

Football players think pink. See what athletes are doing to support Breast Cancer Awareness month on page 6.

Romantic movies create high hopes for viewers. Read more about life vs. movies on page 4.

“Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.”
--Benjamin Franklin

The West Wind



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Opinion

Jaipur adds spice to life

Katie Allen
Reporter

Indian food is a combination of spices and sauces that are intricately thrown together to make perfection when done right. Recommended for the adventurous in tastebuds, this type of meal isn't your everyday food. So, if you're tired of the average American hamburger and fries and the most exotic thing you've ever tasted was sushi, it's time to take it up a notch.

Jaipur, a restaurant specializing in Indian cuisine, is located off of Elm Street in the Rockbrook Village Shopping Center. It's about 15-20 minutes in driving time from Bellevue West, but it's well worth it. The price range is moderate, considering we paid less than 60 dollars for four entrees.

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Shooting for gun permits

Grant Harrison
Commentary Editor

Editors note: The following is a piece of satire on U.S. gun laws.

Since the dawn of America, gun owners everywhere have raised their double-barreled shotguns, semi-automatic pistols and .22 rifles in celebration of the ubiquitous Second Amendment. Now, the blind can cheer, too.

With gun laws Stephen Colbert could only dream of, the blind can now publicly carry firearms in Iowa. As of 2011, a change in Iowa's gun permit rules forbids sheriffs from denying permits based on physical ability.

While some will assume the legislation affects only those with seeing eye dogs, the change applies to a broader group of gun toters. Legal blindness is simply defined as not being able to read one letter on the 20/100 line of an eye test chart. So it's not just the completely blind who could holster up, because less vision impaired people--perhaps an elderly neighbor with Coke-bottle glasses--could also qualify as blind (and carry guns).

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High school swap: West is the best

Ashley Quintela
Editor in Chief

Thirty-seven years ago, Bellevue West High School opened, sparking a rivalry with Bellevue East High School. From the big West vs. East football game to students striving to make their dances better than the other school's, West and East are always trying to prove their might. I never doubted that West is the better school, but after spending the day as an East student, it's apparent that West is truly the best.

I admit, venturing to the other side made me apprehensive, but luckily junior Elic Chisam was an ideal student to shadow. He and other students I met through the day were kind enough to answer any questions I had and show me around. Of course being in a new environment made me nervous, but the students were welcoming.

A day as a Bellevue East student is vastly different than the day as a Bellevue West student. For starters, classes seemed to drag on and on. I found myself constantly checking the clock to see how long until the bell would ring. Their class periods are six minutes longer than West's. The reason for the extended class periods is because they eliminated Silent Sustained Reading (SSR) and shortened their GPS by 10 minutes. It may not seem like six minutes would make a difference, but trust me, it does.

As a journalism student, GPS is crucial. It's the perfect time to interview, write stories and make sure deadlines are met. The 10 minutes really makes a difference when trying to get work done. Over there, students stay in their seventh period class for GPS. The built-in study hall at the end of the day should be for getting help in a certain subject or finishing a school project, not confined to one room where your work options are limited.

Bellevue West students, including myself, always complain about the frigid temperature at our school; well believe me, you haven't felt cold until you spend a day at East. It was so cold that the granola bar in my backpack felt like I just took it out of a refrigerator. My teeth were continuously chattering. I couldn't help but shiver all day, despite the fact I was wearing a sweater.

I did enjoy having a window seat in some of the classes I sat in on. It was nice being able to look outside and see the sunlight. I envy Bellevue East because they have a lot of windows.

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Huffman brings positive enforcement to West



Photo by Nick Wilkinson

Coach Michael Huffman leads the T-Birds against rival Bellevue East on Aug 30. This was the first time the team entered through the stands.

Nick Wilkinson
Sports Editor

Although the Michael Huffman era of football has just begun at Bellevue West, his traditions and football livelihood have already spread through his players as well as the fans and the community.

"I've been so impressed with the school spirit at this place. It seems like the student body actually likes to come to school here," Huffman said.

Students, coaches and players noticed the charm Huffman brought to the school.

"Huffman brings a positive charisma. Some coaches have it and some just don't bring it," assistant coach Craig Moraski said.

Moraski also added that Huffman's doing a great job of trying not to change the football team's tradition so much.

Things Huffman didn't change

include pasta feeds that the players have on Thursday nights, Senior Night and the banquet the coaches have at the end of the season.

"He spends a lot of time here with the guys. During the spring he drove 40 minutes for the workout sessions after school," Moraski said.

Huffman expressed his dedication to the team early on, before his teaching contract for the 2013-2014 school year even began.

"Him coming every single day after teaching and being so far away shows his commitment to the program and it spreads to the other coaches and the players," Moraski said.

Though Huffman is excited to bring his own ideology to the program, he made sure to keep strong attributes of the program standing.

"He's very eager to implement new ideas, he has made some changes

but has made sure good parts of the program stayed," Moraski said.

One thing Huffman already changed is the team's game time entrance. In previous years The team entered through the gate, accompanied by Thunderstruck by AC/DC. Now, the team enters through the stands with "Enter Sandman" by Metallica blaring from the speakers.

"The entrance we have shows Huffman has really brought his personality to the school. We try and get the fans involved as well as the band," senior quarterback Brad Brazeal said.

Huffman said he is enthusiastic with the team's entrance and their presence as a whole.

"I think entrances are kind of neat. I probably think they are neater than they are," Huffman said.

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Fantasy's will soon be a fantasy

Grant Harrison
Commentary Editor

Every day, dozens of students from Bellevue West frequent Fantasy's, the convenience store and gas station on the corner of 15th and Cornhusker. But with plans announced by developers to replace the store with a strip mall, students will soon find the corner shop a fading memory.

Prospective purchaser Thackeray Companies plans to redevelop the lot--now named Thunderbird Plaza--and replace Fantasy's with a 9,100 square foot building containing four or five small retail shops, according to the Bellevue Planning Commission's minutes record.

The proposed building will be

one story, face towards Cornhusker, host restaurants and contain other establishments "beneficial for the area," Larry Forman, representative for Thackeray Companies, said.

"I think it'll be a positive change for the community," Forman said.

Though he couldn't confirm any other businesses (many aspects of the development are contingent on the uncompleted rezoning process), Forman confirmed a Taco Bell will be developed. Though some students are eager for the change, others have reservations about the change of businesses.

"There are a lot of kids that go [to Fantasy's] after school or before school. I wouldn't mind it, but I'd still like a gas station there instead," senior Adam Thomas said.

The Bellevue Planning Commission approved rezoning of the one acre lot on Sept. 26, and the proposal will continue to the city council for public hearing on Oct. 28. Approval would mean clearance to proceed with the project, signalling the go-ahead for Thackeray Companies to purchase and redevelop the land.

"We did go to the planning commission last month and got unanimous permission. The main hurdle is to get through the rezoning process," Forman said.

Rezoning will allow the lot to change from a heavy manufacturing zone (MH) to a general business zone (BG), facilitating retail and service establishments like the strip mall Thackeray Companies proposes to build.

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New directors bring change to HAL

Megan Yanders
Reporter

HAL (the high ability learner program), a program directed toward enhancing advanced students' classes and involving them in extracurriculars, at Bellevue West is going through some major changes this year. Along with having two new directors, chemistry teacher Nicole Menard and government teacher Meredith Williams, the program is being redesigned from the ground up.

At the end of the 2012-2013

school year, all HAL director positions opened up, and both Williams and Menard interviewed for the position in May. They were hired for the position at the end of last school year.

Even with two directors working on the program, they do not split up the work, but instead work together on all parts of the job.

"It's 100% collaboration," Menard said.

The new directors are focusing on students and individualizing the program for each student's needs.

Mystery haunts school halls

Mike Sullivan
Reporter

Custodians are witnessing strange activity after-hours in the darkened halls of Bellevue West. Not thefts, not students hanging around, but ghosts. According to a surprising number of the school's custodial staff, a variety of ghostly presences haunt these halls at night.

"I've walked through the hallways when they were clear," custodian Michael Taylor said. "I'd come back through hours later, and there'd be desks sitting in the hallways."

Even though Taylor told of other experiences like class and elevator doors opening by themselves and strange noises in the halls, he also expressed he didn't feel threatened by the idea of ghostly presence.

"I hear this kid running up the hall talking," custodian Virginia Ingham said. "I go to see, and there's nobody. I went all down the halls looking and there was nobody there."

This happened twice the summer before last, according to Ingham. However, she doesn't let the activity affect her job and has continued to work here since then.

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E-Cigs: legal for now

Grant Harrison
Commentary Editor

With the promise of a healthier alternative to smoking, electronic cigarettes are the latest tobacco product to hit the market, and millions of Americans now "vape" the battery-powered device. (That's right, there's even a new verb)

Though traditional cigarettes are still smoked by around 18% of high school students, they are quickly being superseded by their electronic counterparts; within the past two years e-cigarette usage doubled among teens, according to a CDC report. With new laws, research and regulations continually announced, many are left asking: what is an "e-cig"?

What is an "e-cig"?

Electronic cigarettes merge technology and traditional smoking. When turned on, an internal cartridge filled with a solution of nicotine, water and other chemicals is heated via battery power, creating vapor for inhalation.

The device dates back to the mid 60's, when American Herbert A. Gilbert designed the first-ever smokeless, non-tobacco cigarette. But it wasn't until Chinese pharmacist Hon Lik, a lifelong smoker whose father died of lung cancer, revived the concept in 2003 that the product truly picked up momentum.

Prices for e-cigarettes range from around \$20 for disposable models to over \$100 for higher-quality kits. Users must also account for the cost of refill cartridges, which come in a variety of flavors and can last from a week to over a month.

"[Cartridges] are about five or six dollars a pop; they're not that expensive. I think the most expensive thing to get is the actual cigarette itself because that's well over thirty dollars, but it lasts a long time," one Bellevue West student, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said.

Within the last few years, roughly 20 states banned e-cigarette sales to minors, though Nebraska has no legislation on the matter. In several states, laws commonly passed against traditional cigarettes--such as advertising regulations or increased tax measures--are absent for e-cigarettes.

The federal government also does not regulate e-cig advertising. Companies like Blu Cigs have free reign to air commercials in several forms of media, giving television viewers their first glimpses of nicotine-related ads in more than 50 years.

"[The commercial] was just saying to be responsible--being more responsible for your smoking, so it was promoting e-cigs over regular cigarettes," junior Blase Szczepaniak said.

In response to lax regulations, some groups are fighting to change the laws. No Limits, the youth-led, anti-tobacco movement based in Nebraska, is one group fighting for legislative reform. This year, the teens chose e-cigarettes as their focal point for anti-tobacco activism.

"Every year at our June board meeting we create three goals that we want to accomplish for the year, and two of our three pertain to e-cigarettes," junior Madison Larimore, and reporter for No Limits, said. "Every one of us wants to write letters to all the representatives for our state about setting an age limit on e-cigarettes."

States, too, are pressuring the government for stricter regulation. In late September, 40 state attorneys general sent a letter to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requesting e-cigarettes to be regulated as tobacco products. In the Nebraska legislature, State Sen. Russ Karpisek said he plans on submitting a bill to ban e-cigarette sales to those under 18 during the 60-day legislative session beginning on Jan. 8.

Still, some e-cig companies have independently prohibited selling to minors. Modern Vapor bars teens from purchasing off their website.

"Like most other electric cigarette stores, Modern Vapor only sells to persons over 18 years of age. Before any transaction can be completed, we require all customers place a checkmark indicating they have reviewed our Terms and Conditions."

Though it was ruled in 2010 by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. circuit that e-cigarettes can be considered tobacco products (thus subject to the same regulations), the FDA has not acted upon the decision. While USA Today reported regulation would come in October at the earliest, action may be prolonged due to the 16 day-long government shutdown (which concluded on Oct. 16).

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Chapter Two opens on Mission Avenue

Sidney Marks
Entertainment Editor

Husband and wife duo Daniel Bradley and Delana Lefevres opened Chapter 2 Books Aug. 14 in Olde Towne Bellevue. With no bookstores anywhere within Sarpy County and when they realized a local bookstore was needed, they decided to go for it.

“At first we just started to take donations and books just started piling up in our house,” Bradley said.

Chapter 2 Books takes donations, works with book dealers, as well as goes to the big Goodwill depot with the massive book bins and searching at other local thrift stores. Bradley stated the books were wall-to-wall in his home as they were collecting more and more books.

“We didn’t have any loans or anything like that. We just put all our money into it,” Bradley said. “It’s something we’re pretty proud of.”

They sell the books for half of the cover price or fewer.

“The majority of the books we receive are in new condition,” Bradley said.

Bradley said the bookstore specializes in rare books or quirky



Chapter Two Books is located at 409 W Mission Avenue. The owners felt as though Sarpy County was in need of a book store. Before Chapter Two books opened, the Skate Shop occupied the space, and the closest book store was Barnes and Noble at Oakview or Crossroads.

Photo by Sidney Marks

prints of different famous books. They mostly want to appeal to the classic readers.

“I like it because they have a really good selection,” senior Katie Begley said.

Begley was referred to Chapter 2 Bookstore by frequent customer and Bellevue West teacher, Aaron Stueve.

“They got me all four Hyperion books for \$16 and I got it in a few days,” Stueve said.

On Amazon, the Mass Market Paperback for the entire series would cost \$28.06, not including shipping or handling.

“When we started, we were going for the people that were reading the classics, or what you might call people on a more intellectual pursuit,” Bradley said.

Begley said she goes to the local bookstore whenever she’s

completed a book.

“I like that there is finally a place in Bellevue to go buy books,” Begley said, “I don’t want to hike all the way out to Omaha to go to Barnes and Noble to buy books.”

According to the Pew Re-

search Center, from Dec. 2011 to Nov. 2012 print readership dropped from 72% to 67%, as e-book readers grew from 16% to 23%.

“My wife and I think it’s been kind of a fad, and that people are starting to miss holding an actual book,” Bradley said, “They’re getting sick of looking at something plastic.”

The first Kindle was released in 2007, changing how people buy and read books. The school library has e-books available for students.

“A lot of people read e-books now more than ever,” Stueve said.

Bradley’s goal for opening the bookstore was to increase readership and realize there’s more out there than what they thought.

“[We want] to get people to actually hunt for books and find that special book that they didn’t think existed,” Bradley said.

Stueve agrees about the choice of books.

“I’ve never been to a used bookstore before where I’m always going to find something that I want without having to look that hard,” Stueve said.

From smoking to vaping: teenage e-cig users on the rise

Continued from page 1

E-cigarettes and students

With laws for e-cigarettes not fully in place, students in high school can access the product.

“At malls they bump up the prices so that they can pay rent for the little booths [and] online you also have to pay for shipping. The first one I got, I bought it at Wal-Mart,” one student, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said.

Several students at Bellevue West use e-cigarettes. Vaping can happen anywhere from malls to at home, according to one student. But vaping doesn’t always take place off Thunderbird grounds: one student even used e-cigarettes in class.

“They haven’t seen me. I don’t let them see me, because I don’t want to get in trouble. [I’ve used them] maybe once or twice in school,” one student, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said.

Though the legal ramifications for teen e-cig usage aren’t congruent throughout the nation, deans at Bellevue West still treat e-cigarettes as any other tobacco product.

“The same thing would happen if they were using just regular tobacco. If they had tobacco before it could be a one day suspension or more,” dean Doug Woodard said.

Why all the controversy?

For some states, legislation passed due to concerns over the health effects and adolescent usage of e-cigarettes.



The V2 brand of electronic cigarette is top choice for one individual at Bellevue West. E-cigs come in a variety of models, nicotine level and flavor. Flavors include grape, watermelon, spearmint, honey dew and an abundance of other options.

Photo by Aaron Stueve

Compared to regular cigarettes, which contain over 60 carcinogens, e-cigarettes avoid many potentially harmful chemicals. One student vapes because of the device’s supposed less-adverse health effects.

“They don’t have the harmful effects of all the carcinogens in a normal cigarette that are combined with the nicotine,” an e-cig user and student at Bellevue West said.

Still, researchers at Harvard found trace elements of diethylene glycol (a toxic chemical in antifreeze), formaldehyde and other hazardous chemicals in the vapor of e-cigarettes. Some students offered e-cigarettes decline due to their potentially harmful health consequences.

“I don’t use tobacco. I just don’t think it’s good for you, especially if you’re trying to live a healthy lifestyle,” Szczepaniak said.

Like their smoke-filled counterparts, e-cigarettes feed nicotine into the bloodstream, prompting the production of dopamine in the brain regions that control pleasure and motivation. Research suggests the neurotransmitter is as addictive as heroin, cocaine or alcohol, according to the CDC.

As evidence surrounding the safety of e-cigs is inconclusive, studies show that e-cigs can be helpful to smokers for quitting. In a study of 538 people, NPR reported that, “After six months, 7.3 percent of e-smokers had dropped cigarettes, compared to 5.8 percent of people wearing the patch.” For some, e-cigs are a helpful tool for quitting.

However, recent research suggests teen e-cig use correlates with traditional smoking. In 2012, the CDC found that the percentage of high schoolers using e-cigs increased from 4.7 percent to 10 percent. And, the report showed, of high school e-cigarette users, 80.5 percent reported smoking conventional cigarettes as well.

“For teenagers it’s bringing in more smokers but for adults I think it’s getting more adults to quit,” junior Ashley Dunlap said.

In the end, Szczepaniak—along with more than 20 states, 40 attorneys general, and several local Nebraska teens—agrees that electronic cigarettes are under-regulated.

“They’re a drug, and people need to be more informed than just what they see on TV and in the media,” Szczepaniak said.

Seniors:

Senior pictures are due by Nov. 22, 2013 to Aaron Stueve in room 426. For more information, contact (402) 293 - 4068

HAL: new directors, new focus on vision of expansion of the program

Megan Yanders Reporter

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“We’ll still do Science Olympiad, and some Quiz Bowls,” Menard said.

Junior Samantha Ramming has participated in various HAL events in the past, and is planning on continuing to be active in the HAL program.

“I’ve heard that they are continuing with Science Olympiad and are maybe opening up the program to non-HAL students,” Ramming said.

Menard confirmed that opening up the program to all students is being put into consideration by organizers.

“Science Olympiad is a national event that is not exclusive to gifted students at the national level. Therefore we would like to open up participation to any interested students at Bellevue West. There is a limit to the number of students that can be part of our school team therefore based on interest we may need to hold tryouts,” Menard said.

Though some of the changes in the program are beyond the directors’ control, student input will play significantly in deciding what they will do this year. This year they have already done a student survey to determine student interests and learning.

“[Student input] is an integral part of the program, because we really want to mold the HAL services that are provided to specific student needs. We’ve done surveys looking at their interests, how they learn, and what they do when faced with a challenge and mold the programs to help them grow as a learner,” Williams said.

Menard and Williams hope that all students in the HAL program will be involved, whether they have been before or not.

“We want 100% participation,” Menard said. “Even if you haven’t participated in the past, there is a place for it to be individualized for your needs.”

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Custodians share ghost stories

Continued from page 1

While Taylor and Ingham aren't too concerned about the paranormal activity in the building at night, others share a different view.

"There was this one custodian here at some point that was painting on scaffolding," Taylor said. "He said he felt something like hands on his back, like they were pushing him off."

The custodians' reports of paranormal activity began around the first few years the school was built.

"Supposedly years ago, one of our students passed away in the building," school secretary Ginny Binder said. "I don't remember for sure where, but since then many, many of our nighttime custodians have felt paranormal activity."

Binder went on to talk about

different reports of paranormal events over the years that eerily matched with details from the stories of our own current custodial staff.

Although much of the school's staff have come to accept the presence of ghosts, there are still skeptics of what is going on at the school.

Senior Jasmine Nichols hasn't had any paranormal experiences at the school.

"I guess they could be there," senior Jasmine Nichols said. "I'm just not sure."

Teacher Gogi Supenski, who teaches in the supposedly haunted business area, was also ambivalent on the issue.

Supenski worked the school prom and stayed late at the school for other reasons in the past.

"Is it circumstantial or really paranormal? That's the question,"

Supenski said. "I'm not totally bought into it, but I do believe the people that have told stories."

Upon investigation of Bellevue West late at night, eight members of the publications staff were able to confirm strange rattling noises in the ceiling and elevator doors opening at random times. Skeptics or nonbelievers could argue that the noises and the spontaneous elevator operation are a result of faulty electrical functions or the air conditioning system.

However, the fact that the strange noises and events have happened for a very long time, and the reports match up so eerily well suggests there could indeed be more to Bellevue West than just the noisy machinery.

"You think this stuff's just on TV," said Binder. "But, you know, it's not just on TV."

Singers performs a classic



Photo by Rachel Colwell
Bellevue West's varsity choir West High Singers performed "Carmina Burana" during their fall concert on Oct. 8, 2013.

**Bekah Hayes
Reporter**

One of Bellevue West's top choirs is preparing for a busy month.

West High Singers will perform all twenty-five movements of composer Carl Orff's musical work "Carmina Burana" with other high school choirs for the Holland Choral Collaborative at the Holland Center Nov. 17.

The text to "Carmina Burana" is said to have been written almost 1000 years ago, but the music was composed by Carl Orff in the 1930s. Twenty-four poems were set to music, creating seventy-five minutes of constant singing. The majority of the movements are written in Latin.

Don Reimer retired in 2006 after leading the choral program at West for many years. He said that he had waited 15 years to see singers perform "Carmina Burana."

President of West High Singers, senior Hannah Biggs, is dedicating part of this year to oversee the singers and continuing to be a role model for new members.

"The Holland Choral Collaborative brings choirs together from around the area to sing together, get to know each other, and create a more beautiful sound," Biggs said.

With multiple high school choirs together, the singers will

not be drowned out by the Omaha Symphony Orchestra which will be playing alongside the singers.

On top of the fact that "Carmina Burana" is not a cake walk, there will be the pressure of singing the entire song while competing with the symphony to be heard.

"It's hard and it requires a lot of strong voices and it is a difficult, challenging piece for the young voices," Reimer said.

West High Singers sang in the fall concert Oct. 8 and debuted four of the "Carmina Burana" movements. West High Singers vice-president senior Caitie Kieser was thrilled about how well the concert went.

"I thought it was really good. I feel like we have improved a lot in the last week and we performed to the best of our ability," Kieser said.

Every year members are added to West High Singers as seniors graduate and leave empty seats for new singers.

"I think that coming into the choir they didn't quite know what to expect and especially with the Carmina, it is such a major piece of work that they were kinda thrown into, but they are adapting really well," Biggs said.

But along with the obvious tasks that any choir requires like learning music, and participat-

ing in competitions, West High Singers expects its members to represent their program both on and off the stage.

"In West High Singers we are expected to always try our best. We are the varsity choir and we are expected to set a good example for the other choirs. And we are supposed to respect the robe we wear," Biggs said.

A key part of Singers is the reputation that they uphold in how they carry themselves, and the speed at which they learn pieces. The newest members of Singers have succeeded in being a beneficial addition to the group.

"I feel like there is still a lot of teaching to be done. You just kinda learn as the year goes on, but I definitely think the newcomers are certainly observing how we do things, and how we act," Kieser said.

This year still has a lot to prepare for and with a piece like "Carmina Burana," perfecting small details is what singers is applauded for.

"I do [have high hopes for this year] I think we will be really good and I'm really excited to see what the next couple months will bring us," Kieser said.

Their performance at the Holland Center will take place on Nov. 17. Tickets can be purchased at ticketomaha.com. Tickets range from \$13-\$70 depending on seating preference.

Junior DECA officers "Make it count"

**Emma Larson
Guest Reporter**

On Sept. 26, Bellevue West's DECA program announced its 2013-14 Junior Officers.

This year's officers are: Brad Cluff, Emily Dighans, Taylea Dotzler, Kim Gau, Steph Purcell and Kelsi Smith. They were selected to lead the junior class, as well as the two elected presidents: Emily Romero and Trent Hoppe.

The purpose of the DECA program is to teach students about business and to show them what business in the real world is like. Each year, two presidents per junior class are elected as Junior Officers.

"There are a lot of very good prospects for this year's candidates," DECA adviser Gogi Supenski said.

The campaigning process is vital when running for a Junior Officer position. For two weeks the 15 students advertised

themselves, wrote their speeches, thought of slogans and hung up posters. Senior Claudia Cortes knows just what kind of qualities she wants to see in a future officer.

"I need them to be responsible, honest kids that are respectful of everyone around them," Cortes said.

She was impressed with this year's candidates, and referred to her voting decision as "heart-breaking," because they were all such good students. Cortes has a mental checklist of what she looks for in a future Junior Officer.

"I have to be able to see that they can be really innovative when it comes down to their ideas, and at the same time show that the qualities that they bring to the DECA table are qualities that I would want to see in someone in charge," Cortes said.

Another important aspect when competing for an officer

position is giving a well-crafted, creative speech. Speeches are given in front of the three senior classes, the students who will be voting. By listening to their speeches, the seniors will decide who they feel will best improve Bellevue West High School and community.

"I wasn't sure if I was going to be able to do it, just because I'm not much of a public speaker, but I realized that it was a skill I needed to develop and perfect, so I just went for it," junior Stephanie Purcell said.

The Junior Officer installation dinner was held at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. At the end of the night, the new officers for the 2013-2014 school year were announced.

Also, DECA National President Carter Christiansen from South Dakota spoke to the candidates about how to truly "Make it Count," which is this year's DECA theme.



The West Wind staff surveyed Bellevue residents about their annual Halloween traditions. The results were as shown.

**Graphic by
Chloe Brim**

WAST helps kids explore the arts

**Karen Goeschel
Guest Reporter**

Bellevue West hosted a theater day camp for children in kindergarten through sixth grade on Sept. 21.

West After School Theatre club (WAST) members tried a new fundraising idea because of an interest in acting at an elementary level. 17 children from various elementary schools joined staff and high school volunteers at Bellevue West to explore their interest in performance arts. After a day of learning, they performed their new talents for a group of family and friends.

"After getting their seat locker, we played get-to-know-you games and they had a little tour of the theater, so they got to go to

the light room and costume shop and all those exciting places," theater teacher Marya Lucca-Thyberg said. "They played acting games and then had a game in the costume shop where they wore costumes and a game in the classroom where they got to play with props."


After lunch and recess, the little actors and actresses were split into three groups, each with their own teacher. They were given a fairy-tale story and script and were told to use their creativity to make whatever changes they felt were needed. By the end, "The Little Red Hen" turned into "The Little Pink Hen" and "The Three Little Pigs" featured a princess pig, a model pig and a Jedi pig. Even "The Bremen Town-Musicians" evolved into

"The Las Vegas Musicians."


"No kid freaked out or forgot their lines," Lucca-Thyberg said. "They were wonderful little troopers on their performance."

In situations like these, everyone has chances to improve on their skills. Everyone who worked learned from having to deal with situations the kids faced them with, while the children themselves had the opportunity to go on stage and find their inner actor though performing plays and taking on a character.

"I think the kids will definitely want to do it again next year. I'm pretty sure they had a fun time. They were laughing and doing their own thing," freshman Eleanor Carle, who worked at the camp, said. "I would love to do this again next year."



T-birds Tell All



•He cut his hair:

1. For a choir concert
2. To fit in a zip-up hoodie
3. To impress a girl.

•He wants to be a performer

•Looks up to Spongebob and Andy Samberg

junior
Dylan Zimmerly

“Zim”

“When I come to school I say I’m performing every second.”

West Wind 2013 - 2014 Staff			Reporters
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Teen take control of spending

**Sophia VanFosson
Reporter**

The characteristics of irresponsible spending are apparent and fairly easy to recognize. Teenagers often spend most of their free time at shopping centers and on-the-go restaurants. Even though teens don't intend to purchase items when window shopping or scanning the menu, most end up with a non-significant purchase none the less.

Junior Nick Pavel finds the most current and ideal places to shop at the mall.

"When I go to the mall, I go to clothing stores, like nice clothing stores and that's what I spend money on," Pavel said.

Teenage spending habits range anywhere from drive-thru food to a new pair of jeans. The question is, how much is too much when it comes to spending money?

"I would rather have food and groceries than go out to the movies any day," junior Chandler Smith said. "If I needed something, I would be more than likely to get that than something silly that I want."

Teens who balance work and school feel as if they have the right to spend the money they earn, with limits.

Smith explains that even though he does not have a job, due to his school schedule, he is in favor of teens with jobs.

"Usually teens that get stuff from parents are usually really spoiled and inconsiderate, but the teens who work for them are usually more caring because

they know what it's like to have to work for what they want," Smith said.

Teens with jobs versus teens who are currently unemployed tangle with a specific boundary: mom and dad. A lack of financial boundary is one of the main characteristics when it comes to splurging while spending. For instance, having a personal debit card rather than asking parents for money, creates a greater chance of spur-of-the-moment purchases.

Senior Erika Catton is currently working as a hostess at Texas Roadhouse and knows the confliction with teenage paychecks.

"Some of my paycheck goes towards my phone, and the rest goes towards whatever I feel," Catton said. "Since I recently got my job, I have the power to buy what I want without having to ask my parents, which is a lot more ability than other teenagers."

If a teen is using her own money, purchases can still be perceived as "out-of-hand." Teens who shop for clothing without looking for the best deals or sales is another example of careless teenage spending. With most teens, it is all about the brand.

Catton believes she happens to be in the category of teens that don't.

"I don't really like following those trends. I like being more me, because if I followed all the girls with all the latest brands I wouldn't be," Catton said.

Along with having the ability to own the latest fashion luxuries, teenagers see spending money as

a social stature competing with friends and other peers. School is one of the many places where teenagers feel the need to flaunt their new-found purchases. The school enviornment makes it easy to show off what they bought.

Wendy Bevilacqua, mother of junior Isabella Bevilacqua, sees more than enough experience when it comes to teenage spending.

"I think the biggest difference between teens and adults in regards to responsibility is maturity and age," Bevilacqua said. "We live in a society where everyone is used to getting what they want when they want it and not having to wait and save for it. This mixed with age is causing teens to be further irresponsible with their money. They are not taught by their parents the true value if a dollar and that they should save their money."

The generation of tomorrow sees money more as a game, rather than a financial security to their future. To parents, teens have an influential financial power in their household.

"Teens cost a lot of money. This isn't always their fault though. They need basic things that parents should provide but they also need things we don't always foresee or plan for. A special sweater for a choir concert, a pair of gloves for a school outing, spending money for this or that," Bevilacqua said. "Teens are expensive but honestly, parents knew these things would come up when they had children and so parents should set an example for their teens and be prepared."

Movies create false reality Halloween movies not so scary

Ashley Quintela
Editor in Chief

On the big screen, everything is better. Watching romance movies as a child excited me for the future. Well, the future is now and I have yet to have a picnic on the beach watching the sunset as Channing Tatum looks into my eyes (but that could be because I live in Nebraska and Channing Tatum has no idea I exist). It seems as though every romance movie I watch I find at least one aspect I wish I could experience. I mean, let's face it, life is not like the movies.

Clearly, my favorite type of movie is, of course, romance. Yep, that's me, a hopeless romantic. I make my boyfriend watch Nicholas Sparks movies hoping he will one day get the hint.

He hasn't caught on.

In movies, the dream boy is always sweeping the girl off her feet by serenading her like Adam Sandler does to Drew Barrymore in "The Wedding Singer." I'm not asking for much; all I want is a cute boy to sing "A Drop in the Ocean" by Ron Pope outside my window, but if you can't sing, perhaps read me a sappy love poem, something by e.e. cummings would work. I'm thinking, "I carry your heart with me [i carry it in]."

Whenever I watch "The Notebook" I envy Rachel McAdams, not only because she gets to kiss Ryan Gosling, but because she gets to kiss him in the rain. I'm not sure why kissing while possibly catching a cold is so appealing, but it is. It happens

in every great romance movie. When the rain pours down on John and Savannah in the movie "Dear John," my heart melts and my face turns green with envy. I love the end scene in "A Cinderella Story" where the dreamy football player leaves the game to kiss his girl in the rain. I've been to a lot of football games in my high school years and Chad Michael Murray has yet to kiss me in the pouring rain, but I'll wait.

If life was like the movies, I would be happy, and probably have the flu, but that's beside the point. Sure, movies are great, but they are not realistic. I want to burst out into song, without people giving me weird looks; and kiss someone in the rain, preferably Josh Duhamel in "Safe Haven," but Ryan Gosling will do.



Cartoon by Nick Wilkinson

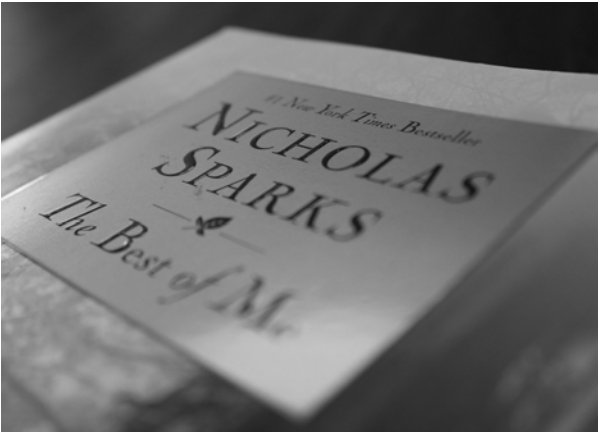


Photo by Sidney Marks
Author Nicholas Sparks writes books made into movies such as "The Notebook," "Dear John," "A Walk To Remember" and "The Last Song."



Photo by Ashley Quintela
Julianne Hough and Josh Duhamel star in "Safe Haven," an example of an adaptation of a Sparks novel.



Photo by Sidney Marks
Cinderella is a classic for any generation. Hilary Duff and Chad Micheal Murray starred in the modern spin on the Disney classic, "A Cinderella Story." Many spin-offs of "Cinderella" have been made into a variety of different films and TV shows.

Jaipur makes eyes and mouth water

Continued from page 1

When I entered the restaurant, I was overcome with the culture of India. Pictures decorate the wall along with a jungle scene. The room is dimly lit, giving Jaipur a soothing vibe.

A hard-to-find door located at the rear of the restaurant leads you to the patio. I loved the decorative canopy shading the tables and bamboo woven fabric which hung down the sides to block the sun. As the sun goes down, they are raised which gives way to a gorgeous sunset that sets the mood for the meal.

Our waitress for the night made us feel at home, having light conversation with us. There was a trace of her Indian accent as she talked. She laughed at the meal my brother ordered, which was the most American meal possible: a lamb sirloin with the Indian version of fries.

Our appetizer which included garlic naan and calamari arrived. The naan came with a mint chutney. Naan is a bread that is flat and round, but in this case cut into triangles. This appetizer was warm and soft as I ripped it apart. The inside was doughy, moist and decked with little pieces of garlic which added texture.

The mint chutney is to add more flavor. The green dipping sauce had a subtle mint taste to it.

The calamari we ordered looked different than the usual fried squid. The outside was an orangey color and the amount of squid was generous for a piece of calamari. Biting into it, the delicacy was crunchy with a slight spice to it, and the squid wasn't rubbery at all.

After our dishes were taken from us, we were given our choice of a soup or salad. I ordered the mulligatawny soup. It was a yellow-green color with basmati rice sprinkled on top. A wedge of lemon was on the side. I can hardly describe the flavors that sat in my bowl.

The mulligatawny was slightly tangy and even more so when the lemon was squeezed into it. It warmed every inch of my body. The rice added texture to the creaminess.

Our waitress came to check on us regularly and a tall glass of water was kept on hand to refill our smaller glasses. The main dishes arrived and perfumed the air with spices.

I portioned some of the chicken tikka korma, basmati rice, lamb buhna, lamb vindaloo and raita onto my plate. Beef is hard to find on an Indian menu because the cow is sacred to their culture.

The chicken tikka korma is my favorite. Looking at the dish isn't appetizing at first noticing

Jason Wisenbaker Copy Editor

October is my favorite time of the year. Besides summer. And Christmas. And spring. And winter. So I guess it's not really my favorite time of the year. Regardless, October brings about many changes with it serving as the interim while the world braces itself for winter. The increasingly chilly air, leaves taking flight from their trees and blanketing the ground, and the birds traveling south leave a distinct eerie silence in the sky means only one thing, Halloween is approaching.

And with Halloween approaching, honored tradition of scary stories and haunted houses is in full swing. I love AMC's month long marathons of "Friday the 13th" and "Halloween." "Friday the 13th" is my favorite franchise and every night that these marathons are playing I sit on the couch with my homework and watch these movies that give me nostalgic vibes, as the homework lays on the floor soon forgotten.

However, as much as I love horror movies, they aren't really scary. "Friday the 13th" movies were never meant to be scary. They're just fun Halloween movies. "Halloween," while I can believe was scary in the '70s, no longer holds up. They are still equally entertaining, but no longer frightening.

Pumpkin flavors the fall

Megan Yanders Reporter

With Halloween drawing close, of course kids are excited for trick-or-treating. But for those of us that don't trick-or-treat, celebrating Halloween with various pumpkin flavored treats, with everything from pumpkin spice M&Ms to pumpkin pie flavored smoothies is still an option.

Scooters' pumpkin pie smoothie is back for the fall, along with the companion latte. I'm not a big coffee fan, so I decided to try their smoothie. For the fall, the ice cream based smoothie was a bit too chilly, but I probably brought that upon myself for ordering an ice cream based smoothie.

The only other problem with the smoothie was the pumpkin flavor was somewhat watered down, so if I had to choose between it being underwhelming

or overpowering, I would definitely choose the former. Overall, I thought that the pumpkin smoothie was a valiant attempt to imitate pumpkin pie, and would rank it second among the foods I tried.

M&Ms has joined in making seasonal pumpkin flavored foods with their pumpkin spice edition. As with the pumpkin smoothie, the pumpkin flavor was somewhat understated, but in this case, I thought it actually added to the taste. Of everything I tried, the M&Ms were my favorite, with just a subtle hint of spice and pumpkin flavor.

Along with the M&Ms, Hershey's took the opportunity to come out with pumpkin flavored candy, in the form of their Pumpkin Spice Hershey's Kisses. Unlike the M&Ms, these were too sweet for my taste. The outer part, that is usually chocolate, has an overpowering pumpkin flavor,

but combined with what I assume to be a whipped cream flavored filling, it is sweet to the point of being sickening.

Little Debbie's Pumpkin Delights are yet another seasonal pumpkin flavored treat. Despite the fact that they are supposed to taste like pumpkin pie, I found little similarities between the doughy, crumbly pastry and actual pumpkin pie. That aside, the Pumpkin Delights, do have a seasonal jack-o-lantern shape, an adequate amount of pumpkin flavor in both the dough itself, and the filling. In the end, however, the chewy texture of the pastry just didn't appeal to me.

When it comes to seasonal treats, fall is a season filled with options. Though several of these didn't appeal to me personally, there are still many other pumpkin flavored treats out for the fall to help celebrate the season without trick-or-treating.

Humility serves well for famous poet Sam Cook

Hailey Stolze Editor in Chief

Two-time National Poetry Slam champion Sam Cook visited Bellevue West's auditorium Oct. 14 during GPS. The show was open to all interested students. This is the perfect way to show students poetry can actually be exciting.

Unfortunately, the performance seemed to be cut short. By the time students from GPSes all over the school got settled into their seats, half of GPS was over. Of course, students chatted, waiting for the performance to start. But when Cook started performing, the room fell silent.

In his poem "Flatland," Cook told us right away that he is not the person he wrote about. He told us that a man grabbed a child's wrist for crying on a train.

Cook's face was red in anger. The vein in his neck popped out as he yelled, "it was over, except that I asked you to remember that this man is not me. Because this is a true story only that I did nothing."

Though he told us to remember that he was not the person he was writing about, so much had gone on in the poem that when he said this, the audience gasped: plot twist. I could almost feel his despair in his fierce voice by the way he articulated his words with sharp precision. This was a great poem choice because the audience can relate to the theme of regret.

He closed with "God in code," which he performed in the 2013 National Poetry Slam. The poem was about the nonexistent "post-racial America," for

which many students at Bellevue West can probably relate. One line that stuck out to me was "A black poet, a sufi prayer, a jewish preacher all turned into white prophets." Through this he conveyed the message that, while racial discrimination may be illegal in America, it is still prevalent in today's society. It was a great way to end the performance with an engaged audience.

What impressed me the most was how humble he was. I was in the presence of a nationally known slam poet, yet he made it seem like he was any other person. Between poems, he asked if anyone had any questions or insights about him or his piece. He even stayed after GPS to talk to students.

It was hard to fan-girl over someone so down-to-earth.



Photo by Katie Begley
Award winning poet Sam Cook performs his poem "Flatland" in the auditorium during GPS. Cook came from Minnesota to encourage students to write. He was awarded "Best Individual Poet" by St. Paul Soap Boxing poetry slam five years in a row.

School swap: editors compare East and West



Ashley Quintela
Editor in Chief

Continued from page 1

One aspect of Bellevue East that I disliked was how their lockers were on two levels. It would be such a hassle to get from class to class while having to track up and down the stairs to get to your locker. East has three levels: the lockers are dispersed on the first and second floor and math rooms occupy the third. I'm already tired throughout the

school day, walking a mile won't help the situation.

The bell system at East is ridiculously annoying. Instead of having one continuous bell like most schools have, the bells here instead a series of beeps. A warning bell also reminded students only one minute remained. That extra bell is helpful, however, it was more annoying.

Though it was easy to open up and ask questions, I was questioned many times. While sitting in an Advanced English class, a student next to me kept asking me why I was there. After I explained it was for a newspaper story, he insisted he read the notes I jotted down and announced to the class I was writing negatively about the school. At some points I felt as though the students at East thought I was some sort of spy.

Another question that was brought up a few times pertained

to our dress code.

"Is it true you can't wear yoga pants?" a girl shouted during history. I hear enough about this during my regular school day, I didn't want to hear it there, too.

I knew going into this I wouldn't feel at home like I do at Bellevue West, but I realized why it was so hard to adjust: the walls were so bare. I felt like I was in prison. Hardly any posters hung on the wall and classrooms had little to no decoration. Bellevue West has yellow walls and is constantly advertising school events with creative posters. After spending time at East, it made me grateful that our colors are purple and gold.

I missed walking the halls as a T-bird. It's true what they say "The grass is not always greener on the other side." Now I know what it's like on the other side and I am not a fan. In my opinion, it's always a good day to be a T-bird.



Desiree Wilson
Bellevue East
Features Editor

When offered to spend a day at Bellevue West, I jumped at the chance. Visiting a rival school for a whole day and comparing it to mine is an opportunity that not everyone gets. Armed with a visitor pass, notebook, and pencil, I set off to shadow senior Nick Wilkinson throughout his daily schedule, gaining a first-hand look at the daily life of a West student.

Walking through the doors of Bellevue West, a certain familiarity was present. Although the layout of Bellevue West is completely different from that of East, something about it felt like home. No matter which school you are at, you will find the telltale signs of a typical Bellevue school. The Champions for Children sign, recognizable plaques, purple everywhere, and familiar furniture made me feel welcome. Despite small differences throughout the day, I was left wondering what all the rivalry was all about at events such as the East versus West sports games.

The first difference I noticed was that study halls were spread all throughout the school. West students said upperclassmen get the option of having their study hall outside the classroom setting. With one study hall in the cafeteria and another in the commons, students were in a relaxed environment, free to chat amongst themselves and work on homework. At East, however, all study halls are held within the classroom. Although it felt odd to me, West students seemed well accustomed to doing their homework on a lunch table or a bench.

Another important difference, however, stuck out in my mind during first hour. A morning announcement came on,

asking students to "please rise and say the pledge." Accustomed to what I had been doing my whole life, I watched in shock as everyone rose, but not one student uttered a single word. Other than the sound of the pledge on the intercom and my own voice, the room was eerily silent. Unsure as to why no one said it, I asked nearby students, all of whom nonchalantly said they just don't say it. I don't know if every class is like this, but I have never encountered that in any of my classes at East.

Just like East, the bell rang at the end of first hour and students headed to their second hour classes. However, instead of starting their classes straight away, 3 minutes were dedicated to reading the announcements over the intercom before the bell rang for class to start. Pleasantly surprised, I found this to be an excellent way to get information across to students without the guesswork and uncertainty of our third hour teachers casually reading them or projecting them on an overhead, often forgetting to even do so. Once the three minutes were up, second hour officially started and class resumed as usual.

At lunch, students got in line to get their food first and then paid on their way out, which is reversed at East. West's lunch also seemed to have more variety with the addition of Chinese food and a cookie/dessert stand that was run by DECA and was accessible throughout the day. Other than that, the food was just like that of any typical Bellevue school.

As soon as lunch was over (I happened to have 3rd lunch), students headed back to their 5th hour classes to have silent sustained reading (SSR). Being one of the things that East decided to get rid of this year, I missed having that downtime to read and take a break from classwork. When SSR ended, students went to their 6th hour classes and the normal schedule resumed.

Communicating with West students between classes and during free time was easy, as everyone was friendly and open to talk to. Asking questions and comparing differences, people were talkative

and curious about why I was there. Most students said their favorite things about their school are how good the teachers are and how supportive the student body is. In contrast, a least favorite was the unwritten rule against yoga pants/leggings and how strict their deans seem to be (however, I have heard the same complaints about dean strictness from East students). Teachers were courteous as well; all of them welcomed me to their classes, asked questions, and wished me a great time at their school.

As far as stereotypes go, they are strong and present at both schools, with students making uninformed assumptions based on rumors. When asked, some students at East think West is the "preppy" school because they have a slightly lower poverty rate, while some West students think East has better academics and teachers, but terrible athletics. A majority of students I talked to at West, however, find these stereotypes ridiculous, as stereotypes create unnecessary rivalry and hostility. Both schools have the same curriculum, so a lot of stereotypes can be debunked with a little background research.

On a publications aspect, there is not actually that much rivalry between the two schools. Both have different and separate newspaper and yearbook publications; in the end, however, they both serve one common purpose: to report and inform the Bellevue community in a way that is professional, yet visually appealing. When talking to West's newspaper staff, many said they see East more as cousins than rivals.

Although there is some rivalry between Bellevue East and West, in the end, they are still sister schools. Spending a day at West nearly felt like spending a day at East with a different layout, despite small variances. While I do think that they are very similar in a lot of aspects, I wouldn't say I want too much to change in the relationship between the two schools (aside from stereotypes), because a little friendly competition (rivalry) is what makes the two schools fun and gives students a sense of school spirit.

Drones represent excellent opportunity for journalism



Hailey Stolze
Editor in Chief

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) sent The University of Nebraska-Lincoln and The University of Missouri drone labs letters in July directing them to stop outdoor drone flying until they are certified by the government. Drones are "aircraft either controlled by 'pilots' from the ground or increasingly, autonomously following a pre-programmed mission," according to dronewars.net.

The FAA created several restrictions for journalists. Since they are considered "Public Agencies," they are now required to apply for The Certificate of Authorization (COA), which is the application used for government agencies. Journalism shouldn't be associated with the government.

Their application requires what type of drone is being used and when and where they're going to use it. Journalists don't know ahead of time when a major news story, such as the

tornado in Wayne, is going to happen. Restricting journalistic uses for drones is against the first amendment of the constitution.

Journalism is evolving. The public demands to see immediate footage of every newsworthy event. Drones allow journalists to cover fires, tornados, protests, suicide bombings, floods, hurricanes and beyond. Not only are these situations difficult to film, they're also potentially dangerous for the reporter. Allowing journalists to use drones would mean they could get better footage without risking their life.

Comments made on chronicle.com's article "2 Drone-Journalism Programs Seek Federal Approval to Resume Flying," made it evident that some feel drones are a safety issue. It's not like skilled journalists will send out drones miles above the ground to get footage of a hurricane only to have the drone suddenly hit someone in the face. The idea that allowing them to fly with a permit would increase the safety risk makes no sense. Without a permit, drones are allowed to be flown indoors lower to the ground, which increases the risk of injuries.

The main concern most skeptics have with allowing journalists to use drones is privacy. Journalists report what the public needs to know, not private conversations you have with your family inside your

house. Drones were not created to spy on your personal life, but rather report -- with video -- on major events that they otherwise couldn't.

They have no intention of sneaking in your second story window to see what you're up to. Also, they can't publish unedited video footage of anyone who didn't agree to be filmed anyway.

Many are probably still concerned with how the footage will be used. The University of Missouri said they created videos about "bird migration, archaeological excavations and the use of Missouri River water for fracking operations in North Dakota." The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, on the other hand, composed videos about droughts, fires and geese.

Sounds like an unethical invasion of privacy to me.

They won't be like Big Brother watching over everyone. The primary purpose is getting film to use that they otherwise couldn't. Placing limitations on where journalists could report and revisiting ethics will be necessary. Obviously drones wouldn't be allowed to go on private property and in places where someone could potentially get injured.

Once clear journalistic morals are agreed upon and followed, the public should feel more comfortable allowing journalists to use drones.

College prep: step two Applying and buying



Joel Fowler
Reporter

The College Prep column is a recurring guide to help students through their college selection and application process. It will focus on different aspects of getting to college in each issue.

With the first quarter ending, and the holidays just a month away, it is time to start applying to colleges. For those of you who have not gotten serious about college searching yet, you have to be serious now.

Freshman through juniors, many of you may be thinking about college, but still think it is far enough away that you have enough time to do everything. However, understand that college is a big choice and you need to start considering the pros and cons. It is good to go online and start looking for colleges that meet your interests. Look at majors, cost of tuition, location, anything that will be a serious factor in your decision of whether or not to go there.

Find a good list of colleges that meet those basic needs and look into them. Have a list of up to ten colleges that you want to look into in depth and start thinking about which colleges are really best for you.

On top of that, always be

When you have applied,

check for additional criteria that you will need in order to begin the acceptance procedure. This may be different depending on colleges and majors. Some performing arts majors will be asked to audition before admitted into the college, and some colleges will ask for recommendation letters. Try and get these as quickly as possible so the colleges can start considering you as soon as possible.

Finally, you have to start saving up money! This is one of the most important steps for you personally. Whether this money is coming from scholarships or from your own pocket, you have to start raising money and budgeting your spendings. At this point scholarships will do more for you than anything else. Scholarships are out there for anyone who is willing to put in the work to get it done. You do not want to be in debt, or forced to take out student loans. Student loans will only hurt you in the long run and you will most likely regret ever taking student loans out. Sixty percent of college students take out student loans every year, and sixty-two percent of those people continue to owe money when they are thirty. If you take any student loans at all, have a solid plan for paying it off, and hold yourself to that, otherwise you could be paying off loans into your forties or fifties.

College will creep up on you if you procrastinate, so get moving, and start applying. It's time to start take your life into your own hands but you need to take the first steps.

Iowa sees brighter future for blind gun owners



Grant Harrison
Commentary Editor

Continued from page 1

With all that being said, giving guns to the blind isn't such a far-fetched idea. After all, the blind are now driving Google cars, skydiving in Texas, and even painting with their fingers. One Iowa sheriff has reportedly made the first steps in teaching his visually impaired daughter to use firearms.

This is great news for those fighting for equal rights; the blind will finally be able to publicly display our country's most cherished--and in some places, most used--amendment: the second.

Our nation has been founded

upon the idea of life, liberty and the pursuit of firearms. That's why thousands of gun shows are held annually, and why the US has the highest gun ownership rate in the world. Letting the blind carry guns is only an extension of these inalienable rights. Besides, the Americans with Disabilities Act guarantees the blind can keep packing heat. So why wouldn't we want to spread the joy--and the ammo--by giving our blind friends in Iowa the chance to carry? The blind already make excellent gun owners.

When was the last time a news report featured a homicide by a blind man, or of an accidental death related to a blind man's firearm? Most peoples' minds would draw a blank. And while the US leads the world in per capita gun-related homicides, I seriously doubt blind people have much to do with those numbers. The real danger is people who can see what they're aiming at.

That's right. Blind gun-owners don't kill people; people who can see kill people. Every army

in the world, including those responsible for starting two world wars, the succession of Texas, and other atrocities all have one thing in common: they only accept those with vision.

Even innocent civilians with the sharpest of eyes sometimes make mistakes and hurt people. Just ask Cheney. Those with vision are simply more dangerous than those without, proving that the blind are more careful than their vision-gifted peers.

So the next time a gun show comes around your neck of the woods--so long as those woods are in Iowa--you may find a blind person there, too. And while some of your fellow Cornhuskers may jest at an armed blind person, just remember: blind gun owners aren't the ones responsible for the hundreds of accidental firearms related deaths every year.

With laws Wayne LaPierre would be proud of, the state of Iowa has ensured life, liberty and the Second Amendment to its blind gun owners.

Don't fall into the "sweats trap;" stay classy this season



Ashley Quintela
Editor in Chief

Now that the wind is a bit nippy and the temperature took a plunge, it is important to fight the urge of wearing sweat pants and hoodies everyday. I know, for some it is a difficult battle to win, but you have to stay strong. I understand that everyone has their down days, I enjoy my down days very much, but it should only be once in a while. Fall is a wonderful time of year for many

reasons. From pumpkin carving to haunted houses there is always something to love, but my favorite aspect of fall is the clothing.

There are so many cute ways to dress it up on a chilly day. When you wake up and see the trees blowing like crazy, your first instinct is to probably throw on your sweats and brace the cold rather than slipping on a dress. Well, fall dresses happen to be one of my favorite outfits to wear during this season.

When I say "fall dress" I am referring to a dress with long sleeves. I recently purchased a dress online and I cannot wait for it to arrive. It's similar to a baseball tee but in dress form. The sleeves are black while the rest of the dress is grey. Sounds pretty simple right? Well, I love this style so much because it gives me a chance to be creative with

fun accessories. A maroon scarf, printed tights and combat boots would look swell.

If you're not a dress person, fight the urge by wearing jeans. I know most of you would rather lounge in sweats and a hoodie, but there are so many other options. Ripped jeans are my favorite and nothing goes better with them than a long sleeve plaid shirt. It's not too dressy, but still sends off a vibe that you care about your wardrobe. Dark color plaids are a must. Colors such as dark red and army green are perfect colors to sport this time of year.

Sure, it's a tad chilly outside, but stay strong. There are so many options when it comes to fall. Be brave and wear a dress or play it cool and comfy with a nice flannel button up plaid shirt. Sweats and hoodies are nice once in a while, just don't make a habit of it.

Huffman brings new look, new playbook



Continued from page 1

Huffman is excited about the opportunities he can explore while coaching Bellevue West.

“We weren’t able to have a formal entrance at Ft. Calhoun but we came down from the top of the hill and we would come in as the bells tolled in Hells Bells by AC/DC,” Huffman said.

Getting the whole school and community together is a big part of Huffman’s new tradition.

“I want to talk to the band director to see if we can move the band to the other side of the stands. That way we can have our band on one side and our students on the other as we make our way down through the crowd,” Huffman said.

“If the band is on the other side it would

make it more conducive for everybody to sing the school song together.”

Having the team sing the school fight song with the band members after the game was one of the first tasks coach Huffman worked out once he arrived at West.

“I stole that idea from Westside high school in Omaha because I just think it’s cool,” Huffman said. “I’ve always wanted to do the band deal but with such a small school most of the band members were on the football team so the band didn’t perform at our games.”

Another notable change Huffman exercised with the team is the slight change of the football helmet logo.

“We’re building upon the past, the T-bird logo is the same just enhanced

with some T-bird claw marks running through it,” Huffman said.

Along with the miniscule changes to the large logo on the helmet are the new pride stickers Huffman brought to the school.

“The spider stickers, the KODs, are just a reward system for play,” Huffman said.

The pride stickers, KODs (Kiss of Death), are small white spiders that players earn to put on their helmet.

“The KODs we have give players an incentive to play harder,” Brazeal said.

Rather than the aesthetic changes, the playbook got a new look. The read option is a key component to the new play scheme.

“He likes to run but is committed to

the pass. We no longer run a two back set, which was the standard before. We adapt the team based on our strengths of the different athletes,” Moraski said.

The team has been successful so far passing, averaging 246 passing yards a game. Junior receiver Clester Johnson Jr. averages 139 yards per game alone.

Though the plays used in the game appear different, not much about practice has changed.

“The actual football practice has come from a compilation of working with other guys and assistant coaches that bring up ideas,” Huffman said.

A change Huffman would like to see occur is the team’s off-season weight training expand as the era moves along.

“You think of Millard North, their

tradition is ‘we’re gonna pound weights and we are going to physically get after you,’” Huffman said. “As far as weight training is concerned, I learned everything from Jack Oholendt. He’s over at Papillion now but he was the head coach at Burke.”

In previous years, the freshmen and sophomores practiced separately from the varsity and JV. This year, Huffman kept the players together to all learn and grow as players equally.

Now, varsity coaches work with the younger players to develop them at a younger age rather than when they are upper-classmen. Though coach Huffman is a new face around school, his additions to and rendition of Bellevue West football has made an impact on the town.



Photos by Nick Wilkinson

Huffman’s addition to the helmet, a white outline to the “T-Bird” logo along with a Thunderbird claw mark through it, adds a new look to the team’s primary helmet logo. The stickers players earn give the Thunderbirds a distinct look most high schools don’t have.

Weather a factor in Girls State Golf

Mike Sullivan
Reporter

The Bellevue West girls golf team placed last out of 12 teams in the Nebraska State Championship on Oct. 15. This was their third time placing as a team in state competition history and their first time since 2008.

The team competing at state consisted of seniors Nathalie Sanchez and Haley Jones, juniors Kimberly Gau and Marissa Beaulieu and sophomore Mallory Huck.

Originally, the championship was to be split into two rounds. However, the first day was cancelled due to inclement weather. The competition started the next day.

“It was pretty cold the whole time,” said Sanchez, who started varsity all four years of her high school career. “And there were 30 mile per hour winds, so things weren’t exactly in our favor.”

While the team expressed that they hadn’t played often in weather like that before, they also considered it a major learning and bonding experience.

“The girls are a very close-knit group of girls,”

coach Dave Shillinglaw said.

Shillinglaw explained the mental nature of golf when compared to other sports. He highlighted that the girls’ ability to handle the pressure and the isolation has consistently improved over the years.

“We were playing in rough conditions,” said Sanchez. “If you can handle playing in those conditions, then you can handle playing in any conditions.”

Shillinglaw noted that Sanchez is one of the best players Bellevue West had. He also expressed that the athletic prowess and hard work of the team as a whole has played a huge role in their placement in the state golf competition.

Both seniors of the team have expressed that, although this is their last year, their golfing doesn’t end here.

“I hope to go to college on a golf scholarship,” Sanchez said. “I’ve been talking to coaches. If not, I’ll just continue to play.”

Jones also hopes to play in college, but on an intramural team for fun.

“There is always room for improvement,” Shillinglaw said. “I just wish I could keep the team from this year until next year.”

Winter Season

Basketball

Dec. 12 @ Omaha North
Girls- 5:30 PM
Boys- 7:15 PM

Dec. 14 vs. Millard North
Girls- 5:30 PM
Boys- 7:15 PM

Wrestling

Dec. 10 vs. Ralston
Varsity Dual
7 PM

Swimming

Dec. 10 @ Omaha Bryan
Varsity Dual
4:30 PM

Sports

All Winter season practices begin on November 18

Graphic by Nick Wilkinson

Thunderbirds learn true meaning of October

Megan Yanders
Reporter

In the NFL, players support breast cancer awareness by wearing various pieces of pink game day attire and then auctioning them off after the game; the money they earn goes to support breast cancer organizations. At Bellevue West, athletes are running a similar program to support the fight against breast cancer, in the form of “paying for pink.”

“What I’ve noticed over the last five years coaching football is that awareness of breast cancer has increased, especially with the NFL, and that trickled down to college, and of course, everything that

does that trickles down to high school,” Head Football Coach Michael Huffman said.

Huffman saw that, though the awareness has increased, many players were wearing pink without truly knowing why and supporting breast cancer.

“What I was realizing was that kids were wearing pink just to wear pink versus what they were supposed to be wearing pink for,” Huffman said.

Junior wide receiver C.J. Johnson believes wearing pink and earning money is important because it shows support for breast cancer.

“It shows that we care about people’s health and cancer, and that we

are supporting the search for a cure,” Johnson said.

Football players pay a set amount for to wear pink clothing, which is different for each piece of clothing.

“Depending on what they want to wear, whether it be shoes, socks, gloves, Under Armour or wristbands, they have to put together a monetary package. If you want to wear a wristband, it’s about a five dollar donation to the [Susan G.] Komen Foundation,” Huffman said.

The athletes are only going to wear and pay to wear pink for one game, the last home game of the season.

“It’ll be that last home game against Omaha North on the eighteenth of Oc-

tober,” Huffman said.

Despite this, Huffman expects to raise a significant amount of money for the Komen Foundation.

“I’m excited to see [how much money the football team will raise]. I saw on film last year that our guys like to wear their pink, so I’m expecting it to be a pretty good chunk, maybe a couple hundred dollars,” Huffman said.

In past years the players supported breast cancer also by wearing pink accessories.

“They had us wear pink the whole month of October,” Johnson said.

Breast cancer survivor Alice Dobbins believes that it is important to

spread awareness so people can learn to get tested to stop cancer before it spreads.

“Awareness will teach people to get tested and catch cancer early, like mine was,” Dobbins said.

Huffman puts stress on the importance of supporting breast cancer and doing what you can.

“One thing we can do, as men, is raising some finances to help find a cure. I want the boys to understand why they’re wearing pink. Not just wearing it to be cool. They’re not wearing it to make some kind of fashion statement. Ibs to create awareness for breast cancer, which is great,” Huffman said.



Chloe Brim
Features Editor

Some Bellevue West athletes never have a break when it comes to sports. The school year begins with football season and makes a sudden switch over to wrestling and basketball season later in the fall. Athletes must force themselves out of the mindset of one sport and into the mindset of another.

“It is difficult switching from one sport to another because I don’t get any time off. I go straight from football ending to the start of wrestling season,” senior Rusty Barber said.

Student athletes get help from their coaches when making the switch through different workouts and preparing for the upcoming season.

“The coaches help us by the work-

outs they usually have us do. Coach Huffman does a really good job of designing workouts that don’t just make us better football players, but better all around athletes,” senior Ryan Curl said.

Curl is experiencing the switch over to a new sports season for the first time this year. He is wrestling as well as playing football.

“I think it will be hard switching just because I have never done it before,” Curl said.

Unlike Curl, Barber made the switch from football to wrestling season many times before. The difficult part about the switch is making dietary changes.

“My diet has to be altered during different seasons. I have to cut back and watch what I eat,” Barber said.

Junior Malik Hluchowecyj is unique in the fact that he never changes his

diet during different seasons. The food he eats never affects how he performs athletically.

“I can eat whatever I want,” Hluchowecyj said.

Although being in multiple sports is difficult, student athletes agree it makes for a better athlete and competitor. Focusing on sports year round improves skills needed to be a successful athlete.

“I think it makes you more versatile and it makes you do things other athletes who only play one sport can’t do,” Hluchowecyj said.

In order to play multiple sports, athletes have to condition for each sport they participate in. Conditioning is different for every sport, and it is important that athletes properly condition for each season.

“For football my workouts are more

explosive, and for wrestling there is more cardio involved,” Barber said.

Most athletes tend to prefer one sport over another when majorly involved in the activities they do. Football is one of the significant favorites because of the relationships players make with each other.

“I enjoy football more because there is a lot more people I enjoy being around and practice seems to go a lot faster,” Barber said.

Curl has been playing football since a young age and it has helped him meet new people over the years.

“I like football the best. I’ve played it since I was little and I’ve met some of my closest friends through football,” Curl said.

Junior Brad Cluff doesn’t have the struggle of switching over to different

sports during the year. He focuses on basketball throughout the whole year. Although Cluff does not struggle with switching over seasons, he does struggle with wanting more variety in his athletics.

“It’s nice because I can focus on one sport all year and get better. I do get tired of it sometimes though, and I want more variety,” Cluff said.

Wanting more variety is said to be normal for young athletes.

“I just want the experience of trying something else, and to get a break from basketball,” Cluff said.

After playing one sport, it becomes a relief to student athletes to have a change in the activities they participate in.

“It is a big relief because sometimes you get really caught up in playing one sport, so it is a good change of pace for an athlete,” Hluchowecyj said.

Football
@ Omaha Burke
Oct. 25, 7 PM

Volleyball
Conference Championship
Oct. 28- Oct. 31

Football
Class A Playoffs
Nov. 1, 7 PM

Volleyball
District Tournament
Nov. 4- Nov. 7

Volleyball
State Championship
Nov. 14