



BELLEVUE EAST TOM TOM



BELLEVUE EAST HIGH SCHOOL

BELLEVUE, NE

(402) 293-4150

SEPTEMBER 2018

ISSUE 1

VOLUME 68

HIGH SCHOOL DRIVE

BPS accepts \$1.3 million grant NMSI foundation celebrates with BPS on base

Abbie Deng
Opinion Editor

At the end of the 2017-18 school year, the NMSI Foundation granted Bellevue Public schools a \$1,392,000 grant with the aim of improving student participation in AP classes.

On August 28, eight AP students and five AP teachers went to Offutt Air Force base to attend the celebration of the new partnership of Bellevue Public schools and the NMSI Foundation.

“It was eye opening; I got to see all the people that are behind this grant, the people that want the students to be successful, the people that know the students can be doing more right now and that they want more progress in the STEM fields. It was just nice to see and hear about all the good things that can be done with this grant,” Senior Marcos Labrado said.

NMSI, (National, Math and Science, Initiative) is a program that works to prepare students for post-secondary opportunities.

“The main goal of the National Math and Science initiative is to create options for young people in the world of math and science. We do this through supporting schools in increasing the number students taking more rigorous AP classes,” NMSI representative Will McDowell said.

The grant will provide the district

with some of the support it needs to help integrate the NMSI course material into the AP curriculum.

“We believe with the support of this grant, the staff and current AP students of East and West Bellevue High Schools can engage other students who never considered taking Advanced Placement classes to push themselves to a high level of rigor,” McDowell Said.

AP courses are classes that teach a college curriculum, AP teachers base their lessons and tests off of a college curriculum and grade their students accordingly. In AP classes, students generally have a larger workload.

“AP classes show that a student is willing to challenge themselves with college level work in high school is one who deserving of advancing opportunities. Students who have taken AP can go to college or into a career prepared to implement the knowledge they have gained in more rigorous classes.” McDowell said.

Bellevue East AP students, were required to sign an AP contract holding them to their active participation in NMSI, and their commitment to attend the Saturday classes provided by NMSI. The program begins with placing teachers trained in each subject field, into classrooms of participating schools. They call this process laying the foundation.

“Developed by experienced teach-

ers and content experts, NMSI Laying the Foundation Program provides teachers of grades 3-12 with the training, support and resources they need to drive student achievement and facilitate their progression toward advanced coursework in high school,” according to the NMSI website.

During the summer, several Bellevue East teachers went out of state in order to participate in the teacher training courses that NMSI provided.

“The NMSI summer training was really beneficial and I am sure the Fall and Spring sessions will be equally beneficial. I have 30 more students than I did a year ago and I only see that number improving as more students begin to see the benefit of AP courses and as they begin to develop the confidence that they can work hard enough to succeed in an AP course,” English 11AP instructor David Bossman said.

NMSI has been involved in many schools around the US and has pos-

itively impacted the scores of many students. On their website, NMSI shows statistics on the effectiveness of their program including the fact that 67 percent of NMSI students had qualifying scores on their AP exams.

“I think having the extra study sessions, with professional teaching will probably aid students on the testing. The study sessions should allow students to get a better understanding of topics they don’t understand,” junior Abby Secrist said.



Left to right: Juniors Alexander Boerner, Michael Ermitano, seniors Mckenzie Mitchell, Lilia Kusek, Madison Luderman, Casey Nolte, Marcos Labrado. AP students and teachers went to Offutt to celebrate the partnership of BPS and NMSI Foundation on August 28.

New rules serve as academic incentive

McKayla Vermeer
Co-Editor in Chief

Administrators at East have added new attendance and grade requirements to attend homecoming and prom for the 2018-2019 school year.

“Last year some of the administrators noticed that we had some students attend prom however they rarely attended school. That prompted a discussion about extra curricular events and activities and school attendance and progress toward graduation. We thought that it was important for students to be engaged in learning and that extra curricular activities should be earned,” Dean Mary Trowbridge said.

One of the new rules for this year has to do with whether or not people are able to even

attend the yearly homecoming dance. In order to go, students cannot have missed more than five days of school and need to have a certain amount of credits, each pertaining to their grade level. Sophomores need 10 credits, juniors need 20, and seniors need 30.

“It doesn’t bother me because I’m barely absent and I try at least to get good grades but sometimes people have to miss school so it’s sometimes not fair and then people who do try in school aren’t always the smartest so they may not get good grades a lot,” freshman Jade Jackson said.

All of the homecoming requirements are similar to the prom ones in what is required, but because prom is later in the year the specifics are slightly different. To attend prom students cannot have missed more than 16 days of school, and freshman need to have

5 credits, sophomores need 15, juniors need 25, and seniors need 35.

“There are already some requirements set by the state activities association for students to participate in athletics and activities, so it made sense to set some requirements for other events. We want the primary emphasis of school to be learning and attendance is one of the major factors influencing learning,” Trowbridge said.

These requirements were added in order to make homecoming and prom more of a reward instead of just an expectation. Some students, however, believe that the change is unnecessary.

“I don’t see why we need to treat homecoming as a privilege when there are already things in place like VIP lunch that are a privilege,” junior Courtney Auclair said.

By adding these requirements, it restricts some students from attending school dances like homecoming and prom. Many students already choose not to attend, so it can create very small numbers of people at these dances.

“They [the school administrators] have these rules because they want more people to attend school and get good grades so they can go but half of the people don’t even go,” Jackson said.

Even though the purpose of adding these requirements is known and understood by most students, some still believe that the rules are unnecessary.

“School dances are a part of the high school experience and they shouldn’t be taking that away from people. I just feel like everyone should be able to have these experiences with their friends,” Auclair said.

Beast gives support to exchange students

Madie Ybay
Features Editor

A foreign exchange student is someone that comes from one country to another to study. Many different people over the years have come to Bellevue East from many different places.

“The best thing about foreign exchange is I have the best host family. They are good people and I love them, However it is hard to be here alone in high school, to leave your country and family. I get homesick and food sick a lot. But I think when I go back I will miss Nebraska,” Thai exchange student Madhurda Thangtaveesin said.

There are many benefits to traveling to another country and learning in a different curriculum. While in another country, students can get immersed in the culture and pick up different languages.

“They are two very different countries, but it’s still hard to explain the differences. Both are great in their own way. In the US you are way more open to new people though. That’s something that personally made my first weeks/months in the US way easier than I thought they would be,” former Norwegian exchange student Tobias Mikkelsen said.

Foreign exchange students leave their family back home and move in with a host family. Host families are people the exchange

student lives with while attending high school in that country, they help students get settled in a new country and feel comfortable.

“My host family are simply the best. I connected with all of them on a very strong level that I’m sure will last a lifetime,” Mikkelsen said.

When in a new country, all the rules and laws of that country apply to the host student. They become part of the family they are living with and the actions of both parties equally have strong effects.

“We have had situations where host-families have changed during their placement at B.East,” counselor Mike Chudomelka said. “If the student doesn’t get along with the

host-family, dating relationships, legal concerns/breaking the law/tickets have taken place for students. These situations jeopardize a continued placement at Bellevue East for the student.”

After a year or so, students go back to their home country. When they go back, they return with new knowledge.

“The people in this school are very nice to me and don’t judge me because I’m from Germany. They try to help me and talk to me like I’m a normal person I like your team spirit in your school and love the football games.” foreign exchange student Evelyn Pysin said.

BELLEVUE

Family Eyecare

CENTER

DR. RYAN P. LEMPP

DR. BRADLEY J. CARPENTER

DR. ANDREA J. CARDA

OPTOMETRISTS

11513 So. 42nd Street • Suite 100 • Bellevue, NE 68123

402-964-2700 • Fax 402-504-3359

www.familyeyecare.biz

The Right Place to Go... to See

Limited Time Offer!

Class Rings on sale for \$169.95

Styles include: Explorer, Antique, Superstar and Elegance

See jeweler for details

Visit your Gold Lance Jeweler today!

Erwin's Jewelers
223 West Mission Ave.
(402)-291-2454

Quick Delivery • Lifetime Warranty • Automatic Ring Protection Plan • www.goldlance.com

MAXMUSCLE

SPORTS NUTRITION

BELLEVUE

2903 SAMSON WAY #101

BELLEVUE, NE 68123

(402) 932-2629

M

M

MAXMUSCLE

MADE IN THE USA

TOM TOM STAFF

BELLEVUE EAST TOM TOM
FOUNDED IN 1977

Editors in Chief

Hailey Hendry
McKayla Vermeer

Adviser

Stephenie Conley

Brooklyn Anderson
News Editor

Cora Bennet
Entertainment Editor

Madie Ybay
Features Editor

Silas Chisam
Sports/Web Editor

Abbie Deng
Opinion Editor

McKenzie Gandy
Photography Editor

Matthew Powley
Video Editor

Founded in 1977
Jim Stefferahn
Videographer

Sharon Guchu
Photographer/Reporter

Emily Nelson
Reporter

Camrin Smith
Reporter

Zayda Birkel
Cartoonist

Selena Lewis
Business Manager

EDITORIAL POLICY

The role of the Tom Tom is not only to promote the accomplishments and highlights of the school, but also to inform the Bellevue East community of events and issues that will affect the students, faculty, staff, administration, and community. Its primary focus is to serve Bellevue East High School and cover issues that affect teenagers today. The Tom Tom does not necessarily represent views of the Bellevue Public Schools and strives to support itself through advertising. In order to achieve the optimum learning situation, as well as serve its audience to the best of its ability, the staff believes that the decisions should rest primarily with the adviser and editors, according to standards of journalism. Material judged to cause significant psychological harm, or that violates the privacy of a person, or that is libelous will not be printed. Obscenity or profanity will not be printed in the Tom Tom. Stories in the Tom Tom will be based on substantial facts with quotes clearly attributed to named sources whenever possible. The Tom Tom will not run gossip or stories or columns founded on rumor without facts. Any student appearing at a public event such as a sports event or music concert may be photographed, and that photo may be published without violating the privacy of that individual.

COMMENTS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THE TOM TOM ARE ENCOURAGED IN THE FORM OF LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. LETTERS MUST INCLUDE YOUR FULL NAME, GRADE, AND BE SENT TO ROOM B-03 OR DELIVERED TO A MEMBER OF THE TOM TOM STAFF IN ORDER TO BE PUBLISHED. YOU MAY ALSO E-MAIL LETTERS TO STEPHENIE.CONLEY@BPSNE.NET

#BeKind Bellevue

Editorial

Tom Tom Staff

#BeKind is a message that started in 2016 when Ralston Superintendent Mark Adler’s son was lost to suicide. Since then, the message has been spread to many schools in the Omaha area, including the Millard school district and then our own Bellevue school district. This message promotes an overall positive attitude, but in the most simple way. We believe that this message is one that is long overdue and we are glad it made its way over to East.

The message, instead of just telling people that they should not bully others, encourages people to simply be nice to one another. Spreading a message about kindness allows people - students specifically - to check their actions and think about how they are acting toward their peers and others. A lot of times people may not

think about the consequences of their words and actions, this message allows people to remember to take a step back and think about it.

While the message originally started in Ralston, it has since spread to the Millard, Papillion, Bellevue, and many other school districts making a total of 35 districts that have adopted the hashtag in some form. Local businesses and churches have also picked it up, spreading the message past the metro area.

Keeping this message will promote and encourage everyone to view life with a more positive approach and to be considerate of the feelings and wellbeing of their peers. Hopefully, these messages of maintaining a positive attitude and being nice to others will spread even farther and continue to be a part of the Bellevue school district for many more years. There are no negatives to creating just one more way to be kind.

READ
THINK
SPEAK OUT
BE HEARD

Voice your opinion about
an school or community
issue in a letter to the editor

FREE

to dance to report to sing to tweet to petition to write



Thanks to the First Amendment, you can be whoever and whatever you want to be. Learn more and celebrate your freedoms by sharing your videos, photos, stories and songs. Show us how free you can be.

1forall.us

Frustration in halls



Brooklyn Anderson
News Editor

East is currently going through renovations, and students as well as staff are annoyed with the hallway traffic, what area will be next, and how the construction crew is keeping up with the schedule. The changes to the building started during the 2017-2018 school year and the new HVAC system (air conditioning) will be complete in the next school year. The result of the construction has been hallways and areas of the school closed down, inhibiting traffic in those areas.

In order to make changes to the system, the roof is currently being worked on causing noises and distractions to classes. My opinion on this topic is that the construction distractions causes confusion, and a big mess, and so takes away from my learning environment.

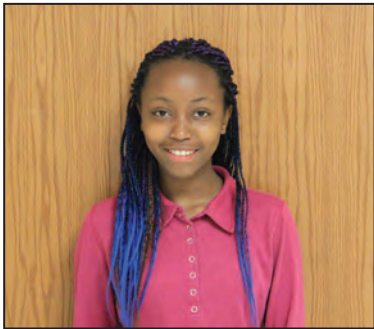
The construction around the school has also been a problem for almost everyone. For example, during class students can hear loud banging and pounding on the roof,

and some teachers have had to almost shout over the noise to teach. The work on the roof causes dis gives people a fear of of something falling through. Another issue is the closed down sections of hallways. Most of the senior and freshman commons have been cut off, forcing students to take another route to their classrooms as well as the fact that teachers have had to move classrooms and teach in rooms different from their own.

In my opinion, the construction should have been done over summer or primarily during the weekends when students are not in the building, but that is a no go because the construction would not get done in years. Stopping the construction overall would be causing a lot more problems in the future with the constant up and down temperatures in the classrooms.

Solutions to this problem would be for the construction to be worked on overnight or to give students a week off, but its something that probably will never happen. What I’m trying to get at is that construction has impacted our learning environments and has forced us to become accustomed to new methods of getting around the school, which is not always an easy process to go through. Hopefully this constuction finishes quickly so we can have our hallways and classrooms back.

Schools should never allow later start times



Sharon Guchu
Reporter

Later start means that schools would start at 9 a.m to 9:30 a.m. Many people say that it can be beneficial to students, but I think it would be a bad idea to have later start in schools.

There are pros and cons of a later start to school. Some of the pros would be: students would be able to have more sleep time, and the numbers of students who get late to school would minimize. Although all that sounds good, I am not sure that all of that would work out. The cons of later start would be: parent schedules would change a lotand there would not be any time for after school activities.

Parents’ schedule changes would be a problem because most of the families sched-

ule revolve around school schedules and some of them would not be able to change their schedules for a later school start time. This would lead to students having to come to school earlier than they should or parents having to pay for places for their children to stay before school starts. That would also be a problem because some families might not have that extra money to spend.

Also, they would not have time for after school activities. This would be a problem because the later the school starts the later it ends, and that means sports and other after school activities would be cut short. Sports like tennis or golf wouldn’t work

out as after school activities because you wouldn’t see anything while playing. This would lead to students not being able to play whatever they want and some of them would abandon sports all together.

Sleep is good for everyone, especially students and a later start would be a good idea for students to sleep more, but I don’t think that is what would happen. Students would take that as an advantage of sleeping even later than they usually do. That is because they would realize that they don’t have to wake up early as usual and they would have the mentality that they are sleeping as much as needed, but that

wouldn’t be the case.

Something that might help is just leaving the starting time the way it is and making sure the times are obeyed.

Having more punishments that would affect the students would be a good idea and because they wouldn’t want to be punished, so they would avoid being late.

Alerting parents more and awarding those who obey the rules would also help the students be more motivated to come to school early. This will help prepare them for their adult life and that is why I think a later start in school wouldn’t work out as well as it would be meant to work out.





Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore

United States citizenship process does not come easily; Applicants can wait years

McKayla Vermeer
Co-Editor in Chief

For many people trying to become citizens of the United States, the process to becoming a citizen can be a long one, often taking many years.

“Our immigration laws are very strict and most people are not eligible to get their lawful permanent residency and get on the path to U.S. citizenship for decades, if they are ever eligible at all. Right now there are also massive backlogs for those who are eligible and apply,” immigration attorney Brian Blackford said.

There different ways to become a citizen, and each of the different ways comes with its own unique process. These ways include through an employer, through family, and through an immigration trial.

“There are many ways to be-

come a citizen of the United States. From being granted citizenship through Congress [really rare], to coming over via work or family relationships and even a diversity lottery. The two most common are through employment and family sponsorship,” former supervisor of immigration service officer with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Barbara Ahlm said.

The first step to becoming a citizen is to become a legal permanent resident or “green card” holder in United States. Only certain groups of people are even

qualified to apply for residency, and that includes, but is not limited to: those with close family members who can petition for them (family based), those granted asylum, those who win their immigration trial, and those who have an employer that can vouch for them (employer based). After they attain this status, they still have a long process to go to get to citizenship.

“Once someone is a lawful permanent resident they then can usually apply for U.S. citizenship in 5 years (or 3 years if they are married to, and living with, a U.S. citizen; or 1 year if they are in the

U.S. military). After they apply, they usually have their citizenship interview and test within 6-9 months in Omaha,” Blackford said.

After someone becomes a legal permanent resident they have to fill out an application to become a citizen. During this process, the applicant has to maintain “good moral character” which can mean anything from having no criminal record to paying taxes. Additionally, the applicant must not spend time outside of the United States during this time.

“For the most part (there are always waivers for some things)

everyone must be of good moral character, read, speak and write English and swear loyalty to the United States,” Ahlm said.

The process to citizenship can take a long time because the United States can only accept a certain amount of immigrants each year. After the quota is met, the rest of the applications get backlogged.

“Congress sets the numerical number of people allowed to immigrate each year at and allocates which countries get how many visas. Some countries have more applications than others. India, China, Mexico, Philippines are

the 4 countries where visas in all categories are over subscribed and as a result have long wait times,” Ahlm said.

The hardest part about becoming a citizen for people can be the fact that they never know how long it will take. For Nigerian born Opeyemi Oloyede, the process was fairly quick.

“The process depends on individual immigration status. I came through a diversity visa lottery. If you are living in Nebraska already, stay in Nebraska to get it done before moving to a bigger state because the process takes longer in

bigger states. Also, you don’t have to pay a lawyer a lot of money to get it done - you can do it yourself,” Oloyede said.

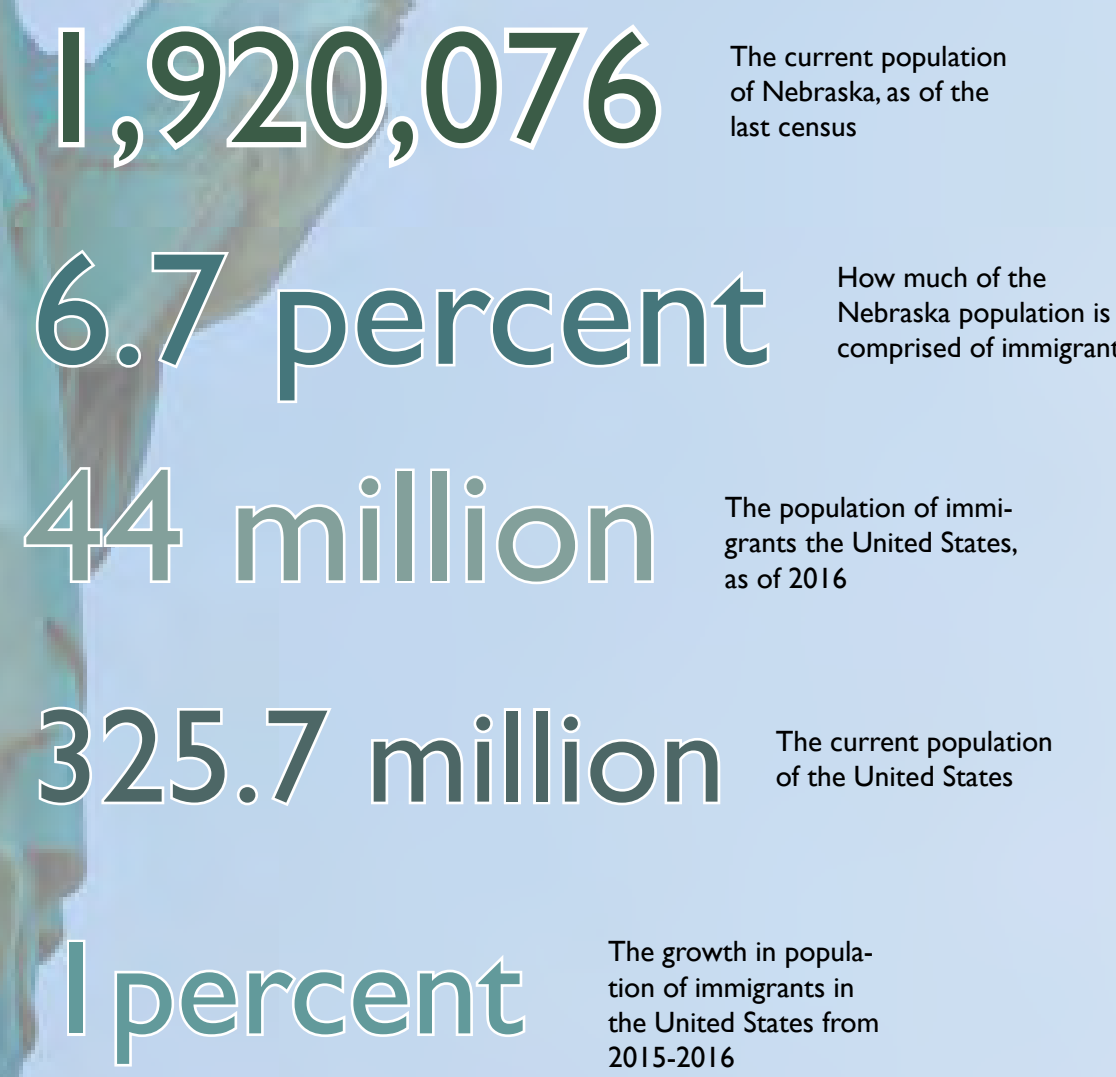
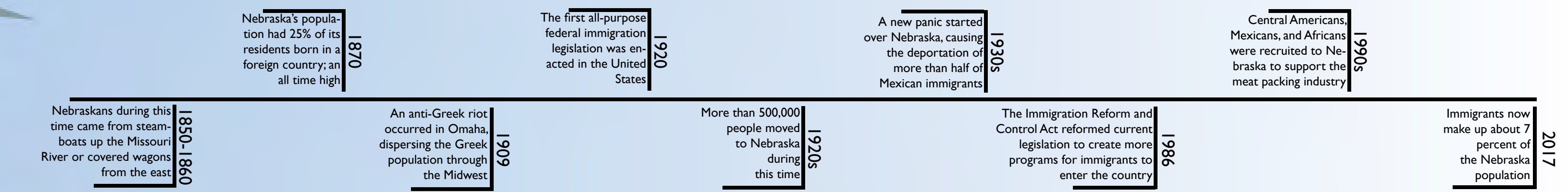
Becoming a citizen can be a very important moment in someone’s life. For Oloyede, he said that day made him feel proud.

“I feel free. Free to live anywhere in the world. The first thing I did was get a job to work for the government. I feel proud of my accomplishment and having the opportunity to vote and serve the veterans that have sacrificed so much,” Oloyede said.

There are many misconceptions

regarding the whole process of becoming acitizen. One misconception that some people have is that the process is easy and undocumented immigrants just need to wait their turn.

“There is no ‘line for most immigrants’ or the ‘line’ is decades long due to immigration quotas that have not been updated since 1965. Only those married to U.S. citizens, who have children who are at least 21 and are U.S. citizens, or are under 21 and have parent who is a U.S. citizen do not have to wait for a visa ... [others] have decades long wait,” Blackford said.



Immigrant population grows Nebraska through years

Madie Ybay
Features Editor

Recently immigration has once again been a hot topic in the United. Controversy about about who comes into the U.S. for what reason has been of concern in politics off and on for decades. Some are concerned with how immigrants become assimilated to U.S. culture.

“Assimilation is really defined as forced cultural change; it requires coercion,” University of Lincoln Nebraska history professor Dr. John Wunder said.

According to the American Immigration Council Some people support restricting immigration for reasons such as keeping terrorists out, taxes low and overall just protecting already existing Americans. Others disagree with immigration restriction because they immigrants to be with their families, they want to help people who are fleeing from dangerous situations, and they want to keep America consistently open for others.

The U.S. has had waves of immigrants from other countries. There was the wave of Africans who were taken against their will to America

from the 17th to 19th century and used as slaves. Once freed, there was a great migration.

“African Americans were redlined into an area in northeast Omaha, they were informally not allowed to live elsewhere in the city. This was true in other American cities too and the pattern it established has proven highly resilient through the decades,” University of Omaha Nebraska history professor Charles Klinetobe said.

The biggest wave that came was from the 1880’s to the 1920’s. In the 1880’s is when the Germans, Danish, Dutch and Scandinavians started coming to Nebraska.

“The Danish Brotherhood of America was founded in Omaha in 1882 and their headquarters was just added to the National Registry of Historic Places,” Klinetobe said.

However America wasn’t always the most accepting of everyone who sought refuge. For example the Arcadians lived right above present day Maine in 1755. Once their alliance with Britain fell through and they were soon to be under attack, they fled to America for safety reasons. Violence against immigrants has also happened in Omaha.

“There has been repeated violence against new arrivals in Omaha. A Greek community was attacked by a mob in the Greek Town Riot in 1909. The Omaha Lynching in 1919 murdered Will Brown and resulted in attacks against African Americans in North Omaha,” Klinetobe said, “in the 1920s the United States saw a resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan. The Second Klan was opposed to black people, but also immigrants.”

Despite the violence, immigration to the state of Nebraska continued.

“In the 1920s alone, more than 500,000 people moved to Nebraska,” Wunder said.

By the early 20th century all peoples, except the Europeans, were closed off to America. This was when Europeans started moving to Nebraska. This sudden increase of people changed the population to around 30,000 in 1860, to 1,296,000 in 1920. When people immigrated into the Midwest, Nebraska’s history was also affected by all the immigration from other states like Kansas. Kansas had influenced a lot of Nebraska’s religious beliefs when Pietists moved to Nebraska

from Kansas.

“During the First World War, European immigration was largely closed down as the Atlantic became too dangerous for the journey,” Klinetobe said, “this is the start of the Great Migration. Between 1910 and 1920, Omaha’s black population more than doubled.”

After World War II, the opening of immigration to the United States really started to rise. The first step in the United Nations was deciding what defined “displaced persons” since the borders had fluctuated in the war. They allowed these “displaced persons” to seek refuge in many places including the United States. Inside of the United States the Truman Directive opened up the floodgates of immigration in 1945. It stated that anyone from Europe could come to America but required “common decency and fundamental comradeship of all human beings.”

The situation of displaced people had suddenly gotten more intense. People were now at risk to being forced into countries behind the iron curtain. Congress passed the Displaced Persons Act in 1948. Within this act, America allowed 200,000 Europeans into America and two

years later they doubled that number. Many other world events have affected immigration laws. For example in 1953, Congress allowed refugees from communist countries to flee to America under special admissions channels.

“Immigration today follows the same basic pattern as it has for the past century,” Klinetobe said, “the modern distinction between legal and illegal didn’t really exist during the peak years of American immigration. The American door was open.”

Now America is helping refugees in terrorist countries. In the twentieth century on average, the US receives about 100,000 refugees per year. Immigration has a huge impact on Nebraska, specifically. Within the past couple of years, Nebraska’s immigrant population has made up around 7 percent of the total population.

“Immigration is central to Omaha’s history. The city is simply not possible without it. Omaha’s historic major industries, the railroad’s packing plants, are immigrant industries,” Klinetobe said.

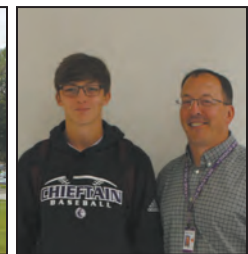
Hailey Hendry
Co-Editor in Chief

The parents feel that the biggest benefit from this experience is convenience. According to Jensen, it makes work easier having her daughter enrolled into the school she works at. Not only for the Jensen, but also for

"It has been nice to see him a bit more than most parents would see their kids. I know that my wife probably believes that time has flown by as our kids have aged, seeing them in school most of the time slows that down a bit," Chudomelka said. "I am sure that my son enjoys the fact that I keep snacks in my office for him when he is hungry; that I sometimes have money for him when he needs it; that he can get a pencil or pen from me when he needs it; that he knew many of the teach-

"I enjoy knowing that teachers probably keep an extra eye out for him; that teachers will let me know when I need to know something about him and class; I enjoy knowing who his friends are and how they are at

B.East. My guess is that he probably gets the benefit of the doubt on some things because he is the son of a B.East teacher. I don't know this for sure, but there is probably a higher level of trust for him," Chudomelka said.



Ty and Mike Chudomelka

**\$13 Single
Passes**

**\$22 Combo
Passes**

RAUNCH of TERROR
A NEW INNOVATION IN TERROR

Haunted House & Haunted Hayride

SEPTEMBER 22ND - OCTOBER 28TH
FRIDAY - SUNDAY

11001 S. 48th Street Papillion, NE 68133
Phone: 402-331-5500 • bellevueberryfarm.com

Team supports new varsity head coach

Cam Smith
Reporter

It's a warm August evening as people are filing into the Bellevue West Stadium. The annual East vs West game is about to kick off. Students, teachers, and families are dressed from head to toe in white and black. The players are mentally preparing themselves for the game of the year. The music and cheering fills the air, each team is hopeful. Everyone is excited, each for a different reasons.

"Football gives you tools to live a better life whether you win or lose," head varsity football coach Nathan Liess said. "Nobody loves football or winning more than me, but at the end of the day it's a game and a part of the educational system because you can learn from the experiences it gives you."

East football team has several coaches over the past 4 years. On February 1, Liess came from Raymond Central and signed his papers. Training for the team started right as school got out for summer vacation.

"His coaching style has been a lot more aggressive," senior Maximus Wold. "Our team has been more tougher and stronger from last year."

The progress for V\varsity football has been a slow progress and is still working to complete a whole game together. Liess and his staff is doing the best they can to provide the best opportunities for the players.

"We have a lot of work to do to make East

Football competitive," Liess said. "It can be done but it won't be a quick or easy process. We have good kids who work hard but we will need more of them to help make the improvements we want."

The East Vs. West is the annual hype game of the year. The final score was 6-81; it was a tough game to play and watch but, East supporters were still proud of the progress the team has made. The loss against West didn't intimidate Liess at all.

"A loss is temporary in sports and the final score really doesn't matter," Liess said. "Lose by 1 or lose by 80, it's still just one loss."

As the team went on the field that evening, Liess noticed the players had an addition to their uniform. On their cleats, there was tape that read "#TeamCalvin" for his son that was born prematurely in February. There is a Facebook page for Calvin to inform people on his current state.

"I took the kids putting that on their shoes as a way to support my sons fight for his life everyday and how I ask them to fight everyday on the football field to get better," Liess said.

Liess took this move by the players very personal. He expressed his pride in his players for taking away a lesson he learned and applying it on the field. He showed no shame in losing this year.

"Failure is part of life but it's never final," Liess said in a Facebook post. "Life isn't fair and won't always go as planned."



Bellevue East Football competes once again in the annual Bellevue East versus Bellevue West football game Aug. 31. Late in the fourth quarter Bellevue East scored a touch down against their opponents. *Photo by Brooklyn Anderson*

Varsity Volleyball recieves all academic award

Brooklyn Anderson
News Editor

Girls varsity volleyball received an All-Academic Award from the American Volleyball Coaches Association for having an average GPA of a 5.1 on a 5.0 scale for the team.

"It was awesome [to receive the award]," senior Ellie Foral said. "A really proud team and to know that there are people in the athletic community who also respect that and realize how difficult it is to be strong academically while you're strong athletically."

The AVCA Award was initiated in the 1992-1993 academic year, which honors collegiate and high school volleyball teams, sand, indoor, male and female, that demonstrated academic excellence in their classes during that school year.

"In order to be qualified for the award, the team must maintain at least a 3.39 cumulative team grade-point average on a 4.0

scale," varsity coach Courtney Smeby said. "Meeting the award standards, as well as receiving it, is an accomplishment in which the team, the coaches, the parents, and the dedicated staff of Bellevue East should be extremely proud of."

For the 2017-2018 school year, the AVCA announced that 976 teams, including Bellevue East, earned the AVCA Team Academic Award. The amount of teams broke records for being set at an all-time high, meaning that previous years had a certain amount of teams that were less than 976 accepting this award.

"Members of the Bellevue East Volleyball Program must recognize that their initial purpose in attending school is to achieve an education first," Smeby said. "Participating in volleyball is secondary."

The Varsity team got nominated at the end of the 2017-2018 school year and passed all award guidelines. These guidelines included the required individuals final GPAs from

both semesters and final cumulative GPA at the end of the year as well as the teams cumulative GPA.

"This award is very important to me," Smeby said. "My personal coaching philosophy has always been that the person is always more important than the player."

Keeping up the grades for classes while being athletic is not the easiest thing to do, especially in high school. The balance between school and varsity sports is very important to make sure one doesn't override the other.

"Balancing and having those conversations with my coach were a big thing," Foral said. "Some of the off season stuff I couldn't get to because my grades were a priority at that point and even during the season."

In order to keep the sports and grades from overriding each other, there are ways a student can keep that balance in control. a few ways to keep that balance would be managing time, staying motivated, and talk-

ing to coaches are only a few ways out of many other ways to have that control of school classes and varsity sports.

"I have focused on teaching our athletes that my door is always open," Smeby said. "If they have any concerns regarding their academic performance, not only will I help them, but also find the right avenue to ensure their success."

"A really proud team and to know that there are people in the athletic community who also respect that and realize how difficult it is to be strong acedemically while you're strong athletically," senior Ellie Foral said.

JOHN'S GRECIAN
DELIGHT

1001 FORT CROOK RD N,
BELLEVUE, NE 68005

902 Garland St bldg 280, Offutt AFB, NE 68113
(402) 972-8682

Sunday	Closed
Monday	7AM-7PM
Tuesday	7AM-7PM
Wednesday	7AM-7PM
Thursday	7AM-7PM
Friday	7AM-7PM
Saturday	7AM-6PM

Ybay reviews: ‘Crazy Rich Asians’ accurately portrays culture, family in romantic comedy



Madie Ybay
Features Editor

So this movie made me cry at least about 8 times. “Crazy Rich Asians” is a movie directed by John Chu about a woman named Rachel Chu played by Constance Wu and her boyfriend Nick Young played by Henry Golding. Nick is, you guessed it, a crazy rich Asian. He takes Rachel back home to Singapore to meet his family for the first time. Rachel does not know what she’s getting herself into and trouble ensues for the poor couple. There were so many emotions that this movie put me through. I loved every second of it.

Rachel Chu is an Asian-American woman who works as an economics professor. She is unknowingly dating the most eligible bachelor in Singapore, who just happens to be insanely wealthy. Rachel and Nick fly back for Nick’s best friend’s wedding and she meets Nick’s family with little to no preparation, which is a big issue. Anyone who ever meets an Asian family should at least be prepared with names and faces.

In this movie, however, we never meet Nick’s father. We do get the privilege to meet his kind-hearted cousin, Astrid, incredibly supportive cousin, Oliver, and the wicked witch of the east, Eleanor Young,

better known as Nick’s mother. With Rachel just having her mother back in America, she is nowhere ready to face the wrath that are wealthy Asians.

I absolutely loved this movie. The Asian representation was amazing. It was so spectacular. The whole cast was Asian, besides the few white British male cameos in the beginning flashback. Instead of those few Asian movies that Hollywood wanted to make that were just actually white people playing Asians, we had actual Asians. There was representation, which was really accurate to say the least. Even in the scenes that had been set inside of a house, none of the characters were wearing shoes because they left them at the door, which is such a small detail, but it made my little Asian heart so happy.

Nick’s family was portrayed in such a way that, in my personal experience, feels sadly accurate, which is why I fell more in love with this movie. I could easily pinpoint the good and bad characters that I can relate to the people I know. I know some Asian ladies that all they do is gossip, I know Asians who refuse to let someone in their family if they would besmirch their reputation at all.

Call it old fashioned, but some Asian families are still like that. Even in the movie they call out how the Youngs are, yes, incredibly rich and can buy anything they want, but are still really stingy. And once again, in my experience, accurate.

The movie shamelessly talks about the parts that aren’t really pretty about Asian families. They also show the sense of family that is there, the sacrifices that they do for their loved ones. They also portray the openly loving ones that exist with Rachel, her mother, and Astrid. I think that the representation was spectacular and everything that my Asian self needed.

I highly recommend this movie, it was funny and romantic, and now it really feels like this movie was made for me. I am such a huge sucker for romantic movies and comedies. If you’re also into those things, I think you should watch it. If you’re Asian, trust me you will connect your family to characters on the big screen. It made me feel great that I was correctly represented. If you’re also looking for a movie to watch just for the fun of, it’s this one. Hands down. It’s a solid 4.5 out of 5 from me. “Crazy Rich Asians” played with my emotions in all the best ways.

Felius, first cat cafe opens in Omaha

McKayla Vermeer
Editor in Chief

Hidden in the most unlikely of places comes a first for Nebraska - Felius, a cat cafe. Felius opened its doors on Sept. 18 of this year in Omaha and is home to both a coffee shop and four adorable cats. The twist, though, is that all the cats housed there can be adopted and all the proceeds from paying to hang out with the cats goes to taking care of the cats staying there.

While I was driving to try and find this cat cafe, I was instantly struck by the idea that there was no way it could be anywhere near where I was and that I was certainly lost. Then I saw it. Painted on the side of the building there is a giant mural of a cat, and although it was a telltale sign of me being in the right place, the cat’s face was very stern and not very welcoming. Honestly, I was a little bit scared. Nevertheless, I decided to go on in.

When I first walked into the building, I was a little shocked by how small it was. I guess I just expected something bigger, but it was not bad. The part you enter the building in is the main cafe area where they sell a variety of coffee and tea drinks, and it has a large window showing right into the cat room. In order to gain access into the cat area, you have to pay according to their rates and make sure you have an adult with you. We ended up paying \$7.50 each for a half an hour session and it was plenty enough time to pet and play with all the cats. I also bought an iced coffee which I would recommend to people that enjoy strong coffee.

Each person is required to wash their hands before and after entering the cat area to ensure the safety and health of the cats. After doing that, I walked inside and was instantly just overwhelmed by the sheer cuteness. The cats were barely older than kittens and were all super friendly and okay with being held. The best part was probably all

the toys they had provided in there as I think it was just as much fun for the cats and the people involved.

Overall, I would recommend Felius to anybody that considers themselves a cat lover, and I think it would be a great place to introduce non-cat people to cats as all the cats there were super friendly and sweet. It was also just a super bright and positive environment and I can definitely see myself making this a place I will regularly make my friends go to with me. I would like to give discretion to all cat lovers though, as the cats there are all adoptable so you might be coming home with one, or two, or four more cats after visiting. I give Felius 5 out of 5 stars and I will definitely be visiting again soon.



Illustration by Zayda Birkel



Cats like this orange tabby are available for adoption at Felius. Photo by Cora Bennett

Flannel fall fashion fad

McKenzie Gandy
Photography Editor

The sadness of hanging up tank tops and shorts and getting out jackets and boots overwhelms you. Stores putting out warm and cozy autumn clothes. Just like the seasons, fashion changes.

“We are bringing our more fall outfits out to put on the racks so people have a wide range of what clothing they would want to buy during this fall season,” Old Navy manager Denise Way said.

Popular fall colors focus more on warm tones. These tones include oranges, greens, and browns which fit in with the mood of the fall season.

“Some of my favorite colors to wear in the fall would be olive green, nudes, browns, maroon and yellow tones. I like wearing those colors because they go perfect with the season and are more darker,” Omaha South junior Julissa Lopez said.

Many people like to cover themselves during the fall and others like to show a little skin.

“My favorite fall clothing choices are jeans, off-the-shoulder shirts, converse, sandals, long sleeve shirts and denim skirts,” sophomore Caylee Anderson said.

Besides paying attention to what’s in stores, some people watch YouTube videos or read blogs on how to piece outfits together.

“Someone who inspires me would be Koleen Diaz, she inspires me because her style is so put together and I love how she changes it up all the time,” Lopez said.

Old Navy lures their teenage customers in by setting popular clothes out that they’ll love and wear during the fall season.

“Flannels are coming back and so is velvet, but its coming back in trend and so are the jeans that the teenagers call boyfriend or what they call mom jeans,” Way said.

You can pair up many choices and it’ll still be wearable and trendy. “What I love about fall fashion is the new trends that come every year and I also like the diversity of what other people believe is fall fashion and what I believe is fall fashion,” Anderson said.

**ELIMINATING BARRIERS.
EMPOWERING PEOPLE.
PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT.**

WWW.GOODWILLOMAHA.ORG