

# THUNDERBEAT



Photo by LeAnne Bugay

## GIRLS SOCCER HOSTS DISTRICTS FOR FIRST TIME IN SCHOOL HISTORY

BY MEGAN NORMAN // REPORTER

*Bellevue West girls varsity soccer hosted two games in the A-7 bracket on April 29 and May 2. Read more on Page 6 about the team's record and season-long journey towards their goal of hosting districts.*

## Seniors' last day changes for AP Stats exam, elementary walk, senior picnic

NATHAN HAWKINS  
SPORTS/MANAGING EDITOR

Last week, seniors were tasked with choosing between the Statistics Advanced Placement test or attending the elementary school walk, Senior Picnic, and paying a \$40 fine to take the makeup date — until the school took action.

The seniors' last day has typically been one week before everyone else gets out in order to accommodate for the senior events. For the Class of 2019, their last day was originally Thursday, May 16, which conflicted with the Stats AP exam that 67 seniors are taking.

The conflict wasn't something that was on the radar of anyone involved. Principal Kevin Rohlfs first heard about it from Stats AP

teacher Jacob Eitzen.

"We didn't hear about it until right after we put the information out for the senior walk-throughs," Rohlfs said. "We hadn't thought about it. That would've been only a couple of weeks ago. Then we heard from Mr. Eitzen that there were a number of students who were frustrated they weren't going to be able to participate in that because of the Stats test and we looked and sure enough the Stats test was on that day."

From there, Rohlfs discussed it in a department chair meeting, saying he would "look into it." He called superintendent Jeff Rippe to discuss options.

First they discussed paying for the students to take the makeup date, but potentially paying \$40 for each of the 80 total tests wasn't

realistic. Then they discussed moving the last day from Thursday to Friday, but Rohlfs feared that students wouldn't come back for that last day. They considered moving out one day early, and a few days later, Rippe gave it the okay.

Rohlfs said the decision was made for the seniors, especially due to the growing popularity of the senior walk in the elementary schools.

"We moved it because it's really a great day for the seniors," Rohlfs said. "The practice, the picnic, the senior walkthrough — that's only about the third year we've done that and it's really become a big deal for our students, and I didn't even realize that it had gotten that important that fast. So once we realized all of that, we just couldn't do that to the senior class."

Eitzen agreed it was the best move for the seniors.

"I think it's the best case scenario," Eitzen said. "Just being the day after students get to do all their end of the year senior activities, and the test being in the afternoon I think is a good thing too."

Besides performance, Eitzen said this shows that the district's priorities are in the right place: with the students.

"I think that it just is another example that Bellevue Public Schools is looking out for the students' best interest at the end of the day," Eitzen said. "They recognized that it wasn't really the best case scenario, and after exploring all the options they were able to make a decision that was best for students. It was a good deal."

## Inconsistent enforcement of parking rules causes discussions on improvements

LEANNE BUGAY  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Junior Kaia Hada pulled into a front row parking spot by the West Commons doors at 7:45 a.m. She grabbed her backpack and walked into Bellevue West, hoping to make it on time to class.

Hada paid no attention to her absence of a parking permit, or that her car was in a row designated for staff. The next morning, she did the same. And the next morning as well.

But Hada wasn't alone in her rule breaking.

On April 9-10 and 16, The Thunderbeat surveyed the tag col-

or of every car in the back parking lot at 8 a.m. On average out of the three days, there were 19 cars with blue tags (for student use in the main lot), 39 cars with green tags (for select band and journalism upperclassmen use in the back lot), 66 cars with orange tags (for staff), and 70 cars with no tags.

Front office secretary Adriana Hernandez said that while not every person registers their car with the school like they're required to, there are still many students that are denied a tag because there aren't enough to match the student body.

"We're supposed to have 1,000 [blue] tags but we ran out in Oc-

tober," Hernandez said. "That's just because students either don't turn in their tags from the year before or they lost them and they just never paid for them."

All of West's 657 blue tags are in use, and new tags haven't been bought in over 20 years. But the shortage of parking tags isn't the only factor in why there was an average of 70 cars with no tags and 19 cars with blue tags in the back lot on those given days.

"My GPS is close to back there and I don't want to get in traffic," Hada said. "There's more parking back there and you don't have to walk as far."

Hada said that students with

blue or no tags like her park in the back consistently not only due to the convenience, but also because of the overcrowding in the front lot.

"There's a lot of people that park back there that shouldn't be," junior Alanna Hobbs, who has back lot privileges, said. "But I think it's just because it is really hard to find a spot in the front."

Hernandez said that there's no excuse for students to be parking where they shouldn't be, and that students feel entitled to a back parking spot or are too lazy to make it to school on time.

Continued on Page 5.

## Review: "The Call to Courage" offers valuable life advice

LEAH LARSON  
LAYOUT EDITOR

Brené Brown is a professor at the University of Houston who spent the last two decades researching courage, vulnerability, shame, and empathy. She's written eight books that touch on various topics like authenticity and leadership skills.

I first discovered her work through her TED Talk "The power of vulnerability," which has over 10 million views on YouTube. I developed an almost instant fascination with her discoveries.

Brown dives even deeper into her acclaimed research in the Netflix documentary "Brené Brown: The Call to Courage." The documentary is like an hour long TED Talk in disguise that taught me more about myself and the world around me.

Here are five of the most important lessons I learned:

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Photo by Jay Walker-Schulte

**BROOKE JONES**  
REPORTER

In the upcoming school year, the business department will see several changes due to DECA adviser Dave Shillinglaw’s retirement and business teacher Gogi Supenski’s new position as an instructional coach for middle school teacher.

With these changes comes a new era for the Bellevue West business department.

Shillinglaw has taught at West for 29 years and has been a vital part of the school’s DECA program during that time.

His DECA students have gone to nationals every year and won first place titles nine times.

When it comes to his impact at West, Shillinglaw said he believes that he’s helped every student just as much as they have helped him over the years.

“I’d like to think that I made an impact on all of my students in some way, shape, or form,” Shillinglaw said. “I always tried to challenge students to get the best out of them.”

Shillinglaw said that he has plans of helping kids in other ways outside of his classroom, but doesn’t know exactly what that might involve yet.

“I’m not retiring because I need to, I’m retiring because it’s time and I want to,” Shillinglaw said. “I want to do some other things in my life. I’d like to accomplish

something and help kids in another way.”

Several students expressed praise for Shillinglaw, talking about the several lessons they were taught while having him as their teacher.

“He taught me how to be successful in not just business, but in any field that I decide to go into,” junior Alisa Jordan said.

Personal finance teacher Gogi Supenski will be transferring to Mission Middle School after 12 years of teaching at West.

Her main role at Mission will be helping teachers learn how to integrate iPads into their classrooms.

She said that the most rewarding part of teaching is having stu-

dents come back and tell her that she helped them in some way.

Sometimes, students will come back years after graduating just to say that her class helped them through college and beyond.

“Students will come back and say ‘It was real! You were telling us what it really was like,’” Supenski said.

When it comes to her legacy at West, Supenski said she wants to be remembered for her way of making people feel important.

“I just hope they remember me and remember my laugh,” Supenski said. “Hopefully I made them smile.”

Among the new teachers joining the business department next year is current Info Tech and AP

Computer Science Principles teacher Epley Hamilton.

Hamilton has been a track coach for the past three years, but looks forward to getting to know students beyond the track team.

“I’m really looking forward to building relationships with students,” Hamilton said. “Right now I only really know my track kids.”

Along with Hamilton, the department will welcome new DECA adviser Jennifer Clark.

“I wish the new teacher the best,” Shillinglaw said. “I hope the students understand that she’s not me and that they’re going to have to learn to work with somebody else who maybe has a different way of doing things.”

# LB 390 signed into law, new civil liberties liable to students

**LEANNE BUGAY**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On April 24, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts signed Legislative Bill 390 into law. The bill was Lincoln Senator Patty Pansing Brooks’ priority bill for the 106th Legislative Session.

LB 390 requires public school districts to designate the roles of school resource officers and to make sure students’ civil rights are being respected if they’re suspected of breaking the law.

LB 390 requires that a memorandum of understanding (MOU), or agreement between two groups,

be written by law enforcement and school administrators to explain the exact role of school resource officers and the new policies.

Each school district’s MOU will include, but is not limited to, the following policies.

The bill states that the presence of any SROs can’t cause an uneven impact on different federally identified demographic groups, such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, and income. To help ensure this, records must be kept on every student prosecution and must list the reason for the referral and the demographic characteristics of such student.

SROs and at least one administrator per building are required to train for at least 20 hours on topics including, but not limited to: school law, student rights, special needs students, ethics, teenage brain development, adolescent behavior, diversity and cultural awareness, implicit biases, violence prevention, and trauma.

LB 390 mandates that schools make a policy that explains when parents or guardians of students suspected of a crime will be notified. Adding onto that policy must be the circumstances in which students will be told their constitutional rights before any interro-

gation.

Schools must also identify a student and parent complaint process to allow for families to communicate problems about the practices of SROs.

The Nebraska Department of Education will publish a model memorandum of understanding for schools to use or reference by December 1, 2019. Each school district that partners with law enforcement, such as Bellevue Public Schools and Bellevue Police Department, must adopt from the state or create a similar MOU of the new policies by January 1, 2021. The superintendent must

make the MOU available to the public and publish any updates.

Principal Kevin Rohlfs said that BPD and BPS have some form of documentation in place that explains the role of SROs, but it has not been updated anytime recently. He said that he knew about the bill, but hadn’t read any details. Rohlfs said the district is in support, and will most likely discuss the bill at the next administrative meeting.

“It just highlights the importance of just making sure we’re working together and making sure that parents are a part of that conversation,” Rohlfs said.



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# Competition in schools is unhealthy

EMMA GAGE  
REPORTER



As finals start approaching, many students find themselves stuck in a cycle of constant studying, tirelessly doing homework, and checking PowerSchool all in the hope of maintaining a high GPA and keeping their class rank in good shape for college.

Competition has become such a fundamental part of the school system that every year students experience immense stress and interference with their learning processes.

Academic competition can be used to motivate students to do well in class. Whether they want their class rank to be higher, or simply want to be better than their friends, competition in the classroom can seemingly compel many students to perform well. However, academic competition also has its downfalls, especially with things like ‘grade chasing.’

Grade chasing happens when students obsess over what their letter grade is and not the material that they are learning. It is often caused by the anxiety that students experience through the traditional grading system. Their fears about seeing their letter grade drop interferes with their learning process and leaves them struggling to complete long-term projects, perform well on summative tests, or comprehend information.

In order to retain and recall information, you have to first to encode it in your memory. This happens when you find a deeper level of understanding in the information and form connections with it to other things that you know. When students are so worried about passing a test that they focus on memorizing definitions and specific examples, they never actually encode the material. When they try to recall it later, they may remember slight amounts to nothing at all.

Competition in schools also becomes an issue when students begin to associate their grades with their self-worth. Even if you don't see your grades as defining you, it is likely that you know someone who does. They are one of the students who obsess over every formative point, and tear up at even the thought of anything below a 90.

Competition can become degrading to their self esteem when they do not perform well enough on something. They are constantly competing against both others and themselves.

Our traditional grading system also proves problematic when it fails to fulfill its intended purpose. Grades are supposed to serve as motivators for students to try in school and are supposed to report this effort. However, not all students are motivated by grades and could care less to see them drop below passing. Some students who fall off the wagon of excelling in school from an early age may give up trying to recover and become desensitized to their grades.

Although there's no easy solution to the problems that intense academic competition causes, there are steps that we can take to work towards it. The district took a step in the right direction with getting rid of valedictorians.

A decrease in testing and a less harsh grading system would allow both students and teachers to take the time necessary to learn information without the looming anxiety and stress of points and grades.

# Students need to clean up after themselves

MOOSHOO TRAN  
NEWS EDITOR



Walking to sixth hour every day is always such a burden. Wrappers and trays are scattered across the commons and in the downstairs hallways. It's rare to walk through and not see chips ground into the carpet or an apple utterly destroyed just for the sake of destroying it. Not only does it look disgusting, but it creates a burden for the students and staff that work here.

We were taught to pick up after ourselves. So what's changed?

It's unfair to custodial staff and to the few students who take time to clean up someone else's mess. Leaving trash out for others to pick up is irresponsible and only validates the misconception that every teenager is an irresponsible slob and doesn't care about anyone other than themselves. It's reasonable to expect a little mess, but whole lunch trays and empty food wrappers every day is ridiculous.

Cleaning up isn't taxing in the slightest. There are eighteen trash cans scattered about in the commons. It wouldn't be hard to walk up to one and throw your trash



Photo by Mooshoo Tran

A plate of food is left in the band hallway after lunch.

away. The custodial staff have provided us with trash cans near the stairs for lunch, so when you walk to your next class, it's not much effort to throw away waste. Groups could even help each other out by having a few people stack and take two or three trays at once. If someone has an empty chip or plastic bag, you could start to use it as a mini trash bag to hold other wrappers. If you see empty milk jugs or wrappers on the ground,

pick it up. Considering that the custodial staff has to manage the entire school, it'd be very kind to give them a hand. It isn't that hard.

Starting these tidying habits now not only helps yourself in the future, but it also helps Bellevue West keep a clean, healthy environment for its students. Putting forth even a little bit of effort to help someone other than yourself could start a chain reaction and might even get others to follow in

your footsteps.

As we grow older, we are held to higher and higher standards. High school isn't the place to forget that. Any kid who watched Barney the Purple Dinosaur growing up even knows a whole song dedicated to cleaning the space around you. Give the custodial staff a hand and pick up after yourself. Your mess impacts more than you'd think.

Please start to pick up after yourselves.

# Jay's end-of-the-school-year reality check

JAY WALKER-SCHULTE  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR



Let's be honest: the end of the school year is literally the worst part of the year.

Everyone is hot and sweaty, class loads are brutal, and gossip is at its precipice. It's also the perfect time to give up. However, here are five self-affirmations that will keep you from slipping.

### Reappropriate your time.

What are you doing after school every day? Are you scrolling through Instagram for five hours, building up an inevitable all-nighter? What happened to that two-page paper you were so worried about a couple of hours ago? I personally believe that there are productive ways to waste time, and building up a ball of anxiety because you refuse to put your phone down isn't one of them. It's time to have a one-on-one with

yourself.

### Acknowledge what's important.

What do your goals look like right now? Is getting a boyfriend or girlfriend really more important than dragging your biology grade out of its grave? I think not. You have all summer to worry about being a drama queen. The most important thing to you right now needs to be getting your work done. Your besties and drama will still be around during the summer, I assure you. But first and foremost, finish that algebra worksheet you haven't touched in weeks!

### Surround yourself with positivity/like-minded people.

I'm sure we've all got that friend: "Oh my God, my grades suck so much right now. I just hate teacher so-and-so, I'm just so stupid, my acne is so so bad right now and I swear I'm never going to graduate..." they moan, and you think in the back of your head about how they've skipped class twice this week. The end of the year is definitely tough, and



Graphic by Jay Walker-Schulte

looking to friends for support is a healthy thing. However, if your circle is becoming a pool of "woe is me," it's definitely important to acknowledge that spending your time playing victim isn't helpful in the long run.

### Put down the chips.

Girl, I love to eat. I truly do. I get it! But you really gotta put the Hot Cheetos and Bang away, man. Eating right has more to it than having a good body--a sound

body is a sound mind, after all. You need brain power to get through your finals and AP tests, and unfortunately, sugaring yourself up doesn't cut it.

### Summer is quickly approaching.

We for real don't have that much school left. You don't have time to chill out right now. You really have to organize your priorities and set yourself straight. End this year with a bang.

# Graduation is worth celebrating

AYANNA SOLOMON-SMITH  
REPORTER



The school year is quickly coming to an end, especially for seniors.

Senior year can be quite the challenge when it comes to making sure you're on the right track for planning your life after high school. Just thinking about it right now gives me a headache.

But what most seniors have in common is that we want to graduate and celebrate.

After the graduation ceremony,

most students commemorate this milestone by throwing a graduation party with their family and friends. Some may say that graduation parties are a waste of time and money, but they've got it all twisted.

We students have to endure all the pain and suffering for 12 stinking years with all these standardized tests and built up stress. The least that can be done for us is a party to acknowledge the hard work we put in.

Now, this might be quite the shock to some people, but a graduation party doesn't have to be some extravagant event.

Think of it as a birthday party. Some are small, intimate gather-

ings at houses while others involve renting out venues and spending money on decorations and food.

Not all graduation parties have to be the same. If your family is willing to spend money on a celebration, then so be it, but it's not a requirement to spend a lot to have a fulfilling graduation party.

It's also a great opportunity to see your relatives that you haven't seen since you were "this big."

I don't know about you guys, but I love it when I get to see my distant family members and celebrate with them.

It's also a great opportunity to receive presents. It's common to bring a small gift to a party that you are invited to.

Graduation parties are like baby showers and birthdays loosely combined; you get presents from your friends and family that are meant to help you in the future.

Now if this doesn't persuade you, then I don't know what else would.

Graduation parties are not for everybody. You may be the type of person that attends graduation parties instead of hosting them, and that's okay. But even having a small graduation party with some of your friends and family members would be worth it.

High school is hard and as graduating seniors, we owe it to ourselves to celebrate.

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# Bellevue Public Library sponsors events to involve community

AYANNA SOLOMON-SMITH  
REPORTER

The Bellevue Public Library has been a part of the community for 44 years. The library hosts different activities and events, from book clubs to yoga classes, in hopes of connecting people within the community.

The library’s mission statement is “The Bellevue Public Library will provide resources, services, and programs that serve the diverse informational, educational, and recreational needs and interests of the community,”

“Throughout the school year, we have things like Game Fest which is video and tabletop gaming,” Young Adult Librarian Department Head Crystal Anderson said. “We recently started an anime and manga club because our manga collection circulates really well and they wanted to form some social activities around common interest.”

The library is more than a place to checkout books or do homework; there’s always something going on. Their daily events are available on their website or social media like their Facebook page and Instagram account.

“We are using Instagram a little bit,” Library Director Julie Dinville said. “We do also try to put them in the ‘Bellevue Leader’ newspaper and we try to get [the activities calendar] out on the BTV local cable station as well. And then, we use the email list that comes with our automation system and we send out e-blasts to folks trying to let them know about activities. We don’t do it for every single activity, but we try to do the ones we want to highlight.”

Anderson said she understands that teenagers have other things going on in their lives like jobs and extracurricular activities after school, but they do try their hardest to come up with activities during and after the school year. They have summer activities that aim to reach out to the teens in the community.

To keep people interested in participating more at the library, they allow and accept participants’ inputs on ideas for what activities they should and shouldn’t implement into their summer program.

“This summer’s theme is space, it’s called ‘A Universe of Stories,’” Anderson said. “We are continuing a lot of our regular events into the summer like Game Fest. We’re going to do Super Smash Brother and Mario Kart tournaments, make solar system necklaces, galaxy slime, and Teen Iron Chef.”

Teen Iron Chef is where two people work together to create three dishes and have it judged by a panel of judges. Whichever group wins receives a grand prize.

They also have an event series for the Summer Library Program called Stressbusters, which features different activities and methods for dealing with stress. In the past, they’ve made aromatherapy bath bombs, stress balls, heating packs, and more.

The library hosts multiple activities and events at their location because they want to give to the community.

“We really want to provide the community an opportunity to learn, to have fun, and to explore,” Dinville said. “These may be crafts they’ve never done before or maybe a topic they’ve looked into before. It’s to give them a lot more opportunities to enjoy and educate themselves and be interested in their community and the world.”

# Sorensen leaves behind large impact in the lives of students and staff at West

MEGAN NORMAN  
REPORTER

After 33 years of teaching at Bellevue West, Julie Sorensen will be retiring after this school year. Sorensen started in 1986 teaching math, which she taught for nine years, and then spent 24 years in the Career Center. She is also involved with numerous amounts of activities with the school, like working with English teachers who bring their classes to the Career Center for different projects. She is one of the head technology trainers for the school and the advisor for Congressional Award.

“She’s taking the lead for the school in a lot of different areas too,” freshmen counselor Lynne Henkel said. “So when we have in-services or things, a lot of times she’ll be one of the ones in charge or guiding the process. So she does a lot for Mr. Rohlf and the administrators too.”

Sorensen said that after she retires, she hopes to spend quality time with her father, and after that, she is looking forward to traveling.

“I’m looking forward to being able to take a vacation in months other than June or July to be honest with you,” Sorensen said.

Sorensen’s advisory threw her a surprise retirement party on Wednesday, May 1. She personally thanked and hugged each one of her students with tears in her eyes.

Juniors Abigail Wilson and Aubrey Brazda came up with the idea for the surprise party. The class bought food and decorations, and they all signed a card for her. The advisory even got the office involved and created a fake meeting so that Sorensen would be out of the room while they decorated.



Photo by Megan Norman

Julie Sorensen reacts to a surprise going away party put together by her advisory class. Sorensen retires this year after teaching at Bellevue West for 33 years.

“Well we knew she was super sad about retiring because she’s been here longer than any teacher, and we all just care about her so much in our advisory,” Wilson said. “So we decided to give her a little bit of happiness because it’s really sad that she’s leaving.”

Henkel will be taking over the Career Center next school year and won’t be one of the four core counselors.

“I can’t replace her, I can only move over there. She is irreplaceable, but yes I will be moving over there and taking over the career aspects of it,” Henkel said. “And then we are getting a new counselor for the ninth grade. I’m nervous, very nervous. It’s hard to fill her shoes, so it’s a big job and I’m just glad she’ll be around. I figure that I can call her when I need next year if I have any questions.”

Henkel said she will miss being able to run over and talk to Sorensen when she has a question or she needs advice about a situation.

“Mrs. Sorensen is someone who’s always there when you need her,” Henkel said. “She knows a lot, she’s very wise, she has a lot of experience in a lot if different areas and she’s smart in a lot if different ways. So she’s a good friend to have.”



Photo by Emily Schmidt

Sophomores Diego Ellis and Aaliyah Goodloff practice shooting side by side at Marksmanship practice. Col. Scott Vanderhoof said the two “really balance each other out.”

# Ellis and Goodloff represent West Marksmanship team at NRA nationals

EMILY SCHMIDT  
COPY EDITOR

On May 3, sophomore Marksmanship team members Diego Ellis and Aaliyah Goodloff placed third and nineteenth respectively at the National Rifle Association’s (NRA) National Junior Air Gun Championship for ten meter, three-position air pellet rifle in Bloomington, Illinois.

The two became eligible to compete after sending in their results from an NRA qualifying event in Gage County, Nebraska, in addition to successful seasons in competitions and the Omaha Public Schools Shooting League.

Marksmanship team coach Col. Scott Vanderhoof said he is especially proud of their achievement because this year is Ellis’ second on the team and Goodloff’s first.

Ellis had no prior shooting experience before joining the team his freshman year. He earned the first high aggregate in the league last year with a score of 92 out of a possible 100 points. This year he has increased his high to 97 points, and continued to put in good showings at competitions this year. Ellis said he is looking to use the skills he gained in the Air Force someday.

“It’ll build onto the experience during military operations and stuff, so you’ll have the knowledge and experience already,” Ellis said.

Vanderhoof said the most impressive aspect of Ellis’ shooting is not the accuracy itself, but how “rock steady” his form is from lining up a shot through the moment he pulls the trigger. Where he’s witnessed other shooters’ guns moving in “little

figure eights,” Ellis hardly moves, even when reloading. Along with little tricks he’s learned through practice, Ellis’ temperament plays a big role in his stability.

“To be good, you’ve got to be very concentrated and focused, and Diego is,” Vanderhoof said. “He’s almost emotionless. If he has a good round you might get a smile out of him and if he has a bad one you wouldn’t even know. He’s very calm and collected.”

While Ellis has remained a dependable shot into this year, Vanderhoof has seen a massive change in Ellis’ confidence in voicing his thoughts and opinions.

“He used to never talk and this year he’ll come up to me after and ask me what he needs to do different or be able to say, ‘I pulled this shot,’ and sort of really analyze his shots,” Vanderhoof said.

Unlike Ellis, Goodloff had practiced shooting before joining the Marksmanship team. Her first experience learning to shoot a pistol with her grandfather was “really fun” and sparked an interest that prompted her to join the 4-H Shooting Sports Program. She’s even planning on taking up archery.

“I know I’m not going to get to involved like I am with shooting, but it’s just something new to try,” Goodloff said.

Vanderhoof said where Ellis brought quiet confidence to the team, Goodloff brought great dedication and a sense of humor. Her enthusiasm lightened up the atmosphere of practices and spread to the rest of the team.

“Diego is more of a quiet leader and Aaliyah is very loud and outgoing,” Vanderhoof said. “They really balance each other out.”





Photo by Emily Schmidt

Junior Liam Joyce and sophomore Kaiya Arent perform in the play “Good-Bye to the Clown” directed by senior Mooshoo Tran. The play was one of two One-Act plays performed on April 26 in the Bellevue West auditorium.

**TAEGAN JACOBS**  
FEATURES EDITOR

On April 26, Bellevue West’s performance studies class put on one of the theatre department’s last productions of the year: One-Acts. The two productions, “Perfect Score” and “Good-Bye to the Clown,” were cast, directed, and produced entirely by the two students in the class. Performance Studies is the highest theatre level class available and students are accepted at theatre teacher Jennifer Ettinger’s discretion. Ettinger said she looks for independent students with strong leadership capabilities. The class is so small that seniors Marlo Medill and Mooshoo Tran, the only two in the class, have to share a classroom with Ettinger’s advanced theatre class. Medill directed “Perfect Score,” which she described as being about the trials that come along with senior year of high school. “It was about fifty minutes and there were eight people in it, including just a musician — who was not originally cast,” Medill said. “It was really cool and it was a hard process. We rehearsed three times a week and we were concerned at the lack of time in

the end, but it turned out great.” Tran’s play, “Good-Bye to the Clown,” is about a nine-year-old girl who is unable to distinguish between her imagination and reality as she gets in trouble at school and blames her behavior on her imaginary friend, a clown. As the play progresses, Peggy realizes the Clown has been a substitute for her deceased father, and the Clown says goodbye as she starts to face reality and he is no longer needed. Junior Liam Joyce, currently in Intermediate Theatre and Stagecraft, played the principal and Peggy’s Uncle George. He was also involved in this year’s 24 Hour Play Festival, the fall play “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” and the spring musical “Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Cinderella.” Joyce said that although there was only a month to prepare, it was much less hectic with the smaller cast. He also said Tran had a more laid back approach to directing the One-Acts. “She was very open to ideas and it felt like an experience we were taking with her,” Joyce said. “Not just in acting, but also somewhat in directing. Even though we weren’t the directors, it still felt like — not that we had a say, just that we had a hand in making the play

a reality less so than Ettinger directing an entire group of people.” Tran and Medill were able to choose any one act play that they wanted as long as they paid for the rights. Medill said she went through scripts for a couple of days before she found “Perfect Score.” “For me, I was interested in a lot of Shakespeare because that would have been free,” Medill said. “But then I found this script and I really liked it. And I felt that it was something that the people who were already in the theatre program, I could see it happening.” For One-Acts, Ettinger said she steps back as a teacher and becomes more of a mentor. “So if they have problems they come to me and ask them,” Ettinger said. “But I try as much as possible to just be an observer at their rehearsals. But what I’m looking for in them is that they are capable of not only seeing trouble spots and trying to fix those and creating a cohesive cast and working well with their tech crew and so on, but also that if they are stuck, if they do need help, they’re willing to ask for help from me or from others.” Ettinger said she loved the bond Medill created with her cast and how Tran worked hard with freshman Tyler Jenkins to

get what she wanted for his character, the Clown. She said they also both chose to work on what they knew were their weaknesses. “Marlo knows that she sometimes is a little too much of a puppeteer, less of a director,” Ettinger said. “And so she really worked on pulling back a little bit and letting them make some of their choices. And Mooshoo knew that she comes across as a little bit less confident, and so she really tried to work on her confidence and asserting the choices that she made.” Ettinger said she loves the class because it gives her a chance to get to know her students personally, as artists, and watch their growth each year as she continues to teach, which was something Medill enjoyed seeing with her actors while directing as well. “I cast a lot of fairly inexperienced people for my show,” Medill said. “And so it was really awesome to get to see them grow and improve and feel more comfortable on stage. And, you know, hearing an actor say that they don’t feel like they’re doing a good enough job is not, like, a happy thing to hear, but it’s nice when they can ask for your help and then, you know, you feel like you’re actually having an impact on someone.”

Sophomore Julia Catton, who played Ms. Bardsley and James’ Mom in “Perfect Score” and is currently in her second year of theatre. She auditioned for One-Acts because she thought it would be a good opportunity to get to know people in the theatre department better as well as get more acting experience. She was in this year’s 24 Hour and 10 Minute Play Festivals after deciding she wanted to get more involved in order to become a Thespian. Catton said she’s struggled confidence before, but One-Acts has definitely made her more confident. Now she plans to get even more involved next year, including auditioning for the Fall Play and Spring Musical. After being a part of the theatre department for four years, something Medill said she’ll take from the department is knowing that someone always has a place where they belong. “It sounds cheesy, but like, everyone has a place for them,” Medill said. “Even within theatre, there are people who are interested in being on stage and people who are interested in creating things behind the scenes. And just like, I don’t know, everyone will fit in with each other and I think that’s cool.”

# Students and staff reflect on parking rules, enforcement, and prioritization

**LEANNE BUGAY**  
EDITOR-IN-CHEIF

*Continued from Front Page.*

Hernandez said that additional parking is available in the second student lot, which is east of Faiman Field. “It’s a snowball effect due to the lack of consequence and actual enforcement of the rules,” Hernandez said. “It just becomes ‘well nothing’s going to happen so I can park here’.” Consequences are limited to a warning on the first offense, \$5 tickets after that, and possible loss of parking privileges after several tickets, according to the 2018-2019 Student and Family Handbook Code of Conduct. The parking policy doesn’t include any dean-issued consequences like detention, Saturday school, or suspension. “Evidently money is no object to [repeat offenders],” principal Kevin Rohlfs said. “Maybe we need to set a parameter that on the third offense a dean needs to be notified, and then it becomes a dean issue on top of that.” Hada agrees that the lack of consequences encour-

ages students to break the parking rules consistently. “I don’t ever get in trouble for it, so that’s why I keep doing it,” Hada said. “So I think if people want to change it then [rules] should probably be enforced. Because no one has ever told me ‘you can’t park back there, you need a tag’. So that’s why I don’t bother to change what I do.”

are hundreds of cars to check, it’s impossible to ticket every single violation everyday in just 47 minutes. It’s especially challenging when just in the back lot alone, there’s an average of 89 cars that deserve tickets, as pointed out by The Thunderbeat’s research. “I know that it’s not perfect, and I think everybody knows that there’s issues, and we’re trying the

it up a notch,” Rohlfs said. “It appears we have to get a little more serious with our parking lot.” Rohlfs said that while parking rule enforcement should be a bigger priority, it can’t reach top priority status because topics like education always come first. “In the scope of the things we deal with, it works to a certain degree,” Rohlfs said. “We don’t have fights going on in the parking lot, we don’t have accidents going on in the parking lot.” Hobbs said that enforcement shouldn’t be enhanced or become a priority if everyone has a spot and people are busy in school. She said she thinks it’s unnecessary for students to get called out of class over parking. Reimer had no comment on whether parking rules should become a priority, but rather that he would talk with administration this summer when school improvement meetings are held. Some students and staff

members have ideas on how to improve the parking situation, but there haven’t been any formal meetings to discuss changes. “Honestly, I would like to charge for parking permits,” Hernandez said. “Nothing outrageous. I was thinking \$10.” Hernandez would want to use money collected from tickets and parking permits to hopefully expand the field east of the front lot for more parking. She called nine other high schools in the Omaha Metro, and Plattsmouth is the only one of the nine that doesn’t charge for parking. “We can get people in, we can get people out, so I just hate adding another fee on top of the fees we already charge everybody,” Rohlfs said. Hernandez said she is also making a presentation for administration this summer over her improvement plans. “Every year we discuss ways that we can improve every aspect, but specifically at the end of the school year we’ll sit down and look at how this year went and improve various things,” Reimer said. “I have a couple thoughts. And we try it the next year, and sometimes it works and sometimes they don’t.”

*“It’s a snowball effect due to the lack of consequence and actual enforcement of the rules,”*

*- Adriana Hernandez*

Enforcement of parking rules is on the hands of the front office secretaries, who sometimes issue tickets and tell students to move if they’re in a wrong spot, and vocal music teacher AJ Reimer, who also issues tickets and is a parking lot supervisor during first period. Reimer said that since there

best that we can,” Reimer said. Hernandez said that if the school wants parking rules to be followed, then there should be more enforcement. She said that a standard set of consequences and checks on parking throughout the day would be beneficial. “We’re going to have to pick



# West girls soccer hosts their first districts



Senior Chamberlain Bridge kicks the ball towards to goal while an Omaha Northwest defender runs to protect the goal.

**MEGAN NORMAN**  
REPORTER

*Continued from Front Page.*

Bellevue West girls varsity soccer defeated the Omaha Northwest Huskies 10-0 on April 29 as part of the District A-7 bracket, but lost 4-1 to the Papillion-La Vista South Titans on May 2.

Despite losing in the district finals, the team had performed better than they have in recent years this season, with an end record of 12-5, and regular season ranking of 9th in Class A.

The team had 14 seniors this year, including senior captains Mia Pancoe, Maddi Riha, and Allison Romero. The team won the Omaha Central Invite with a 5-0 win over Central and a mercy rule

against Lincoln.

This season the girls had their fair share of injuries, from ankle trauma to MCL issues and shin splints. Head coach Gauthier Scherlizin said they worked on recovering and finding the right substitutes for the starters that are injured.

“In season, a lot of girls always just pick up injuries here and there so it’s really important for the underclassmen to step up and fill those positions and play really well,” Pancoe said.

Pancoe said junior Carley Conover and senior Quinn Whitcomb were just two examples of players who filled in for injured teammates, and that they added an impressive element to the team.

Mia Pancoe said she believes that the strongest aspect of this team was how close all of the girls

were and how well they got along. Head coach Gauthier Scherlizin said that the coaching staff really enjoyed how fun coaching this team was.

*“They just have a uniqueness to them that really makes them one of my all-time favorite groups.”*

*- Gauthier Scherlizin*

“We’ve had some great players come in and out of this program over the years, but this really is a special team,” Scherlizin said. “They just have a uniqueness to

them that really makes them one of my all-time favorite groups.”

Even though this team performed well, it’s not what everyone expected for this season.

ferent formation,” Pancoe said. “I wasn’t really sure how we would go out and play but we have done pretty well so it’s pretty impressive.”

During the regular season, Scherlizin had said that he hoped the team would be the first girls soccer team at Bellevue West to host districts. They reached that goal when they beat Omaha Northwest 10-0 in the first round of district play.

As for next season, Junior Hayley Holden said the team’s goal will still be to make it to state while also developing the new varsity players’ skills and working together as a team.

“We have lost so many seniors and we will be left with 3 non-seniors for next year so we will be mainly focusing on developing our team,” Holden said.



Photos by LeAnne Bugay

Sophomore Sarah Banks guards the ball from a Papillion-La Vista South player.

## 5 QUESTIONS WITH EMILY

### EMILY MABBITT ASKS JEROME HOUSTON

- Q: What weird food combinations do you enjoy?  
A: I enjoy eating pickles and ice cream, it leaves a sour and sweet taste at the same time.
- Q: If you could time travel, where would you go?  
A: I'd travel back to 1996 to meet my great-grandpa. I hear a lot of stories about him and how much we're alike.
- Q: What is a body part that you wouldn't mind losing?  
A: I wouldn't mind losing my pinky because I can't remember the last time I really used it for anything.
- Q: What is your favorite song to listen to before you race?  
A: My favorite song to listen to before I race is "Play Wit Us" by NBA Youngboy.
- Q: What is an event that you are not apart of but enjoy watching?  
A: I enjoy watching the 100 meter dash. It's exciting to watch because you can see who the fastest people are.

Photo by Brooke Jones

# Freshman athlete Fjelstad sets sights on earning 12 varsity letters by graduation

**EMILY MABBITT**  
GUEST REPORTER

Alyssa Fjelstad runs across the turf field, her blonde ponytail blowing behind her and a soccer ball at her feet.

Being active is a state that Alyssa is often seen in since she is a freshman multi-sport athlete who is on the varsity basketball, soccer, and cross country teams.

Although being on varsity as a freshman is an honor, there are still struggles that Alyssa faces.

“The hardest thing about playing varsity sports is probably getting used to the different skill level

and the intensity of the game,” Alyssa said. “Varsity is where all of the best players are and it’s hard, especially being a freshman, to adjust to these new sets of skill that some of these players bring to the table.”

One thing that motivates Alyssa is knowing that someone is working harder than her.

“I have a very good work ethic and I am very proud of that,” Alyssa said. “Sometimes when I’m not feeling it some days and I’m not going as hard as usual and I see someone else putting forth the extra effort it motivates me to reach that or even exceed what

that person is doing.”

Alyssa said that varsity coaches and athletes have certain expectations for their teams.

“Varsity sports are very time consuming,” Alyssa said. “Because when you commit to be a part of these teams you are expected to be there wherever and whenever.”

Alyssa said that you have to do your best to balance sports with school work. To manage her time well, she starts on her homework right after she gets home from practices.

Alyssa’s mother, Sue Fjelstad, said that while playing varsity sports, the players have been great

mentors for Alyssa in assisting her on learning more about the sport and the skills to achieve.

“As her parent I just want her to enjoy playing in sports and being involved,” Sue said.

Varsity soccer player sophomore Sarah Banks said that Alyssa is one of her favorite people both on and off the field.

“We played club soccer on the same team at Bellevue Soccer Club a couple years ago,” Banks said. “We worked really well together and got super close which is why it made it so awesome that she made varsity this year and I got the chance to play with her

again.”

Banks said that the team loves having Alyssa because of her positivity and work ethic.

“She works really hard all the time in both practices and games,” Banks said. “She gives it her all and I know it’s true for all sports, not just soccer.”

Alyssa will continue to play basketball and soccer as well as run cross country for the rest of her high school career.

“One of my goals is to be a twelve sport athlete which is when you play a sport for every season all four years of high school,” Alyssa said.





EMILY SCHMIDT  
COPY EDITOR

Losing seniors can take a toll on any high school sports team. As they disperse to their various callings, their leadership, unique skills, personalities, and years of dedication go with them. On a team like girls tennis that only has nine players to begin with, losing five has a significant impact.

There were some major gaps to fill, but the returning players were ready to take on the challenge.

“We’ve got maybe one or two girls from our tournament team last year, so there’s a lot of growth, but we’ve also got a lot of players that have come in with prior tennis experience,” head coach Thomas Harris said. “We’ve got a young team, but there’s a lot of potential here for the future.”

Several players, including senior Hannah Johnson, junior Mak Sobczyk, and sophomore Brooke Hosick, are experiencing the game at a varsity level for the first time. All three said that the change in tempo and intensity from JV to varsity was a bit of a surprising adjustment.

“You have to place your shots at a certain pace and you have to know where you’re going as opposed to just hitting it and seeing where it goes,” Johnson said. “It just kind of mentally has changed

the way the game is.”

In order to grow and improve players, Harris stresses the importance of attitude. Staying positive could be the difference between the girls staying in a match or letting it slip out of their fingers.

“When you’re down I shouldn’t be able to look at you and say, ‘Hey, she’s clearly losing.’ I should be able to look at her and not be able to tell if she’s winning or losing because she’s so poker face out there,” Harris said.

The mindset has been a source of motivation for the girls to put their best foot forward on the court. They’ve also been playing for each other, and not just on the doubles side.

“Even though it is kind of an individual sport, it’s still a team sport because your score contributes to the overall team and I think that also is a motivator because you’re not just winning for you, you’re winning for your team,” Johnson said.

The girls took several steps to create a deeper bond than they’d experienced in past years, the biggest of them being team dinners. They gave the girls opportunities to see different aspects of each other that might not otherwise have been shared. Paired with the all-for-one and one-for-all mentality, the team has become family.

“Team dinners allow us to have

time off the court to just form that bond with our teammates because it’s really important in tennis, even though it’s kind of an individual sport sometimes, because it’s nice to have that bond with teammates,” junior Gabby Jocson said.

In order to prepare for the season, many of the girls worked in the offseason or changed their approach from last year. Some of the girls took lessons through the summer, others even gave up different sports to devote more time and focus to tennis. Senior Casia Dotzler did both, making the decision to stop playing basketball and make tennis her only sport.

Dotzler even improved small details of her game such as buying a more expensive racket and altering the strings. While the sacrifices are overshadowed by the rewards of growth and achievement now, Dotzler said she didn’t imagine how dedicated she would become when she started playing her sophomore year.

“It’s not something that I ever thought I’d like to play and, actually, my mom asked me to play freshman year and I was like, ‘No, it’s not fun, I don’t know how to do it,’” Dotzler said. “If you don’t know how to play it can be really difficult, but when you learn how to play it becomes really fun and you build a lot of great friendships.”

# Opinion: NBA replacing NFL as dominant league

NATHAN HAWKINS  
SPORTS/MANAGING EDITOR

It’s hard to pinpoint where the National Football League started going wrong.

You could point to 2013, where a celebratory dunk on the field goal post by Jimmy Graham resulted in the upright becoming crooked. Because of the blunder, owners voted the following March that dunking the football on the field goal post would result in a 15-yard penalty.

You could also point to President Trump’s claim that the league is down viewers because of players protesting during the National Anthem. He’s gone as far as to suggest that the players protesting the anthem don’t even belong in the country.

And whether you want to blame the league for being no fun, the politics that have surrounded the sports, or some other reason such as officiating, domestic violence, or brain injuries, something is clear: the NFL is doing sports wrong.

However, the National Basketball Association is doing it all right.

The biggest discrepancy between the leagues is the laxness of the offices running them. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell: a stern, business-only man who implemented most of the rules that have given the NFL the nickname of the “No Fun League.” NBA Commissioner Adam Silver: a “players’ commissioner,” on the forward front of addressing mental health in sports, technology in sports, and player rights in the NBA.

Aside from the league offices,

there is a certain excitement that NBA games have brought in recent years that NFL games haven’t been able to match. In fairness, NFL teams have only 16 regular season games to have those highlight moments, compared to NBA teams’ 82. Just look at the last week of basketball in the NBA.

From May 1-6, there were nine games. Seven of those nine games were decided by single digits. Two of those games were decided in overtime. One of those overtime games went to four overtimes, the second time that’s happened in NBA postseason history, and the first in an NBA playoff game since 1953. Of the four playoff series going on right now, three of them are tied up 2-2 going into the May 7 games.

That’s the most convincing argument there is to discuss NBA superiority over the NFL — the NBA is just that good lately.

Not to mention all of the out-of-game and out-of-season events that the NBA promotes. NFL free agency is miniscule compared to that of the NBA. In the NFL, one or two major stars switch teams each offseason. Last NBA season? The face of the league, LeBron James, took his talents to Los Angeles. DeMarcus Cousins, one of the league’s best centers took his talents to the league’s best team.

And this coming offseason will be even more interesting, with stars such as Kyrie Irving and Kevin Durant due to hit the open market.

Although the NFL isn’t at the fun level that it’s been at before, that isn’t the reason the NBA is a better league. The NBA is more fun — that’s something the NFL can’t change.

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# Binge-worthy shows to watch this summer

TIFFANY DOMINGO  
REPORTER

Summer’s right around the corner. For most people, summer involves getting out of bummy, old Nebraska to explore the coast, sipping an icy beverage by the pool, or bathing in the much missed sunshine. But who’s to say that the “summer vibes” always have to be outside? Why not spend some of it catching up on TV shows that you’ve been meaning to watch? Here are three binge-worthy shows that you need to watch this summer.

**Stranger Things:**  
There’s a reason why everyone is talking about Netflix’s original “Stranger Things.” It’s a throwback to the 1980s that channels directors like Steven Spielberg, John Carpenter, and Stephen King and classics like “Gremlins,” “ET,” and “Close Encounters of the Third Kind.” It also exposes new generations to some great 80s music that screams nostalgia for older generations. “Stranger Things” is gearing up for its third season on July 4, so there’s still time to get caught up.

**Game of Thrones:**  
If you haven’t seen HBO’s “Game of Thrones” (GoT), I’m sure that Twitter has annoyed you on Sunday nights in April and May. It’s one of the biggest TV shows ever and has been a major pop culture phenomenon since season three’s shocking ending. GoT has had everyone at the edge of their seat season by season with its unpredictable outcomes and twist-filled cliffhangers. Think of “Game of Thrones” as an alternate universe to “Real Housewives” where they fight over a chair, all while ignoring the real threat-- ice zombies-- who also want the chair.

**Glee:**  
Premiering its first episode back in 2009, “Glee” was ahead of its time by addressing many social issues that occur today. The series is a coming of age saga about a glee club who are the underdogs in high school. The characters face typical high school issues like heartbreaks, sexuality, fitting in, and peer pressure. “Glee” will make you laugh one minute, tug at your heartstrings the next, and tie it all up with a musical number at the end.  
Summer is all about taking a break from reality. The endless nights, spontaneous trips, and late night drives with friends are cool and all, but there are just some days that you need some “me” time. Grab a bowl of popcorn, wrap yourself into a burrito in your favorite cashmere blanket, and binge-watch these great shows.

# Netflix’s “The Call to Courage” delivers meaningful life-lessons

LEAH LARSON  
LAYOUT EDITOR

*Continued from Front Page.*

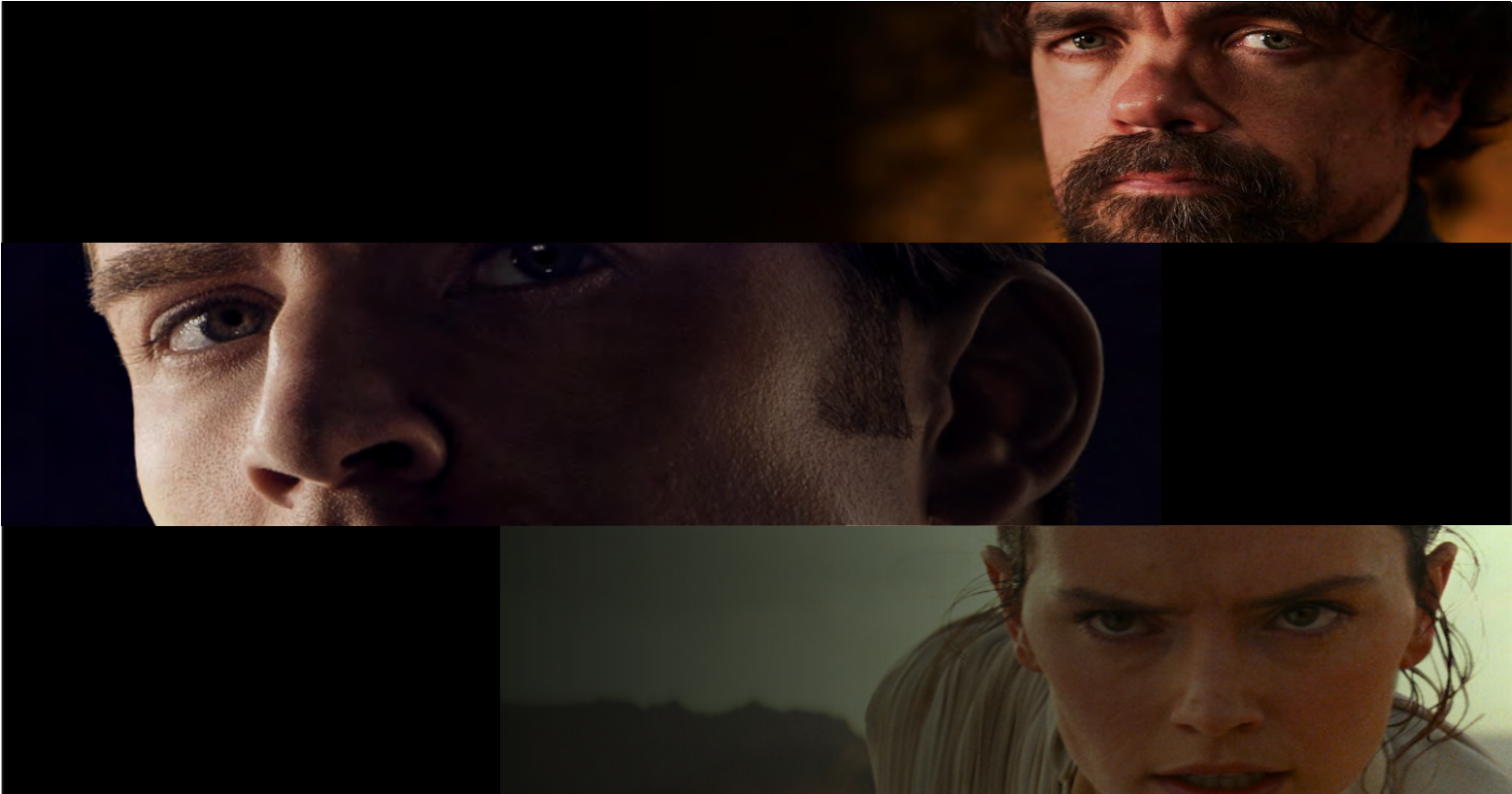
**1. Vulnerability is the creator of courage.**  
Brown begins her talk by explaining how the amount of bravery a person possesses is measured by how vulnerable they are. Everyone is taught to value courage when they’re young, but many are also told to guard their heart. An irrational fear starts to develop because of this and it disables a lot of people, including myself, from accurately voicing their thoughts and opinions.  
Like any fear, it takes a certain amount of time and valor to overcome it. After conducting hundreds of interviews and completing years of research, Brown found that there is no way to have courage without vulnerability. We need

to be willing to develop a vulnerable culture in order to encourage innovation and foster true bravery.  
**2. Be grateful for gratitude.**  
Anyone can say that they are grateful for something in their life, but fewer put those words into action. In the documentary, Brown told a heartwarming story about her daughter, Ellen, and her habit of taking picture memories.  
Picture memories are meant to be taken in the midst of a good moment. It works better than the camera on your phone because you’re taking that extra second to close your eyes and appreciate those happy minutes for what they are. You don’t have to be at constant alert for extraordinary moments because if you do that, you’ll miss out on enjoying the ordinary ones.  
**3. Comfort is a Privilege.**  
One of the most striking messages I took away from

Brown’s presentation was the fact that comfort is a privilege. It was made clear to me that there will be discussions in my life that tackle more sensitive issues of which I’ll have no personal experience to feed off of.  
The point of an exchange like this is not to feel comfortable, but to gain a new understanding of someone else’s point of view. Brené explained that it’s better to make mistakes during these conversations and learn from them rather than stay silent.  
**4. Choose today.**  
It’s important to note that vulnerability is not something you can learn overnight. Each day, you should work to implement small amounts of it into your life by choosing courage over comfort.  
Brown suggested to begin by initiating that conversation you’ve been dreading or being a little more open-minded during dis-

cussions. You might be somewhat emotionally exhausted after all this practice, but it’ll prove to be worth it in the long run.  
**5. Know the boundaries.**  
As much as Brown emphasizes the importance of vulnerability, it does have boundaries. Practicing vulnerability does not mean you offload all your problems on the nearest ear possible.  
You should only open up with people you trust and who’ve earned the right to listen. Vulnerability is not a one person task, so don’t be afraid to let yourself be seen.  
If you’re looking for tips on how to improve your overall quality of life or you’re hoping to become more self-aware, I highly recommend watching The Courage Call to Courage.  
It’s not all psychology jargon; Brown makes it a point to present the information in a genuine, engaging way.

# 2019 says goodbye to beloved franchises



Graphic by Jay Walker-Schulte

**BROOKE JONES  
REPORTER**

By the end of 2019, three of the world’s most anticipated movie franchises and show will come to an end. “Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker,” Marvels’ “Endgame,” and “Game of Thrones” eighth and final season will debut this year. Several teachers at West are fans of GoT, Marvel, Star Wars, or all three. From naming their dogs after Star Wars characters to displaying life size Spider-Man dolls from the walls of their classrooms, it’s pretty apparent that 2019 will be quite the bittersweet year for all types of super fans.  
Shows like GoT have paved the way for so-called “nerd culture” in America. Each episode costs roughly \$5 million dollars to produce and ratings have gone

through the roof every season.  
Social studies teacher Jim Torrez has been a long time fan of Game of Thrones and finds the series so good that he’s considered re-watching it.  
“It’s nothing like anything else I’ve seen,” Torrez said. “It’s just violent and edgy and full of action in every episode and just unique in a million different ways.”  
Star Wars will be wrapping up its third trilogy this year. With this being its ninth and final episode in the Skywalker saga, fans of all ages are anxiously waiting for an epic finale.  
Social studies teacher Kelly McVey developed her Star Wars fascination at a young age.  
“I love Star Wars because it came out right when I was born,” McVey said. “I sort of grew up with the first three Star Wars

movies which are still my favorites.”  
Her love for the movies was a major contributing factor when it came to naming her pets. Over the years, she and her husband have named each of the dogs they foster after Star Wars characters based on how they look.  
“We usually choose the more obscure names for our foster dogs just because we know we won’t have them for that long,” McVey said.  
Perhaps one of the most widely discussed topics in the world right now is Marvel’s Endgame, a wrap up of a 22-part story. The franchise has become one of the most successful in the film industry, breaking nearly every box office record and bringing fans in for second and third viewings of the same movie.

Business teacher Chad Huseth is arguably the one of the biggest Marvel fans in the building. Throughout his room, there are several Marvel references, with the most prominent one being the gigantic Spider-Man figure hanging from his TV.  
Social Studies teacher Louis Harrison and Torrez have gone to see every Marvel movie since 2011, and continued to carry on the tradition with Endgame.  
“It completely lived up to what I hoped it would be,” Harrison said. “Every single movie over the past few years just tied together perfectly.”  
2019 has been one of the biggest years in film history, with several records being broken.  
“I think 2019 is going to go down as one of the biggest years in pop culture history,” Huseth said.



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# Endgame: fan-service not enough to hold attention



Photo Credit of Marvel.com

**ALEX TOTH**  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

*Warning: not an entirely spoiler-free review! Fairly light spoilers ahead.*

Speaking as a non-Marvel fan, the hype around Marvel Studios’ latest installment of their cinematic universe, “Avengers: Endgame” wasn’t much to get me too excited for the film.

I enjoyed the last Avengers movie, “Avengers: Infinity War” and I was interested to see the next step for our caped crusaders, but as of late I haven’t been too impressed with Marvel’s cinematic output.

Aside from the aforementioned “Infinity War,” not many recent Marvel films have been able to capture my attention, so I wasn’t very surprised to find that I didn’t care for “Endgame” at all.

It’s rare to find yourself in such a minority when it comes to disliking a film, and you’re going to have to trust me with this one, but I don’t just dislike it because I want to. It’d be great if I loved it and thought it was the greatest thing ever made, but there’s too much I can’t overlook in an otherwise alright film.

It’s hard as a non-Marvel fan to fully appreciate all that’s going on in “Endgame.” So much of the film lends itself to fanservice,

callbacks, and literally traveling back into older Marvel films. I just found myself lost at times where I probably should’ve been saying “I remember that,” just like the guy sitting next to me in the theatre.

This is most definitely a movie for the fans, and that’s alright to a point, but even with seeing the other 21 movies, it’s still difficult to scan 11 years of memory for one joke.

For this reason and many others, I found myself bored a decent amount throughout the experience. There’s a lot of wasted time throughout the film that could’ve been cut to make for a much shorter and more concise runtime, but alas there I was sitting through

the movie, which tried to cram as many characters’ plot resolutions as they could in the last 45 minutes of the film.

My usual excuse for Marvel films is that they’re “fun” and not much else, but as far as “Endgame” goes, I can’t say I had too much fun at all. The scenes of action tended to be unremarkable at best, and the occasional PlayStation 2 level CGI distracted me from thoroughly enjoying any particular set pieces throughout the film.

In contrast to “Infinity War” where I was able to enjoy at least some of the humor and more or less serious scenes, “Endgame” seems both devoid of what I found amusing in those regards.

The film drags pretty hard as well, making a three-hour movie that’s already eating up the majority of your night (for better or worse) feel like it lasted five, although it is a problem that shows more toward the end than anything else.

For that reason alone I can’t necessarily say it was my preferred use of time.

If anything I’d say “Endgame” doesn’t necessarily live up to previous Marvel standards but would serve as a satisfying enough ending for hardcore and casual fans alike. I wouldn’t recommend the film for anyone besides at least mild fans of the franchise, otherwise, it’s just a waste of your time.



Graphic by Jay Walker-Schulte

## Materials

- Fabric of your choice (3.5” x 16”)
- Sewing machine or needle and thread
- Pins
- Elastic string (10.5”)
- Safety pin

**MOOSHOO TRAN**  
NEWS EDITOR

Now that school is coming to an end, it means that summer is right around the corner. With trends coming and going so quickly, staying in style can burn a hole in your wallet. Now, with the weather quickly warming up, keep your hair out of the way while staying cool and stylish in the Nebraska heat by making a fun, personalized scrunchie.

**Steps:**

1. Using the strip of fabric, fold one width-end in 1/4 centimeter and sew to create a finished edge. If hand sewing, use an over-under method to create a running stitch.

2. Now, fold and pin the strip of fabric lengthwise so it’s inside-out.
3. Sew along the length of the fabric strip while it’s inside-out. Once sewn, turn the fabric right side-out.
4. Using the elastic, safety pin one end and feed it through the fabric sleeve, keeping hold of the opposite side of the elastic. The fabric should scrunch up on the elastic.
5. Take the safety pin out and tie the elastic in a knot to make a full band.
6. Feed the open end of the fabric into the finished sleeve and sew shut using a sewing machine or running stitch.

## Beyoncé’s “Homecoming” film a stunning look into her Coachella performance

**AYANNA SOLOMON-SMITH**  
REPORTER

If I could use one word to describe “Homecoming,” it would be captivating. Everything from the choreography and all the flashy outfits she wore to the behind the scenes details throughout the film made me tell my friends I’d talk to them later and I turned off my phone.

“Homecoming” showcased Beyoncé’s entire Coachella headlining performance but also gives the audience a sliver of insight on what it was like behind the scenes for her to construct the entire performance.

If I’m going to be completely honest here, this documentary is not exactly what I expected it to be. I was expecting it to be all about Beyoncé’s performance. But what actually kept me watching were the little intimate snippets of footage of the behind the scenes. Those little segments about a few of the people in her cast of performers in between each part of her Coachella performance was a nice touch.

The behind the scenes footage scattered throughout the documentary made Beyoncé come across more human. She expresses

her frustrations about some complications from prepping the for the Coachella performance and the struggles she went through training her body to go through strenuous work with her post-pregnancy body.

Another thing I liked about “Homecoming” were the camera angles and the quality of the recorded footage during her performance. In some parts of the documentary, I felt that I was on stage with her. I saw her from every angle, from the top of her head to the bottom of her feet. At some point I think I even saw her sweat.

Now there was this one little tiny thing I didn’t care for about “Homecoming.” Throughout the documentary, the outfits worn by Beyoncé and everyone that was on stage changed from yellow to pink the whole time. It was slightly confusing. I realize that it was to show her separate performances but I didn’t get that until the end of the documentary, which slightly took me out of the viewing experience.

The live performance of Beychella was phenomenal. I’ve always wondered what it’d be like to experience a Beyoncé concert and watching it gave me a sense of what it’d be like and a little more.

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with John Baylor

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**ILEECEA ASKEW**

Your high school journey has been anything but predictable. You’ve attended & excelled in three (technically four) high schools. As you close this important chapter of your life, we can’t wait to follow you into your next at Tuskegee University, knowing you will also excel and achieve your dreams. Congratulations on this accomplishment and many to come.  
Love,  
Dad, Mom & your entire extended family.

**EMERAL BAGBY**

We’ve watched in amazement as you’ve grown into the intelligent, thoughtful, beautiful and strong woman you are today. We are so excited to see the great contributions you will make in the world. You are so hard-working, smart and kind. We are so proud of you today and always.  
Love,  
Mom and Dad

**MACKENZI BERGSTROM**

You bring us great joy every day! Follow your heart and dreams. The world has big things in store for you! Choose to stay positive and give your best in everything you do. We believe in you and are always here for you!  
Love,  
Mom and Dad

**WELLS BRAZDA**

Wellsie,

Austin and I are more than proud of you! Even though we are your older siblings, we both look up to you and think you are so amazing! Keep living everyday as if it were your last and always continue to put God first in everything you do! Your future is brighter than the sun! We love you!  
Love,  
Autumn & Austin!

**JACOB COLDANGHISE**

The past 12 years of school have flown by and now you are graduating from high school. We are very proud of you! With hard work we know you will be successful in college and whatever exciting and new challenges life brings you.  
Love you,  
Mom and Dad

**JACOB JONES**

You made it, and I never doubted you would! You have the great ability to make anyone laugh and the work ethic to get you through anything. You are braver than you believe, stronger than you think and more loved than you could ever know. We are all so excited to see where your journey takes you because no matter what it will be extraordinary and you will make a great life for yourself and the world a better place. We love you lots and we are always a phone call away!

**SATORI GURAEDY**

We are beyond proud of you! You have overcome so many obstacles in your life and you continue to do so. You are an inspiration to all that you meet! Your zest for life and what it has to offer is astounding! We love you more than you will ever know!! Congrats!!  
Love ya!!  
Mom, Dad, & Darbi

Congratulations to our oldest grandchild! We have watched you grow into an intelligent, friendly, caring and amazing adult. We wish you a very happy and successful life and will immensely enjoy watching it happen. We both love you TIABAB 2019 billion times!  
Gram and Gramps

**NATHAN HAWKINS**

We are so proud of you for not hiding your talents and gifts of broadcasting, acting, singing, and writing to name a few, under a bushel basket! Keep being courageous to take risks to reach your dreams and aspirations and making a different in the world. God’s grace will be with you.  
Love,  
Grandpa, Aunt Theresa, Grandma, and Uncle Joe from heaven.

**LAUREN HEDIN**

You are truly a wonderful daughter and sister! You have amazed us all with your accomplishments and talents. We could not be more proud of you!  
We love you!  
Mom, Dad, Trent, Andrew and Addison

**BRI HOFFMAN**

Goodbye to high school! There were good times and bad times, and we rode that roller coaster with you. Now it’s time to open a new chapter, and you get to be the author. Stay sweet, stay fierce, and most importantly stay you!  
Love,  
Mom, Matt, and Tristan

**REBECCA MARTIN**

Congratulations you did it! We cannot be more proud of you.  
Dream Big, Travel Lots, Make Memories, Wear your cap and gown loud and proud.  
Love,  
Mom and Dad

**COLIN SULLIVAN**

Way to go Collin!! Congratulations to our smart, talented, kind, sometimes sarcastic, always hilarious son. You’ve worked so hard this year and we are so very proud of you and all your accomplishments.  
Goodbye high school... you’re now a “big shot Baby!”  
We love you,  
Larry, Mom, and Ireland.

**EVAN KIESER**

Evan, we are very proud of the young man you have become. You have so much to offer the world and we are excited to see where life takes you. Whatever you do in life, remember that we love you and we are here for you, always and forever.  
Love,  
Mom, Dad, Will and Brooke

**CLARA LARSON**

Congratulations, Clara! We could not be more proud of you and all you have accomplished these last four years! We know the best is yet to be, and we are excited to see where this life takes you. Always remember how much you are loved!

**JACOB FRAZIER**

In the blink of an eye you went from my little boy to a handsome young man. I am extremely proud of the man you have become. Chase your dreams and enjoy life.  
I love you always,  
Mom

**LEXI WALKER**

Thank you for all your hard work this year on the Yearbook! Your leadership made this year one of the best ever. Best of luck in college!  
Mr. Stueve and Ms. Rowse

**ETHAN MORTON**

We are so proud of you for your hard work and have especially enjoyed all of the band events! You are an amazing musician! May your journey always be blessed!  
Love, Mom, Dad, Abby, James, Caitlin, and Gabe

**PAIGE LYNN PERRONE**

God chose you before you were born, and with him all things are possible! It’s not what you do, it’s who you become. Continue to work hard to finish strong, love, and serve others.  
We love you as far as the East is to the West,  
Mom, Dad, and Faith

**IZZY PINEDA**

Thank you, Izzy, for your years of service to Bellevue West Journalism! Congratulations on being accepted to the Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts--we know you’ll be great!  
Mr. Stueve and Ms. Rowse

**ASPEN MOCKELSTROM**

Thank you for all your hard work this year on the Yearbook! Your leadership made this year one of the best ever. Best of luck in college!  
Mr. Stueve and Ms. Rowse

**BRETT ROBBINS**

Congratulations to my smart, talented, adventurous, funny, yet sarcastic son, you did it!! I remember your first step, your first day of preschool, middle school and high school!! Look at you now, here you are, graduating from high school! I’m so very proud of you and all of your accomplishments!! I’ve enjoyed every adventure with you!! The sky is the limit, follow your dreams and continue to work hard, it will pay off! I Love You!  
Love,  
Mom

**MAE PORTER**

This isn’t the beaches of Cali, but you found your way to a new beginning. I am proud of you Baby Girl!  
Love,  
Mom

**KELLI SMITH**

Thank you for all your hard work this year on the Video Yearbook! Your leadership made this year one of the best ever. Best of luck in college!  
Mr. Stueve and Ms. Rowse

**EMILY SCHMIDT**

Thank you for all your copy editing this year on the Yearbook and Newspaper! Your keen eye saved us often. Best of luck in college!  
Mr. Stueve and Ms. Rowse

GO THUNDERBIRDS!

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