



## Pius X scores highest ACT average in Lincoln

LUCY KOENIG  
Staff Writer

Pius X High School has the highest ACT scores in the city of Lincoln. About 95% of the junior class took the ACT last year.

The average ACT score for the state of Nebraska is 21.4, which is higher than the national average; Pius X's is 24.8, the highest it has ever been. Pius X is also in the top 5% of Catholic schools in the country.

Fifty-one percent of Pius X students met all college benchmarks and more than 90% of students met the English composition benchmark, making it the school's strongest point.

"I was proud of the ACT scores," Korta said. "We've made improvement of our ACT scores a goal."

This was reflected well, as Pius X was the top scoring school in Lincoln this year.

If someone doesn't hit the college readiness benchmarks, it does not mean they are not prepared for college. The benchmarks are just a way of showing a relationship between ACT scores and the grades freshmen in college tend to get.

"The ACT gave me an idea of where I was at

academically, and what areas I should improve," senior Olivia Taylor, who took the ACT last year, said.

Pius X uses the ACT as a way to track progress and assess performance, but taking the test is not required, unlike Lincoln Public Schools. The test has four multiple choice sections: English, Math, Reading and Science, with writing being optional.

"What I like about the ACT is that it is a level playing field." Principal Tom Korta said. "Everyone gets tested on the same thing."

The ACT makes it easier for colleges and schools to compare students than a grade point average (GPA). Many components make up a GPA, such as what courses a student takes, the way a teacher grades, whether the school uses a 5 point GPA or, a 4 point GPA, and many other factors.

Thomas Kotopka and Amanda Rowley received a perfect score of 36 on the ACT last year.

"If someone got a 36 on the ACT, I'm going to tell you, they are probably pretty bright," Korta said.

Pius X has very supportive families and a strong elementary school system; that is working to get stronger. The elementary schools coordinate the curriculum to make sure people are teaching the same thing.

Pius X also pays special attention to making sure all

students learn key things in their class, and that they get the same information as all the other students in their grade. All these factors contributed to such a high ACT class average.

"We are trying to get kids to the highest level possible with the essential information they need to know," Korta said.

Pius X also pays special attention to making sure all students learn key things in their class, and that they get the same information as all the other students in their grade. All these factors contributed to such a high ACT class average.

"I'm after our kids being brighter, better, thinkers," Korta said. "At the end of four years of being at Pius, I want our graduates to be good critical thinkers. I want them to be well-rounded, I want them to be able to do well adequately in Math, English, Reading and Science."

Pius X currently does not offer any ACT prep classes, but the school offers an ACT prep club. Classes have been proposed several times but Korta does not want the end goal to be high ACT scores.

"I want our kids to be so well-formed," Korta said, "so educated, that you could put any test in front of them and they would do well."

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# Opportunity Scholarship Bill would give parents, students more choices in student education

AMELIA JARECKE  
Co-Editor In Chief

The state of Nebraska spends an average of \$12,000 to fund one student's education per year, according to Dr. Liz Standish, Business Affairs Superintendent of Lincoln Public Schools.

If every one of Pius X's 1,250 students left Pius and went to a public school, it would cost LPS an extra 15 million dollars.

Long story short, private schools save public schools money.

Private school parents pay taxes to fund public education while also paying for their children's private school tuitions. In some states, such as Wisconsin and Colorado, private school parents are offered a voucher to cut down on the amount of money they pay to public schools so they can fund a private school education.

In Nebraska, a bill that would serve a similar purpose has been proposed.

LB295, the Opportunity Scholarship Bill, states, "It is in the best interest of the State of Nebraska and its citizens to encourage individuals and businesses to support organizations that financially assist parents and legal guardians who want to enroll their children in privately operated elementary and secondary schools, and such encouragement can be accomplished through the use of tax credits."

The bill would primarily offer scholarships to low-income families. The purpose of the program is to provide support to Nebraska families to allow them to pursue what they judge to be a better education for their student.

This bill was first proposed in 2011, but was killed every year. For the first time in 2017, this bill will be debated within the legislature.

Pius X Chief Administrative Officer Father Jim Meysenburg explained that private school parents would give their money to a scholarship organization as a tax-refundable donation, and the

organization would in turn give the money to private school students who qualify for a need-based scholarship.

The scholarship is offered in transitional years, meaning a student entering 9th grade or transferring from public to private schools.

"In the city of Lincoln, we have some parish schools that are really, really struggling financially," Meysenburg said. "So if we could get support from the government, recognizing that we're saving the public schools money, it could be a win-win situation."

The bill causes some concerns for public school officials.

"If we reduce taxes coming into LPS, the state would have to look to other places to make cuts," Standish said.

She also explained that public schools need more money because they offer services that private schools do not, such as transportation, special needs services, and services to teach English as a second language.

Regarding the public to private school relationship, Standish thinks the feelings are positive.

Standish said, "We don't feel that we are competing for students."

But the Executive Director of Educate Nebraska, a School Choice advocate, Kate Linehan begs to differ.

"The public schools don't want kids to go to schools they don't control," she said.

Educate Nebraska believes that families should be able to choose whatever schools best fit their needs, and that people exploring their education options helps the state financially.

Linehan said, "The state is saving money because you aren't attending their school and using the money they are obligated to pay."

The bill could be a major asset in helping students get the best education possible.

Meysenburg said, "I don't think it will have a huge impact, but I think it's a good place to start."

## TEC #102 brings Catholic seniors, juniors together from across Nebraska to grow in faith, friendship

ANTHONY KRICK  
Staff Writer

"Amen, amen, I say to you. Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it shall bear much fruit." -John 12:24.

I had the chance to witness the TEC #102 retreat on October 7-9<sup>th</sup> in Hastings, NE. Coming into TEC, I had no idea what to expect and no one had told me anything about it. My friends and I had been excited to go for a while, and I knew it would be a great weekend to exhilarate my faith life once again.

There were eight people from Pius who encountered Christ on TEC #102: Amy Reisher, Nathan Reisher, Annie Barie, Noelle Korta, Joseph Ho, Peter Foley, Tyler Taubenheim and myself. Amy Reisher was the only junior in attendance. Pius kids made up roughly 15% on the TEC candidates.

Taubenheim really enjoyed the experience of his very first retreat. "I felt like I was resurrected from the dead," Taubenheim said with a smile.

What surprised me the most was how many people came to this particular TEC from around Nebraska. A girl named Jessica Ramsey was in my group and she said that she went to a public school in Benkelman, NE. Mind you, Benkelman is four hours away from Hastings.

"It was a big step, but I know I was here for a reason," Ramsey said. Talk about courage to come all the way to a retreat without knowing any of the people who would be there.

Fr. Adam Sughroue (Doniphan) and Fr. Ben Holdren (David City) were the spiritual directors of TEC #102. Both played a key role by answering questions within discussions and providing the sacraments for the retreat.

Because there are various activities and surprises surrounding TEC, I do not wish to say everything. Rather, I hope and pray that all students have the chance to attend TEC in the future, or at least one faith involving retreat throughout their years of high school.

Let go and let God.



PHOTO FROM ANTHONY KRICK

These Pius X students made the trek to Hastings for TEC #102.

# Seniors surprised by results of student kindness experiment

ELISE WILHELM  
Staff Writer

Stopping to help others pick up papers they dropped is a social norm in a Catholic high school, right?

Seniors Abby Nelson and Emily Schmit pondered this question during an experiment in psychology class this year.

“We chose this topic because we wanted something unique and we wanted to see how helpful our fellow classmates actually are,” Nelson said.

They were very optimistic going into the study. They hypothesized that fifty percent of all the students walking by would stop to help them when they purposely tripped and dropped all the papers in their binders. They figured it would be a sure-thing since people at Pius X

are generally thought to be kinder than those at public schools.

When they conducted their experiment, the results were not what they expected.

“Our actual results were pretty disappointing. We expected people to immediately swarm around the student that dropped their papers and help, but this was not the case,” Nelson said.

They conducted eight different trials and not a single one had half of the bystanders stop to help. In fact, two of the eight trials had no one stop. When all the results of the experiment were averaged they found only sixteen percent of the students and staff stopped to help pick up the papers.

The girls feel like the results do have a little something to say about the environment at Pius X.

“Although we go to a Catholic school and are raised with the values of being kind and helpful towards others, we don’t always necessarily live out those values,” Nelson said.

The thought of helping someone who dropped their papers all over the hallway seems like something any kind person would do, especially someone who was raised on the belief in serving others over themselves. It was very surprising to the class how many people didn’t take the opportunity to show a small action of kindness to their fellow students.

Nelson said, “We just hope our experiment will help people in our school recognize more of the little opportunities to be kind to one another.”



# Helping those hurt by the hurricanes

ADDIE O'MEARA  
Staff Writer

Pius X High School is collecting items to help those affected by the recent hurricanes affecting our country.

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma devastated so many lives on the coasts of Texas and Florida.

Many large organizations have contributed money and donations to support relief efforts. At Pius X, students have organized fundraisers to help others in need.

Social Studies teacher Shiela Sievert is the official sponsor for the hurricane help organization at Pius X.

“Juniors Emma and Abby Haszard approached me because

they were interested in helping families in need.” Sievert said, “We brainstormed and thought that families would need blankets. People down in that heat wouldn’t want thick fleece blankets, so someone suggested t-shirt material.”

The group for hurricane help started a t-shirt drive that would collect unwanted t-shirts from the student body and staff. The t-shirt drive was set up as a competition between the girl and boy students to see who could bring in the most donations. The competition helped get students engaged in the project.

The group takes the donated t-shirts and ties them together to form large, durable blankets.

The last day you could have

sent shirts in was October 13<sup>th</sup>. The blankets are being sent along with Catholic Social Services’ donations later in October.

“My favorite part about participating in this organization is seeing the accomplishment in the students and watching students come together to help others,” Sievert explained, “My least favorite part was just trying to spread the word about the t-shirt drive.”

Clearly this organization’s work has paid off. They collected well over 200 shirts and this contributed to the fact that Pius has a strong student body and staff that is always willing to lend a helping hand.

# Opinion: Which Halloween costumes cross the line from festive to offensive?

ZIYAL MCARTHUR  
Staff Writer

Halloween is approaching and the time for deciding on costumes with it. Picking out costumes can be tricky but with the question of where’s the line between offensive and not, picking costumes could have just gotten trickier.

For certain costumes the answer is yes, these costumes are offensive but for others the answer might not be so clear. So, where’s the line?

One prime example is dressing up as Native Americans. Some people say that dressing up as Native Americans is offensive because you’re taking a culture and turning it into a costume and yes, I agree that making a costume out of a culture purely for the sake of a cool costume is wrong and should be considered offensive.

So, where would a young girl dressing up as

Pocahontas fit in since most of the time they dress up as Pocahontas since she is the girl’s favorite princess?

If a second-grader dressing up as Pocahontas is offensive, what about Mulan? Some say that yes, dressing up as these Disney princesses are offensive because they don’t agree with Disney’s portrayal of these women or the fact that Disney changed a lot of Pocahontas’s history to make the movie more kid-friendly.

If that is the case than the problem is with the Disney movies Pocahontas and Mulan and in that case, don’t take it out on the little second-grade girl who wants to dress up as her favorite Disney princess.

In my opinion I think younger girls should be able to dress up as Pocahontas or Mulan or whoever their favorite princess is because it’s not their fault that Disney messed up these women’s storylines.

**The Pius X-Change**

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The X-Change is a monthly publication of the Pius X High School newspaper staff. Opinions expressed on the opinion page do not necessarily represent those of the entire school community.

Students and staff are invited to share their opinion through a letter to the editor. The staff reserves the right to edit or reject any letter. All letters must be typed, signed and sent to Room 208 or:

The X-Change 6000 A Street	Pius X High School Lincoln, NE 68510
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# Features

## Pro-life club promotes life

CHLOE BARRETT  
Staff Writer

Out of all the deaths in America up to date, 25.97 percent are caused by murder. Abortion makes up 25.28 percent of the deaths.

This means that only 0.69 percent of the murders accounted for are not abortions.

Abortion is the leading topic addressed in Pro-Life Club at Pius X High School. However, they are sure to include all forms of supporting life.

"I like learning all the things about our world and knowing that we can make a difference and help those that don't have any other voice for them," junior Hannah Hoge stated.

Hoge joined Pro-Life Club as a sophomore and is now the president of the club.

Recently she has been attending a lot of conferences. The most recent was September 29, the Bishops Pro-life

Conference.

This year is very different than previous years because they are now a part of the Students for Life group led by Savannah Falter rather than just being a club last year.

Students for Life is one of the nation's most active pro-life organizations.

Falter is the representative to the Pius Students for Life. She was also the speaker at the pro-life day service.

Falter goes to all of the Midwest and coordinates all the Students for Life groups.

Although there is not a ton of difference between being a club and now being a part of Students for Life Hoge feels that through being a part of this group they are able to try different things and have new resources as well.

She is very happy to have a bunch of different connections now.

Junior member Elise

Wilhelm said she feels like this year is a lot more organized and instead of just having ideas on how to be pro-life they are being more proactive.

They are actually making plans and working towards those goals.

When Wilhelm first heard about the abortion issue and starting reading more into it she understood how big of deal this was. She joined pro-life club to try and make a change.

Wilhelm is super excited about the baby socks being pinned to backpacks. The purpose for the socks is to draw attention and be a great conversation starter so they can tell people all about being pro-life.

Wilhelm stated, "Being pro-life is so much more than just saving the babies; it's about euthanasia, the babies, and respecting all life. I am very proud to be in a club and school where I can be super passionate about what I believe in."

## Pius X talent show auditions let students showcase special talents

ELLIE YAGER  
Staff Writer

Do re mi fa so much exciting news for all those who love to sing because auditions were held for choir groups Cantabella, Spectrum and Sotto Voce on Thursday, October 5 to be a part of the Pius X Talent show.

Every year the talent show is a hit for those who love to showcase their talents. Meaghan George, veteran Cantabella singer said, "I think the talent show is a great way to show the true essence of our choir at Pius."

The auditions were packed full of talents including singers, piano players, and even a brother-sister duo!

It's not only a show for musical talent, performers are also able to do comedy acts and fun tricks.

From one person performing to a group of four, this is a great chance for people to showcase what they can do and have fun doing it.

It's a big deal for those in choir groups here at Pius X, and even brand-new freshman are excited to have a chance at letting their talents be heard.

Freshman Colleen O'Gara says, "I think it would be exciting, and an honor because I love to sing and I would be able to do it in front of people."

The auditions were a display of passion and talent that would give chills to the audience and the acts this year will blow the crowd away.

The show always has a great turnout and the audience will most definitely not be lacking this year. The show brings about such a positive environment, lots of fun, and an abundance of skill.

It's a great thing to be a part of and there is endless support from everyone in the choir.

It reveals what these Pius X singers, comedians, and more are all about.

The talent show is on November 6 at seven PM in the LPAC at Pius X. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults.



PHOTO BY ELLIE YAGER

A student auditions with a song for the talent show.

## Scaring others can be fun

CANDY HERNANDEZ  
Cover Editor

Since 1980, Roca Berry Farm has been one of Lincoln's biggest attraction, especially Roca Scary Farm where they host scary adventures, houses and mazes.

Sophomore Keegan Boden has recently joined the Roca scarer family. He plays various characters from a cannibal to a vampire.

"I really love acting and being able to make up my own lines, I really love my character and I get so into my act sometimes I forget I am in character." Boden said.

He would like to continue to be a scarer and express himself through his acting and performance.

"I really try to make my audience feel scared, worried, panicked or, sometimes laugh," Boden said. "Everyone has a different reaction but for the most part I really enjoy this job and hope to continue this as a hobby."

## Nearly 1% of Pius X population are Hansens

ABBIE RUSSMAN  
Staff Writer

Mr. Jim Hansen and his extended family make up almost one percent of the current population at Pius X. There are nine relatives of Hansen; eight students and one assistant coach.

The students include four freshmen, one sophomore, two juniors, and one senior. Emily Isaacs is the assistant softball coach, and Hansen is the only teacher.

The family has a history at Pius X. George Easley was from the first graduating class at Pius X, and this August, he was inducted into the Pius X Athletic Hall of Fame. He and his wife, the late Joanne Easley, had twelve children, all graduates of Pius X.

Hansen married Teresa Easley, the second child in the Easley family. Hansen said having

such a large number of family members at Pius X "emphasizes [the] family aspect of Pius."

"It's neat to see them here and to grow," Hansen said about having so many nieces and nephews at Pius X.

"It's neat to see how they develop." Hansen recalled how they all went to different grade schools, and now that they are at Pius X, "they can all be relatives at the same time."

"The family always gets together all holidays," Hansen said. Hansen used to send out a message each week to his family about upcoming events that the students were involved with.

Freshman Sophia Gallagher has classes with a lot of her cousins and said it is nice to have a "helping hand."

Senior Alexa Easley said having family at school "makes the transition easier."

It is safe to say that Pius X will see plenty more graduates related to Hansen in the future.

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## Halloween costumes of teachers through the ages

MADDIE AMES  
Staff Writer



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK HANSEN

Hansen ready to scare as a frightening witch.

Flashback to 1974, future English teacher Mark Hansen is dressed as a witch at the age of four. His goal, to frighten everyone and take as much candy as he wanted.

Hansen said he wouldn't want to continue trick-or-treating today even though he did enjoy the costumes and candy.

"I enjoy being at home and giving out candy," Hansen said with a shrug.

He said that his first year of giving out candy, he went through ten bags.

"We had only thought that we would need four to five

bags. We ran out at six thirty and I had to buy five more bags. "When asked about how costumes have evolved, he had to take a moment and think.

"I've noticed that adult costumes have gotten more elaborate. There are now whole stores rented out just for the month of Halloween to sell costumes."

Finally, he was asked what he would dress up as today. His mind twisted over the millions of options.

"I think I would go with Fr. Rynearson," he laughed.

Hansen said that he would want to channel all of Rynearson's happiness and good vibes.

Now, traveling to future French teacher, Amanda Barker. She is flying in the air as Tinkerbelle with a wand in her hand.

"My mom made all of my costumes which was really fun," she said. "I watched her make them, pick out the fabric."

When asked what her favorite costume was, she knew right away.

"She made a genie costume. She loved the show *I Dream of Jeannie*, so I went as a genie."

Barker said that it was so much fun guessing what the costumes were going to be.

"Seeing how they came out was a lot of fun," she said.

Finally, we travel to future English teacher, Jennifer Sander's, Halloween. She is dressed as a ghost, a hand-me-down from her sisters.

"My mom wasn't very creative, so basically it was a white sheet with cut out eyes," Sander said.

Another costume she brought up was a witch costume that had a very interesting hat.

"I remember one year being a witch and I thought it was super cool because my hair was attached to my hat. I wore

the pointed hat and the hair was already on it, so the hair hung really low," she said.

When asked how Halloween had differed from her childhood to now, safety had been a big thought on her mind.

"Safety is the biggest difference in a small town. In Nebraska, you never felt like you weren't in a safe place.

Whereas now a days parents are a little more fearful and especially with younger children."

Throughout the years costumes have continued to evolve, but the anticipation of the holiday remains the same.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMANDA BARKER

Barker gets a lift in her Tinkerbelle costume.

## SENIOR SNIPPETS

ADALINE ROCKENBACH, CANDY HERNANDEZ, ROCHELLE BOSE



Trevin Alberts, a guy who's positive, fun, and independent.

Before Pius, Alberts went to St. Peter's for grade school. At Pius, he is involved in Ambassadors, Ambassadors leadership, Student Council and shoots trap. Outside of school he plays the guitar, bass, drums and shoots more trap.

His favorite class at Pius so far has been contemporary history because he's learned a lot about America that most people wouldn't even know.

Alberts is hoping to go to Doane University to shoot trap. He plans to major in Biology there.

His best memories at Pius would be going to the football games and the dances because he had fun dancing with friends and being in the student section.

Which is why, he's going to miss seeing his friends every day after he graduates.

Some advice that he'd give to the freshman this year would be to enjoy high school while it lasts, it goes by so fast.



"Every day is a chance to get better." This is one of senior Grant Leber's favorite quotes that he tries to apply to his everyday life but also to his favorite sport, soccer.

He has played soccer all four years at Pius X and has been on varsity since his sophomore year.

Soccer is a huge part in his life. Leber plans on playing in college at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

"I play on the Gretna soccer team and on the Pius X team," Leber said. "I love playing for Pius X because I met a lot of people and they became some of my closest friends."

He expects nothing but success and hard work from himself and his teammates as well.

"This year our season is going to be our best," Leber stated. "We plan on going to State, we will be putting all the work in to have a great year so stay woke."



Ashley Nguyen is usually very shy but when she is comfortable enough she will let loose and her wild side will flow!

Ashley describes herself as weird, fun, and crazy once you are close friends with her. She enjoys reading, watching Netflix, and watching random YouTube videos in her free time.

Also, she has a lot of fun participating with the lion dance team at her church. The thing that Ashley said she will miss the most about Pius is some of her teachers.

Her favorite teacher is Mr. Scheffler. Her favorite class is Latin, "just because it is a very fun class," says Ashley.

One of the best memories she has of Pius X is making bottle rockets for a physics project because it was boys verses girls and the girls stomped the boys.

Ashley has been accepted into University of Nebraska Lincoln and doesn't know yet what she wants to pursue a career in.

Her advice to the freshman is, "don't feel pressured to be someone you're not and don't feel bad if you aren't the most popular."

## Cheerleaders take flight with permission to stunt



PHOTO BY MADDIE CONDON

The Pius X varsity cheer team shows off their new stunting routine at the 2017 Fall Kickoff game.

MADDIE CONDON  
*News and Opinion Editor*

The Pius X cheer squad can stunt for the first time in four years.

After a misfortunate accident in 1996 leaving a University of Lincoln Nebraska cheerleader partially paralyzed, it became Nebraska School Activities Association canon that all Nebraska cheer teams would be “grounded.”

Nebraska’s governing body for athletics, the NSAA, set guidelines for the new cheer regulations, as well specific insurance agencies varying from school to school and district to district.

Although the ban has varied in stipulations since its placement over twenty years ago, the NSAA announced last year that as long as all high school cheer coaches have completed a training program and received certification in stunting, high school cheer teams could begin stunting, following strict guidelines.

Towards the end of the 2017-2018 cheer season, the Pius X squad began minor stunting, and started competitive training proceeding a Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA), camp this past summer.

Although stunting is new to this year’s Pius X cheer squad, coach Erin Andrus, had prior stunting experience in both coaching and competing in high school.

“The cheerleaders’ overall reaction was pure excitement. Our routines tend to look a lot more intricate and catch more people’s attention when we have people in the air,” varsity cheer captain Carly Johnson exclaimed.

It is a seemingly mutual agreement that the team’s favorite stunts consist of level changes, such as the pyramid performed at the 2017 Fall Kickoff football game.

With new tasks though, come new difficulties.

“Stunting definitely adds an extra level of stress for the girls, not only do they have to learn their routines, they now also have to practice stunts,” Andrus explained. “Comfortableness can be hard to reach, and in order to be physically sturdy, the girls have to be confident.”

But despite any challenges, the girls have really enjoyed the new addition to cheer, and work very hard to perfect the sport.

“There are many responsibilities with stunting,” junior Mary Messinio, a varsity flyer, stated. “The bases and back spots are literally throwing a girl into the air. Making sure she gets up there safely can cause a lot of stress, but in the end we always pull through.”

The Pius X cheerleaders will continue to work to perfect their stunts, and look forward to continuing to try new routines in the years to come.

## Aldrich Field: Home of dreams, tradition, Friday night lights

ANTHONY KRICK  
*Staff Writer*

Aldrich Field is by all means an exceptional environment during football games on crisp, autumn nights. However, there is more to Aldrich Field than most people know today.

Assistant Principal, Greg Lesiak, has seen the stadium flourish throughout the years.

“Knowing the history of how it was built by students and faculty members just shows that it is truly Pius X built,” Lesiak said with pride. “That’s just really cool to me.”

Lesiak has been at Pius X for 24 years. He takes pride in watching the band play the school fight song under the lights and seeing the football players compete, but his favorite thing about the game is the senior-led student section.

Let’s be honest, where else can someone find a whole student section observe a moment of silence for a cat named LeRoy?

Senior wide receiver Joe Raun is certain that there is no place like Aldrich Field.

“It’s a great experience because of all the people who have played there before you,” Raun described. “

You feel part of something bigger than yourself, which you are.”

Raun says the energy aspect at Aldrich is also different from other stadiums in Class A. “When we go other places to play, the people are sort of spaced out, but at Aldrich everyone is involved and the stands are always loud,” Raun said. “When you walk out onto the field and see how many people show up, it’s hard not to yell and get pumped up.”

As a middle school student, you always dream of being in the student section leading chants; I know that I sure did. One of my favorite memories throughout the four years of being part of the student section has to be the USA theme every year for 9/11. My sophomore year we made a flag and flew a drone over to capture what we looked like from above. It made me proud knowing that I was involved in it.

So, if there ever was an argument for who has the best stadium and high school football fans in Class A... “I BEILEVE THAT WE WILL WIN!”

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## Softball gloves third at State to conclude hot season

KATE LINDERMAN  
Staff Writer

The Pius X softball team placed third in the state tournament last week in Hastings after losing to Lincoln Southwest 7-5.

The Bolts had high hopes going into the tournament, looking for the big overall win.

“We have a winning streak and are not ready to stop now,” junior Lynsey Tucker said before the tournament.

The team went 2-0 on Wednesday, beating Lincoln North Star and Lincoln Southwest.

The month and a half long winning streak ended when Pius X lost 3-2 to number one ranked Papillion-LaVista in the semifinal game on a walk-off homerun.

“Softball is a game full of little moments. We were all super surprised. It was sad because we had the game in the beginning,” Tucker said.

The team finished the season on a loss to Lincoln Southwest 7-5, bringing

the season to a close. Pius X placed third in Class A.

Junior Grace Laue said that placing third is definitely an improvement over last year. The team played to their full potential throughout the season, and it showed in the state tournament.

The Bolts swept the district tournament before heading off to Hastings for State.

Due to many rain delays and cancellations, the district championship game was played just two short days before the state tournament.

Tucker said, “It gave good momentum not having to wait a whole week to play.”

The Bolts finished the season with 28 wins and just 4 losses, the best record in school history.

Senior Josie Baxter broke the homerun record with 11 homeruns.

Laue and Tucker both agree it will be hard losing eight amazing seniors, but they are excited to come back and go for the win next year.

“Softball is a game full of little moments.”

- Lynsey Tucker



PHOTO BY KATE LINDERMAN

Junior Elise Wilhelm loads for a swing during a District game at Doris Bair Field.

## Cross country teams to make run at State

KATE LINDERMAN  
Staff Writer

Both boys and girls cross country teams qualified for State during last Thursday's District Meet at Pioneers Park. Sophomore Lizzy Kramer, Junior Madison Schafers, Junior Gemma Volkmer and Junior Ellen Dalton placed in the top fifteen for the girls.

“I was not expecting it,” said Kramer after placing second in the meet.

Sophomore Gavin Skorupa and Sophomore Nick McElroy placed in the top fifteen in the boys meet.

“I had a feeling someone was going to pass me,” said Skorupa, who finished second in the meet. He lead the race in the beginning.

Both teams will face many challenges at the upcoming state meet. They have been working hard all week on keeping themselves positive and confident leading up to the race.

“Running against East is going to be our biggest challenge, but running against them makes our team better,” said Schafers, who qualified individually for State by placing thirteenth in the meet. Lincoln East placed first in the Girls District A-2 meet.

Skorupa said, “I am nervous but excited at the same time.”

Throughout the week, he has kept his body prepared for the race by eating well and getting plenty of sleep.

Team bonding has been a major focus this week. Team building exercises and dinners have been a priority along with normal practices every day.

## Bolts practice safer tackling alternative

ROCHELLE BOSE  
Staff Writer

Safer tackling, a subject that has been pondered and experimented with for many years throughout the football community, has recently become part of how the coaches teach tackling here at Pius X.

The way to safer tackling is by shoulder tackling. Shoulder tackling is basically rugby tackling where you are taught to tackle using your chest and shoulders rather than with your head.

While coaching Hansen says, “step with your near foot, never hit head-on, and use your shoulders, leverage, and momentum to safely bring the other player to the ground.”

The coaches learned more in-depth about this safer way last year when they went to a coaching clinic put on by the Nebraska Coaches Association (NCA) and USA Football (USAFB). Since then, we have been USAFB certified.

“Shoulder tackling has been around for about five years,” says Coach Jim Hansen, “but Nebraska really started to use this way more in the past two years.”

This tackling method has reduced many bad head-on hits and concussions which helps to keep everyone healthy and in the game for as long as possible. This is very important because in high school football most of the players' bodies are still growing and developing.

Coach Kearney, Coach Book, and Coach Hansen all said that they think it was a good call to bring shoulder tackling in to play because the old way was too dangerous.

“When I played high school football I was taught to put my face mask right in the middle of the other person's chest and grab cloth on their back, aka run through the tackle, but these days this is way too dangerous and we needed a change in this area. Football is not the same as

when I started playing in 1977 and it's not the same as when I started coaching in 1987 with Mr. Elward here at Pius but I think we are going to start to see the game become more like rugby in the sense of tackling,” Coach Hansen Stated.

Coach Kearney, on the other hand, played football at Pius X and said that he has always been taught to keep his head away from the tackle as much as possible and use his shoulders.

The players don't seem to have a problem with any of the new tackling skills being implemented, it is more the older coaches because they are used to having lots of physicality within the sport.

In the end, shoulder tackling is better for everyone involved in the sport. Football is safer now than ever before thanks to the many collaborations between medical professionals, professional coaches, and other football officials.

## Lincoln's ghoulish legends to tell in the dark

OLIVIA TAYLOR  
Features Editor

From the deep, dark woods of Antelope Park to the Capitol building where many spirits make themselves known through footsteps and whispers, Lincoln has its fair share of local urban legends and ghost stories that are guaranteed to spook anyone interested in scary folklores.

By word of mouth, one urban legend of Lincoln is the "Witch of Wilderness Park" where a witch haunts Wilderness Park and the children who the witch had killed.

The story goes that in the early 1900s, about a dozen children went missing and many people believed that the children had run away or just somehow disappeared in the park.

One day, the sister of a boy who went missing claimed to see him and an old woman walking into the woods together.

The woman was known by the locals as "Witch of Wilderness Park" because she lived a secluded life in a shack by herself in the woods of the park.

Following up on the girl's remarks, police investigated the

area and ended up finding about half a dozen of the missing children's bodies.

When the woman was questioned about the children found, she only complained that the children would run all over her yard.

The police could not find any hard evidence to convict her so she was left alone by the police, but not from the outraged locals who went out to seize the old woman for revenge.

The locals hanged the old woman by her neck with chains from a huge tree.

Today, it is said that the witch haunts the woods and that the rattling of chains and her screams are heard at night, along with the laughter and cries of the dead children.

According to the book *A Guide to the Ghosts of Lincoln* by Alan Boye, another haunted park in Lincoln is Antelope Park, which is said to be haunted by ghosts that run across the field and into the woods.

According to the book, many people have seen these apparitions walking or running across the park from behind the caretaker's house.

There is not much on the history of Antelope Park, but

it is reported that many people have experienced or sensed something there.

The book also mentions Lake Street Lake is another well-known haunted hotspot for the paranormal. The lake was once a dairy farm turned into a skating rink.

The lake is said to be haunted by a young boy who was killed by a gang of bullies and today apparitions are seen near the lake, especially around winter.

One well-known place, home to the unknown, is our very own state capitol. The capitol is believed to be built on top of land considered holy by Native Americans who were settled in that area.

When in the building, people tend to hear whispers and footsteps when no one is there. Many people have also claimed to see apparitions of a Native American chief in the basement of the building.

There has also been an unfortunate amount of deaths in eerily similar ways, such as, multiple accounts of people falling off the large spiral staircase of the building, which seems to give reason to the many reports of ghosts in the Capitol building.

## The life of a not so ordinary pumpkin

JOHN GREENWALD  
Staff Writer

With the Halloween, the night of scares and treats, approaching, students and staff alike are eager to start buying candy and putting up decorations.

The most common of these decorations being the tombstone, cotton-like cobwebs with little spiders to go along with them, and an eerie fog to cover the area.

Pumpkins, however, prove to be the most traditional, and quite interesting decoration that many enjoy carving and putting out, such as the jack-o-lantern.

Having been grown in North America for around five thousand years, pumpkins have become an iconic piece of art that people around the world use on Halloween, and even afterwards for various other things.

Numerous types of foods can be made with pumpkin, such as the famous pumpkin pie, or perhaps cheesecake, even pumpkin butter.

After Halloween should pass, all those pumpkins used for decoration shouldn't just go to waste.

Beforehand when carving them, the innards can be used for foods or treats using the seeds, and the pumpkin shell could even still be used as a festive light for a while after Halloween.



## Review: Pius Players produce humorous time piece

MADDIE CONDON  
Co-Editor in Chief

The Pius X Players perform "The Man Who Came to Dinner" for the 2017 fall play.

As the house lights dimmed and the stage lights brightened, the very first thing I noticed was an impeccable, intricate, and impressive set.

The play takes place in the 1930s and aside from all character aspects, the detailed set, props, and clothing was enough to make the time period truly convincing.

To make matters better, the lead role of Mr. Sheridan Whiteside was perfectly portrayed by senior Nick McConnell. From the witty jokes to the exaggerated anger and just the acting in general, everything about this character was incredibly captivating and comedic.

With the play stretching nearly two and a half hours, I was afraid my attention would wander, but as the plot thickens and characters develop, it's almost impossible to take your eyes off the stage.

A personal favorite performer was the relentlessly optimistic doctor, played by junior Raphael Pepino. Throughout the play I could always rely on him for comic relief.

The amount of time and effort the players put into this

production was overly apparent.

Actors and actresses were wonderfully casted, and the prop, set, and tech crew alike, did an amazing job.

The first public performance took place on Wednesday, October 18. But there are still two remaining performances.

"The Man Who Came to Dinner" can still be seen Saturday, Oct. 21 at 2:00 pm and Sunday, Oct. 22 at 2:00 pm.



PHOTOS BY MADDIE CONDON