

Xchange

Pius X High School

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NEWSEUM INSTITUTE

Jarecke wins trip to national journalism conference

AMELIA JARECKE
Sports Editor

“Now more than ever, we need young journalists.”

Washington Post editor Marty Baron said these words to me. Granted, I was in a room with 50 other student journalists from around the country. But it felt like a personal call, telling me that my dream needs *me* to chase it.

In order to get to this point, the one where I’m sitting in the \$450 million Newseum Institute, dining with Pulitzer-prize winners and ESPN commentators, I just had to take a gamble. Back in February, I applied to represent Nebraska at the 2017 Al Neuharth Free Spirit and Journalism Conference.

Though I felt extremely unqualified, I won the scholarship.

At the conference, I learned what it takes to be a good journalist in this time of fake news, an overflow of information, and a political scene where the media is constantly under attack.

Mary Pilon, author and sports writer for *The New York Times*, explained to me, in a personal interview, that when she attended the Free Spirit conference years ago, she felt a similar call.

“In 2004, when Bush was in office, they said there

was no better time to be a journalist,” she explained. “They were right then, and they’re right now. The only constant is change in the news industry.”

The conference is essential in inspiring the next generation of journalists. Up until I attended the conference, I thought journalism was just something I had fun doing, not something I could make a career.

In the words of Al Neuharth, founder of *USA Today* and the Free Spirit conference, “Journalism is the most fun you can have and still get paid for.”

Months after I returned home from D.C., I saw some news that threatens the future of this conference that I enjoyed so thoroughly.

The president of the Newseum resigned amidst financial troubles.

“It has become obvious that the current model — where the Freedom Forum is the primary funder of the Newseum — cannot continue indefinitely at this level,” Jan Neuharth, the daughter of Al Neuharth and chairwoman of the Freedom Forum said in a statement. “Left unchecked, this deficit spending rate would eventually drain the Freedom Forum’s entire endowment, and the annual cash drain prevents us from allocating any new capital to First Amendment programs that are at the heart of our educational mission.”

The Free Spirit conference falls under one of the “First Amendment programs.”

In response to the threat of losing the program, Pilon said, “It would be devastating; maybe not over night, but years down the road we would see the fallout of this.”

Journalism is an underdog profession, due to economic and political disadvantages. But in order to hold our government accountable, we need freedom of the press.

“Anyone who cares about democracy should fund and support this because it is essential to democracy,” said Pilon, who has also covered politics at *Politico*.

As far as the future of journalism goes, it will be fine. We have more people reading information now than ever in the history of the world. Yes, print news is dying but that does not mean journalism is. It just takes new forms and adapts.

So I am not concerned for the future of the journalism industry. What I am concerned with is the future of the conference.

We need to inspire smart, young people to pursue careers as journalists. We need to put kids from small schools in Nebraska in a big room of accomplished people just to show them how big their dreams can be.

Now more than ever, we need young, hungry journalists. The Free Spirit Conference finds them.

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News

Bernardo assigned to new position as full-time Chaplain for 2017-2018 school year

ABBIE RUSSMAN
Staff Writer

Father Joseph Bernardo, a major figure at Pius X, was assigned as full-time Chaplain for the 2017-2018 school year.

As we know, Pius X is growing rapidly. Father Daniel Rayer, chancellor for the Diocese of Lincoln, said that Bishop James Conley and authoritative figures at Pius X felt that with such a large number of students, it would be helpful to have a chaplain to focus on the community.

Rayer said that the benefits of assigning a full-time Chaplain include having someone designated to interact with others throughout the day and attend extra-curricular activities. Bernardo is there to talk and pray with others.

"It was a shock, but at the same time, it wasn't a shock," Bernardo recalled.

Bernardo was assigned as a full-time Chaplain at Pius X with residency at St. John's. This came as a surprise because he had just finished his first year as a pastor for St. Leo's parish in Palmyra and St. Martin's parish in Douglas.

He had heard of plans to establish a full-time Chaplain as a valid position, which lessened the shock.

This new position is unlike most other clergy assignments.

"This one's unique... I have no parish duties or any teaching duties," Bernardo said.

Bernardo is meant to be available at a moment's notice, which is the reason why he does not have teaching duties. Instead, he takes care of sacramental duties, assists Campus Ministry, and works to make himself visible to parents, students and administration. He wants to reach out and assist every member of the Pius family.

He hopes to help everyone "recognize Christ's place in our everyday life." He desires to bridge the gap between people and Christ.

Molly Milana, the Campus Minister at Pius X, said having a chaplain "opens a lot of doors that have not been previously opened for staff members." The staff now has a priest they can easily talk to.

Junior Matthew Maguire said that having a chaplain ensures that there is always the opportunity for confession after school. Maguire said Bernardo is present more in the halls and is there to talk.

When asked if he missed teaching, Bernardo claimed, "I do... I miss teaching freshmen." Although he misses teaching greatly, he sees the importance of this new role.

"Although I can't do one, I'm glad to do

the other," Bernardo said, referring to not being able to teach but having the assignment of chaplain.

"I would like to see myself in this position for at least a couple years," Bernardo said.

This year will hold many opportunities for students to grow in their faith because of this new and exciting assignment.



PHOTO BY ABBIE RUSSMAN

Bernardo is excited about the his new Chaplain assignment.

Guidance receives roomy renovations

OLIVIA TAYLOR
Features Editor

Pius X has undergone another improvement to both its staff and building. With new guidance counselor Greg Sederberg, the guidance office has been renovated to make more room for the new addition to its staff.

"Last year we made a decision to add a fourth counselor, but then in our little space we didn't have enough room," Director of Guidance Jan Frayser said. "So we made a decision and Father [Meysenburg] accepted it, that and in the little conference room, the wall would be pulled back so that our outer office would be larger and then there would be one more office."

Sederberg is originally from Beatrice and moved to Lincoln this last year. He also made the decision to become a counselor within the last year.

He taught Social Studies at Beatrice High School for the last six years, so this is his first year as a counselor and at a Catholic high school.

Sederberg said, "It [counseling] is a lot different from teaching, but it is really enjoyable to, I like it a lot." He continued, "It's still helping students but in a different way than I guess what you would typically do in a classroom."

With Sederberg's recent move and change in profession within the last year, he has taken the adjustment in stride.

Sederberg said, "It's been a good change. I've really enjoyed it, just everything with the transition and our move up to Lincoln has been really good," he continued, "I have two little kids and that's been a really good transition for them as well and everything with coming here to Pius has been great."

The renovation was done over the summer before the 2017-2018 school year began. The Mother Theresa room was renovated slightly to make room for a new office for campus chaplain Fr. Joseph Bernardo, along with the new guidance office conference room.

The new changes to the guidance office make for more room for students and faculty to comfortably move about.

Junior Hayden Higgins said, "I like the new renovations because there is a lot more space in it and it just feels more welcoming."

The new renovations are very appreciated from the students who feel like the renovations have made our school feel more comfortable and updated.

"I think the renovations make it easier to move around and makes the office come off as a warm and happy place to be," senior Judith Brown said.

The guidance office renovations have been highly regarded by both faculty and students as a great improvement to the Pius X building.



PHOTO BY OLIVIA TAYLOR

New renovations provide more office space.

Funds raised, additional classrooms to be built starting in early 2018

ADDISON O'MEARA
Staff Writer

In spring 2018, Pius X High School will be starting construction on classroom additions to the original building.

Our school has been experiencing issues with space for the past few years. Classes are rapidly growing in size, teachers are having to share classrooms and hallways are overcrowding.

Tom Korta, Pius X principal, explained that Pius X collected money for this specific purpose for about a year.

"We started with the architects. We knew where we wanted it, they did a little design, and we said okay." Korta continued, "They said to complete this project, we would need five and a half million dollars. We then had that as our target and hit exactly five and a half million."

The add-on will be on the northwest side of the school protruding from the LPAC. The

new hallway will lead to more classrooms on both sides.

The current portables in our east parking lot will be removed entirely once the additions are completed.

The Pius X website has a more detailed look on what the new classrooms will be used for.

Freshman Ellie Yager explains, "I think that the additions will be a lot better than having to run to the portables every day."

Similarly, sophomore Abbie Russman adds, "I think that since the school population is growing, it's a good idea to expand the school because it'll make the environment more welcoming and open for our many students."

Without a doubt, these new additions to our school will take some time to get used to. Korta estimates that the whole project will hopefully be completed by 2019.

Opinion: Federal regulations on food frustrates

JOHN GREENWALD
Staff Writer

After a long day at school, and the lunch I brought having been less than stellar, I'm feeling hungry for some snacks. The commons snack area is closed so I look for a vending machine, only to see they are unavailable.

There are very few of these machines in the school, three to be exact, and myself and probably others may not be able to go to the commons to grab something quickly during the day unless it's during my off period.

The reason that the vending machines aren't available until four at the end of the day is because of federal regulations.

The federal agency known as the United States Department of Agriculture, or USDA, provides the free and reduced lunch program for students.

Vending machines do not allow transactions before four because the USDA asks that when they provide the free and reduced lunch program for students, that there be no other food or beverages sold other than at lunch.

After waiting until four, I go to the

machine and see the choices inside, everything being a healthy variant, something I'm indifferent towards.

This is because the vending machines only contain healthier alternatives for snacks and soda as required by the USDA.

With this in mind, I would suggest students to just purchase their snacks in advance before school, or bring something from home; a routine I have recently adopted.



PHOTO BY JOHN GREENWALD

Restricted vending machine taunts students in the lunch room

Opinion: Courtyard remains restricted

JOHN GREENWALD
Staff Writer

There are many different things to do and see at Pius, an attraction that many students may have seen but perhaps haven't given much thought to is the courtyard between the 160 and 260 hallways.

This small area contains a variety of plants and greenery, and resides near the heart of the school, which can be easily seen from the 260 and 160 hallways and classrooms surrounding it.

"The purpose of the courtyard was to create an attractive space between wings of the hallways 160 and 260," said Principal Tom Korta, "and for many years wasn't very attractive, until landscaping club came and beautified it".

During the day however, no students are allowed in it, not even seniors during an off period.

Korta said, "During the day, students aren't allowed into the courtyard since it would be a distraction to others in class.

"The courtyard should be made more easily accessible to everyone, and the plants could be

spruced up a little to make them more luscious and perennial," Senior Justin Slepicka suggested, "maybe even incorporate some birds, and add benches".

Seniors could also hang around the courtyard during off periods instead of heading to the LPAC or the commons.

Senior Ricky Evaristo said, "It should be accessible to seniors during the day when they have off periods, but to everyone else after school is over".



PHOTO BY JOHN GREENWALD

The Pius X courtyard is untouched by students.

Coyotes caught lurking at Holmes Lake Park

LUCY KOENIG
Staff Writer

Lately there has been an influx of coyote activity at Holmes Lake. The city has received many calls reporting sightings and a warning has been issued. Holmes Lake is just a mile away from Pius X and the cross country team occasionally runs there.

"The coyotes could be dangerous, especially for children and at night", said Carmen Wharry, a Pius X cross country team member.

Animal Control is currently patrolling the area and the coyotes have been spotted on trails

early in the morning and night. They are believed to be a pack.

One woman was chased while riding her bike on the trails. A grandmother and her grandchildren spotted a couple off of the trails as well, said 10/11 news.

"Sightings have been down but police are still warning people to be aware," senior Anthony Krick said.

Animal Control is recommending that people do not go to Holmes Lake at night. Coyotes are normally scared of humans but if you see one be cautious and give it space.

Termites terminated from Old Gym

CHLOE BARRETT
Staff Writer

During summer maintenance this July, Termites were discovered in the old gym by Mr. Aylward.

Aylward said he was just going to replace some of the base board in the new gym, due to rotting, but when he pulled up the floor, he saw the termites. However, Aylward said they did very little damage.

The termites were based mainly on the north wall of the gym and a few on the west wall. According to Mr. Leber, the termites had probably been there for a while, but they are not sure how they got in.

The termites were only found

in the old gym. Worries have arisen about the new gym though, because of the wall the new and old gym share.

"We are keeping our eyes open not only in the new gym, but around the school", said Leber.

This will help maintenance act on a problem quickly if it were to occur.

Korta hired ABC Pest Control, a company that has been around since 1991, to come in and treat the infestation. Two inch holes were drilled into the floor. The holes went past the cement so the chemicals could get into the dirt and kill the termites.

Holes were placed one foot away from the wall and 18 inches apart from each other. The process

took three days.

The poison used was a new treatment called Termidor HE Termiticed Manifestation by BASF Corporation. This is supposed to last for up to twenty years.

By treating the perimeter of the old gym, it should prevent the termites from infesting again.

Mr. Korta is confident that the treatment given by ABC Pest Control completely eradicated the termites.

Since the problem has been fixed, Zornes and Leber have been working on putting two inch dowels into the holes, sanding them, and sealing them. In the next few weeks the holes made to treat the termites will all be filled.

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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:

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6000 A Street

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Features

Battle of the Hansens: Two Hansens teaching English

KATE LINDERMAN

Staff Writer

For over 30 years, freshman English teacher Jim Hansen, has greatly impacted his students in the areas of literature, writing, and life.

Hansen had such an amazing experience with the Catholic School Education System at Creighton Prep that he wanted to be a part of it.

His favorite classes in college included anything relating to literature, especially Shakespeare.

These classes were a major influence on his decision to teach English.

“There are so many examples in literature that tell us about who we are and why we have the emotions that we have,” Hansen said.

Hansen likes to add a spiritual concept when teaching to help his students understand what they are reading on a more mature level.

“We had a daily salad joke in class, and I still tell him salad jokes as a sophomore,” said sophomore Claire Wackel.

Aside from teaching English, Hansen was previously the head baseball coach for eighteen years

and is now an assistant football coach.

He says the relationships he has made with players, coaches, and students throughout the years is greater than any championship ever won.

After being a favored grade school teacher at Blessed Sacrament and St. Patrick’s for six years, Mark Hansen decided to take on the job of being a high school teacher.

He said, “Students will always surprise you, you have never seen it all.”

The new Modern Literature and Social Literature teacher said that his transition to Pius X has been fairly simple thanks to the help of some fellow colleagues at school.

He finds that teaching literature gives him a better chance to get to know his students. Hansen enjoys reading and talking about books.

“He is a pretty laid back teacher,” said junior Hannah Hoge, “he likes to encourage his students and have fun.”

After many years of teaching, he has learned not to underestimate his students.

Mark Hansen is excited to be surprised by his students and is excited to see what this year brings.



PHOTOS BY KATE LINDERMAN

Mark Hansen (top) and Jim Hansen both teach English this year.

Seniors transfer to different high schools before final year begins

MADDIE CONDON
News & Opinion Editor

All throughout high school students anticipate their senior year. The moment they walk into school on the first day, they know they're the top dogs. No upperclassmen to stand in their way, a sea of younger students looking up to them.

But what if you return to school your senior year and every face was new, both teachers and peers? The rules have changed, dress code is different, almost as if you've reverted back to being a mere freshman.

For some students, this seemingly terrifying reenactment is not only reality, but freely chosen.

Senior Morgan Mansheim decided to transfer to Lincoln East just two weeks before the 2017-2018 school year began.

“I wanted to better prepare myself for starting college and there was just a lot more class options at East,” Mansheim explained.

She also reflected on how, though she really enjoyed

her first two years, junior year brought unexpected struggles and she decided it was time for a change.

Unlike Mansheim, who had attended private school her entire life, Lincoln North Star senior Stephanie Islas was new to the Catholic school system her freshman year back in 2014. And after just three years at Pius X, she made a return to public schools.

“My parents thought Pius would be a good school for me to attend, and that it would help me in my religious journey throughout high school, but I really began to miss the diverse environment of public schools and was ready to go back,” Islas said.

The two, alike, agree that the hardest part was leaving their old friends, and adjusting to lenient dress code is among the ‘pros’.

To many Pius X students, strict rules and religious affiliation in the school system are all they've ever known.

But what if that was all new the year before graduation?

Already preparing for her life post-high school, current Pius X student Shelbi Larsen has also had to make the transition to private school her senior year.

After growing up in the small town of Malcolm, Nebraska, Larsen was underprepared for the move to Lincoln Southwest her freshman year, and really began to miss the close dynamic of a smaller school.

One week before transcripts were due, Larsen made the decision and transferred to Pius X.

“Everything happened really fast after submission, suddenly I was enrolled at Pius and signing up for classes,” Larsen stated.

On the flip side, one of the main reasons Larsen transferred was to be with her close friends, leaving few behind.

Although she misses the more lax grading scale and block scheduling, Larsen expressed, full-heartedly, that the transfer was definitely worth it.

FOCUS missionaries impact college campuses, return to Pius X

OLIVIA TAYLOR
Features Editor

At few Pius X few alumni have become FOCUS missionaries to deliver the message of experiencing Jesus Christ.

“FOCUS stands for the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, so we send out teams of four to over a hundred college campuses throughout the nation,” science teacher and former FOCUS missionary Jamie Reed said.

The main goals of FOCUS missionaries are to be positive mentors to college students and try to invite them into a relationship with Jesus.

There is much more involved with FOCUS as well, such as bible studies and even mission trips across the world.

Campus Minister Molly Milana said, “FOCUS is designed and created off of what Jesus did with His disciples.

The aim is for the college students to have this experience of creating a relationship with Jesus, while also getting the opportunity to travel and do mission work in other countries.”

FOCUS is a fun and inclusive organization that helps to bring college students closer to Jesus Christ and then for them to go out and spread the good news to other students as well.

For anyone thinking to join FOCUS as a missionary Milana said, “Pray. FOCUS is wonderful and I love the organization, it draws a lot of people in.” She continued, “Pray for what the Lord is asking you to do, if He wants you to evangelize and He wants you to do His work, He is going to open the doors for you.”

Priest Update: Where are they now?

MADDIE AMES
Staff Writer

From the moment the first bell rang and students flooded the halls for the 2017-2018 school year, it was obvious a few people were missing.

This past May it was announced that several priests who taught at Pius X would be reassigned to new parishes in different places all over the Lincoln Diocese.

Fr. Gayhart was the Parochial Vicar at Saint Peter's in Lincoln. This past year he was reassigned to Saint Joseph Parish in Cedar Bluffs as Pastor. Gayhart also teaches at Bishop Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Wahoo.

Throughout the day as students continue going to their classes they don't see Fr. Morris. Previously the Parochial Vicar at St. Patrick Parish and Advocate for the Diocesan Tribunal, Morris has been reassigned.

"I feel like he will do a good job in whatever position he's assigned," sophomore Abbie Russman, who had Morris last year as her freshman theology teacher, said.

He was appointed the Parochial Vicar of St. Joseph Parish in York. Also, he is now the chaplain for the Nebraska Correctional Center for Women.

As students go to their classes, they may also notice Fr. Zimmer is gone. Before his new appointment, Zimmer was the Director of the Charity and Stewardship Appeal with residence at Cathedral of the Risen Christ.

Zimmer was appointed Pastor of St. Mary Par-

ish in Sutton and St. Helena Parish in Grafton. He also teaches at St. Cecilia High School in Hastings.

Eighth period rolls in and students see that Fr. Rynearson doesn't teach at Pius X anymore.

Rynearson is now the Pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Prague and Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Plasi. Prior to his new appointment, Rynearson was Parochial Vicar at Blessed Sacrament Parish.

"It's been a little sad leaving Pius since I went there, graduated there, and taught there for the past three years," he said.

Rynearson had said that it was super weird to teach at Pius X because that was where he went to high school.

"It was really surreal to see the teachers that still worked there from when I was in high school," he said. "Mrs. Sander was my freshman English teacher so it was so surreal to see her working when I was."

Rynearson also teaches at Bishop Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Wahoo. He said that he has met so many new people and that everyone at Neumann has been great.

"It's different from teaching at Pius. I teach two sections of eighth graders and three sections of seniors, which means that I teach all the eighth and twelfth graders. I get to know everybody a lot faster and interact with them more."

His piece of advice for the new priests this year is to enjoy how at Pius X we are a big family through everything and come together.

New teachers join Pius X family

CANDY HERNANDEZ
Cover Editor

From new places to new faces, the first day of school can be nerve wracking.

That is for most people but for our new teachers here at Pius X, it's the beginning to a new year of success.

"It's so refreshing to be able to integrate religion into learning, I kind of get the best of both worlds with a private school and good city to live in." science teacher, Mrs. Sheppard mentioned

The new teachers this year are, Fr. Samuel Bearslee, Fr. Tim Danek, Fr. Jason Doher, Fr. Ryan Salisbury, and Fr. Justin Wylie teaching theology. Ms. Shani Daws, Ms. Elizabeth Fairbanks, Mrs. Cayce Hays teaching English. Ms. Grasiela Martinez

teaching Spanish. Ms. Jenna Shepard teaching science along with Mrs. Katerina Jakub.

Teaching can be a different experience as well, or so said Mrs. Hays, who went from teaching middle schoolers at a public school to teaching high schoolers at a private school.

"Coming from a public school and being my first time teaching high school students, I have just been so impressed to see the responsibility of every individual student, and the effort they put in to learn," Mrs. Hays explained.

"Having the option of putting faith into my teaching has made me believe that I can open up paths for my students and help them improve to their future."

SENIOR SNIPPETS

KATE LINDERMAN, ANTHONY KRICK, AND ADALINE ROCKENBACH



Rachael Baum, or better known as hidden artist, comes across as very quiet and introverted, until you get to know her.

Rachael loves being creative especially when it comes to art. She spends most of her free time drawing.

She loves her American Government class because she finds it applicable to her life right now. Rachael has enjoyed her history classes, such as

contemporary history, throughout high school.

One of her best memories of Pius was watching the dance off between the teachers at the pep rally last year.

"I am going to miss not being able to see everyone I don't hang out with outside of school," she says.

Rachael is looking into going to a smaller college out of state and has applied to Maryville College, Nebraska Wesleyan, and Northpark University. She wants to study Psychology or Pre-Law.

As a senior, her advice to freshman is that high school isn't everything, be genuine to yourself, and to not feel the need to prove yourself to anyone.



Gabe Steffen is not your average senior.

Gabe strives for excellence daily, especially with his talents in sports. He is proud to have been a part of the Pius X soccer team since his freshman year.

"It's basically my life for the second semester," Steffen emphasizes.

Outside of school, Steffen plays even more soccer on his club team. Besides competing on the pitch, he enjoys fishing in the summertime and snowboarding during the winter.

As for future endeavors, Steffen is applying to UNL, UNO, and Nebraska Wesleyan.

"I would love to play professional soccer, but as a backup plan I'm interested in going into banking or finances," Steffen said.

Steffen's favorite teacher at Pius X is Mr. Moore, but as for substitute teachers he would have to pick Mr. Milder.



Megan Kucera is a senior this year at Pius X who would describe herself as funny, outgoing and bubbly.

She's involved in yearbook and she has played softball for the last three years. Outside of school she does Godteens with her parish at St. John's the Apostle.

Kucera's favorite class so far has been yearbook because Mr. DeWispelare is her favorite teacher. Also, this year she gets to be more in charge with the yearbook as a senior.

Before Pius, she went to St. John's for grade school. After Pius, she's thinking about going to UNL or Bryan and she wants to major in nursing.

Kucera's best memory at Pius is fall kickoff for the 2017-2018 school year, she had fun getting to be in the front of the student section for senior year.

Once she graduates she's going to miss seeing her friends every day at school. Some advice that she would give to freshmen is to be yourself, stay true to your friends and don't try to act like someone you're not.

New scoreboards in New Gym among nicest in Nebraska



PHOTO BY AMELIA JARECKE

The larger Scorevision scoreboard lights up the new gym in a practice run. The new boards have already added some flare to home volleyball games.

AMELIA JARECKE
Sports Editor

Buzzer beaters just got better.

In early September, Pius X became the first school in Lincoln to have digital ScoreVision scoreboards.

“Those are probably two of the nicest score boards in the entire state, and they’re in our gym,”

Assistant Activities Director Jake Moore said. “Usually that doesn’t happen; we usually don’t get it first.”

The two boards, capable of showing high-definition video and connecting to Apple products, cost the Booster Club a combined total of around \$60,000.

Though the scoreboards were not purchased completely out of necessity, they make a positive impact on both gyms.

“Did we need them? Probably not,” Moore said. “But the advantage is that the ones from the new gym now got put into the old gym where we needed them desperately. Those were there when

I started in 1990 and not all the lights were working.”

Along with stepping up sponsorship and advertising in the gym, the scoreboards will improve the overall fan experience.

Senior volleyball player Lindsay Nottlemann said, “It adds a nice feature to our gym and hopefully it will make more people come out to the games because they’ll want to see it.”

Activities Director Tim Aylward hopes to take full advantage of the video capability.

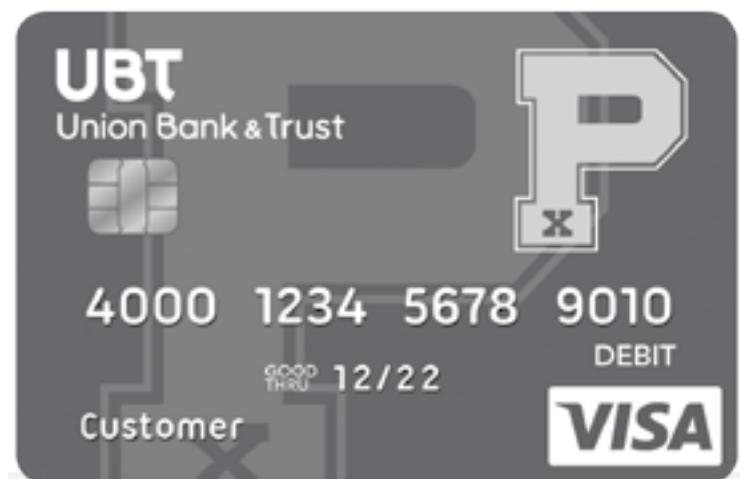
“We can get our media classes involved with it,” he said. “They can put together some pump up videos we could show in pre-game. That’s the whole idea- get Pius just one more way to get everyone involved and enthused.”

The boards are capable of showing instant replay, but that is not allowed in high school athletics.

Athletes and fans alike are getting hyped for game day with the new scoreboards.

Junior basketball player Charlie Easley said, “We’re just ready to light it up!”

Rise & Shout.
The Thunderbolts are out.



Take home a Lincoln Pius X Thunderbolts debit card for just \$5, and UBT will match to make a \$10 donation back to the school. Plus, with Propelr, you can earn money for your school with a simple swipe of your card.

Stop by any UBT location or visit ubt.com/thunderbolts to get started.



UBT Union Bank & Trust.®

The \$5 debit card fee is charged to customer checking account, then UBT matches the \$5, for a total \$10 donation to the school per card. Consult your tax advisor for tax deductibility of donation. Offer subject to change at any time. Member FDIC



ubt.com/thunderbolts

Varsity volleyball freshmen sidelined by injuries

ROCHELLE BOSE
Staff Writer

With as much determination as Kylen Sealock and Alexis Markowski, anything is possible.

These two proved that statement to be true when they made the Pius X varsity volleyball team in their freshman year. Now they both sit on the sidelines with injuries that will put them out for the rest of the season.

Senior varsity volleyball player Kayla Dodson said, "We are all very bummed about the injuries because everyone on our team was super excited to play with them. We were really looking forward to seeing where they bring us this season."

They have been preparing for this opportunity for most of their lives. The varsity team practices every day after school and they have weights training every morning.

Sealock started playing in first grade and Markowski started playing in fourth grade but since then they have gotten better and they will continue to climb the ladder of success after their recoveries.

Sealock says, "I practiced twice a week for two hours at a time at Nebraska One."

Markowski said she practiced three hours a week at Nebraska Volleyball Center.

The coaches obviously believed that

they had what it takes to be on varsity.

"At tryouts they outplayed others on varsity and they had great athletic ability, strength, and speed on the ball," head coach Katie Wenz said.

The upper classmen agree that they belong on the team.

"Although it's not every day that freshman make varsity, everyone is totally fine with having freshman on the team," Dodson said. "We are all very accepting of them and we all agree that they earned their spots. Now we are all sad that we can't play with them this season."

The upperclassmen on varsity have noticed an increase in energy during practice and games ever since day one with these girls.

Dodson said, "I think the freshman will still bring lots of energy to the team and help keep everyone motivated despite their injuries."

They will have four years and their expectations will continue to grow. By senior year they hope to be doing amazing things in their volleyball careers.

They are working to overcome the injuries and everyone can move past this major dilemma.

Coach Wenz said, "Let's have a great season despite the injuries and pack the stands!"

Tennis team motivated by last year's state title

ELISE WILHELM
Staff Writer

Even with a state championship under their belt, the Pius X boys tennis team is hungry for more.

This year the varsity top six tennis team consists of three seniors: Jake Wilkinson, Joe Burt and Sam Coy, and three freshmen: Will Ulrich, Mason Warner and Joseph Plachy. "The freshmen this year are very talented and really push us upper classmen," Coy said.

The boys on the team all agree that the freshmen this year are very prepared for the season, as is the rest of the team. Varsity has a lot of depth in their top six.

Although others expect them to win, the boys do not play with that attitude.

"We are not expecting to win this year, but more working hard to win."

- Joe Burt

"We are not expecting to win this year, but more working hard to win," Burt said.

With last year's state title, it is a common thought that there would be extra pressure this season. Yet the boys seem to not feel it.

"Everyone says we have better chances of winning this year. Personally, I feel we are more mentally prepared," Coy said.

Winning State last year has left a good impact on the boys now. Winning a state championship is every athlete's dream and as the boys described it, the win was like a dream come true.

"Winning last year just really felt like a team effort," Burt said. The team is determined to keep up the hard work this season in practice and at matches. Difficult practices lead to an easier time in tough situations on the court.

The road to State has only begun, but as for the team, they are ready to rise up to the challenge and uphold all the expectations.

Senior football tailgates offer food, fun, friendship

ANTHONY KRICK
Staff Writer

It's not every day you see high school students tailgating for a Friday night football game.

What started out as just an idea among the senior class has now turned into reality. For the first time in recent memory, seniors are flocking to the pregame tailgate before football games each Friday night.

Senior Conner Lardenoit has been a big part of the pregame festivities. "I know last year's seniors wanted to do it," Lardenoit explained, "but I really wanted to make it different."

Last year's gatherings didn't have food or games. According to Lardenoit, they consisted of a few seniors sitting outside of their cars in the West parking lot, waiting to enter the stadium.

Another senior, Max Larson, enjoys the social aspect that the tailgate offers to students. "My favorite thing about being a part of the tailgate is the community of Pius people coming together," he said. "We all just have a great time."

The Pius tailgate is located in parking spots 322-324. While preparation begins at 4:00PM, seniors generally start showing up around 4:30PM. Larson brings a propane grill to make savory hot dogs, while other seniors provide drinks, chips, small desserts, a beanbag toss, and music speakers.

After the tailgate, these dedicated seniors march into the stands more than an hour before kickoff. But senior Ally Becker doesn't mind.

"I think it's fun to hang out with friends and watch [the players] warm up," Becker said with a smile.

If you thought tailgating was just for Saturdays in downtown Lincoln, think again.



Seniors show off their stars and stripes at a pregame tailgate.

PHOTO BY ANTHONY KRICK

Fall sports are on a roll! Support the Bolts at their upcoming events:

Football: Tonight at 7 pm @ Bellevue East

Volleyball: Saturday, Sept. 23 at 8:30 am

Varsity Invitational @ Pius X

Tennis: Monday, Sept 25 at 4 pm

vs. Lincoln High @ Pius X

Softball: Monday, Sept 25 at 6:30 pm

vs. Omaha Central @ University Place Park

Behind the scenes with Wonder Woman

MADDIE AMES & LUCY KOENIG
Staff Writers

Warbringer by Leigh Bardugo is the origin story of Diana, the infamous Wonder Woman.

Diana is the Princess of the Amazons, she has always wanted to prove herself to her legendary, warrior sisters. One day she saves a mere mortal from a disastrous shipwreck, risking exile from her homeland.

Alia just wants to escape from her overprotective brother by going on a trip at sea. Alia doesn't know, however, that she is a direct descendant of Helen of Troy, causing destruction wherever she goes.

Diana and Alia find each other surrounded by chaos, causing an unbreakable friendship. Will they be able to stop the bloodline of Helen passing on through generations?

Warbringer will keep you flipping through pages for hours. Leigh Bardugo's intricate writing will hook you from the first line to the last. This is a story of fierce friendship and characters with pasts of all shapes and sizes. This fast paced, action-packed novel will show the reader the story of Diana and how she becomes Wonder Woman.

Ed Sheeran rocks stage, crowd at CenturyLink Center

ELLIE YAGER
Staff Writer

Fan girls and boys unite, because on September 12th at the Omaha CenturyLink Center multi-award winning artist Ed Sheeran performed as part of his Divide World Tour.

As he makes his way across North America, Ed Sheeran stopped right here in Nebraska to perform. The night, as expected, was filled of Sheeran's spunky energy as he blew the Omaha crowd away with his chart-topping voice. The performance put on by Sheeran was nothing like I had ever seen before.

Sheeran is a one man band. He has a natural knack for music, and was able to make all of his music in his songs using only some foot pedals, a guitar, a piano, and his amazing voice. Throughout the show it was hard to believe Sheeran was the only person on stage, the volume and energy of his songs blowing the crowd away as he strummed his guitar with zeal.

The set list included some of his most popular songs, from the throwback hit "The A Team", to "Castle on the Hill" and "Thinking Out Loud".

Never one to disappoint, Sheeran incorporated his fans into the show many times encouraging them to sing and dance their hearts out and to not care what anyone else thinks. Sheeran said, "I would like you all to have as much fun as you can tonight as long as it doesn't harm anyone."

Sheeran has fans stationed all throughout the world, not excluding those right here in our school. Favorite songs range from those off of his first album, to his most recent on the "Divide" album. Sophomores Abbie Russman and Addie O'Meara list their favorites as "The A Team" and "Don't". Freshman Mazie McNeil said that her favorite hit by

Sheeran is "Lego House" from some of his earlier work on the "Plus" album.

This world tour has been a hit for the British singer, selling out stadiums across the world, from Wembley Stadium in London, to stadiums all around the USA.



PHOTO BY ELLIE YAGER

Ed Sheeran made the arena shine throughout the concert, as seen in this "Photograph."

One act returns to make a scene

ZIYAL MCARTHUR
Staff Writer

On August 28th and 29th auditions were held for this year's One Act play, *The Gypsy Robe*, and call backs for the show were held on August 30th and 31st. The auditions were open to any student interested in a part.

There are about 40-60 students who try out and every student who tries out will either receive a part as a member of the cast or as a member of the crew.

"In the past, I've enjoyed being a part of the cast it is honestly a big family," Senior Cece Minchow said. "The crew does the same amount of work as the cast, but the crew is severely underrated."

The play, written by Tim

Kelly, will be about what happens behind the scenes of a play. The play follows a group of female dancers backstage getting ready before they perform on Broadway which is when the gypsy robe shows up and changes their lives.

"I pick the plays by trusting my theater instincts, but I relax and pray and trust the Holy Spirit," says Theater Director Joseph Moser. "It's always difficult picking cast members but I pray, trust my theater instincts and I don't get a lot of sleep."

The One Act is produced by the Fine Arts Department every fall semester one public performance is held at Pius which held the first Friday in December before being performed at the NSAA District and State Production contest, which is held on the first

Saturday in December.

"I think the play could win this year if we do it like last year and if the cast is good," Minchow said.

Last year's One Act, *Two Fronts*, was performed at the District contest and received a Superior Ranking and nine of the actors received Outstanding Acting Awards.

Sadly, Pius did not represent District A-4 at the Nebraska State Play Production contest, but this year could be Pius's year.

"It is hard to say if we can win, because I never know what the other schools are doing, we do go to districts once in my ten years of this job and that was the only time Pius made it," Moser says. "The important thing for me is to produce the best theater I can."

Varied pronunciations can frustrate, amuse

Have you ever realized how people around us pronounce words differently? If you are talking to a friend and they pronounce caramel as (Car-mel) but you say (Care-a-mel).

Sometimes we pronounce words as we see them, but for some people, using the pronunciations that you've heard from friends or family, or just whatever sounds best, seems to be pretty common.

To find out which pronunciations were more commonly used for certain words, a survey was taken using a sample from each grade. In the survey, students were asked how they pronounced eight words and given two pronunciation options plus an "other" category if they used a different pronunciation or used both. Here are the results:

Caramel(Care-a-mel) 18.7%	Caramel(Car-mel) 76.2%	Other/both 5.2%
Caribbean(Car-ib-e-an) 43.0%	Caribbean(Care-ib-e-an) 38.9%	Other/both 18.1%
Tomato(Toe-may-toe) 89.1%	Tomato(Toe-ma-toe) 7.8%	Other/both 3.1%
Mobile(Mo-bi-al) 9.8%	Mobile(Mo-bil) 80.3%	Other/both 9.8%
Pecan(Pe-can) 30.1%	Pecan(Pe-caun) 67.4%	Other/both 2.6%
Apricot(App-ri-cot) 89.1%	Apricot(Ape-ri-cot) 7.8%	Other/both 3.1%
Kilometer(Kill-oh-mee-ter) 36.3%	Kilometer(Kill-om-iter) 56.0%	Other/both 7.8%
Aunt(An-t) 63.2%	Aunt(Aun-t) 31.1%	Other/both 5.7%

GRAPHIC BY ADALINE ROCKENBACH