

With no one stepping up to be chairperson,  
After Prom needs help. Read more on page 2.

After years of success, coaches leave legacies,  
inspire future coaches. Read more on page 5.

*'Either write something  
worth reading or do  
something worth writing.'*  
—Benjamin Franklin

# The West Wind

Bellevue West High School • 1501 Thurston Avenue, Bellevue, NE 68123 • bvwnewspaper@gmail.com • www.thethunderbeat.org • 402-293-4068 • Sept. 26, 2014

## East-West football game held at West for second year in a row



Stock Photo

Tonight, the annual East-West football game will be held at West for the second year in a row due to redistricting.

**Emma Larson  
Reporter**

The Bellevue East-West football game is a major production every school year. These two schools both take turns hosting this event, and last year, the game was held at West. Because of the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA)'s redistricting of schools, the Thunderbirds are set to play the Chiefs at home for the second year in a row.

Every two years, all of Nebraska's high schools are put into new districts based on enrollment.

"We classify football every two years, and every two years there is a new scheduling cycle. So, this is the first year of a two-year cycle," Associate Director of the NSAA Debra Velder said.

When the NSAA redistricts these schools, each

school has to be given at least four home games. If the East-West game was given to East, then they would have too many home games, and Bellevue West would be left with only three.

These rules of classification have not only affected Bellevue West, but East as well. Some students at East felt that they would have been more motivated to attend a home game, rather than at West.

"It's just a school spirit type of thing. When I'm at my own school, I'm a lot more supportive and confident at the game," Bellevue East sophomore Elaine Stueve said.

Students at Bellevue East who can't drive also expressed concern from the time after school until the game.

"Now I don't have a ride. If it was at East I could just stay at school until the game,"

Bellevue East sophomore Christina Sullivan said.

Nonetheless, Bellevue West is already preparing for the game. FBIA will host their annual tailgate cookout from 4:30-7 p.m., and both bands and dance teams will make an appearance at the game. The two schools will join together to play the national anthem at the beginning of the game, and halftime will feature the performance of their show, "Cathedrals," as well as the Thunderettes.

"We're prepared for the amount of people we're going to have, but we want everybody to just enjoy the experience and enjoy coming together for the game," Bellevue West Activities Director Jon Mauro said.

The game will be at Fauman Field at 7 p.m. on Sept. 26.

## New softball, volleyball coaches start fall seasons



Photo by Codi Pierce

Softball coach Laura Kratochvil talks to her team at the East-West game

**Sam Sobczyk  
Reporter**

Students attending softball or volleyball games this fall may notice two new faces on the coaching staffs. These new coaches are Laura Kratochvil and Christina Reicks. Kratochvil is the new head coach of the varsity softball team. She played as a catcher at Creighton with a .984 career fielding percentage. Before coming to Bellevue West she was an assistant coach with the Creighton Bluejays. At Creighton she worked mostly with catchers.

The softball team is excited to have Kratochvil as a coach.

"They've taught me to be mentally strong and to

always respect the game. Even though this is my first and last year with them, I'll never forget how much of an impact these coaches have made in my life," senior Sara Haake said.

The team opened up their season with a loss against Elkhorn South. They then came back with a 16-0 win over Benson.

"Our coaches definitely work us hard. We are being challenged to get 1% better with each practice and game that comes along, and they do not mess around. We definitely leave the field sweating after each practice and no practice is easy," senior Kaitlyn Buresh said.

Volleyball also has a new head coach, Christi-

na Reicks. Reicks graduated from Bellevue West in 2003. She played volleyball for the Thunderbirds and went to the state tournament all four years. She then went on to play volleyball at both Winthrop University in South Carolina and at University of Nebraska Omaha.

Now she teaches 3rd grade at Fort Crook Elementary. Reicks has been with the Bellevue West volleyball program for seven years, working her way up from coaching the freshman team all the way to head varsity coach.

"I think we have a lot more potential and talent on this team than we have had before," senior Savannah Conyers said.

The volleyball team opened up their season on Friday Sept. 5, hosting the Bellevue West Invitational. At press time the team was 5-11, with wins over Bellevue East, Bishop Heelan, and Burke.

"I'm very excited for this season, we have a lot of potential but just need to learn how to use it. I love the girls I'm working with. A lot of them I coached on JV when they first started playing, so they are a special group to me." They have a lot of heart and passion for the sport and push themselves daily," Reicks said.

**Patience Jurgens  
Reporter**

At Bellevue West's first pep-rally of the 2014-2015 school year, the school was presented with a No Place for Hate banner from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

For West to be able to receive this banner they had to go through six steps, which included submitting a form, getting all necessary signatures, and submitting all results to the Anti-Defamation League.

"I contacted the ADL and you have to do two activities throughout the school year in order to be known as a 'No Place for Hate' school. You also have to have students and staff sign a banner," dean Jessica Frank said, "[The] administration takes pride in their abilities to make all students feel safe."

They also credited the staff and students who attended Inclusion camp for stepping up and helping five their signature signatures and the school activities. One such activity last year was when they encouraged students to sit at a table with strangers and get to know them. After finishing all the required



Photo by Patience Jurgens

A banner in the commons declares Bellevue West 'No Place For Hate'

steps, the ADL provided the banner to Bellevue West.

"No Place for Hate® in schools seeks to provide a model for combating intolerance, bullying and hatred, leading to long-term solutions to these problems in schools," according to the ADL's website.

With the campaign students, staff, and administration are expected to carry on the program by promoting everything that No Place For Hate promotes, by respecting others, stopping bullying, and reporting when either disrespect or bullying happens.

"Because we are an official No Place for Hate I think it's a program we should respect and that we have to

uphold ourselves to. So now that we've accomplished this big goal we need to be able to keep it, and I think it's something great for all students to remember," Renee Pineda said.

Schools in Iowa and Kansas are already official No Place For Hate schools. In Nebraska, schools including Holy Name School, Burke High School, and Northwest High School also participated in the campaign.

"It's a good step in general for Bellevue West and in the direction we want to go, and just making sure that we are welcoming of anyone who steps inside our school," Frank said.

## Dodge ball concludes tournament with championship game at Bellevue East



Photo by Codi Pierce

This year's dodge ball tournament ran from Sept. 17 to Sept. 19 and was held in the South Gym, with "Team Number Juan" (not pictured above) winning the tournament Friday during finals in GPS. To enter the tournament, each player had to pay \$5 for entry. All proceeds benefitted the Nebraska Children's Home, raising \$439. The championship game against Bellevue East's top dodge ball team was Thursday, Sept. 25 at Bellevue East.

## Opinion: Grading changes allow flexibility

**Kylie Fenger  
Commentary Editor**

In 1906, Vilfredo Pareto noticed the unequal distribution of wealth in his village. He calculated that 80 percent of Italy's land, the home of his village, was owned by 20 percent of the population. From here, Pareto observed that 20 percent of his fresh peas were derived from 80 percent of his pea pods. This created the Pareto Principle, which basically states 80 percent of the effects stems from 20 percent of the causes. Now the principle once used to gauge garden veggies' production, will measure students behavior and academic worth.

This year, eight teachers at Bellevue West are testing a grading version of Pareto's principle, where summative

tests are 80 percent of the academic grade, while formative are 20 percent. Every student graded with the method should be praising Pareto because his principle positively changed the way students are evaluated.

The best part about this grading method is, under the "official" rules, all summatives can be retaken, regardless of the initial score. This means no one has a reason to fail, which eliminates the stress and test anxiety, but it still proves how much students know because they still have to study in order to pass. Many teachers require extra work before their students are eligible to try again. School should always allow second chances.

Continued on page 3.

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## Food changes affect lunches, fundraising

Katie Allen  
Sports Editor

Michelle Obama's campaign for obesity prevention, "Let's Move," prompted the Senate to propose the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act, providing healthy options served at school to all students.

The new standards include a list of certain requirements that school lunches have to meet. A food item cannot be more than 350 calories per meal and 200 calories per snack. The food item cannot cross over a certain amount of fat, sugar, and sodium, and needs nutritional value with almost no empty calories.

The policy also states that the same new nutritional standards applied to school lunches are used for fundraising as well. Two

Instead, the clubs will try and utilize the four days given per year to fundraise.

"Last year we started Krispy Kreme because they are a national sponsor of FBIA, and it worked out great. We earned a lot of money selling donuts three days a week, so with that being off the table we are still going to utilize our four days during the year and will sell donuts all day long on those four days," FBIA sponsor Pat Hinkle said.

DECA is also taking advantage

great opportunity," Slade said.

The changes also apply to lunch.

"I find it easier because they tell me exactly what I have to serve. Before we could pick and choose vegetables, but this way I know exactly what we're going to serve. The thing is if the kids don't eat it what do you do?" head of kitchen staff Beverly Riha said.

According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), 48 out of 50 states found difficulties with the act. Combinations like cheese sticks and shrimp were served to try and maneuver with the new rules in some schools. Students purchasing school lunches declined by more than one million last year alone.

Junior Josiah Ewing remarked on the whole grain bread that is used for school lunches.

"I remember we had a chicken patty for lunch and it was just disgusting. I didn't eat the bread on it, just the patty," Ewing said.

Other students disagree with the reduction of calories present in lunches.

"I play football and I know that I'm hungry when I go to practice. I'd rather be full at school. That way I can focus in my classes," junior Adonis Dotson said.

Still, some see the new policy differently. "I didn't really notice any changes. I'm a person who normally at school tries to make healthier decisions anyway and I feel like that's something everybody should consider. Even athletes who say that they need more calories during the day that's completely understandable, but at the end of the day it's about what you're putting in your body not how much," senior Delaney Jackson said.

of the two days per semester.

"Our ideas are hopefully incorporating it with some spirit weeks and getting people happy for spirit weeks means getting more money to spend hopefully. We're definitely using all of those days," senior Jazmine Rosemond said.

Last year, ROTC participated in a fundraiser selling Chick-fil-A to students while the school dismissal bell rang now, the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act restricts selling the sandwiches on school property.

"We won't be able to do it because of the calories we're allowed to have as students," senior James Lewis said.

Although the new legislation shook things up for students at West, at least one student sees a silver lining.

"At the same time...I think it's a great time and a great way for all the DECA students to show what we're really about because this is what we do, finding new ideas and actually being marketing students. So it's a



Photo by Katie Allen

After recent nutrition regulation changes, many of the vending machine snacks have been replaced.

## After Prom planning lacks leader

Grant Harrison  
Editor in Chief

With no chairpersons stepping up to head the various planning committees, Bellevue West may not see an After Prom this year.

"Typically what happens in a given year is the chair people from last year would have lined a couple people up to chair this year's event. One of the [previous] chair people has moved, and so that never happened. At this point we don't have a chairperson to oversee the whole project," Principal Kevin Rohlf said.

Both teachers, however, agreed that the effort is worth the investment.

"It was so rewarding knowing that I was involved in something that my kids had a great time at, and that so many of their friends and my students had a great time at," Seager said.

Much of the groundwork has already been laid for this year's After Prom. The previous chairperson made contact with the hypnotist; leftover money from last year's After Prom was set aside; and plans for various games and attractions are in progress.

***We're trying to get the word out right now that we need a couple sets of parents to step up and chair. [After Prom] is a parent event, and if we don't have the parents to run it, it won't be held.***

If no one accepts the position, Rohlf warned West wouldn't have an After Prom.

"It's a parent event, and if we don't have the parents to run it, it won't be held," Rohlf said.

Organizing the event is a large responsibility, Rohlf said, but it's not for financial reasons that no one has accepted the position: parents who help organize After Prom are under no stipulation to give money.

"It does take some take work. But there's no required [financial] expenditure," Rohlf said.

Business teacher Gogi Supenski and math teacher Cindy Seager, who served 8 consecutive years as co-chairs, noted that the position involves months of planning and coordination.

"We were trained somewhat. But once you jump into it, you learn a lot about the details that need to be done," Supenski said.

"A lot of the pieces are in place; our last chairperson left [us] in good shape," Rohlf said.

Ideas for fundraising are likewise fully developed. Every year the district budgets money for the event; and both high schools send out a joint letter to local businesses requesting donations. Staff members, too, help finance After Prom.

"Fridays are staff jeans days where they have to pay a buck to have to wear jeans and all that money goes to post prom. So we raise almost \$2,000 every year," Rohlf said.

While the PTSA contributes to After Prom, they are ultimately not responsible for its organization—that task falls to the hands of willing parents.

Though After Prom is still months out, preparatory work still needs to begin.

"Somebody now has to get the ball rolling," Rohlf said.

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A cartoon illustration of two women in a gym. One woman with blonde hair and a pink top is standing and talking to another woman who is bent over, measuring her buttocks with a tape measure. There are two wooden benches with blue weights in the background.



# Shades of Success

## Coaches leave legacies for T-Birds

Emma Larson  
Reporter

Over the years, Bellevue West has made significant achievements in sports. The credit goes not only to the team, but to the coaches who used their individual styles to guide the players to success.

"Success comes in a lot of different shades and a lot of different colors, and everybody's got to find their own way of coaching, and be successful doing that," boys varsity basketball coach Doug Woodard said.

Woodard has been the head basketball coach since 1998, and is one in a long line of legacy-building coaches at Bellevue West. He is following in the footsteps of the late John Faiman.

Faiman, who was the varsity football coach at Bellevue West for 26 years, passed away in June of 2012. During his coaching career, Faiman earned ten state playoff appearances. Faculty members remember him for his compassion for his athletes, not only in how they executed on the field, but more importantly how they carried themselves as people.

"[Faiman's] impact was more than just football; it was about doing what's right for each of our student-athletes. His saying always was 'family, school, football,' and he really believed that. He coached some amazing games, and really got the kids to believe in what he was doing," principal Kevin Rohlf said.

In addition, Joanne Kappas took over the volleyball program in 1987, and made West a strong competitor. Under her reign, the team won 11 state championships, six of them consecutively. She retired from West in 2005, and now coaches at Millard South.

"Kappas put this school on the map in volleyball. They won an incredible amount of championships in the decade of the 90s and the mid 2000s, and people are still respectful of Bellevue West from a volleyball perspective because of what she built," Woodard said.

The list of notable coaches at Bellevue West continued with Matt Fritsche, who accepted the position of head girls basketball coach in 2002. During the next decade, he built up the program, and pushed the team to earn a win-loss record of 199-56, as well as three state championships. Fritsche moved on in 2012 to the head coaching position at Midland University, and is now the assistant coach for women's basketball at Creighton University.

"Coach Fritsche got that program turned around and moving in a very positive direction. [Fritsche] focused on what was best for the student-athletes first, and said we'll be good at basketball, too. He's really established us as a powerhouse for girls basketball," Rohlf said.

These coaches are no longer employed at Bellevue West yet are still prominent figures in our school's athletic history. Various tributes have been made to these individuals to

acknowledge their achievements. The football field has been renamed in memoriam of John Faiman.

Rohlf explained that in addition to the dedication, fundraising projects have been put in place to construct an entryway in honor of the coach. Joanne Kappas was added to the Bellevue West Athletic Hall of Fame in 2014 in recognition of her success in the volleyball program.

Over the last several years, the athletic department has welcomed a number of new members. Michael Huffman led the football team as head coach beginning last season, and Jon Mauro took the position as West's new Activities Director. This year's new coaches are Rick Mintken, girls basketball head coach; Laura Kratochvil, head softball coach; Christina Reicks, head volleyball coach; Tom White, head boys soccer coach; and Jeremy Shockey, head baseball coach.

These new coaches have been chosen to lay the foundation for success and to keep Bellevue West as a strong athletic competitor.

"I want somebody that the students respect, that the community respects; somebody [who] represents Bellevue West in a positive light every time they step out. Any kind of legacy means long term. It's got to be somebody who's going to do that over a period of years, and then when they leave, what they've started is going to continue. It just doesn't stop because they're gone," Rohlf said.

### 9/12/14 • FAIMAN FIELD • BELLEVUE WEST FOOTBALL



TOTAL OFFENSE:	380	344
PASSING:	190	220
RUSHING	190	124
DEFENSE: Sacks-Yards Lost	2/11.0	0/0

Graphic by Michael Navratil

## Homecoming game recap

Katie Allen  
Sports Editor

The student section showed their spirit by wearing jungle-themed attire, the marching band took the field for their performance at half-time, and C.J. Johnson and Katie Cashin were crowned king and queen. On top of all the excitement, the Thunderbirds came out on top

with a win over Omaha South.

The final score of the homecoming game was 56-22. West finished with 380 offensive yards over South's 344.

Senior Kyle Doshier and senior Michael Perkins each had a sack for a total of 11 yards lost. Chris Hahn was eight for eight for PATs. According to maxpreps.com, Hahn leads the state in PATs.

Junior Jayden Kowalski scored

three rushing touchdowns while senior C.J. Johnson and junior Cade Johnson each put two touchdowns on the board. Sophomore Jaylin Bradley contributed by adding one touchdown.

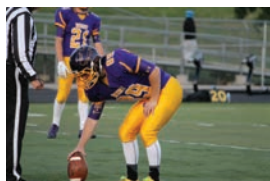
The Thunderbirds fell to Omaha North Vikings the week after, 62-21. On Sept. 26, West will play cross-town rivals Bellevue East at Faiman Field.

Both school records currently stand at 3-1.



Photos by Savannah Thomas

Above: Senior Nolan Anderson makes a defensive play against competitors Omaha South. Below: Junior Chris Hahn prepares for a kick-off to return the ball to the Packers.



## Up Next

Cross Country  
vs. Kearney  
Sept. 29, 3:00p.m.

Girls Golf Metros  
@ Elmwood Golf  
Course  
Sept. 30, 9a.m.

Football  
vs. South Sioux  
City  
Oct. 3, 7:00p.m.

Volleyball  
vs. Omaha North  
Oct. 7, 7:00p.m.

Boys Tennis Metros  
@Koch Tennis  
Center  
Oct. 9, 2:30p.m.

Volleyball  
Westside Invitational  
Oct. 14, 6:30p.m.

Cross Country  
vs. Papillion La Vista  
Oct. 17, 4:00p.m.



Photo by Emily Brandon

Hail Royalty: C.J. Johnson and Katie Cashin, nominated for homecoming court, greet the crowd after being crowned king and queen.



# Making the cut: What it takes to play on varsity at Bellevue West

Emma Larson  
Reporter

Sports have been a significant part of the "high school experience" for decades. Athletes practice long and hard to represent their school, and the rest of the student body makes memories by attending the games. While supporting their school from the stands, students don't realize how much time and effort these individuals put into the sport to leave the game victorious. Student-athletes from Bellevue West share their secrets to success, and the dedication it takes to compete at a varsity level.

Earning a spot on a varsity team is not an easy accomplishment. The glory comes with a fair share of long and hard hours of practice, off-season conditioning, and mental challenges. Coaches decide which individuals can withstand this pressure and benefit Bellevue West's athletic program as a whole. Head football coach Michael Huffman explained what he expects from his varsity football players.

"We look for a commitment level. They need to be both mentally and physically ready, meaning at the varsity level you're going to get beat sometimes. Are you able to be persistent and bounce back, and not get down if someone happens to get the best of you? Physically, in the game of football, there are some attributes that you have to have. You've got to have a certain strength level, some speed, and some size to be able to compete on a Friday night," Huffman said.

Most athletes are pursued by the coaches, although the motivation comes not only from their instructors, but from within themselves. A level of passion has helped Bellevue West students to succeed in their respective sports. Sophomore Jaylin Bradley made the varsity football team his freshman year. He felt that his love for the game helped him stick with the sport has led to his accomplishments in football.

"Football is something I plan on playing for the rest of my life," Bradley said.

Another factor that helps athletes succeed in a game are strong bonds they develop with their teammates. Coaches look for leadership qualities, and the ability to work well with the other players on the team. Sophomore Kevin Ponce made the Freshman A football team last school year, and took pride in being a varsity starter this season. Omaha news channel KXVO referred to him as the "anchor of the Bellevue West's defensive line." He credits some of his accomplishments to the teammates that have helped to create a positive environment.

"I play football because I like the game, and the atmosphere you get when you're with your teammates," Ponce said.

In addition to being emotionally connected to the sport and teammates, athletes described that accomplishments they have made in their sport motivate them to train hard and reach their full potential. Junior Christian Young made the varsity cross country team as a sophomore. He placed 15th out of 126 runners at the Class of the Metro Invitational on Sept. 15.

"I'm most proud of placing well at my race. There were a lot of guys running," Young said.

An athlete must also be dedicated to earn a spot on varsity. Most sports teams at Bellevue West practice four to five days a week, if not more, as well as conditioning during the off-seasons.

"You have to be dedicated 100 percent. There's no off days or anything," sophomore Nate Frazier, who made varsity this season, said.

During the off seasons, athletes are expected to stay in shape and eat healthy. Bradley wrestles during his off-seasons, and Frazier conditions in the weight room. Sophomore Travis Burmeister made the varsity tennis team this season, and he stressed the importance of staying active even when his season ends.

"If you want to be good at the sport you have to put in the extra work. I took a lot of extra lessons, and I also practiced a lot during the summer when we didn't have practice," Burmeister said.



Photo by Bryn Estlund

Sophomore Travis Burmeister warms up for a dual. Burmeister hits a forehand return. Tennis players are required to practice for a maximum of ten minutes before a match.

## Freshmen achieve varsity spots

Codi Pierce  
Reporter

This year at Bellevue West, two rookies are on varsity. Freshman A.J. Forbes has earned a starting spot on the football field while freshman Laura Jurek has earned a starting spot on the volleyball court.

Compared to middle school sports, high school sports are more intense and competitive. Going from being a middle school athlete to a starting varsity athlete is a huge leap.

"High school ball is a whole new game and a very different scheme," freshman A.J. Forbes said.

Freshman Laura Jurek feels like being a freshman on varsity is a pressured position. This requires her to step up and not let her teammates and coaches down.

"I think my coach expects a lot from me and has high standards. I think she just wants to see me do my best and not lack responsibility and try my hardest," Jurek said.

Being a varsity athlete requires certain physical attributes that pertain to the sport in which you're competing in. A player has to have the mental ability to recognize complex play situations that wouldn't exist on a younger team.

"You have to have some persistence because at the varsity level you're going to get beat once in awhile because the other teams have good players as well," head varsity football coach Michael Huffman said.

Forbes believes Huffman ex-



Photo by Codi Pierce

Football players A.J. Forbes and sophomore Tyler Curren walk off the field after practice.

pects a lot out of him as a player and has made it a goal to exceed his expectations.

"Since I'm a freshman on varsity he expects me to learn the offense and defense because he brought me up to varsity for a reason," Forbes said.

Jurek and Forbes prepared for their seasons by working with the varsity teams over the summer.

"I played summer league and also did a Creighton camp with the team," Jurek said.

Forbes worked with his dad and did a weightlifting program.

"As far as footwork and plays are concerned, senior Brook Pecka and sophomore Tyler Curren pose as role models for Forbes.

"Tyler is one of the guys that made me consider going to Bellevue West because I was really determined

to go to Creighton Prep," Forbes said. "Then I shadowed over here and just felt really at home."

Jurek said seniors Savannah Conyers and Sage Meyer are her role models on the team. Meyer's talent as an outside hitter and Conyers's ability to lead her team are inspiring for Jurek.

"They set a good example for me and I want to do my best to be like them," Jurek said.

Usually, the upperclassmen are the ones getting the starting position. Just because they are freshmen doesn't mean they aren't capable of being right beside the seniors.

"I don't like the thought of me being a freshman makes me any different from everyone else," Forbes said. "I'm just part of the team. I have as much responsibility as anyone else."

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## Golfers' absence affects academics

Sam Sobczyk  
Reporter

Many students like to miss school. Whether they are absent for a doctor's appointment, for a school sponsored competition, or for a school sport, they just want to get out. Among all the ways for students to not attend school, the most common way is through school sports.

Of all the athletes in the school, golfers are absent the most days. Golfers regularly miss their classes in order to compete. That can make the sport more appealing to some students, while others may view

this as a problem. Golf takes a large commitment from those who participate in it.

"A lot of people think it's cool that we get to miss so much school, but the reality is that it is really hard to catch up, especially when you have AP and advanced classes," senior Kim Gau said.

The golf season lasts seven weeks from mid-August until mid-October, and students will miss an average of two days each week in order to attend golf meets. These golf meets typically begin as early as eight in the morning and last all day.

Any sport is a major commitment, athletes are required to prac-

tice almost every day that there is not a game.

Athletes of any sport are rarely home before 6:00. Then they eat dinner and do their homework. Some athletes even have to work. By the time this is all done, it is often as late as 10:00. Golfers will regularly have a full days worth of homework to complete when they have meets.

When golfers miss school for golf meets the amount of homework that they have to make up is often very overwhelming. They will have missed out on valuable in-class lectures dealing with the homework they were given, making it even more difficult to complete.



## Sam Sobczyk Asks Mark Scobey

**Sam:** Have you ever played or considered playing a sport other than football?

**Scobey:** Yeah I played basketball in gym class once.

**Sam:** What is your favorite part about football?

**Scobey:** When my foot touches the ball.

**Sam:** Are there any fine honeys in your life?

**Scobey:** What does that even mean?

**Sam:** How many times have you watched Eat Pray Love?

**Scobey:** Nope.

**Sam:** What are your plans for after High School?

**Scobey:** Sleep.

## JROTC tries new ways of collecting for food drive

Jason Jerrell  
Reporter

Every year Bellevue West's Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) puts on a food drive during the West-East game for the Bellevue Food Pantry to help fill its stock for the upcoming holiday season. This year, they are changing things up a little.

"We have two competitions going. One is for the GPSes to compete against each other; for those that gather the most canned food will get a pizza party. The other one we are going to do is raffle tickets. You bring in a can of food you get a raffle ticket, bring in three cans of food you get three raffle tickets," JROTC teacher Lt. Col. Scott Vanderhoof said.

The hope is that this year the

food drive will gain more publicity than years past and because of that a lot more food will be donated. They do the food drive every year but this is the first time they will be doing it during school before the game. Normally it only takes place at the game itself.

"Last year we didn't get a lot of response, so this year we are trying to advertise it more and seeing if we can get some competition going to hopefully get more cans," Vanderhoof said.

There were three prizes for the raffle. The drawings began on Wednesday and end today. The prize on Wednesday was a T-shirt, the prize on Thursday was a \$25 gift card to the T-Bird store, the prize today is a \$50 prepaid Visa card. There was one drawing a day.

JROTC puts the students in

charge of setting up everything and organizing the fundraiser. It takes many people to get the ball rolling and the teachers can only help with so much of it.

Every student in JROTC helps pitch in to make the food drive happen, and to get the most donations as possible.

"I haven't been involved much for the past few years but this year I plan on being in charge of it," JROTC student senior Nate Magee said.

JROTC is using the canned food drive to work together by advertising bringing more attention to the food drive and building a better relationship with the students.

"I'm part of ROTC so all the instructors say for the students to go out and advertise about it. So everyone in ROTC is part of it because

all of us are a group and a team and we are all doing this together," JROTC student senior Nick Lawrence said.

Students will still have the opportunity to bring cans to the West-East game like they have in the past.

"The deadline for the canned food drive will be the Friday of the West-East game. So what we will do is we will actually set up containers at the game so people can bring cans to the game," Vanderhoof said.

JROTC students feel like they



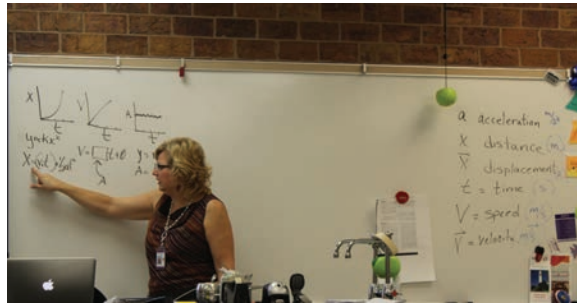
Graphic by Haile Cox

can achieve their goal and even surpass it. Getting as many cans as possible is always the goal.

We have always set a goal and we have always met it and even gone above," Magee said.

Students can bring cans tonight to the JROTC table at the game.

## Elliott receives Teaching Excellence Award



Brooke Riley  
Reporter

Photo by Rae Rangel

Jan Elliott teaches physics and AP Physics at Bellevue West. Elliott received a National Education Association Foundation award for teaching excellence.

At Bellevue West, many teachers work very hard to help their students succeed, but physics teacher Janis Elliott proved herself to be an exceptional teacher. Last April, she became a State and National winner of the Teaching Excellence Award.

"Mrs. Elliott takes the time to

build relationships with the students in her classroom, the families of her students, her colleagues, and the community. The extra effort allows her to be effective in the classroom," science department chair person Nicole Menard said.

Elliott performed certain tasks

to meet the criteria of nomination. Elliott said the teacher must be innovative in the classroom and teach "creatively and hands on" while still applying the real world to learning. Candidates need to teach all the students regardless of their needs or skills and reach out to the

community.

Principal Kevin Rohlfs said the students also had an impact on Elliott's nomination.

"The award groups like to hear from students and the students have a lot of positive things to say about her," Rohlfs said.

Her teaching styles, according to students, makes the class interesting. Junior Veronica Bryant said Elliott doesn't give unnecessary work and won't allow students to take a test unless she feels they are ready for it. Elliott was inspired to become a teacher from her own high school teachers and has been working at Bellevue West since 1998. Many of her co-workers impacted her as a teacher. Elliott said "the professionals at Bellevue West are the best."

"Mrs. Elliott stands out from the teachers I have had in the past... She adds in fun facts that you wouldn't know that are really interesting and it makes the class easier to listen to," junior Gabby Duron said.

Elliott said her students are hands on in the lessons. They work together and teach each other.

Rohlfs said any teacher could pull out a textbook and have it be a dry class, but she looks at ways to

bring different activities into what she teaches.

"I am no good at science but what she has been teaching so far makes sense," Bryant said.

Elliott said she was thrilled when she found out she won the award and it was nice to be recognized by her peers.

"Mrs. Elliott is a great self-advocate. She is not afraid to acknowledge what she does well and celebrate those talents. We could all learn from her example," Menard said.

Elliott said her future plan is to learn Spanish for her upcoming trip to Peru as a part of a 10 month learning fellowship. She, along with about 40 other teachers across the nation, will study online about the culture, history, and economy. Their trip is next June; they will represent America in the fellowship.

According to the NEA foundation website, the awards for Teaching Excellence "recognize educators whose professional practice and advocacy for the profession are exemplary." Learn more about the NEA Foundation Global Learning fellowship at [www.neafoundation.org](http://www.neafoundation.org).



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## Voodoo Taco offerings just right and satisfying

Emily Brandon  
Entertainment Editor

Nebraska Crossing, the area's newest outlet mall, is becoming a hot spot for food as well as clothes. In the midst of the eight restaurants scattered around the mall is Voodoo Taco, a small, crowded building.

I originally found myself walking in because of the aroma that surrounded it. Inside, the small eatery's scent was overwhelmingly delicious. The smell of Mexican spices and grilling met me with such urgency that I knew I would need to try something from there.

Since I visited right during the lunch rush, it was packed. However, the walk-up ordering process was quick due to the menus available right by the door. Every person at the counter knew what they wanted right away, so the line moved smoothly.

While waiting for my food to be finished, I went to the soda fountain to get my drink. I not only found the usual assortment of sodas, but also freshly brewed coffee in a pot. Although I wasn't interested in the coffee at the moment, it was a nice surprise. Any place with fresh coffee is a place I'd like to be.

The wait for my food was only about three minutes. By the time I finished filling my cup with sweet tea—which was perfectly sugary, cold and refreshing, my name was being called to pick up my taco and salsa.

The only difficult part of my visit was finding seating. I'm not saying it was impossible, just inconvenient. Due to my timing, all of the indoor seats were either taken or dirty from previous guests. I ended up finding a

nice seat outside, but when I tried to open the umbrella to protect myself from the sun, it actually came right back down and hit me. Luckily, I was able to just move to another seat so that the sun hit my back instead.

Voodoo taco's slogan is "Freaky good tacos," and man, do they deliver. As a vegetarian, it can be hard to find good food that also fits my eating standards. Voodoo's menu, however, had at least three great options for me. I decided on an avocado taco and I was thoroughly impressed.

Not only was this taco full of delicious veggies, it also had crumbled cheese scattered over the top. The mix of that and the freshly cut vegetables was refreshing but also very filling. Underneath all of that was a slightly fried avocado. It was lightly browned and crunchy and was obviously fresh. In a world of fast food, it can be hard to find such good produce.

Along with my taco, I ordered mango salsa. The side dish was just as delicious. The mix of spicy and sweet along with the freshly fried tortilla chips fit the meal well. What I was most impressed by with the foods was the serving sizes, though. The healthier taco and salsa were both portioned out into healthy amounts; when I was finished I was neither hungry nor stuffed.

I would fully recommend going to Voodoo Taco the next time you have the chance. Although it is a little bit of a drive from Bellevue West, I have no doubt some students will find themselves in the area while exploring the new shopping mall. The speed, taste and sizes make the trip out worth it.



Photo by Michael Navratil

In iOS 8, it's possible to change up your keyboard. Graphics designer Michael Navratil decorated his with a picture of the sun.

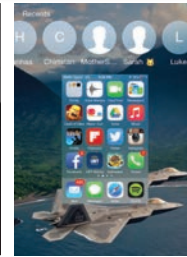


Photo by Michael Navratil

The iOS 8 update became available on Sept. 17, giving users the opportunity to see their most recently used contacts.

## iOS 8 better than jailbreak

Michael Navratil  
Graphics Editor

Every single year we get all up in arms for what comes next from Apple. As humans we tend to want new and fresh styles as soon as possible, never satisfied with the same look for longer than we have to. We like to have control over what our phones look like, which is why so many people like to jailbreak. It gave them the access they needed to make your phone different from others.

With the New Features that come in iOS 8 you can have more control of your operating system with Apple's biggest feature: Developer Extensions. This lets you have more choices over the overall look of certain apps and keyboards in its operating system.

**Keyboard Extensions:** Gives you the Ability to change your keyboard with the help of a third party. Keyboards that App developers put on the Apple App Store. With Keyboard Extensions this gives you total control to add a new look to your keyboard that stands out from the rest of your peers. It all gives you access to different ways to type.

**Messaging:** Apple has now given you the ability to "LOL and OMG" even faster than before. With quick reply you can reply from any app or even your lock screen. To reply from an app all you need to do is when a notification banner appears on your screen just swipe down and type till you can't "CAN'T EVEN" anymore.

Also if you are tired of the pesky autocorrect turning a word like "haha" into "Waffles are cool" you can now send a voice message

to avoid conflicts from autocorrect.

Finally the feature you have been asking about for years now. In iOS 8 you can leave a group message. Now you don't have to think, "Man! Not another group message!" Now you can say, "I will show you guys not to put me in a group message ha!"

**Photo App:** Tired of going to Instagram or other photo editing apps to find the perfect filter to put on your photos? Then you're going to love this. With iOS 8 you can put all of those filters into one place. Your photo app now becomes the place for all the filters so you never have to leave your photo app to make your selfies look super fine.

Some of the other features that are also pretty cool is quick reply and the health app. But the features I mentioned are the things that makes iOS 8 a superior operating system.

## The Fault in Our Stars: rewatch the story on DVD

Brooke Riley  
Reporter

One of the best rated fiction books-turned-into-movies has finally come out on DVD. "The Fault in Our Stars" is a romance movie filled with drama and suspense.

The main character, Hazel Lancaster (Shailene Woodley), has terminal thyroid cancer. While at a cancer support group, she meets Augustus Waters (Ansel Elgort) who lost his leg from a cancerous bone tumor. Neither expected that through their time together, they would fall in love. In a book Hazel read, 'An Imperial Affliction' the main character has cancer just like her. The book ends without explaining what happened. Augustus is driven to help Hazel in her search for answers. Hazel wants to know and Augustus gives her his Make A Wish to take her to Amsterdam to meet the author. Through a series of events, they come across joy, fear, and most of all, love.

I read "The Fault in Our Stars" before I saw the movie. The book was inspiring but the movie was captivating and thrilling. Watching the movie and physically seeing the emotions of the characters rather than reading about it brought tears to my eyes.

Although many people say it is a just another love story, it adds in the reality of life and how short it

really can be. The movie brings real life situations and turns them into exciting adventures.

Along with all the drama and romance is comedy. The comic relief of the movie adds in some fun and joy. Throughout the movie the characters, especially Augustus, tell jokes and make sarcastic comments.

The movie brought out many different emotions. I laughed with the comedy, cried on the sad parts, and just enjoyed the movie as a whole.

My eyes stayed glued to the screen as the movie played. It became very captivating and I felt like I was in the movie with the characters.

Unlike some movies, I was glad to see that the movie was similar like the book. The movie left out a few small details, but nothing major that threw off the overall plot.

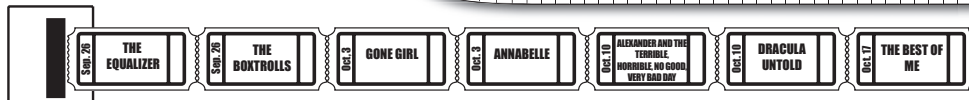
The theme is the best part of the movie. As Hazel said, "Everyone is here by accident. We are all just a fault in the stars. Everyone must find the reason while they are here." Hazel knows that everyone is going to die eventually, some earlier than others. She is determined to find her way before her time expires.

Overall, this movie is a thrilling, funny, and emotional. I recommend everyone should watch this movie because it is an eye opener and it's a great movie to watch and enjoy.



Photo by Emily Brandon

The Fault in Our Stars came to theaters on June 6th and was released on DVD on Sept. 16th. According to Forbes.com, "The Fault in Our Stars lived up to the hype and then some."



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