



## One Act to State

This year's one act has had a rather successful run considering that they made it to state this year with a 2nd place finish at the district competition and a 4th place finish at the State Level. Speaking with one of the ensemble leads, Eban Spratt. What is Antigone about? "So Antigone is pretty much the story of Creon rather than Antigone, It's about how Creon steps up to power after a war in Thebes, and he has to choose between his family or actual peace in his country. That is shown through Antigone trying to start an uprising due to her differing ideals with Creon." What was your role? "My role is one of the ensemble leads so I don't exactly have a main role there's like two sets of side characters. I'm the leader of one of the entire sets." What went into this production? "What went into it? "Absolutely everything, everyone in the cast has to put so much effort and dedication to it, especially since our script was written by two cast members and Brittany McDaniel and it's a show that everyone has put everything into what it is." What challenges did you personally face? "Being in a solid role of leadership, aside from usually being just in ensemble coordinating everyone so that they can all have their own ideas and suggestions while also having a general baseline for what we need to do." Along with interviewing an ensemble lead we also got to speak with one of the Coaches for One Acts Mrs. McDaniel. What was your experience like directing the one act? "I knew that they were good kids but to see them take a fairly serious, complex show and not only bring it into modern times and then see how they make all the correlations from ancient society and today has just been phenomenal?" You said that you are bringing an ancient Greek tragedy to modern times. Do you mean it takes place in the present day? "Yeah so, all of our costumes are modern day costumes but all the language is modern day language the only thing that trails back to ancient times is that we have a queen and two princesses as well as some greek style pillars." How did you feel your team did in practice and everything like that? "You can do all sorts of kids that have done tons of shows, and then kids that this is their first show, and so to watch this huge spread of talent and ability and experience, and to watch them all grow COVID together, and to watch those kids are really experienced, help you know, step up as leaders and help the younger kids kind of find their way around and help them grow really special, kind of like the things that I love about theater." What was the practice process like? "Nothing more than any other shooting. Yeah. So we started with the script that we thought, Oh, this is this is the script. Like we read it and we loved it, and we knew that this was what we wanted to do. And with the number one rule is your show, right? And so I got permission to cut this script because it's a full length script, like an hour and a half. Like an hour and a half long. And the playwright was like, yes, you can cut it, no problem. Just let me read it after you're done. And, oh, man, we cut and I cut and I cut and I think we got it done, like 37 minutes. I was like, I've cut everything out of this show that I love and that I liked about the script. And I was like, why am I trying to do this? So then Tuesday Allen and mercy for approaching, let's just write our own okay? And so the three of us sat down and we kind of skeltoned out the show. It's an adaptation, so I hope so. Our language is already there, right? And we just kind of took it and made it, and then, once the script was written, then we auditioned, and then we rehearsed four days a week after school, and then we've been to seven competitions I think."



Photos by Ariel Flaming

Tate Perez  
| Staff Writer

## Canned Food Drive

Student Council's annual canned food drive began November 5th and concluded November 22nd, bringing the school community together for a worthy cause through a friendly competition among all grade levels. In an interview with Olivia Dobesh, president of the Student Council, she shared insights into the event's purpose and traditions. When asked where the donations go, Olivia explained, "We donate to many different places." This year, the most commonly donated item was canned vegetables. Organizing the drive involves more than just collecting cans. "The student council members create incentives for the grade levels to win," Olivia shares. "Then they have to run them through administrations and, if necessary, the Board of Education." Olivia expressed her enthusiasm for the event, calling it her favorite time of the year, "I love how fun it is, and we even get a day off school to count all of the cans and to sort them," she added with a smile. When asked how long the canned food drive has been a school tradition, Olivia responded, "probably since forever, maybe the 1950s. I'm not quite sure, but it's gone on forever." To wrap up the interview, Olivia was asked which grade she thought would win the competition. Without hesitation, she declared, "the seniors." Although the Juniors were able to pull out the victory, meeting the requirements to earn a noon dismissal for their grade level.



Photos by Tate Perez

Chloe Wagnon  
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## Sports

### Boys Wrestling:

The boys wrestling team began their season on December 7th with the Blue and Gold scrimmage. Boys wrestling placed 3rd in the Kearney invite with 137 points and beat gearing 65-15. Head Coach John Little shared his thoughts on the upcoming season, including challenges, goals, and what excites him most about leading the team. “The biggest challenge is not being able to practice at the highschool everyday” Coach



Little said, “With the number of wrestlers we have, we can’t practice at the same time as the girls. We could practice in the morning, but that would shorten our practice time quite a bit” Despite the challenge the boys wrestling team has found a solution “Were lucky to be able to use the D&N Event Center. It has more room and allows us to practice longer,” he explained.

“However, with so many freshmen, getting everyone there can be an issue.” “I’m excited about this season!” Coach Little shared enthusiastically. “We have a strong group of returning wrestlers, including four state medalists. Brody Pitner, Ty Haneborg, Kirk Wilson, and Lathen Huntsman, along with some solid incoming freshmen.” He also expressed excitement about the coaching staff. “I’m really looking forward to working with our new coaches. I coached Braiden Ruffin since he was in the MWD club, and now I get to coach alongside him. Coach Zutavern and Coach Nelson also bring a lot of knowledge to the room.” Coach Little has expressed some of his goals this season “my biggest goal is not to make any huge mistakes that would keep a wrestler from being able to compete.” “Really, It’s about giving the wrestlers what they need to perform at their highest level, helping them believe in themselves and watching them improve throughout the season.” He added, “I’d love to make the state duals and qualify all 14 wrestlers for state. But if they’re doing everything we asked and competing as hard as they can, I’ll be proud of them no matter what the outcome is.” Coach Little shares his coaching experience and excitement about the role “this is my 18th year coaching high school wrestling and my 28th

year coaching overall,” “being head coach this year doesn’t change my attitude much. I’m just grateful to work with this outstanding group of wrestlers and coaches. Coach Little shares his preparation. “To prepare, I tried to learn as much as I could about the extra responsibilities of being a head coach-things I didn’t have to worry about as an assistant,” he explained “Being able to call Coach Hall when I have a question has been a valuable asset. I’m learning every day.” With a dedicated coaching staff, motivated athletes, and a clear vision, Coach Little and the boys wrestling team are ready to tackle the season ahead.

Photos by Ariel Flaming  
Chloe Wagnon  
| Staff Writer

### Girls Wrestling:

The Lady Bulldogs wrestling team officially launched their season on Monday December 2nd competing in the annual blue and gold scrimmage. The scrimmage determined their spot for the season. With excitement and determination in the air, the team is ready to face the challenges of the season. Head coach Laura Johnson shared her initial concerns about their building the roster for the season. “I thought our biggest challenge would be finding enough girls to join,” she admitted. “Luckily, 21 girls came out, and a varsity roster holds 14, so that’s super awesome.” As the team prepares for the season, Johnson expressed her optimism. “I’m excited for this upcoming season. We have a lot of young girls out there and tons returning,” she said.

When asked about her goals for the team, Mrs. Johnson emphasizes personal growth and development. “I want each girl to set realistic goals, improve their skills, give full effort, and learn how to evaluate themselves on the mat,” she explained. With 13 years of coaching experience, this season marks Johnson’s first as the girls head wrestling coach. Her coaching journey began at the college level, proceeding to club wrestling, and has now brought her to the high school mats. To ensure a strong state, Johnson has dedicated time to learning from other coaches. “I’ve done a lot of research and have been talking to college coaches about what they’re doing for their girls program,” she shared. Sophomore Gisela Rivas, a returning member of the Lady Bulldogs, is eager to improve from her first season. “I would really like to have a winning season this year. Last year was my first year, so it was a little hard” Rivas explained. “I’m hoping my wins outnumber my losses and I’m hoping to make it to state.” Rivas has taken her preparation seriously. “In October, I started watching what I ate, working out to make weight, and practicing moves my dad has shown me,” she said. “He’s been helping me a lot.” Beyond competition, Rivas enjoys the sense of community the sport gives off. “My favorite thing about wrestling is team bonding. It’s fun watching the incoming freshman learn moves and fall in love with the sport,” she said. When it comes to motivation, Rivas credits her dad, coaches, and teammates. “My biggest motivation is my dad talking to me before matches, my coaches helping me after a loss, and of course my teammates.” With determination and motivation Gisela Rivas is ready to take on the season. The Varsity Girls Wrestling Team was able to secure a 2nd place finish at the Sandhills



Valley Girls Invite out of 24 total teams Scoring 115 team points. Coming home with 2 tournament Champions.

Photos by Carmen Vazquez-Cosme  
Chloe Wagnon  
| Staff Writer

### Boys Basketball:

The basketball season is starting with a mix of new players and experienced ones. The team is focused on getting better, working hard, and facing the challenges ahead together. Freshman Jackson Nisley is all about improving himself and helping his teammates do the same. “I hope to get better at everything I’ve been working on,” Jackson said. Even though the team is young, he believes they can do



well. “We have a lot of work to do, but I think we’ll do great because we’ll keep working hard.” Junior Kalieb Odell brings a lot of experience to the team. Even though they lost some great players from last year, Kalieb believes in the team’s effort. “We lost a lot of great players, but this team has heart, and we’re focused,” Kalieb said. Even after two tough losses in overtime, he stays positive: “You win some, you lose some. We just have to keep going.” Kalieb wants to stay on the varsity team and show off his shooting skills, even though he’s playing on both JV and varsity for now. Coach Jimme Pack says, He’s more focused on helping the players improve than on winning right away. “We just want to get better and enjoy the process,” Coach Pack said. He’s not too worried about wins or losses but wants the team to be ready for district play later in the season. The season started with some tough losses, but the team is keeping its eyes on the bigger picture. Every game and practice is a chance to improve. For Jackson, Kalieb, and the rest of the team, the goal is to get better, support each other, and reach their goals by the end of the season. As Coach Pack put it, “It’s all about making the team the best it can be by the end of the season and enjoying the journey along the way.”

Photos by Jordin Arnold  
Tazan Al Karwani  
| Staff Writer

### Girls Basketball:

Coach Tyson Hammond knows the team is younger this year. “We have a lot of girls who haven’t played much, so there are a lot of new faces,” Coach Hammond said. The team is focusing on practicing together and getting better. “Our defense is really good, but we need to work more on offense,” he said. Speaking with Junior Katie Titus, what would you say your goals are for the season? “Um, probably to finish the season with a winning record.” Have you started practicing for the season, and how has that been going? “It’s been going good. We’ve had pretty good practices, which led to our wins so far this season.” So how many wins have you gotten this season? I’ve had two games, two wins. What are your favorite things about this sport, what drives you? “Basically just my friends. I like to hang out with my friends every day.” Have you made friends through this sport? “Yes, my best friend.” What would you say your biggest strength in this sport is? “Probably being a post player.”



Photos by Jordin Arnold  
Tazan Al Karwani  
| Staff Writer



## Sports and Activities

### Girls and Boys Swim and Dive:

As the swim season kicked off on December 7th, swimmers Tanner Schmid-Sutton and Nora Wehr shared their goals, preparations and what keeps them motivated in the pool. When asked about their goals for the season, Tanner said, "I want to break school records and place in the top three at state." Nora added, "I want to go to state, break my sister's records and just break as many records as I can." Preparation is key for both athletes. "We swam in the mornings before school and before the season started to get in shape," Tanner and Nora shared, emphasizing the importance of early training for the season. Both swimmers have events they love competing in. For Tanner, it's the 50 freestyle and the 100 butterfly. Nora's favorite events are the 50 freestyle and the 200 freestyle relay. When asked what they enjoy most about swimming Tanner said, "I like that I don't have to rely on anyone else." For Nora, it's all about the team. "I love the people," she said. Tanner's journey into swimming began after he quit soccer due to repeated ankle injuries. "I kept breaking my ankle playing soccer, so I switched to swimming," he explained. Nora shared that her dad encouraged her to try the sport, but she quickly developed a passion for it. Tanner has been swimming for eight years, while Nora has been in the water for four and a half years, including time spent swimming in middle school. When we asked Tanner about his greatest strengths he pointed out his mindset, while Nora highlighted her personal goals and self-motivation. Both swimmers agreed that their teammates and the supportive environment keep them driven throughout the season. With clear goals and strong motivation, Tanner and Nora are ready to make waves this swim season.



Tate Perez | Staff Writer

### Unified Bowling:

Unified bowling had a great season this year, although their season is over some of their highlights are that they had a highest team bowl



at Lexington at 175 points. Some of their meets where they got medals were at Grand Island and Scottsbluff where they placed third. Unified bowling is a sport for all abilities. The sport is modeled after the Special Olympics, which is for teamwork, respect and awareness. Coach Tessa Matuszcak said "Most importantly with Unified Bowling, it is important to develop the relationships between the athletes who are students with a disability and their peers. That's our biggest goal, is to develop those relationships and then we always want to be able to improve so that



we can do better in the competitions that we require." The Unified Bowling season is one of the shortest, with competitions starting in early November and ending later that month with Districts and State being held in December.

Photos by Grace Tanner  
Teralyn Booth  
| Staff Writer

### Mock Trial:

Mock Trial is a courtroom simulation that prepares students for careers in law while sharpening their critical thinking, public speaking, and teamwork skills. Brianna joined Mock Trial during her sophomore year as a way to prepare for her future career in law. "I want to eventually be a lawyer, and Mock Trial gives me a good opportunity to learn what it's like being an attorney," she explained. This year, Brianna took on multiple roles within her team, showcasing her dedication. "I was an attorney on both sides and I did pretrial as well as the closing argument on the defense," she shared. Brianna competed in every competition, proving her commitment to the team. When asked about how she prepares for competitions, Brianna described the intensity of the experience. "Everyone is different, but for me, I think I just have a super adrenaline rush before we go in, and I just think about winning." Still, challenges arise, especially in the unpredictability of the competition. "We don't know who we are going to go against in competition, so we don't know the questions or pronouns or anything." Bella's path to Mock Trial began with her long-standing interest in the legal field. "I've always wanted to be a lawyer, so when I heard about Mock Trial, I knew it was something that would interest

me," she said. This season, Bella wore two hats: attorney for the prosecution and witness for the defense. "This means that when we are prosecution, I am in charge of conducting the opening statements as well as directing and crossing witnesses, and when we are defense, I portray a witness and provide facts about the case." The team competes in six competitions, with the possibility of advancing to districts or state tournaments. For Bella, the motivation comes from her teammates. "My teammates really motivate me before competition not only because I know I have them supporting me the entire time, but also because I do not want to let them down." However, Bella also faced her share of challenges. "A big challenge had to deal with was learning the basic information because everyone else on the team has known for years, so there were many legal terms I had to learn." This year, the Mock Trial team tackled a civil case, with the entire team spending the year preparing both prosecution and defense strategies. Coach Dailey described Mock Trial as an activity that gives students valuable real-world skills: "Mock Trial is a school activity that gives students the opportunity to experience the legal system from both attorney and witness perspectives. They also get experience in public speaking and acting." The team performed exceptionally well this season, competing against six teams in their region from four different schools. Coach Dailey proudly noted, "NP placed 3rd in the region with 3 wins and 2 losses." Eight students competed this year, including three seniors who brought their experience and leadership to the team. As the case alternates between civil and criminal each year, students learn to adapt and prepare for both areas of law.



Photos by Megan Dailey  
Grace Tanner  
| Staff Writer

## What are you doing over Holiday Break?

Britzy-

Go to my aunt's house and eat, I'm probably gonna take a friend over there with me.



Mr. pack-

Basketball practice and Basketball games.



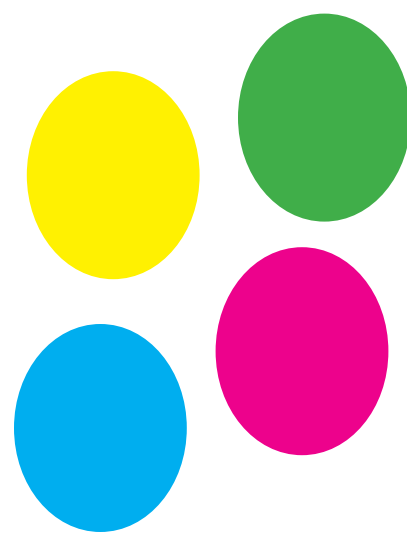
Isaiah Henderson-  
Going to Colorado to spend time with my family.



## Connect the dots and Drive-In Jazz

### Connect the Dots:

Connect the dots was an eventful day filled with walking around exploring careers and immersive hands-on simulations. They got to play a big version of life, showing the trials and tribulations of the real world. They were given different situations like some would have a scholarship or some had to figure out how to pay for college by getting a job or student loans. The University of Nebraska and the school counselors helped organize it. They also had a lot of help from local business owners. This day was to enlighten kids into the working world, so that they can find their footing with what their plans are after college. Many kids enjoyed the day but their favorite parts were , “probably the walk around part where you got to talk to representatives” -Tate Perez. and others said that their favorite part was, “Definitely like the simulation part and the walking around, getting to talk to all of the different career clusters”-Gracie Tanner. This is a great opportunity for many juniors and “ If you just open your mind, like actually listen to what the people have to say, because what they said was useful”.-Tate Perez.



Teralyn Booth  
| Staff Writer



### Drive-In Jazz:

Drive-In Jazz is an event that started in December 2020, with the help of Mark Messner and Leah Purdy. Drive-In Jazz served as a way to showcase student talent in a venue that could allow social distancing. As of this year, Drive-In Jazz took place on December 9th. When asked about his favorite part of Drive-In Jazz, Mr. Messner responds, “My favorite part of Drive-in Jazz is the combination of a Christmas time atmosphere, cold weather and bright lights, and a local coffee truck helping to warm you up for some wonderful Jazz Music.” Similarly, Mrs. Purdy responds, “It is a fun and informal event where audience members bring blankets, chairs, and sip on their hot chocolate while listening to the talented students.”



Photos by Colton Moore-Downs

Colton Moore-Downs  
| Staff Writer

## What are you doing over winter break? (Cont.)

Grace Tanner-

Right after we get out of school, I plan on going to Grand Island to spend Christmas with my grandparents, and we'll stay there until the twenty fifth. We normally go to the church service. After that we have a big soup supper, and then we open up our gifts.



Amy Francisco-

I might go see my sister. I'm having my daughter and her family over for dinner, and we make cranberry cake because my grandmother did it, and it's just kind of been something that we've done every year. So it's got to happen at Christmas or New Year's. Yeah, you can't skip it. And the cake doesn't look fabulous, but the sauce that you put on top of it makes it delicious.



DD Hollingsworth-

I'm graduating, working, and then in January I'm going to go to Kearney for a couple weeks to go see my grandma.



Taylor foster -

Watch Christmas movies and do puzzles with my family.