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Tots in high heels? p.13



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Series creates student epidemic p.7



THE PAWPRINT

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CLAY CENTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
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Students find passion outdoors

By: Jesse VonSpreckelsen

Staff Writer

When you think of an activity that a group of our students participate in you will think of all the school sports. It is not very common to hear of many students to all be interested in one common pastime.

This scenario does necessarily fit when the topic of hunting comes up between classes, at lunch, and of course before school.

If you would really think about it you could pull more than just one or two kids out of each class and they

would all be game to go sneak a flock of snow geese in the spring or head out at four in the morning in the fall to find that big buck.

It takes a little bit more than the drive for a good time to just go hunting, it is almost develops into need and it becomes a passion.

Hopefully many of these students will still be hunting when they "grow-up", but that is not the case for all, especially those that move to metro areas. If it is truly what they love, this infatuation becomes a career, turning kids into adults with professions as

game wardens, land managers, and even professional hunters. Some may even produce videos and television shows someday.

This current trend of hunting is not centrally located just in the older classes although there are more upperclass hunters.

Brett Peshek and Dakota Hoyt are some of the younger hunters being freshmen but did not waste any time getting into the high school hunting scene.

There are many juniors and seniors that enjoy this hobby including

Broddrick Dillon, Kyle Knight, and Jordan Whitcomb. Garrett Calhoun, Ceirra Tompkin, Chad Veik, Jesse VonSpreckelsen, and Ryan Yates round out this posse of eleventh grade hunters.

Now there are quite a few of varieties of hunting in our area and duck, deer, goose, pheasant, turkey, and quail are the main group of popular hunting varieties.

It is good to know that so many students are involved in a wholesome and lesson teaching pastime instead of anything illegal.

Enrollment decrease prompts Board to consider options

By: Ashley Boman

Editor-in-Chief

After recent discussion, Clay Center Public School announced that it is in the exploring phase of a possible consolidation with an area school for the 2010-2011 school year.

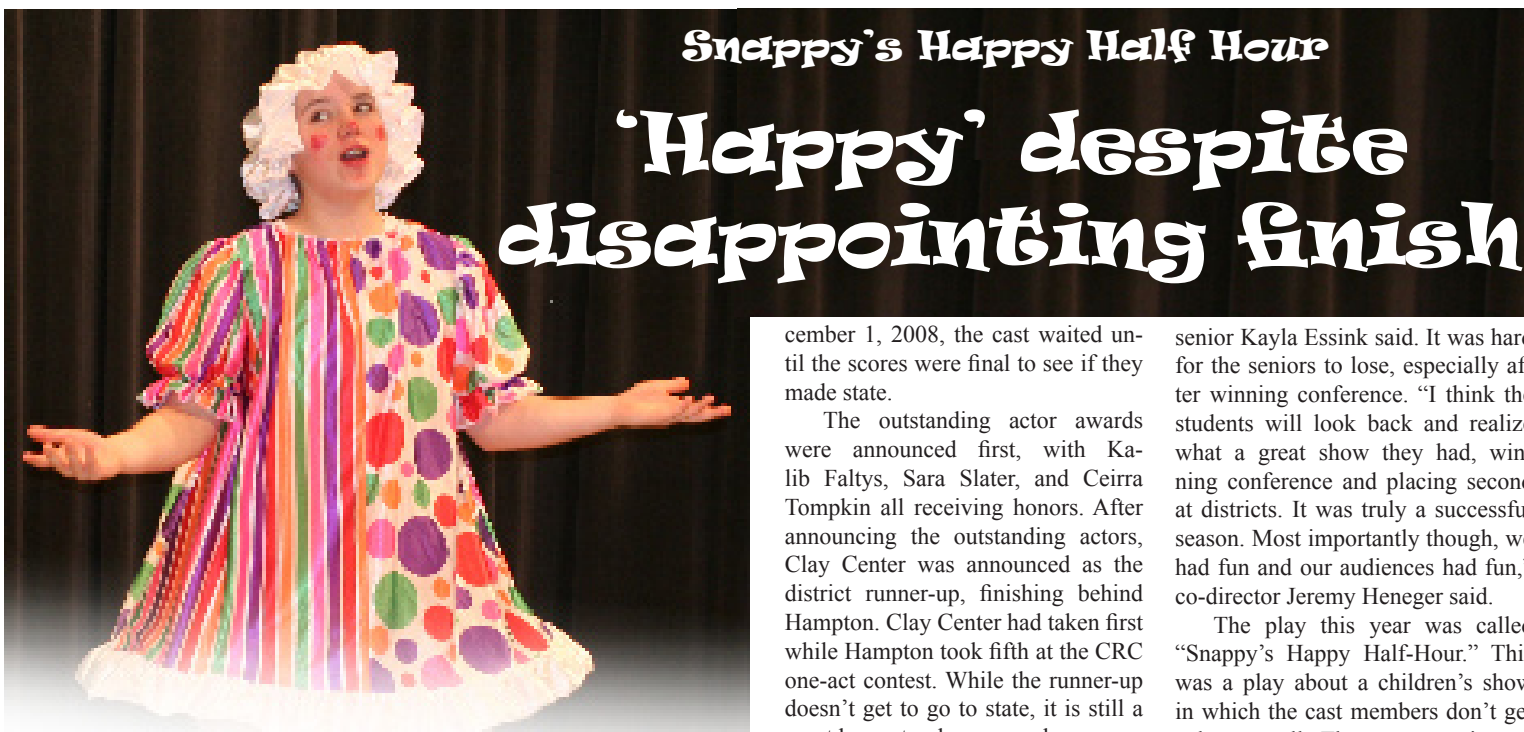
Although administrators and school board members have discussed this situation in the past, this is the first time in recent years that serious discussion has arisen. Due to enrollment decrease in high school students, grades 9-12, which is under 60 for the first time, and financial issues, administrators and board members were forced to look at options for the future.

"This is a real neat challenge and a great opportunity to make great improvements. And that's really what it's all about," Superintendent Lee Sayer said.

A major reason of why discussion has come up is because of freeholding laws, which state that at the beginning of the third year of having fewer than 60 students and a levy of 15 cents greater than the allowable limit of \$1.05, land owners can transfer land out of Clay Center to an adjacent school district.

At this time, board members are researching the freeholding laws and how they would affect the school's current situation. Internal studies, along with meetings with area schools Harvard and Sandy Creek are

See **Options: Page 3**



Snappy's Happy Half Hour

'Happy' despite disappointing finish

On December 1, 2008, the cast waited until the scores were final to see if they made state.

The outstanding actor awards were announced first, with Kalib Faltys, Sara Slater, and Ceirra Tompkin all receiving honors. After announcing the outstanding actors, Clay Center was announced as the district runner-up, finishing behind Hampton. Clay Center had taken first while Hampton took fifth at the CRC one-act contest. While the runner-up doesn't get to go to state, it is still a great honor to place second.

Placing second didn't sit very well with many of the cast, but they were still happy with second place. "Of course I was disappointed we couldn't go to state but I was also proud of the many people that went out this year and gave it a try. It was a fun final one act season for me,"

senior Kayla Essink said. It was hard for the seniors to lose, especially after winning conference. "I think the students will look back and realize what a great show they had, winning conference and placing second at districts. It was truly a successful season. Most importantly though, we had fun and our audiences had fun," co-director Jeremy Heneger said.

The play this year was called "Snappy's Happy Half-Hour." This was a play about a children's show in which the cast members don't get a long at all. There are continuous fights during the whole play, whether it is between Henri the Mime and Boo-Ba, or between Spencer and Josie, two of the children actors of the show. Just after the dress rehearsal is finished, the cast and director get a surprise visit from Luka, the producer. See **One-Act: Page 2**

By: Mat Nolan

Staff Writer

Only a little over two weeks after Clay Center's first ever Crossroads Conference Championship in one-act

play production, Clay Center had to travel all the way to Stella, which is in the southeast corner of the state, near Falls City. The trip itself took about three hours.

After competing at 2:30 on De-

Faltys shares talent with young, old

By: Sara Slater

Staff Writer

If you were to ask the question, who the greatest guitarist of all time was, or how many frets and chords are there on a guitar, not many people could come up with an answer on their own. But I'm sure most kids in Clay Center High School know someone who could.

Sophomore, Kalib Faltys is known school wide for his talent with a guitar and for some time has been teaching his techniques to underclassmen. "I got my first guitar in seventh grade and just haven't seemed to put it down," Faltys said. This fact has shown through with the seven students that he teaches both in high school and elementary. "I first started giving lessons as a way to make money, but soon figured out it was about more than just cash," Faltys explained.

Since starting his guitar teaching,

Faltys has figured out that there is much more than just money involvement when teaching young children. "People learn in so many different ways, no two people are always alike," he said. "It's nice to help other people grow in their appreciation of music."

Students involved in Faltys's lessons include second grader Grace Messenger, third grader Maggie Rieckman, sixth grader Zach Faltys, seventh grader Amanda Slater, and seniors Jair Perez and Jessie Sorensen. "I have been taking lessons for about four months now and really enjoy them," says student Amanda Slater. "It's good to interact with someone my own age because we have the same interests." Of course being so busy with high school, it's usually hard to make lessons work out but it seems to be worth the wait for these young guitar players. "Since we both have busy schedules it's hard to find time for lessons," Slater added, "But I

always enjoy them every time I do."

Teaching kids is a great responsibility that takes much time and pa-

tience but Faltys seems to take the field like a pro. "I definitely think everyone should try showing kids

something new," Faltys said, "You have to remember you learn from teaching not just by being taught."



Band and Choir Director Ralph Southern works with sophomore Kalib Faltys in his Music Exploration Class. In Music Exploration, Faltys helps Southern instruct fellow classmates and aspiring guitarists.

Practice makes permanent German honored with All-State Orchestra

By: **Abby Sorensen**
Staff Writer

Foreign Exchange student, Stefan Weiler, is the first pianist from Clay Center, since Mr. Ralph Southern has been the Music/Band instructor, to participate in the All-State orchestra.

Now 16 years old, Stefan has been playing the piano since he was seven years old.

With his mother, Ok-young You and father, Kurt Weiler both being music teachers and pianists, Stefan has also been inspired to play.

"When I was younger, my mom made me start playing, but now I am glad she did," Stefan said. His mother is a concert pianist.

Their family owns five grand pianos total in their house.

When asked who his favorite composer was he said he didn't really have one. "Well right now I am in to playing Franz Liszt and Beethoven, but it really just depends on what I am playing at the time," He said.

Weiler tried out for the piano part along with eleven other students on October 11 and was selected to play in the orchestra.

Having to memorize the music, Stefan spent most of his time by the piano.

He practices at least three hours a day, sometimes four. "When I am memorizing something like Etude, which is sometimes 8 pages, it will usually only take me about two days," Stefan said. "But when I memorize a piece like fugue, it takes me about

two weeks for just two pages because it is a lot more complicated and heavy music."

The Orchestra performed on No-

vember 20th, 21st, 22nd at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln

He will be competing in Hastings Symphony young artist compe-

tion on January 10th. He will have to memorize Beethoven's first piano Concerto which is fifteen minutes long.

"It is only the first Concerto or movement," he said. "There are three parts total which would probably be thirty to forty-five at length."



ashley BOMAN/The PawPrint

Stefan Weiler practices a complicated piece of music in the Elementary Music Room before the school day begins. Weiler, the first pianist from Clay Center to participate in All-State Orchestra, practices an average of three hours everyday.

One-Act: Second place not enough

Continued from Page 1

er, and when she comes on, all but two of the actors, Spencer and Josie, leave. This leaves the director, Tracy, in a bind because she has to find re-

placements, otherwise, she loses her job also. She is able to persuade all the "techies" to be the fill ins, although a couple are reluctant. Right before the show starts, Tracy finally

gets the last actor she needs to run the show. That little kid is Mazie, who is a very psychotic girl and is on a lot of meds.

All in all, the show they run is a

complete disaster due to Drew's, one of the replacement actors, disturbing stories about the war and drugs, and the fight between Tank in the Wally the Rabbit costume, and the real Wal-

ly. After the show, Luka returns to fire everyone, but while she is making the threats to the cast, she is on live television and soon leaves. Everyone's glad that they got revenge.



jeremyCHEVALIER/The PawPrint



Celebrate: Grandparents' Day festivities create smiles

By: Ceirra Tompkin
Staff Writer

Cup stacking, tag, dancing, and the cupid shuffle are all some of the many activities that the elementary perform during Grandparents Day.

This special event occurred Wednesday, November 26 when K-6 invited their grandparents down to share the day together.

The program began at 9 a.m. when everybody gathered in the high school gym to share what each class has learned. All of the classes have their own unique performance they do to show off all of their hard work. These classes perfect their routines during Mrs. Schmoldt's P.E. class where a lot of time and effort is put forth.

Grandparents of 3rd grader Tayler Johnson, Effie Johnson and Marilyn Schliep said, "We enjoy the

program every year, it is always very exciting. They have so many different activities that they do, and we are impressed by the patience that Mrs.

Schmoldt has for teaching all of these young children."

When the show is over at 11 a.m., everyone goes up to their grandchild-

dren's classrooms to do an activity with them. They do activities until it is time to go to lunch.

The school prepares a turkey din-

ner for the guests to enjoy as they share this moment with their grandchildren.

After lunch they have an opportunity to go to recess or any other activity that they like to do. Not only did we have grandparents there to share the special day, but we also had a great grandparent.

April's great grandma, Alice Skinner a 97 year old from Trenton, was able to attend this years Grandparents' Day.

Also Pat Veik said, "Every year for 10 years that I have attended this program, I can honestly say that I have enjoyed it each year with all the different types of activities Mrs. Schmoldt comes up with to do." Pat Veik is the grandparent of Chad, Samantha, and Jake Veik.

Clay Center Public School students are proud to have Grandparents' Day each year.



ceirra TOMPKIN/The PawPrint



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Above: Kindergartener Ethan Piper participates in a balloon activity during the Grandparents' Day program. Far Above: Students and their special guests dance to the song "Cupid Shuffle" at the end of the Grandparents' Day program. Above Left: First grader Taryn Griffiths reads a story with her Grandma in the first grade room.

Options: School Board explores future consolidation possibilities

Continued from Page 1

in the works as well.

Meetings with Harvard and Sandy Creek were scheduled to notify them of Clay Center's possibilities for the future. Plans have not been made with either school for the 2010-2011 school year.

"We have to wait to be fair to the other schools. We have made no commitments," Principal Jim Bovee said.

While no plans have been made,

Bovee and Sayer both agree for certain that after the next school year, Clay Center School will have to do something. However, before anything is set in stone, a community meeting will take place to present the options.

Sayer insisted though, that by late Spring 2009, some decisions, such as decisions involving the NSAA for scheduling purposes, will have to be made.

Bovee agreed that by the end of

the current school year, Clay Center will know what its options are.

Administration and board members ensure that this process will continue to be very open to the community and nothing will be kept in secret.

"Whenever you make a change you open a window of opportunity. As a school, we want to have all those things that larger numbers create opportunities for," Bovee said.

HAD ENOUGH YET?

**WE DIDN'T
THINK SO!**

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CLAY COUNTY NEWS**

Twilight Mania

'Twi-hard' fans thirsting for more

By: Kayla Essink
Staff Writer

You can see it in their eyes, hear it in their everyday chitchat and see their faces light up as they pull in yet another reader. Yes, these teenagers are obsessed with Twilight. Not just Twilight, the first book, but the entire Twilight Saga consisting of New Moon, Eclipse and Breaking Dawn. Twilight was released in 2005, starting a frenzy of popularity that won't soon die out. Girls have been spotted reading these books at athletic events, during class when they should be listening, or even in the hallways to catch those few precious minutes during passing periods. 53% of Clay Center High School girls have read or are in the process of reading the series. These teenage girls seem to have more in common with vampires than they know, as they are already "thirsting" for more.

So what is it that draws in so many obsessed fans? Is it the fact that beautiful, perfect, polite and protective Edward, the vampire, fell in love with plain, simple, average Bella, the human? Or does the vampire aspect alone pull in those sci-fi lovers? It seems to be a little of both as the trend is sweeping the nation like an epidemic, victimizing teenage and tween girls. Students lend their copies out to each other, go on weekend missions to find the next installation and beg their parents to buy them the set for Christmas. "I heard about the books from my friend Brittney (Veik) and my younger sister," sophomore Breanna Bailey said. While teen girls are infatuated with Edward and his charm some are refusing to be fall un-

der Twilight's spell. "I don't want to read it just because everyone else is. I don't really like to read anyway and vampires creep me out!" freshman Kylie Essink said.

It appears to be a seduction in a sense, drawing in young readers, captivating them, causing them to read and re-read the series until they have had their fill of the supernatural. The enthusiasm that sparks from just hearing the words "Twilight", "Edward", or "vampire" is unreal as you hear girls rambling on and on about their favorite scene or phrase. "Edward's perfect character and the suspense, is what got me hooked," senior Morgan Woodbury said. "The idea of vampires and the supernatural living among us seems like it could be so real."

Libraries have had to accommodate the increased craving for the new vampire reads. High School librarian, Geneice Smith, purchased two sets for the school. She noticed that the Twihard (Twilight + Diehard) fans will check the books out, and instead of returning them when they finish, they pass it along to the next person, and the next. This would look to be a problem but Mrs. Smith doesn't have a problem with it at all because she knows students will bring them

so it's beneficial to them. "It is the most circulating series out there right now. Both the elementary and high school libraries have copies and there are waiting lists at both as well as at the public library," Smith said of the rising popularity of the series. Even students as young as fourth grade have joined in on the craze.

Since the release of the first movie Twilight, on November 22nd, even more readers have become smitten with the series. The film grossed more than 100 million in box office sales, in just ten days. "I saw the movie first and loved it, but books are always better than their movies," senior Steph Hoyt said. "I wanted to read the book and get even more details." There have even been claims made on who is going to marry Edward (Robert Pattinson). Many girls have even taken it to a whole different level, wishing they themselves could be a vampire or have a vampire of their own. "Edward is the perfect guy!" Bailey practically sang. While these are just love-struck fans, it goes to show how adored the series really is. The reason for this is that Stephenie Meyer's writing captivates the reader, making them believe they truly are right there in the story.

Bestselling author, Stephenie Meyer dreamt up the idea in 2003. Literally. She had a dream about an average girl meeting a vampire in a meadow. The two were having a conversation about the fact that they were falling in love with each other and how hard it was for the vampire to avoid drinking her blood. From that point on, Meyer was intrigued. She couldn't stop thinking about the characters and started writing what would soon be one of the most popular books for young adults, selling over 25 million copies worldwide.

Even though the series seems to be a sappy love story, there is also a lot of action and suspense that comes into play. These pieces are what grabs the boys' attention as some have begun reading the books too, maybe to learn a few tips on how to get the ladies. "I wanted to read them because everyone else was always talking about it. I saw the movie and really like the story," Luke Marques said. Either way, it looks like Edward has set some pretty high standards for guys to meet.

The Twilight buzz has even crept its way up to Twerds' (Twilight + Nerds) moms, the light Moms as they themselves. Several moms have seen their daughters wrapped up in Twilight mania and can't help but be a little curious. "My mom actually started reading the books before I did, but then I kind of passed her up," Ceirra Tompkin said. There are even fan based groups on Facebook that people join. You can now buy clothing, key-rings, posters, calendars and even jewelry from the Cullen family.

"It is something different, unlike anything I have ever read," senior Jessie Sorensen said. "Things like that just fascinate me."



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Equality for all... Title IX levels playing field for women

By: **Vanessa Ponder**
Business Manager

Thirty-five years ago when a civilian would talk about the Huskers everyone would say "Yeah I heard the football team won yesterday," but today when anyone talks about the Huskers people would say the volleyball team played phenomenal last night or the football team wrapped up another Big XII win.

Boys and Girls are no longer discriminated by gender. Women have just as many rights as men do when it comes to sports.

"No person in the United States shall on the basis of sex, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

It also applies to non-sport activities such as school bands, cheerleaders, and clubs; however, social fraternities and sororities, gender-specific youth clubs such as Girl Scouts and

what would a woman's position be in this world except a housewife? It's a good thing that Title IX was passed because us girls wouldn't have the experience and the fun that we have

grams are subject to Title IX, even though there is very little direct federal funding of school sports.

The regulations implementing Title IX require all institutions

to the Department of Education that the institution is in compliance for the period that the federally funded equipment or facilities remain in use.

"All we had when I was in high school was volleyball and track and I was a part of both of those. I loved playing the sports that I took part in and I always had a good time," Mrs. Vivian Cook said.

Although the most prominent "public face" of Title IX is its impact on high school and collegiate athletics, the original statute made no reference to athletics.

About 40 years ago all women could do to exercise was P.E. which consisted of stretching and doing something similar to TaeBo.

Along the years Girls athletics have come a long way from not being able to play any kind of sport to having the right to play any sport that you could think of.

TITLE IX
NO PERSON IN THE UNITED STATES SHALL,
ON THE BASIS OF SEX,
BE EXCLUDED FROM PARTICIPATION IN, BE DENIED
THE BENEFITS OF, OR BE SUBJECTED TO
DISCRIMINATION UNDER ANY EDUCATION
PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY RECEIVING FEDERAL
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

Boy Scouts, and Girls State and Boys State are specifically exempt from Title IX requirements.

"If Title IX hadn't been passed

today," junior Ceirra Tompkin said.

It applies to an entire school or institution if any part of that school receives federal funds, athletic pro-

receiving federal funds to conduct self-evaluations of whether they offer equal opportunities based on gender and to provide written assurances

Remembering days prior to Title IX

By: **Kyle Knight**
Staff Writer

Women's sports have changed dramatically over the past thirty years in the United States.

In 1976 the government passed Title IX. Title IX clearly states that "No person in the United States shall on the basis of sex, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance".

Although it is most famous for its impact on high school and collegiate athletics, the original statute made no reference to athletics whatsoever.

Nearly ten years before Title IX was passed things were much different.

"We only had volleyball my

freshman year," school secretary Judy Kalvoda said. "After that our coach left and no one else wanted to do it."

Even though volleyball was played at a varsity level it was never taken seriously.

In other parts of the state the women in schools weren't completely inactive. They had a program

called pep club, where all the female students dress up exactly the same for

“We all wore these really cool blue shorts and blue shirts with zippers down the middle. It was just fun. No one came to watch, it was just after school for girls who wanted to play.”

-Mrs. Studnicka

Back in 1964 Clay Center graduate and current 2nd grade teacher Mrs. Cook remembers exactly what she had to wear for pep club. "We wore orange shirts with a black blazer and black skirts. And if we didn't show up we got a demerit," Cook said.

Female students also prepared formal meals for the football team before every game.

Head Volleyball coach Julie Studnicka remem-

bers the impact of Title IX. "I was only in eighth grade at Burwell when they passed it so I guess I was pretty lucky," Studnicka said.

Girls always had volleyball at a varsity level but before the passing of Title IX girls basketball existed at only the intramural level.

"We all wore these really cool blue shorts and blue shirts with zippers down the middle. It was just for fun. No one came to watch, it was just after school for girls who wanted to play." For P.E. teacher Mrs. Schmoldt, high school sports were completely different. "We had track my senior year for the first time," Schmoldt said.

That was in 1971. Most schools didn't start girls track until Title IX was passed five years later.

Along with Title IX comes extra support

By: **Kayla Essink**
Staff Writer

Every woman needs a sturdy, reliable, strong one of these to hold her up when she is down. No, I'm not referencing a man here, but rather, a bra. Dating back to 1907, the first "brassiere" as it was originally called, covered most of the front side with large straps holding it in place. It gave little to no support. However, the first ever patented bra was sold in 1914 by Mary Phelps-Jacobs which was nothing but two handkerchiefs sewn together with some ribbon and strings to tie it on with.

Before Title IX was passed, women wore dresses and other attire that made it very complicated to easily participate in sports. After the Act was approved, people started to propose athletic apparel for women. The most essential item needed was something to support the breasts, as other clothing could easily be found or made. But in 1977 that all changed when Hinda Miller and Lisa Landahl came up with the idea to cut up jockstraps and sewed them together to introduce what would be the first sports bra. Designs progressed from then on, and now there are two types of



sports bras. The first is called the encapsulation bra which is formed with molded cups. The other is the compression sports bra which helps reduce discomfort for women during exercise by flattening the breasts and reducing movement. It also helped lessen the embarrassment factor, if that was what held them back from joining in on athletic games. "I think it's a good thing because now girls are more likely to get involved in sports," P.E. teacher Deb Schmoldt stated.

Even with the advance in women's athletics, many people and countries still believe exposing your sports bra is indecent exposure. Brandi Chastain caused a bit of an uproar when she ripped off her jersey in celebration after the U.S. won the world cup in 1999. "It shouldn't be a big deal, I mean swimsuits show more than that," sophomore Brooke Yates said on the issue.

This practical invention has definitely made life easier for women everywhere and proves to do its job effectively.

For those who haven't yet discovered the miracle that is the sports bra, there's always duct tape.

Brandi Chastain, member of 1999 U.S. Women's World Cup Championship soccer team, releases a loud roar, after defeating China. Chastain is not only recognized for her soccer skills but also her bare-all celebration in the 1999 world cup.





I smell turkey!

by JAKE JOHNSON

There are many things you could have done on Thursday, November 27th. You might have stayed home on Thanksgiving. However, out of all the people I interviewed none of them stayed home. Everyone stated that they went to someone's house for Thanksgiving. A majority of them went to their grandmother's or their cousin's house. Now you know some popular things that people did on Thanksgiving.

On Black Friday so many stores were full of people. You might have some Christmas decorating on Friday. I interviewed Breleigh Alberts in first grade and she said that she decorated the Christmas tree. She was the only one I interviewed that said they decorated. You might have even watched the Nebraska game. Ryan Harms stated that he watched the game. Probably a lot of women went shopping. No one that I interviewed went shopping. Well, you may have stayed home too. What did you do that Friday?

There are many things you could have done on the last weekend of November. Did you go out for dinner, well I didn't. I was surprised that none of the people I interviewed went out for dinner either. You might have stayed home. Everyone that I interviewed stated that they pretty much stayed home. Josh Bertrand said he stayed home and played Wall-E on his Wii. So whatever you did over Thanksgiving break I hope you had an enjoyable time.

Grandparents go WOW



Cameron Anderson and Lauren Shackelford dance during the PE presentation on Grandparents' Day.

by AUDREY FISCHER

In the classroom, there were a couple of activities 4th graders did on Grandparents' Day. One of the activities that we did was called "Packing for Grandma's." Someone says an object that begins with a letter in the alphabet. For example, I went to grandma's and I packed an apple, a balloon, and so on until you get to the letter z. Another game we did was making new words. In the game, you made words out of the word "Grandparents Day." Also you were on a team and you needed lot of words to win.

At the PE program we also did many things. We did a dance and games at the program. One of the dances was "We're From the Country". Another dance was the "Cupid Shuffle." A game we played was called noodle tag. There are three people that have noodles, the ones you use in the swimming pool, and they get a point if they tag you. You get a point if you get across without being tagged. Bug tag was another game we played as a class. Three people have a jersey on and they try to tag you. When they tag you, you have to put your feet up and your arms up while you're sitting down.

We also got to eat lunch in the old gym on grandparents' day. At lunch you could eat with your grandparents. We were served potato salad, sandwiches, cake, veggies, salad, and lots more. We made the decorations that were on the table. Our theme was "Let's Give Grandparents a Hand." Grandparents could stay for recess. We could go play games with our grandparents. We could also stay inside with them if they didn't want to go outside. Did you have fun on grandparents' day?

Trying something new

by GRETA SKOLAUT

Have you ever auditioned for something? Two 4th graders have. Greta Skolaut and Lauren Shackelford auditioned for the Nutcracker. They found out about the audition from their dance class at the YWCA in Hastings. Their teacher, Cindy Cummings, gave them a paper about the Nutcracker saying they could audition. Not only would the students get to participate in a magnificent ballet, but they would also be performing with the Moscow Ballet Company. Lauren and Greta auditioned in Grand Island at the Dance Company.

After they found out they had made the ballet, they had practice once a week for 6 weeks in Grand Island. Greta and Lauren tried to save gas money by carpooling together to Grand Island. Finally, they performed at Grand Island High School on December 5th. Lauren said, "I felt like a star on and off stage." Greta mentioned, "I just wanted it to be over, or until I got off the stage that is." So remember, don't be shy try something new.

Hunting safety galore

by MACKENZIE JONES

There are so many reasons why you should know gun safety. Do you know how to shoot a gun properly? First make sure to put the gun on safe. Next you have to load the gun. After that you put the bullet in the gun and put the butt of the gun on your shoulder. Fifth you aim your gun on your target. Then you put it on fire.

Do you know how to hold a gun the right way? First you put the butt on your shoulder. Next you put your other hand on the fore stock and take the gun off safety. Third put your finger on the trigger. Do you know how to aim a gun? You have to make a lollipop with your target. First you put the rear sight of the gun on the target. Then you put the front sight on the bottom of the target.

Do you know any safety rules? The ten shooting safety rules are:

1. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
2. Treat every gun as if it were loaded.
3. Only load or cock a gun when you're shooting.
4. Check your target and beyond your target.
5. Anyone shooting or near a shooter should wear shooting glasses.
6. Never climb or jump with a gun.
7. Always avoid a ricochet.
8. Always keep your muzzle clear.
9. Guns not in use should be unloaded.
10. Respect other people's property.

But Wyatt Simmerman said "Keep your finger on the trigger until you're ready to shoot. I interviewed 5 people and they all said that they hunt with a proper adult. Now you're ready to shoot, bam!

The many ways to stay healthy

by JENNIFER MACARTHUR

There are many things the 4th graders did at the Health and fitness field trip. We went to Hastings College on October 7th. The football stadium is where we started. All 4th graders, Mrs. Boyd, and Mrs. Schmoldt attended the fun day. In the morning, we went to different stations out on the football field. First we played line tag. Some other activities we did were Chinese jump rope, played with a parachute, and played with stretch bands. Madisen Larsen and Greta Skolaut said their favorite activity was line tag. After playing all morning we had lunch. We ate a

healthy sack lunch. It had an Arby's roast beef sandwich, carrots, Baked Lay's potato chips, and cookie. We ate this outside at the stadium. In the afternoon, we went into a gym. We learned about nutrition and health. James Heaton's favorite part of the afternoon was eating all the healthy snacks. Dane Meese's favorite activity was "Running for Calorie Burn-off."

Right: The fourth grade class participates in a parachute activity at The Health and Fitness Day at Hastings College on October 7.



December birthdays

by HOLLY NOLAN

I asked people in Kindergarten through 6th grade who have a December birthday how they celebrate.

First I interviewed seven people. I interviewed 5th, 2nd, and 1st grades. Most people said they have two separate parties. Katelynn Piper, from 5th grade, said she has 2 separate parties.

Then I interviewed 3 people from 3rd grade. They also stated that they celebrate with separate parties.

Next I interviewed Kindergarten and 6th grade. Noah, in Kindergarten, celebrates with two separate parties.

I also have a birthday in December and celebrate the same way. In all there are fourteen kids who have birthdays in December in the elementary. Do you wish you had a birthday in December?

Vampire crazies

by LAUREN SHACKELFORD

The Twilight series tells about vampires and werewolves. In the beginning of Twilight, Bella Swan moves to Forks, Washington. Bella's dad Charlie bought her a truck. Bella met her dad's friends Billy and Jacob Black. Bella went to her first day of school at the small town's high school. Bella made some friends. She is also suspicious about her lab partner named Edward Cullen. On a trip to the beach Bella sees Jacob and he tells her a Quileute legend which confirmed her suspicion. Edward was a vampire.

Bella tries to guess what Edward is and after one incorrect guess she goes with Jacob's theory. Bella goes to Port Angelus with two of her friends and Edward has to save her. Then Bella sees Edward's skin in the sun, his sparkling beautiful skin. Next Bella goes to the Cullen's house

for the afternoon. Later that night, Edward invites Bella to play baseball with the Cullens. Vampires love baseball. That's the problem, vampires from another coven hear them playing and come see if they can play. When they come they catch Bella's scent, one named James gets the thirst for her and starts tracking her down. Bella goes to Phoenix with Jasper and Alice to stay safe while the other family members spread out to save Bella. James calls Bella and tricks her so that she goes to her old dance studio. James bites Bella and breaks her leg. Then, the Cullens come. They have to take Bella to the hospital. When Bella recovers Edward takes her to prom. The books are very popular in the sixth grade and after interviewing them I found out that the favorite book is Twilight.

Here are a few facts about the Twilight movie. The costume de-

signer thought that it would be cool to have a family crest for all the Cullens to wear. Carlisle and Esme wear their crest as rings, the boys' crest are on bands around their wrist, Rosalie's is on a chain around her neck, and Alice's crest is on a ribbon around her neck. "The man that plays Carlisle has read Twilight," Rachel Shackelford says after reading a book about the making of the movie. He told the costume designer that he should have high collars because that's where he was "changed." The author of the series had a cameo role in the movie. She was sitting in the Forks diner on her lap top. Twilight was born June 2, 2003. Meyer had a dream about a girl and a vampire in a meadow having a conversation and it inspired her to write. She grew up in Phoenix, Arizona so that is how she got the idea to have Bella's former home there. Did you know that information about Twilight?



Getting wrapped up in the net in Lincoln A boy named Suh

by MACKENZIE HENEGER

The Clay Center varsity volleyball team played at the state volleyball tournament. At the first game we played at Lincoln North Star. It was at one thirty on November 13th. Before the game began, Molly Dane, Mackenzie Heneger, Lauren and Rachel Shackelford went and gave all the volleyball girls a hug. We lost one set and then won the rest, so we won the game. Morgan Woodbury said, "It was the greatest experience" when they won the first game "and I didn't feel as much pressure." Ashley Boman said, "It was a great feeling and I was excited to play Ewing." Unfortunately we lost the second game. It was played on November 14th at 9:30. We played Ewing at Lincoln High. Morgan Woodbury added, "It was fun playing libero because I got to run in and out." On the third game, we lost, but still played good. We played Paxton at Lincoln High again. It was at 12:00 and we lost. Ashley Boman mentioned "My favorite part of the season was probably state and seeing all the little girls in pre-wrap."



Mrs. Kaela Heneger helps Mackenzie Jones put on a prewrap headband at the State Volleyball Tournament.

by DANE MEESE



Ndamukong Suh

On November 28th Nebraska won by Ndamukong Suh's interception. There is a guy named Ndamukong Suh that plays for the

Nebraska Cornhuskers. He is a defensive tackle for the Huskers. He loves defensive tackle and gets a better shot at sacking the quarterback or the running back.

When he comes out of the tunnel or makes a great play the crowd shouts "Suh!" He and Kyle Wortmen got blackshirts recently. Blackshirts are a tradition at the University of Nebraska.

The Huskers will be going to the Gator Bowl on New Year's Day thanks to help from Suh in the game against Colorado. However, Suh could be facing some big offensive linemen. That shouldn't be too hard for someone his size. He is 6 feet 4 inches, 300 pounds, and is from Portland, Oregon. He wears the number 93.

So let's wish Suh some luck for the game and hope we win!

Let it snow!

by MOLLY DANE

There are many things I like to do on a snow day. So I decided to interview students in Kindergarten through sixth grade to see their favorite snow day activities. Snowball fights and building things were the 2 most popular responses for outside activities. Katie Harms said, "I like to sled and make snowmen." Garrett Clark shared, "I like to build forts and make snowmen." Caleb Mundorf said, "I like to have snowball fights with my sisters." Peyton Traudt added, "I like to build stuff and have snowball fights." Ethan, in Kindergarten, said, "I love to play snowball fights with my dad and build forts!" Finally MaKenzie Dane stated, "I love to make snowmen and eat white snow."

On a snow day, there are lots of reasons why I like to stay inside too. I again asked several students their favorite inside activities. Do you like to play games, sleep, read, or have hot chocolate? Lauren, in 4th grade, said "I love to sit by the fire and read the Twilight series." Jaeden Traudt offered, "I watch TV and play video games." Emma, in 3rd grade, shared, "I like to play checkers." Family fun is also favorite inside activity. Coltin, in 3rd grade, stated, "We like to play my Playstation 2." Blake Skolaut said, "We play video games, watch TV, and take naps." Rachel Shackelford added, "I like to have hot chocolate with my family." Payton Clark likes to play Candy Land with her family on snow days. I love snow days and I bet you do too!

Christmas is coming around the corner

by MADISEN LARSEN

Do you have everything ready for Christmas at home? Christmas trees are up and decorated with ornaments and lights. Some lights are colored lights. Some are white lights. A lot of lights and decorations are up on houses. Lights are on buildings. Some people have blow-up decorations in their yard. I interviewed the kindergarten, first, second, and third grades. They are all ready for Christmas at home. Teachers said they have decorations in their classroom. Again I interviewed K-3rd grades. I asked them how they get

ready for Christmas and why they like it. I also asked how teachers get their classrooms ready for Christmas. Kindergartner Blake Janda says he gets ready for Christmas by purchasing presents and he likes to play in the snow. Ms. Hadan said, she hangs decorations in her room, putting up the tree, and doing Christmas activities. Cassie Perry gets ready for Christmas by putting up a tree. Caleb Mundorf likes it because he gets to be with family. Mrs. Bertrand said she is a bad example because she doesn't have anything up. (However, she has decorations up now!) Christmas is coming faster than you know.

Down Time

by CHASE PERRY

Do you know what teachers do after school? Well, I don't. So I've been interviewing teachers and Ms. Hadan said that she gets her class ready. I have interviewed four more teachers and Mrs. Bertrand says she grades papers. Mrs. Boyd said that she also grades papers and prepares for the next day. There are two more teachers I interviewed. Ms. Pallas shared that she does scrapbooking af-

ter school. Mrs. Cook says she gets ready for the next day.

I also interviewed the teachers about their hobbies. Ms. Hadan said her hobby is cleaning. Ms. Pallas said having supper with her fiancé. Mrs. Cook added she likes to read the newspaper. Mrs. Bertrand says going to meetings is her hobby. Mrs. Boyd mentioned that her hobby is making crafts. So not only are teachers busy as school they're also busy after school too!

Yee haw



Jake Johnson gets instruction on how to wrestle calves during the Oregon Trail Rodeo field trip.

by JAEDEN TRAUDT

There are loads of things to do at the rodeo. The 4th grade class from Clay Center found this out on August 29th. On Friday morning, the class got on the bus and went to the Oregon Trail Rodeo. First we arrived at the fairgrounds and waited for our session to begin. Then we watched a video and listened to a speaker that was a veterinarian. We learned about the various rodeo events and how

they take care of the animals in the rodeo circuit. Dane said, "I liked learning about the horses." After the video we went outside and visited different stations about rodeo events. Lauren and Greta said that they liked learning about the team roping events. Finally, we went to the grand stand. We got drinks and wristbands. We were also given coupons to attend the rodeo over Labor Day weekend. Molly said she liked the whole trip.

The new bank

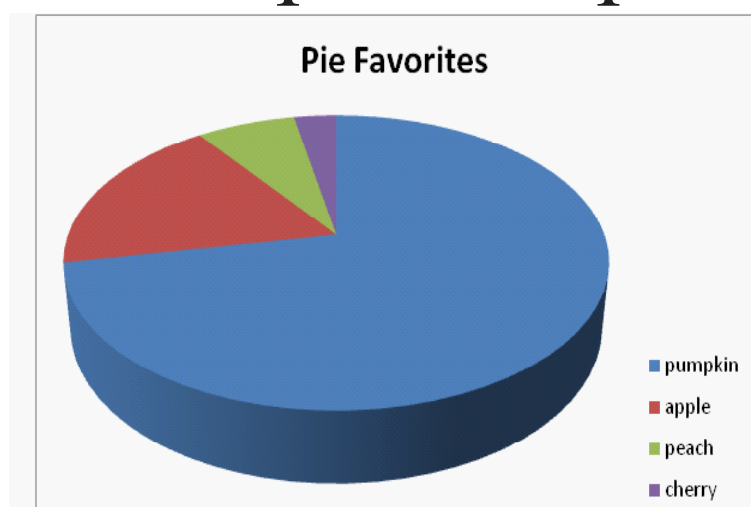
by CAMERON ANDERSON

The new Geneva State Bank has opened. It is a new branch to the Geneva State Bank in Geneva. It is in Hastings, Nebraska, about 30 minutes from Clay Center. The new Geneva State Bank is in the north part of Hastings, south of the new Walmart. The new bank has tellers that store the money and count it. Every time you put money in the bank when you're a kid you get a coupon. Each coupon you can save. Then you can get a prize out of the box and if you keep saving you get more coupons. Have you ever stopped by the new bank? Maybe you should.

Would you like a piece of pie?

by JAMES HEATON

Do you like pie? Pie is a much enjoyed dessert and here are the favorites. All grades wouldn't say any other pie than apple and pumpkin. None said anything about cream pie or pecan pie or any meat pie. They sometimes don't even like pie. In fifth grade, out of eight people 2 didn't like pie. Everyone else wanted to disagree with each other. It came down to two pies that were the most popular. They were pumpkin and apple pie. The main pie was pumpkin and no doubt about it. So what's your favorite pie?



4th Grade PawPrint Staff

- Cameron Anderson
- Molly Dane
- Audrey Fischer
- Mackenzie Heneger
- Jacob Johnson
- Mackenzie Jones
- Madisen Larsen
- Jennifer MacArthur
- Dane Meese
- Holly Nolan
- Chase Perry
- Lauren Shackelford
- Greta Skolaut
- Jaeden Traudt
- Teacher: Mirinda Boyd

Sacrifices, opportunities

Small schools cause students, staff to adapt

By: **Jill Baxa**
Assistant Editor

Have you ever had a conversation with someone from a larger town than yours and during that conversation, did you happen to talk about how the school year was going and the activities you are involved in? As you were talking about all the extracurricular activities you participate in, did the person's jaw drop with astonishment in the long list of activities you take part in?

Yes, this conversation has happened to many students from small towns, with even smaller school districts.

Principal Jim Bovee has been at Clay Center for six years. He feels that small schools work hard across the board, from students all the way to teachers and community members. "I love this school," Bovee said with a smile. "It's been a great experience so far!"

But what really makes our small high school in south central Nebraska work?

Imagine the additional hours not only students, teachers and administrators have spent in the school building, but community members as well to make everything work. You can drive by the high school late at night and see classroom lights on with high school students' vehicles in the parking lot.

"There are a lot of sacrifices made by everyone to be excellent," Bovee stated. Many students are in multiple activities because some feel guilty if they didn't participate in them as it would result in small numbers of students out for extracurricular activities.

Not only do students participate in several activities, but they attend most if not every sporting event because what else is there to do; everyone is already at the game any ways. These sacrifices for others, classmates and team members are made by many students.

Students also feel the pressure of spending extra time at the school through sports practices and other academic activities.

However, this could not all be possible without a supportive community. It takes a community to keep small schools in running order. Many community members show their support while attending various school activities throughout the year. Bovee noted that the support made by the community is very strong. "Here in Clay Center, there is a great sense of support. It seems like it's effortless," he said. "It's more like a family."

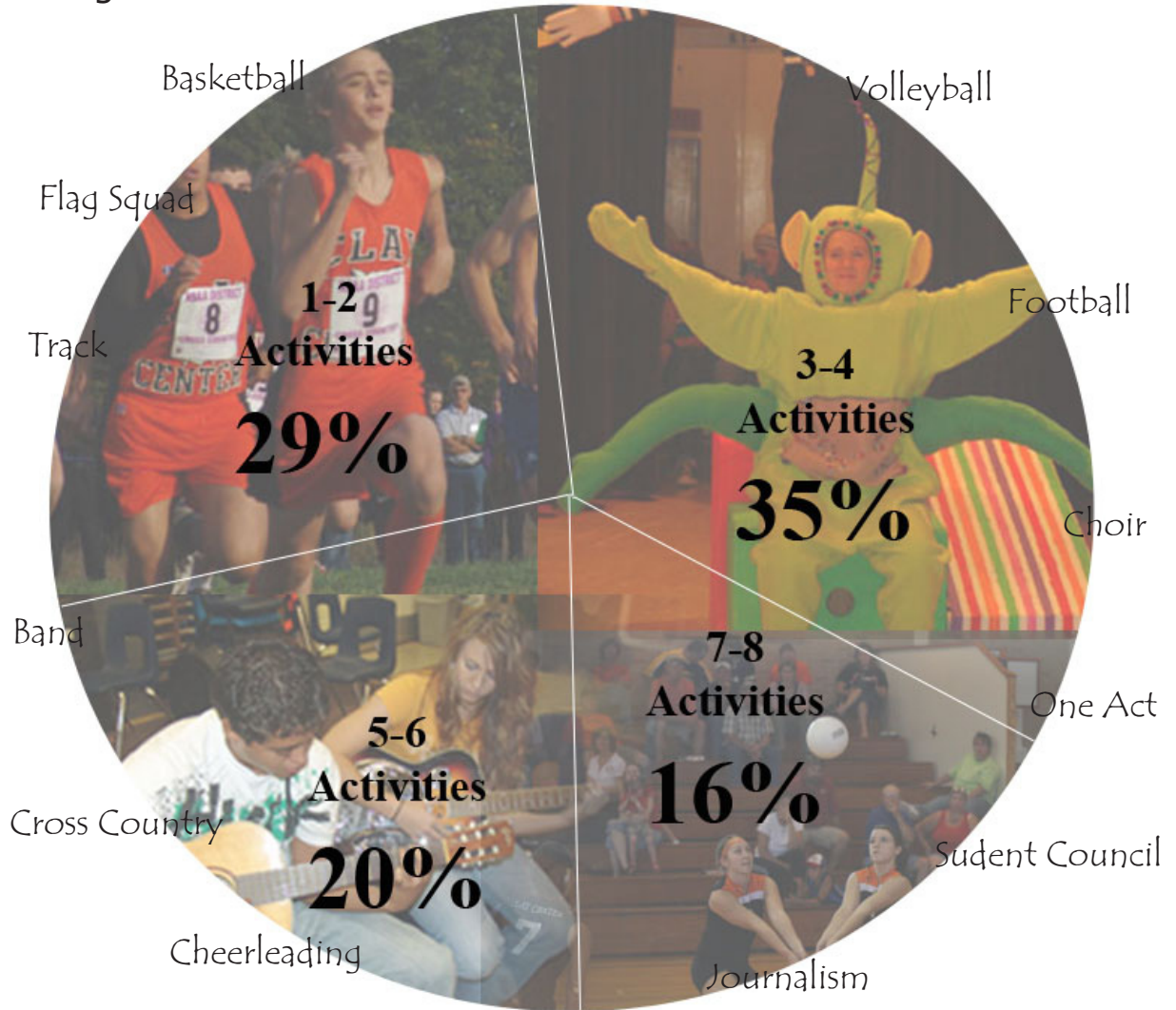
Whether it is coming in early to go to a meeting, being a class sponsor, or coaching a sports team, it's all in a day's work as a high school teacher at a small school.

Teachers take on these additional tasks on top of teaching because they want the best for their students. Bovee mentioned that when the school needed to change the math curriculum, there was a great transition made by students and teachers. This is just one of many instances where it took extra commitment to make everything work.

"Area small schools come to see what we are doing at our school to cause all of the success," Bovee commented. "Those schools find that it is too big of a commitment to handle for their school."

Above all, dedication, hard

High School students involved in extracurricular activities



vanessa PONDER/The PawPrint

work and many sacrifices make Clay Center High School one of many small schools proud to still be going strong.

The other articles on this page

are about students and teachers who have been given the opportunity to try new activities. However, at a larger school, students wouldn't be able to experience a small school at-

mosphere.

Besides, what Class A school would offer the entire student body and staff a cup of hot chocolate on a cold winter day?

Swing shift

Hassenstab splits time, adjusts to differences

By: **Jessie Sorensen**
Photo Editor

In her first year at Clay Center, Crystal Hassenstab has been a very busy woman.

She was assistant coach during volleyball, she is co-head coach for basketball, our art teacher, and the art teacher over at Harvard.

She drives to Harvard every day over the lunch hour and has afternoon classes with the students over there after having morning classes with the students at Clay Center.

In the morning she always gets to school around seven or a little after and works on basketball, watches film, grades, plans projects, goes

through emails, and whatever else that needs to be done. After coming back from Harvard, she comes to practice until sixish.

She then goes back to her room and works on next days practice and plans and whatever else she didn't get done in the morning or during the day.

"Switching schools in the middle of the day took some adjusting to at first. Getting to know all of the kids took some time and working in different school districts with different policies and procedures took some getting used to," she said.

"Now that I'm adjusted I don't mind it, its kind of fun seeing different kids everyday."



jeremy HENEGER/The PawPrint
Mrs. Crystal Hassenstab hits balls to the girls during warm-ups at the State Volleyball Tournament.

Martinez takes a chance, steps on stage

By: **Ceirra Tompkin**
Staff Writer

"Snappy's Happy Half Hour" brought a lot of joy and experience to new actors. Rudy Martinez was one of the many who decided to give one acts a try this year.

Speaking in front of an audience and trying to remember your lines can be extremely difficult and scary for some people, but came naturally to Martinez. "I know most people may seem nervous, but I was very comfortable up on the stage," Martinez said.

Trying out and making it the first year might not have been possible if we were not from a small school, but considering how many more opportu-

nities you have by being in a small school can be a great experience for trying new extra curricular activities.

"It was a new experience for me and I thought since it was my last year I would try something new," he said.

One act isn't just a new experience; it is an opportunity to improve your acting skills and to learn to enjoy entertaining an audience.

That is just what it did for the new performer, Rudy Martinez. "I am kind of disappointed though, because I didn't go out for one act in the past and was just thinking of how good of an actor I might be by now," he said

"I really enjoyed one acts this year and it was a fun and entertaining play."



jeremy HENEGER/The PawPrint
Rudy Martinez begs Snappy the Clown for one more song in the One-Act play. Martinez played the part of Jorge.

Heneger balances teaching, coaching

By: **Sara Slater**
Staff Writer

In a small school, it's not uncommon for a teacher to take on numerous odd jobs and coaching positions. For things to work smoothly everyone, students included, become involved with activities that many people would never do in a larger community. Mrs. Kaela Heneger is a great example of how one individual can make this statement true.

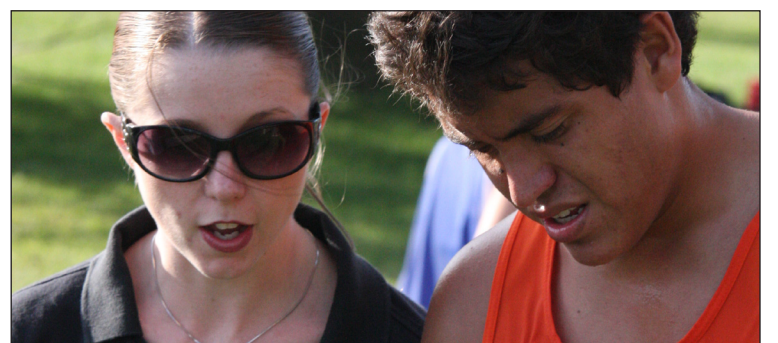
Since starting her teaching career nearly five years ago, Mrs. Heneger has been a part of many activities involving the school including her cross country coaching position. Mrs. Heneger admits that she feels torn between her responsibilities as teacher and coach. "I have fabulous kids and am very grateful that they can handle the later practices," she said.

Other odd jobs Heneger has taken on include organizing a family

literacy night, class sponsor for two years, and assistant speech coach. "I have a really good planner," Mrs. Heneger explained. "I always seem to figure out how to make it all work out."

Taking on so many responsibilities is a great task that needs much support and dedication from the one involved and Mrs. Heneger seems to do this with pride. "I have a very supportive family who understands how a school works," Mrs. Heneger said. "I love what I do and if I didn't love it I probably wouldn't be doing it today."

Active teachers and coaches are needed to run a small school and without them it's hard to find more people to take on these large responsibilities. "All teachers should be active within school, we are willing to make students have the best experience possible," Mrs. Heneger said.



jeremy HENEGER/The PawPrint
Cross Country Coach, Kaela Heneger discusses a race with senior, Jair Perez. This is Heneger's fourth year coaching.



Heaton steps up for the team

By: Jill Baxa
Assistant Editor

The saying, “Just take one for the team” takes on a whole new meaning when the Jr. High Girls basketball team takes the court. Seventh grader, Kylie Heaton is one of the participants who literally, took one for the team. Though it took much convincing by the team and coach Holli Webber, Heaton is out on the court with the other five players on the Jr. High Girls basketball team.

One of those who talked to Heaton about joining the basketball team was high school girls basketball coach Mrs. Crystal Hassenstab. “I told her that in a small school it is good to get involved in team sports,” Hassenstab said about her discussion with Heaton. “Even though she may not like the sport, she is helping others out that really enjoy basketball.”

Heaton isn’t playing basketball because it is her most favorite sport, but because she didn’t think she was very good at it. She has overcome the jitters of playing basketball for the first time this year. However, this experience has been valuable to her because she got the chance to learn about the game of basketball. “One of the most important things that I learned this year was working on post moves,” Heaton said.

Coach Webber commented on her work ethic. “I was happy to see her participating this year,” she said. “She works really hard and concentrates on getting one particular part of the game right at a time.”

This small sacrifice of playing on the team was a great experience for Heaton. After the season has come to a close Heaton admits that she was satisfied that she participated. “I am glad that I went out this year,” she stated. “It’s been a lot of fun!”



jeremy HENEGER/The PawPrint

Kylie Heaton plays defense during a game against Doniphan/Trumbull. The Jr. High Girls Basketball Team only had six total members this season.

	Rudy Martinez	Mrs. Hass	Kylie Heaton	Mrs. Heneger
5:00				
5:30		Wake Up		
6:00		Get Dressed and Ready		Wake Up
6:30		Leave for CC	Wake Up	Go to School to Plan Classes
7:00	Wake Up	Get into CC	Have Breakfast	Go Home and Get Kids Ready for the Day
7:30	Get in Shower	Plan classes and Basketball/Volley ball	Get Everything Ready for School	Grade Level Meeting
8:00	Get Dressed Eat Breakfast		Go to School Go to Art	School Starts and Take Attendance
9:00	Go to School Go to Choir	Jr. High Art	Science	2nd Grade Reading
10:00	Family Living	3rd and 5th Grade Art	Geography	Visit 6th Grade
11:00	Physics	4th Grade Art High School	Math	Find and Prepare Resources for Teachers
12:00	Algebra	Graphic Art	Language Arts	Data Collection
12:30	Accounting	Lunch	Lunch	Team Teach Reading Lunch
1:00	Lunch	Leave for Harvard		3rd Grade Int.
2:00	Adv. English	Elementary Art	Band/Choir	2nd Grade Int.
3:00		Jr. High Art	P.E/Health	5th Grade Int.
4:00	American Gov.	High School Art 1		4th Grade Int.
5:00	Woods	High School Art 2	Basketball Practice	1st Grade Int. Kindergarten Int.
6:00	Get ready for Practice	Change for Practice	Go Home	Grade Level Meeting
7:00	Basketball Praticce	Get to Practice	Do Homework	Cross Country Praticce
8:00		PRACTICE	Eat Supper	PRACTICE
9:00	Go Home Shower	Plan Next Days Practice and Classes	Watch TV	Go Home and Cook Dinner
10:00	Come to One Acts	Help with little Kids Basketball	Finish up rest of homework	Eat Spend Time with Kids, Clean House
11:00	Go Home	Go Home Eat Supper	Get Everything Ready for Next Day	Bath, Read, Sing to Atticus Put Atticus to Bed
	Eat	Clean House Watch TV	Go to Bed and Sleep	Put MacKenzie to Bed Finish Cleaning Get Ready to go to Bed
	Watch News and Colbert Report	Goto Sleep		Go to Bed

'Coming Original' with 311

UNIQUE TUNAGE



Jessie Sorensen

Have you ever heard of ska? Well, after this article we will both know something new. 311 is a band from Omaha, NE. They are considered a couple different styles of music, alternative rock, hip-hop, reggae, funk, and ska. Ska is a genre that originated in Jamaica in the late 1950s. It combines the elements of Caribbean mento and calypso with American jazz and rhythm and blues. It started the rocksteady and reggae trends. It was very dominate in Jamaica during that time period.

The band started out in Omaha where they grew up in the 1970s. Nick Hexum, lead singer and rhythm guitar, Tim Mahoney, lead guitar, and Chad Sexton, drums, all lived on the west side of Omaha and went to Westside High School together. "SA" Martinez, vocals, and "P-Nut" Willis, bass player, lived on the south

side and went to Omaha Bryan High School, the same school where my mom and her two younger brothers went around the same time, pretty ironic.

During high school they had two different names for their band, "Fish Hippos" and "The Eds." They changed their name when former member, Jim Watson, was charged with indecent exposure in a skinny-dipping incident by the Omaha Police Department, and escorted home handcuffed and naked. The police code on the citations was "3.11." It has been their name ever since.

Nick graduated early from high school and decided to move to downtown Los Angeles to pursue his music career. Later, he returned home for Chad and Tim's graduation, they played together and realized they had something special. So, in late '88, Nick, Chad, and their new piano player, Ward Bones moved to LA together and took a stab at getting a record contract, it was unsuccessful.

Chad moved back to Omaha and began to jam with P-Nut and Jim Watson. He convinced Nick to move back and join them and they played their first gig together in June of 1990 opening for Fugazi. They parted ways with Jim Watson and added Tim Mahoney in 1991 and 311 was then set with all their members present today, Nick, Chad, Tim, SA, and P-Nut.

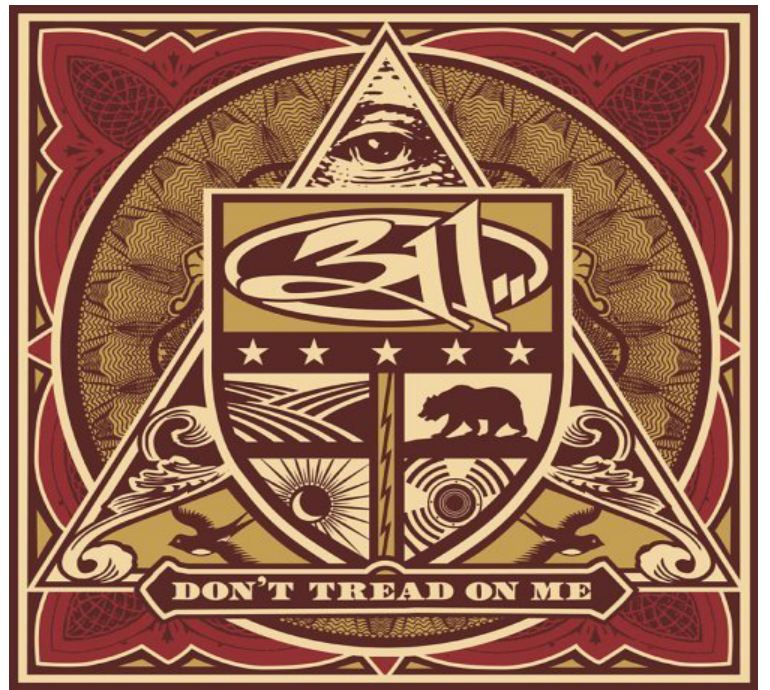
They decided to move to Van Nuys, CA where they rented a small house. They were pretty much living on nothing. Before going into total poverty, they were signed to Capricorn Records. They released their first CD in '93 called "Music", and it went Gold. They started touring but

were suddenly stopped in their tracks when their touring van caught on fire and exploded on the side of the highway. It destroyed all of their equipment, money, clothes, and personal belongings. The band members luckily escaped with only minor burns and injuries. They continued the tour only canceling one show. Fans and friends who heard about the disaster donated new equipment so they were ready for the next show.

"Grassroots" was their second album to go Gold. In '94 they packed up all their stuff from the house in Van Nuys and put it into storage and lived on the road touring non-stop. In '95 they released their self-titled album, "311", and began touring again. By then the media who had ignored them until now, started paying attention to 311 and their songs started being #1 and #2 on the charts. 1997 rolled around and they produced another album, "Transistor", which went Platinum. Then their fifth CD, "Soundsystem" came out in 1999, and they toured the US and Japan.

311, in 2000, bought a recording studio in Hollywood, made some renovations and renamed it "The Hive". They recorded their sixth album, "FromChaos" in 2001 which has one of my favorite songs on it, "Amber", that also reached #10 on the Billboard Modern Rock Chart and #30 on the Billboard modern AC Chart. Their seventh album, "Evolver", which was released in 2003 has a couple different singles on it.

2004 was a big year for the band. They were personally asked by Adam Sandler to contribute an 80's cover song to his movie "Fifty First Dates." They recorded "Love Song", origi-



nally written by "The Cure." Nick Hexum also produced four other songs for the movie with Seal, Jason Mraz, and Dryden Mitchell from Alien Ant Farm.

Late in 2004 they started their most recent album to debut, "Don't Tread on Me", and they released it in 2005. They toured all the time. They played in places like Japan, Hawaii and even Jamaica, where their musical inspiration came from. They were headlining everywhere with massive crowds. Now, in 2008, they are working on their ninth album, planning to be released in spring of 2009.

They have recorded many songs for different movies like, Surf's Up, Remember the Daze, Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay,

Forgetting Sarah Marshall, and of course, Fifty First Dates.

This is honestly one of my favorite bands. They started from nothing and believed in themselves enough to get where they are today. They are pure and I love their style of music. It flows and I can listen to it anytime, it doesn't matter what mood I'm in. 311 is something different and you may like it or you may not but don't judge it either way.

People believe and love different things and they shouldn't be made fun of for the music they listen to or what clothes they wear. I think we can all appreciate 311's hard work and lyrics. They are from Nebraska so be proud of that, because I am. Be original, not a conformist.

007 reaches new level of realism



The newest high octane film from James Bond, *Quantum of Solace*, picks up essentially a few hours after the previous movie ended. If you did not happen to see the first Daniel Craig Bond movie, *Casino Royale*, then you missed out but I will fill you in on the ending.

Vesper Lynd, a treasury agent, is assisting Bond and the two become enamored with each other until Bond realizes she has betrayed him, Bond goes after Lynd but in the process she cries she is sorry for all she did and drowns. Lynd falls to her aqua death

but it is already too late, the money had been given to Lynd's other employer, Mr. White.

Now on to *Quantum of Solace*, The film starts out with an intense car chase ending with Bond delivering Mr. White to M and MI6 agents for interrogating which ends with White getting away because of a double agent who Bond chases through crowded Italian homes and streets until he kills him.

Bond is assigned to apprehend a person going by the name of Slate, of course that does not work out perfectly and Slate ends up dead, the norm for most of Bond's assailants.

007 runs with the information he has and ends up with a beautiful woman named Camille. Camille leads him almost straight to Dominic Greene who has a high quality cover

of Greene Planet, an environmental company, but Bond begins to uncover just what Greene and his compadres are truly up to. In all this Bond saved Camille's life but dropped her off at a resort island in one of his many escapes from Greene's thugs.

Through all of the chasing that leads Bond back to Greene and his co-conspirators to an opera house where 007 uses his resources to figure out how they all communicate in this concert. Greene now knows that Bond is after him but never knows for sure exactly where the MI6 agent is hiding, ready to pounce.

The chasing of Greene guides Bond through Italy, Austria, and finally to South America, where Greene causes his trouble. All 007 really knows up to this point is that Greene and his partners know they

are controlling the world's most valuable resource, throughout the film many different people have discussed with MI6 what this resource is but no one knows what this secret band supposedly has.

In all this, all of Bond's contacts always tell him that Vesper loved him, but 007 is still bitter but this still shows how the producers intertwined this movie with *Casino Royale*. It was a very good move in my opinion because it still allows for the movies to be separate films but it also ties them together.

This secret group's name finally comes out in Bolivia as *Quantum* thus the name of the film. Bond and Camille have rejoined to fight *Quantum*, which the duo both have qualms with many different individuals in the group.

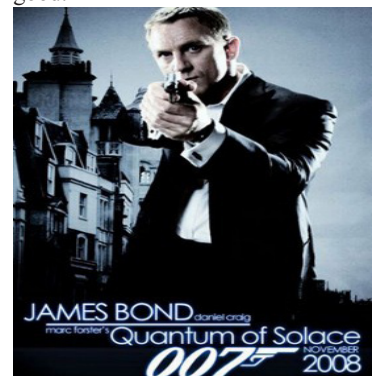
It all ends in a mysterious way with 007 finishing his task and leaving M standing in the snow in Italy again while Bond walks away into the darkness, just keeping people waiting for the next James Bond movie.

I went to this movie still kind of skeptical if Daniel Craig could uphold the prestigious role of 007. I stepped out of the theater confident in the fact that Craig could help propel 007 movies to a new level in the future.

This movie was one that kept the audience on the edge of their seats, always wondering and anticipating what will happen next. This shows character of a great movie, one that is not predictable, but full of great action sequences.

One thing I did notice is how plausible all of the stunts were in retrospect compared to all of the older 007 movies where stunts and scenes were completely unrealistic.

Quantum of Solace was an action crammed, intense, out of this world that I would advise anyone to go see, knowing they will get up out of their seats saying, "Whoa, that was really good."



Ben Rieckman's letter to...Santa?

Dear Easter Bunny,

I know it is Christmas, but Santa has been giving me coal for the last five years. I even have enough to solve the energy crisis! But this year I would like you to deliver my presents.

I would like you to brainwash my family for a weekend so I don't have to do any chores. I would also like a new pair of gym shorts that actually fit, the ones I have are too small because my mom always get me a size smaller than what I wear. The final thing on my list would be a camera of some kind so I can catch my sister committing her crimes and have her sent away to a boarding school for the summer.

I hope you are able to do this for me and it doesn't make you too busy before Easter season.

Sincerely,
Ben

P.S. Quit sending me carrots for Easter and start sending chocolate.



Hard not to take a bite of *Twilight*

Popular book makes its way to the big screen



Bella Swan has decided to live with her father to make it easier for her recently-remarried mother to accompany her husband, a minor league baseball player on road trips.

At her new high school, the socially-awkward 17 year-old proves to be pretty popular, and finds herself being courted by classmates representing a variety of familiar teens archetypes. But the shy loner opts to keep to herself until the fateful day she spots the drop dead gorgeous Edward Cullen across the crowded cafeteria.

Bella's warned on the spot by her gossipy girlfriend, Jessica that Edward and his four, equally-pale foster siblings are strange and keep to themselves. Nonetheless, from that moment on, Bella finds the aloof pretty boy irresistible. And Edward's as attracted to her too, though not exactly for the same reason.

What Bella doesn't know is that he's a vampire, albeit one trying to go vegetarian. Yet, her alluring scent operates on him like a drug, leaving him torn between treating her like a soul mate and like his next meal. So, when the two start flirting in Biology class, she hasn't a clue that it takes all his strength to resist sinking his fangs

into her neck.

The first hint Bella gets that something's weird is when Edward saves her life by stopping a careening car with his bare hands. When she subsequently guesses that he's a superhero like Superman or Spider-Man, he instead honestly warns her that he's bad news.

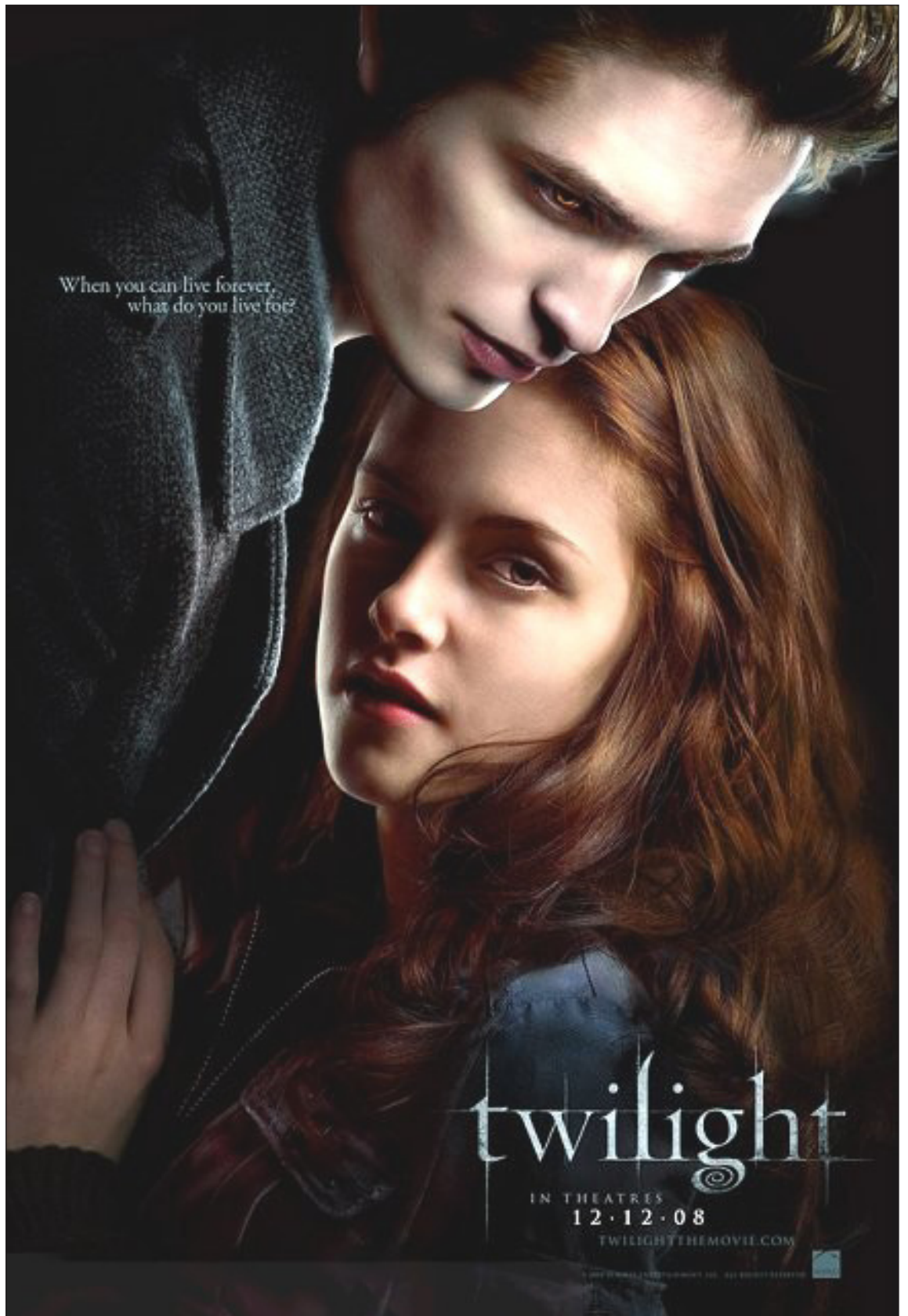
However, she's already too smitten to keep her distance. "I trust you," is the best response she can muster, after he eerily admits, "I've never wanted a human's blood so much." This movie isn't exactly something to drool over like a lot of teens are, but in all reality it's a pretty good movie.

I liked the way that they made it look like Edward was going to bite her every time he got closer to her and he never would bite her which made it really intense. I liked the way that she figured it out about Edward being a vampire and wasn't scared when they were alone in the woods.

It was funny at the beginning of the movie when she walked into the classroom and it looked like Edward was going to throw up. Everyone in the theater was laughing and Bella was confused because she thought she smelt of body odor.

Watching the previews for *Twilight* got my attention and I got really interested and wanted to read the book and go see the movie.

So pick up the book *Twilight* and start reading through the heart-throbbing adventure all the way to *Breaking Dawn*.



Talk in the Hall

I really enjoyed the movie, especially Edward, but I thought the books did a better job telling the story, as always with movies made from books.
-Dylan Woodbury

It was insanely cheesy but actually it turned out alright thanks to the fighting vampires.
-Kalib Faltys

It is a really good movie, plain and simple.
-Tiana Barnes

It was amazing! I love it so much I have already seen it twice.
- Hoyt

It was absolutely amazing and I want to marry Edward.
-Brooke Yates

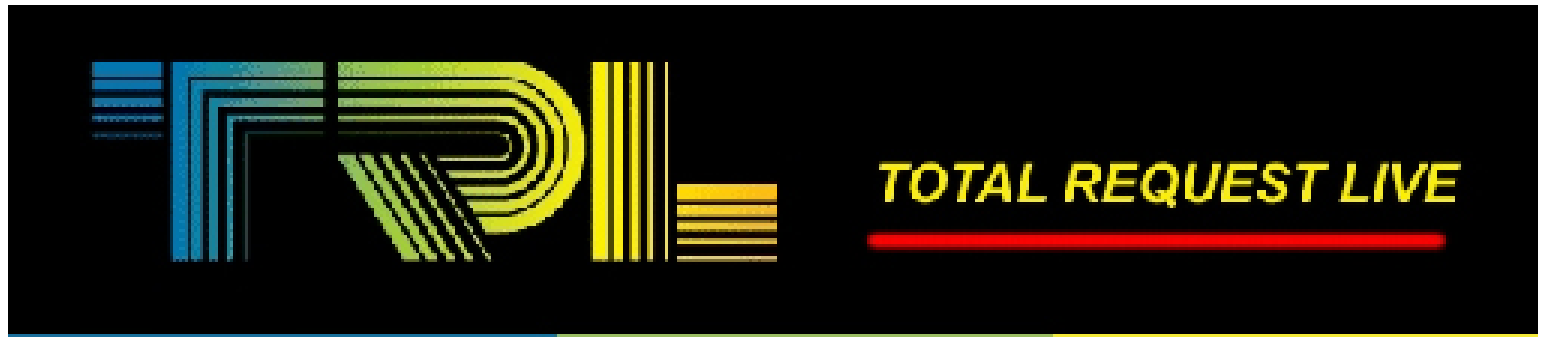
'Total Request Live' ends after decade run on MTV



After a decade of countless superstar appearances and 2,247 episodes, it's time to say goodbye to MTV's most popular pop culture live television show, "Total Request Live."

Sunday, November 16th marked the end of the "TRL" run with its final episode. Megastars Beyonce, Fall Out Boy, 50 Cent, Ludacris, Snoop Dogg, Nelly, Taylor Swift, Kid Rock, and Diddy all made their last appearances and performances at the finale. "TRL" held one last countdown of the top ten most iconic videos of the decade on the finale.

Considered the "American Bandstand" of the millennial generation, "TRL" was known for its daily top-ten video countdown. The show commonly aired for one hour every Monday through Thursday, however length and scheduling were often



altered.

Viewers voted by way of phone,

Most recently, the daily countdown from ten to one was based on votes, charts, ringtones, downloads, radio airplay, and streams, according to www.wikipedia.com. Celebrities often appeared to perform a new single or promote a new album or film to its target teen demographic.

Fast Facts

2,247 episodes of TRL aired on MTV over 10-years.

text messaging, and e-mail for the most popular songs of the day.

The first real taste of "TRL", which was based off a previous

MTV program, "MTV Live," began on September 14, 1998 with host Carson Daly. After its first year on air, producers enhanced the program by including a studio audience on the set along with hosts Daly and Dave Holmes.

In 1999 and 2000, the show reached its peak, averaging over 700,000 viewers daily, according to an article published in a November 18th issue of the *New York Times*.

Over the past few years, the show's numbers dropped significantly, averaging half as many viewers as it did during its peak. That compares to the four million viewers that watch MTV's most popular reality

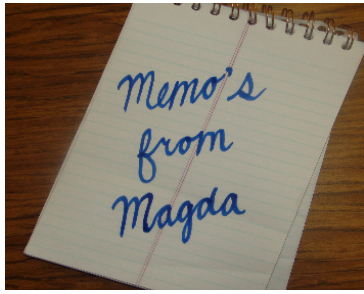
program, "The Hills".

As a result of declining numbers, MTV producers announced on September 15th that after almost a decade, the show would be cancelled. "TRL" was also often scrutinized for only playing three to four minute music videos for an average of 20 seconds.

In addition, despite "live" being in the title of the show, many episodes were pre-recorded.

Gazing out of the second-floor windows at the die-hard fans behind street blockades in New York's Time Square, the show's most popular host, Daly, ended MTV's longest running program with a heavy heart.

Saying goodbye, New appreciation for school's atmosphere



Magdalena Heibeck

That's the way time goes. I cannot believe this semester is already about to be over. I feel as if I have just arrived and now it is already time to leave again. But that is the way

it always goes when a lot of exciting things happen.

First there was an election of great historical importance going on which was extremely polarizing for everybody around here. It was a great experience to be here and to witness the excitement of the people. With all the assignments and conversations we had about this topic during our classes I have to admit that I probably know a lot more about Obama, McCain, and the whole American system now than I do about the German one.

Additionally there was a thrilling long weekend in Lincoln where the volleyball team had a close fight for victory. Although we did not end up being state champions it was a great time. It was awesome to feel the support of everyone which could raise the spirits again. And still – a fourth

place is a great achievement!

When we came back from Lincoln there was no long time to rest. Basketball was waiting for us with a

“I am going to miss you!

–Magdalena Heibeck”

long and exhausting week of conditioning which would prepare us for a hard season. Practice in the morning, practice after school – after this week we were all tired and looked forward to a good weekend of sleep. The fol-

lowing weeks were still hard and again – just like in volleyball – I had to discover the complexity of this sport. Now I am just really excited about all

the games that we are going to play and hope everything works out well.

Furthermore it is so exciting to be here for Christmas. Americans decorate just a lot more than the people where I come from do. It is a cozy feeling to listen to Christmas songs and go shopping in those big “Christmassy stores” (be-

lieve it or not, some people actually get up in the middle of the night to get special discounts on their Christmas presents ;)).

All in all I can just say that I am glad to have spent my time in a small town with such a tiny school like Clay Center. I love the personal atmosphere and the great bonds within the school. Even if there are sometimes things that make you feel sad or if you are just not in a good mood you always meet a happy face around the next corner which cheers you up. As a matter of fact, this is one of the many things that I am going to miss about this place – the enthusiasm and happiness that so many people display around here.

What else is to be said? Thank you for all your support and patience, I am going to miss you!

No consolation for Nolan Student disagrees with NSAA experiment



Mat Nolan

“Everyone deserves a second chance.” When we are young, that is what is preached to us by parents, teachers, elders,

and coaches. This is something that we all learn and will use later in our lives. Well, recently, the Nebraska School Activities Association has decided that even the teams at state volleyball and basketball deserve second chances.

By wanting to give those teams second chances, they have implicated a third place game at the state tournament, which was first seen last year.

Looking at it on paper, it looks like it is a very good addition because it gives a team who fought hard to make the semifinals another chance to go out of the tournament with a win.

But if you have watched any of the third place games at state, some teams really

buy in to the second chance, but there are also teams who just want to go home after losing, not wanting to lose two games in a row.

After going to the state volleyball tournament last month, I have had a really good look at the third place game. When you stop and watch it, some of the teams were just out to get the game over with, not wanting to play that hard.

When you get to the state tournament, you are playing as hard as you can every round in hopes of winning the championship, and when you play as hard as you can, but lose, it really affects players because they have put so much into the game and they are completely drained for the game the next day. When you play the next day in the third place game, your goal of winning state is gone, and its hard

for the players to be motivated to keep playing.

Also, I can see why the NSAA put in the third place game at state. No, it's not because they wanted to give those teams a second chance. It seems that the NSAA just wants to help increase their income from the state tournaments.

Think about this, do you realize how many people show up to the state tournament? A lot, and that's the reason a lot of people aren't able to fit into gyms, so the NSAA decided to capitalize on that. Granted, after watching some of the third place games, there were some schools that didn't have big turnouts, but if there was a small school playing in those games, they had plenty of fans there.

You see, almost every big decision like this is made because money is the biggest issue.



Clay Center Public Schools

Safe Haven: Better but not fixed

STAFF EDITORIAL

The Safe Haven Law in Nebraska was passed in mid- July. Since then, 36 kids have been left at several different hospitals throughout the state.

This law was put into action for the sole purpose of giving mothers a safe place to take their baby if they aren't capable or willing to provide for their baby.

After many sad cases of babies being dumped in garbage bins and ditches, this plan was a better option for those families who feel they have no other support or alternative. But it was not promoting that parents who are fed up simply dump their kids off because they are tired of their parenting role.

However, when Nebraska senators passed this bill, they failed to consider the loopholes people would find around this law. According to www.usatoday.com, all 50 states have a Safe Haven law, but Nebraska was the only one that allowed children over the age of one to be dropped off.

Many parents took advantage of this and brought their unruly teenagers and children with mental health issues in because they couldn't handle them anymore. A special session was called on November 15, and lasted all week.

The meeting was held to discuss new options and change the law. There were several suggestions for the perfect limit. Some said a six month limit, one year or five years. The proposal for a 30 day limit went to vote on November 21, 2008. The bill was passed and signed by Governor Dave Heineman.

After changing this law, the question is this: Is 30 days enough time for a parent to decide whether or not they can care for a child?

According to [\[ids.ca\]\(http://ids.ca\), babies at the age of six months already understand when their parents leave them and express anxiety and are scared of strangers. Is having some anxiety better than spending the rest of their life in an unstable environment?](http://www.investink-</p>
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In this case of abandonment vs. the well being of the child, there are no easy answers for each new proposal only causes more difficulty. For example, now that the law is changed, will parents let their children go on living in a home where they can't financially support them?

Will more cases of child abuse emerge because parents can't handle their frustrations?

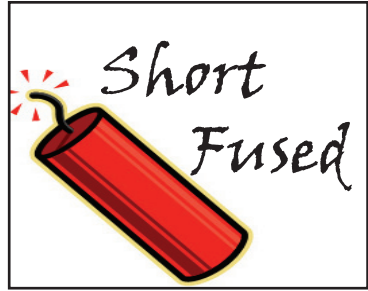
We as a staff believe that 30 days is too short, that parents cannot know in that short amount of time whether they are capable of caring for a child. They may make a hasty decision and regret it later, or get caught up in the fun parts of parenting and forget about the demands that must be met later on.

The majority of the kids brought into the various hospitals suffered from some kind of mental health issue. This pattern tells the state that something needs to be done to better provide support for families who are trying to handle the difficulties that arise with these kids.

We could start several types of support groups, that way they have someone to turn to when they feel overwhelmed or have questions. We could provide funding to get the children the medicines they need so they aren't suffering and putting their families in danger.

Whether they should tack this on the end of the Safe Haven law, or maybe even create a new law, we think it would give families another option because some feel they have none.

Too young: society places pressure on girls



Kayla Essink

High heels for babies, thong underwear for seven year old, baby bikinis, and even toupees? Are you kidding me? I must ask: WHAT is the

world coming to?

Civilization is making it almost impossible for kids to enjoy their childhood. Children in today's world are being forced to grow up too fast, and there's a lot we can do about it.

The baby high heels are a new invention, just recently put on the market. They are made from soft material, meant to be only for show. However, that doesn't change how I feel on this outrageous issue.

These shoes found at www.heelarious.com are teaching children as young as six months old that they need to worry about their looks and

styles.

According to the article 'Baby Steps?' found in the Omaha World-Herald, two women from Seattle, Washington came up with the design. Some parents think this new apparel is "cute" and just a joke people should learn to laugh at. Others were appalled and labeled them ridiculous. This trend is sending the wrong message to young girls, not just in Nebraska but across the nation. Some moms have even begun taking their 9-12 year old girls to spas weekly for facial peels and eyebrow waxes.

I believe that these new shoes are just one piece in this puzzle of absurdity. Many toys and other items play a huge role in how kids think they should look, act, and dress.

Barbie dolls put unrealistic images of how the female body "should" look, into little girls' minds. 'Bratz' Dolls' faces are painted with excessive makeup, something little girls shouldn't be worried about.

These companies that create and sell these toys are more worried about what looks cool, hip and gets them revenue, when really they should be focusing on how they can teach girls to accept and embrace their bodies and individuality.

Even some of the clothing you can find out there for young girls leaves me completely baffled at who

in their right mind would buy something so revealing for their young daughters.

Culture is warping the minds of girls, making them believe that if they aren't pretty they aren't important. If they don't have those name brand jeans, they aren't worth talking to. Not to mention the lasting effects media can have on adolescent girls who are trying to fit in and feel pretty.

Society places way too much pressure on girls to meet the stylish demands that celebrities such as Paris Hilton, Jessica Simpson, and Lindsay Lohan expose.

Girls see their favorite stars on TV in revealing outfits and feel the need to dress this way to be "in". That's a lot of weight resting on a little girl's shoulders. We should encourage girls to look up to positive role models, such as Brittany Snow and Miley Cyrus.

The point I'm trying to make here is that kids shouldn't have to worry about name brand clothes, having perfect hair and makeup or going to the spa. The extent of their concerns should be who is playing kickball that day at recess and what's for lunch.

It's no wonder teens today face depression and eating disorders when they feel pressured to look or dress a certain way.

Without even knowing it, these



girls could be suffering with low self esteem and are stressed out from trying to keep up with the latest trends and fashions.

So for now, and probably always, I'm sticking with what grandma used to tell my mom after finding us in a mud fight: "Let kids be kids!"

Book lovers come 'out of the closet'



Morgan Woodbury

Let me tell you a story about a little girl. Once upon a time, many years ago there was a happy little girl. She was normal for the most part, but she had a secret that would socially kill her if anyone found out: she loved

to read. She tried to suppress her hunger for literature in public but somehow people found out. I don't know how, it could have been the fact that she read during recess or maybe because her parents had to ground her from reading and forced her to go play outside. Honestly, it's a mystery, but her secret was revealed and she was labeled as a nerd. Knowing her social life was in danger she went to great lengths to curb her addiction. It was a long hard journey but she was finally able to control her hunger and was able to live a somewhat normal life. She still reads, but in controlled amounts and never in public. That tragic childhood experience had scarred her for life and she was never able to fully recover.

Unfortunately that was the story of my life. Why exactly did I just ruin

your day with that depressing story? To point out the completely different view of reading teenagers seem to have today. I look down the hall during lunch and see at least ten people with a book out! They are unashamed of the fact that they are reading and no one gives them a hard time for choosing a book over human interaction. I am amazed by this new acceptance of readers by our society and have spent some time pondering the shift.

In my opinion the thing that really changed the way readers are looked at was the introduction of the Twilight series. Out of the ten people reading during the lunch hour seven of those were reading books from the Twilight series. These books are romantic, captivating, and easy to read and have therefore captured the

hearts of many girls. Quickly the mania of Twilight has spread helped by word of mouth and recently by the box office. They have given people

ed to read for the sake of passing the class and are finding themselves more open to reading in their spare time.

Whatever the reason, more kids

are reading because they enjoy it which has changed the social perception.

Now this is a bittersweet feeling for me: bitter because my childhood was ruined by what was then viewed as nerdy, and sweet because, like many closet

Fast Fact



53% of High School girls have read some portion of the Twilight series.

a taste of what a good novel can do and have left them more inclined to read other books. Another contributing factor I think is the reading program we have at the school. Now that kids are forced to read for a little bit each day they have found themselves caught up in a book they only expect-

readers, I finally feel free to come out the closet! I don't know how long this fad will last but I do know that I am going to take absolute full advantage of it as I am sure all of the other true-heart readers will too. Personally I don't think reading ever goes out of style, so read on!

NSAA rules out volleyball

STAFF EDITORIAL

What is the key to making a team a team, a game a sport, and players a family? Sure hard work and endless dedication is important, but what is that one aspect that holds everything together as one? Sportsmanship, the key ingredient for the recipe of success in many sports. Without this important aspect what would our sports teams be?

Just like the players, spectators should know our role in a sporting event. And that role is to be dedicated to these hard workers and believe in them no matter what the score. We should be there to cheer and congratulate the athletes on efforts of all sizes and show little to no negativity in the stands. This volleyball season, the Clay Center High School students have been known for just that.

On November 13 through the 15, the Clay Center Ladycats had the opportunity of playing in the D2 State tournament. The Clay Center student section was packed and roaring with

high expectations of their beloved team as they dominated Coleridge in match number one. Boys came ready to cheer, wearing volleyball helmets and short shorts awaiting the moment to signal a kill or ace. The crowd never seemed to sit and never took a moment to stop the praise. We were impressed by the dedication the fans had to this amazing team and the time taken from their day to come and support them in their anticipated victory. This, we thought, is the definition of what sportsmanship is.

With so much positive support it is a guarantee that motivation is gained by sports teams. A win for the Wildcats should not just include the athletes but the crowd as well. So why not honor these dedicated spectators with a much deserved reward?

In the State basketball tournament in 2006, Clay Center received a third place sportsmanship award for our committed fans. But while the NSAA gives an award for basketball, there

is no award in volleyball. We know for a fact that our fans are just as supportive during fall sports as they are in winter and it is a disappointment that does not show through in State competition. We as staff believe that the NSAA should start a sportsmanship award for volleyball, not just basketball tournament. The spectators work hard to come and cheer traveling miles to watch every game and should be given a memoir of all the enthusiasm given to the success of the team.

We believe that our school's sportsmanship is a definite key to producing a clean win. The athletes are here to give a dedicated performance, but spectators are here to back them up 110% no matter what, and that is what our school is sure to accomplish. On the court or in the stands, everyone plays a part. With such a passionate crowd why not give them what they truly deserve, a memento of incredible volleyball support.

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The PawPrint reserves the right to reject letters to the editor. All letters to the editor must be submitted with the name of the individual or group responsible for reasons of verifying authenticity. Letters with inaccuracies will be corrected by the staff, returned to the author or rejected. Letters must be limited to 200 words or less.

If the author of the letter wishes to remain anonymous, the editors will decide if it is pertinent to do so. No letters will be printed with the author's name against his/her will, but the staff may not print the letter if it decides the name should be printed and the author still wishes to be anonymous. Anonymity is a privilege granted to the author of a letter who may be persecuted or discriminated against as a result of the letter.

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Out of the cage fighting: Ladycats blank Rising City first quarter 13-0

By: **Vanessa Ponder**
Business Manager

She shoots she scores! Coming back from a great season last year the Ladycats had a great win against Rising City on Friday, December 12th. The girls have four returning starters this year and one great add on.

So far the girls have a 1-3 record and they're not going to give up without a fight. Stephanie Hoyt had a total of 20 points Friday night and 2nd up is Abby Sorensen with 10 points.

"Friday night was the most I've played yet this season. I was

really pumped and I didn't know that I had 4 fouls and neither did my coaches. I guess I just wanted to be really into the game and play the best I could," Breanna Bailey said. Bailey put up a hard fight against the Rising City girls and with her aggressiveness she is the first team member to foul out this season.

The girls played their toughest to win the game Friday and with a victory they were all excited. The Ladycats have a long and strong season ahead of them and with their talent they have a chance of going to state this year.

With confidence from the players and the crowd cheering them on at every game to give them confidence

they will feel much more confident about themselves. It's not that they have to work as a team, it's the crowd and the players who work together as a team. The players put on a show and the crowd cheers them on so that they have a good perspective on winning the games.

No matter if they win or lose they still have their fans standing right behind them. "The girls came out in the first half with a lot of intensity. De-

"I was really pumped and I didn't know that I had four fouls..."

-Breanna Bailey

fensively they did a great job holding a team with two good shooters to seven points," Coach Crystal Hassenstab said.

The first quarter the girls scored 13 points and the opponent scored zero. All together the girls played aggressively against Rising City to total up a sum of 10 steals. Abby Sorensen had 15 rebounds and Jessie Sorensen had 13 and the team all together had a total of 50 rebounds. By the end of the half the girls had an 18 point lead. By the 3rd quarter the girls were on a mission to win the game.

Ending the game with a score of 49-37 the girls congratulated each other and walked off the court with a smile on their faces.



magdalena HEIBECK/The PawPrint

Senior guard, Stephanie Hoyt goes up for a shot against Rising City on December 12th. Hoyt had 20 points on the night. The Ladycats took a 13-0 lead in the first quarter and never looked back as they defeated the Terriers 49-37. The win was the first of the season.

Knight line

Column by Kyle Knight

Another college football season, another team gets unfairly placed out of reaching the Promised Land. With possibly one of the most bizarre college football seasons in history, the Texas Longhorns got the bad end of the stick.

With a three way tie in the Big 12 South division, the team with the most BCS points got to go to the Big 12 championship. Playing against the Missouri Tigers, all three of these teams would have been able to win the championship easily. By winning the championship, that team would've more than likely been in the BCS National Championship.

This is why college football needs a playoff. So that even if you lose one game you can still have a chance to win it all.

Year after year teams get stifled out of a chance at a national title just because they play one bad quarter out of an entire season. This is why the FBS (formerly known as Division I) should create a playoff system relative to its little brother the FCS (formerly known as Division II).

Since the so called "experts" think it's so hard to come up with a college football playoff system I have decided to come up with one myself. I have created a college football playoff system that satisfies everybody.

Only one thing needs to change in college football to perfect this playoff equation. There should only be seven playoff contending conferences, including the ACC, Big 10, Big 12, Big East, Pac-10, SEC, and the Mountain West.

The reason behind this is that the schedules and teams in the other conferences aren't at the level of the conferences listed. Some people believe Boise State should be in the National Championship because they are undefeated in a slack conference. So if Boise State joined the Mountain West Conference they would be in a conference with high caliber teams.

In this playoff system, each team is automatically seeded by the number of BCS points they have.

Each of the seven conference champions get an automatic bid unless they are ranked lower than sixteenth. This way the top sixteen teams in the country get into the playoffs. The bracket will consist of teams seeded one through sixteen.

Each game will be played in a specific bowl game.

Since the bowl games are all about money, the highest bidding bowls will host the playoff games. Bowl games will still exist though. That way teams that don't make the playoffs can still make a bowl game.

But many schools don't like the idea of this because it would be taking place during semester tests. There is a very simple solution to this problem.

Start the season earlier. Don't play as many games.

Right now teams are playing between twelve and fourteen games a year. Simply have a twelve game regular season with a conference championship and a four game playoff.

Unfortunately we won't be looking for a college football playoff anytime soon.

Bowl games are contracted with television networks until 2012. So until then I guess teams will continue to get shafted out of making history.

Overcoming numbers: Young Ladycats end season with positive attitude

By: **Jill Baxa**
Assistant Editor

The sixth man on a basketball team is usually a key player even though they aren't in the starting lineup. On the Jr. High Girls Basketball team the sixth man is a very important player as there are only six girls who participated on the team this year.

The team had its ups and downs as they are small when it comes to team members, coached by third year coach Holli Webber, the team came away with a 0-7 record on the season.

To start out the season, the team had a meeting to decide on team goals. "Improving on basic fundamentals and playing better as a team were the team goals for the season," Webber said. The team has improved according to Webber as they have progressed from game to game. "They have improved and have stepped it up because of the numbers, they have

realized how important it is to push through being tired," she said.

Students participating on the team include: eighth graders, Mary Cooney, Samantha Veik, Samantha Dubois, and Nicole Bailey. Seventh graders participating are Tiana Barnes and Kylie Heaton.

The girls have worked harder because of the number shortage. "We have learned to stick with it and not give up because we have no substitutes," eighth grader Mary Cooney said.

The team also believes that they are in better shape compared to last year because they play the whole game.

After competing in seven games this season, the team gained knowledge of the sport of basketball. "Considering the challenge of the number out, they have come a long way" Coach Webber said. "You can't always tell by the numbers on the scoreboard."



jeremy HENEGER/The PawPrint

Eighth grader Nicole Bailey defends a Doniphan-Trumbull player while teammate Samantha Dubois looks on. Improving on basic fundamentals and playing better as a team were the team's goals this year.



Wildcats drive past the Terriers

By: **Abby Sorensen**
Staff Writer

The Wildcat boy's basketball team was ecstatic after their first big win against Rising City Friday December 12, 2008.

Outscoring the Terriers 30 to 7 at half, the Wildcats came out ready to play with only one goal in mind which was to play hard. Jair Perez, the teams lead scorer, had 11 points on the night while Kyle Knight tallied up 9 points for the Wildcats.

"It was a great opportunity to get everyone some playing time with a lead. The players seemed to be more relaxed and hopefully they will gain some confidence that will help them with the rest of the season," Coach Rick Rath said.

The team returned from last season with two part time starters, Knight and

Brodrick Dillon.

Foreign Exchange Student, Luciano Marques, was the high scorer off the bench with eight points.

The Wildcats started out the 1st quarter with a 17 to 5 lead and then just kept progressing from there. By the end of the 2nd quarter, the Wildcats held the Terriers to two of their total of seven points for the first half.

They came out the third quarter with more intensity and stretched the lead to thirty points. By the 4th quarter the Wildcats had it in the bag.

"It was a game that gave us a boost in our confidence. We played more as a team and we stayed chilled," Perez Said.

As the buzzer sounded, the Wildcats shook hands and smiled with a great feeling as they had just beaten the Terriers 68-18.

The wildcats finished the game with 35 offensive rebounds and 20 steals.



ceirra **TOMPKIN**/The PawPrint
Brazilian foreign exchange student, Luciano Marques puts up a shot against the Rising City Terriers on December 12th. He was the leading scorer off the bench with eight points in the win.



There might be a familiar face on the bench, but he won't be playing. He will be doing another passion, coaching. Andrew Malone was a four year member to the Wildcats boys' basketball team. Now he attends Hastings College and is majoring in elementary education and his minor is coaching. He gets credits towards his coaching minor for being a student coach and towards the future because he would like to be a high school head coach someday.

"When I'm helping in practice and in games it seems so much easier then what it really is. So you have to watch what you say. It's easy for the coaches to yell about something, but its easier said then done for the players." Andrew said when I asked him what the difference between coaching and playing was.

He is a great addition to the coaching staff and he knows all the players and is very close to their ages so they relate well. He has been through all of this before and he knows what its like.

"I love helping because I know a lot about the game and I think I do a good job at explaining and showing how to do things to the players." Andrew said.

Coaching Teams: New faces on the bench

By: **Magdalena Heibeck**
Staff Writer

A strong leader is essential to every good sports team. He or she pushes the athletes to their limits, holds the team together, and provides the team with tactics and motivation skills.

As you might have noticed Clay Center's high school basketball coaching team counts three new members. Crystal Hassenstab who has already been involved in coaching this volleyball season as assistant coach is now the new head coach of the girls' basketball team. Furthermore Whitney Bottom now helps preparing the girls for their games and Anthony Godtel joined the boys' team as an assistant coach.

Crystal Hassenstab, better known as Coach Hass, was a teacher in Wellsville, Kansas before her and her husband moved to Hastings. Now she teaches art in Clay Center and Harvard and decided to coach basketball at Clay Center High School because after playing basketball during her time at Fremont and Midland College she wanted to coach a team herself. "She's got a great amount of respect for everyone of us and she wants to see us excel both on and off the court. She's young and fun and has a great passion for what she does which is just what we all need. She's a great coach but more importantly she's just a great person all around," Ashley Boman said.

While working at the YMCA in Hastings this summer Hass met fellow worker Whitney Bottom who is a



vanessa **PONDER**/The PawPrint

Assistant Coach, Anthony Godtel and senior Jordin Franklin joke around while shooting free throws in practice. Godtel is also the Associate Pastor at the Christian Church.

senior at Hastings College aiming for a major in Secondary English Education. When Hass asked her to coach basketball at CCHS she considered it a good opportunity to approach her

For the first time coaching at Clay Center High School is also Anthony Godtel. The Associate Pastor of the Christian Church grew up in Culbertson where he also went to high school. He then attended Nebraska Wesleyan College and Nebraska Christian College before he went to the military serving in the air force for four years. Because he enjoys teaching and likes basketball, Godtel elected to become the assistant coach of the boy's team. After they had their first games head coach Mr. Rath stated: "Anthony has great passion for the student/athletes and the game of basketball. His enthusiasm on the bench reflects upon our effort on the court. As he becomes more comfortable with my system he will only get better. It's good to have someone in the community who is so visible."

“Anthony has great passion for the student/athletes and the game of basketball.

-Coach Rick Rath

wish of becoming a coach. "That's what I want to do with my life later," she said. Bottom is now responsible for the girls' junior varsity team and is excited for every game.

Action on the wrestling mat



jeremy **HENEGER**/The PawPrint

Seventh grader grappler Dawson Messenger wrestles at the Sutton/Harvard Dual in Harvard on December 9th.

By: **Ceirra Tompkin**

Staff Writer

Jacob Zoucha is the lone wrestler for Clay Center and will be pursuing the long journey with his teammates from Harvard.

The wrestling season started Thursday, December 4 at Harvard. Zoucha handled the situation very well for his first meet. He had to move up a weight class because the weight class he was supposed to be in was already filled by a Harvard wrestler.

Wrestlers from Clay Center and Harvard have combined, which will make it the fifth year of their coop together.

"I have to admit it is really weird being the only one from Clay Center, but I enjoy wrestling, the sport is exciting and I won't let being the only one from Clay Center affect my season," Jacob Zoucha said.

"This could be a very exciting season and sure more kids would be better because you can fill more weight classes and you get more support, but taking in what we have I really believe we have the experience we need to have a great season,"

Coach Cliff Gallant said.

Considering that Harvard and Clay Center have combined together to make the Wildcards, Zoucha is really lucky to still be able to be a part of a team. "I am really glad that we have combined together with Harvard.

With Clay Center and Harvard together we should have a good year," Coach Gallant said.

Also there are two participants for the Junior High wrestling team this year, Dawson Messenger and Douglas Johnson.

This year they had a total of eight matches and their last wrestling match was held at Harvard on Dec. 9. "I felt really good going into this season. Wrestling is just so exciting to me and I enjoy doing it," Douglas said. Douglas ended the season pretty well with the match record of 5-9.

"When the wrestling season started this year I was very confident that I was going to have a good season because I had more experience than other years," Dawson said. Dawson had a good season as well, ending this year with a record of 14-12.

Osceola, Shelby give Crossroads Conference new look

By: Jill Baxa
Assistant Editor

The Crossroads Conference is under renovation. Upon being founded in 1950, there has been much change to the look of the Conference because of schools leaving, coming in or even consolidating.

Clay Center has been a part of the CRC since 1999. However, two new schools will be introduced to the Conference. Osceola and Shelby high schools were formerly members of the Central Eight Conference for many years but will be added to the CRC.

The Central Eight Conference will be closing its curtains as it will be disband due to the loss of members that are moving to different conferences. The Central Eight Conference has only six schools including: Cross County, Friend, Fullerton, Osceola, Shelby and Twin River. When East Butler and David City left, the Conference never changed their name hoping to find two replacement schools.

The Central Eight Conference is last dated to being 22 years old. The Conference contains members that are class C2 and D1. The Conference dwindled down to six teams because David City and East Butler felt they were too big of schools for the Central Eight Conference. Cross County has also committed to the Southern Nebraska Conference for the next school year. With that, three teams are left in limbo to find another conference.

This change will go into full effect and will be able to compete in the CRC Tournaments during the 2009-2010 school year. The CRC Volleyball and Basketball Tournaments are held at the York City Auditorium. Track is held at York High School's track.

Osceola's Activities Director, Clete Arasmith is very optimistic about the change. "It will benefit us by playing good competition and we fit in well because of the size of our school," Arasmith said. Shelby and Osceola are both Class D1 schools.

His experience with the CRC in the past helped make the decision an easier one for Arasmith as he was the principal for Rising City and High Plains while they were both in the CRC. "I have always thought this was a wonderful Conference," Arasmith stated.

Arasmith has witnessed firsthand the collapse of the Central Eight Conference as he coached at David City when they left the Conference.

The process of accepting Osceola and Shelby into the Conference started with a vote from the current Conference member's School Boards. When the CRC had approved it was presented to Osceola and Shelby's school boards for their approval.

The CRC Tournaments for volleyball and basketball will feature a 12 team format bracket. The new members will not be able to contend for the regular season trophy for those sports because they have to play all of the schools in the Conference at least once during the regular season.

When it comes to adding these schools into Clay Center's sports schedules, Activities Director Jim Bovee is finding difficulties in adding them in. "We already added Osceola into our volleyball schedule for next year because we anticipated their addition into the Conference," Bovee said. He also commented that within three years, both schools will be completely integrated into the schedule for all sports.

He also mentioned the positive side of Osceola and Shelby being added into the Conference. "This will keep the Conference more competitive and stable because of schools merging," Bovee said. There are at least four schools in the CRC that are at a time of a potential change due to low enrollment.

Boys Basketball Coach, Rick Rath comes from the experience of conference changes. "Five years from now, the CRC will look different," he said. "On the basketball court Shelby has a well respected coach who has experience."

As for the competition of the Conference, volleyball coach Julie Studnicka thinks it will keep it strong. "I think it is a good idea because they 'have to' play us," she said. "Since schools have dropped us from their schedule we will have replacements for those schedule changes."

The addition of Shelby and Osceola, however do not make the Conference larger geographically as they are just west of Rising City. Instead of only three schools north of Interstate 80 there are now five.

With the addition of the new members, the CRC will include: High Plains, Hampton, Exeter-Milligan, McCool Junction, Osceola, Shelby, Giltner, Dorchester, Meridian, Rising City, Shickley and Clay Center.

