short text updates and joining public conversations. Meanwhile, X introduced a subscription model, which included features like removing ads, longer posts and the coveted blue checkmark. *Photo credit: Newscom*



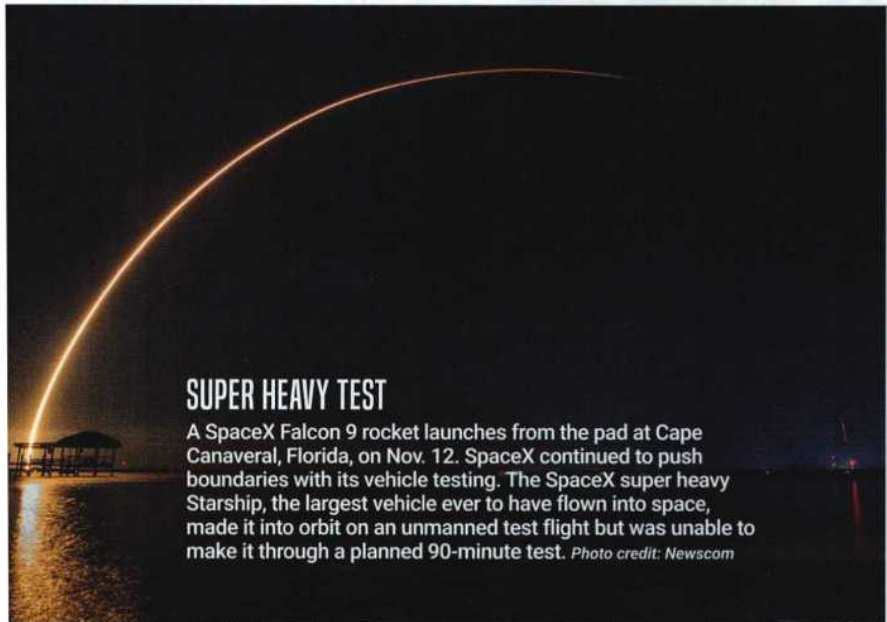
## BREAKING FREE

After being anchored to the ocean floor for three decades, the largest iceberg in the world breaks free of Antarctica and makes its way toward the open ocean. Scientists reported the iceberg, scientifically known as A-23a and weighing close to a trillion tons, was traveling northward at approximately 30 miles per day, propelled by strong wind and ocean currents. The mass was roughly three times the size of New York City and ranked among the world's oldest icebergs. *Photo credit: Newscom*



## OPEN FOR BUSINESS

TikTok launches its e-commerce platform, TikTok Shop, in the U.S., seeking to turn its cultural influence into sales. Available to 40% of the app's users, the Shop tab reached all 150 million U.S. users by October, and over 200,000 sellers and 100,000 content creators applied for the program. TikTok Shop's launch came amidst U.S. government negotiations and criticisms, with the platform assuring users of a secure checkout process and Oracle-managed U.S. user data storage. *Photo credit: Newscom*



## SUPER HEAVY TEST

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launches from the pad at Cape Canaveral, Florida, on Nov. 12. SpaceX continued to push boundaries with its vehicle testing. The SpaceX super heavy Starship, the largest vehicle ever to have flown into space, made it into orbit on an unmanned test flight but was unable to make it through a planned 90-minute test. *Photo credit: Newscom*

# YEAR IN RE VIEW

science, technology  
& planet

## EUROPE'S SCORCHING SUMMER

People cool off in the shade in Geneva, Switzerland, as Europe grapples with unprecedented heat waves and wildfires. The World Meteorological Organization confirmed that the month began with record-breaking temperatures. High-pressure anticyclones named Cerberus and Charon intensified the heat over southern Europe, with temperatures surpassing 45 degrees Celsius in parts of Greece, Spain and Italy. *Photo credit: Newscom*



## IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

Residents of St. Petersburg, Florida, assess the devastating impact of Hurricane Idalia, which makes landfall as a Category 3 storm in late August. Winds exceeding 125 miles per hour and 16-foot storm surges caused widespread power outages, intense flooding and structural damage to homes and businesses. Evacuation orders were sent to 23 counties for the worst storm to hit Florida in more than a century. *Photo credit: City of St. Petersburg*

# devastation in maui

President Joe Biden examines a burnt-out car as he and First Lady Jill Biden tour the damage from Maui's deadly wildfires with Hawaii Governor Josh Green and his wife, Jaime Kanani Green, on Aug. 21 in Lahaina, Maui. In early August, a series of wildfires broke out across Hawaii, initially sparked by downed power lines and later reignited by windy conditions. The wind-whipped fire, which became the deadliest in the U.S. in more than a century, prompted emergency evacuations and caused widespread damage, claiming 115 lives in the town of Lahaina on Maui's northwest coast. *Photo credit: Adam Schultz/The White House*



## AI ENTERS THE CHAT

ChatGPT, a large language model developed by OpenAI, has seamlessly integrated into both the workforce and classrooms, showcasing its intuitive features and capabilities. This model adeptly mimicked the human language and was trained on a diverse range of online text, enabling it to perform functions such as answering questions, translating languages, generating text, assisting in coding and more. Students and professionals alike rapidly began adopting ChatGPT, while world leaders rushed to address the potential risks of this rapidly evolving technology. *Photo credit: Sanket Mishra/Pexels*



## FORTNITE FRENZY

Fortnite releases Chapter 4, Season 5, dubbed "OG" by Epic Games, on Nov. 3 and records 44.7 million players on the following Sunday, more than any other day in the game's history. Released by Epic Games in 2017, the game gained immense popularity due to its free-to-play model, accessibility across various platforms (including PCs, consoles and mobile devices) and its unique building mechanics. This blast from the past ignited a nostalgic spark in its players as they explored the original Chapter 1 map and enjoyed access to retired items from past seasons. *Photo credit: Newscom*



## HEALTHIER TOMORROW

California bans the use of four food additives, including red dye No. 3, which is used in certain medications and thousands of candies, like Skittles. Previous studies linked red dye No. 3 to hyperactivity, behavioral issues and cancer. Lawmakers scheduled the California Food Safety Act, referred to by some as the "Skittles ban," to go into effect by 2027. *Photo credit: Newscom*

# ABOUT THE BOOK

*and Special Thanks*

"Raising the Bar" is Volume 32 of DHS's yearbook collection. The 2023-2024 Longhorn was written and composed by the high school journalism class. The cover was designed by journalism student, Hailey Schweitzer.

The body font used was Athelas; the folio font was Comic Sans

MS; the caption font was Altivo; the heading font was Bebas Neue; and the subheading font was AWPCChelsea and Uniwars.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Kris Hemry, the greatest Walsworth Representative ever. Thanks also to Anderson Studios for group photos and Mimi Axline for sports'

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The staff has one last big thank you to the amazing Mrs. Sandy Severance for all of her effort, time, and dedication she puts forth to make the yearbook a success. We wouldn't be able to do it without her.

Sincerely,  
DHS Yearbook  
Staff

# COLOPHON

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