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Pizza place paves potholes



In the "Paving for Pizza" program, Dominoes handed over cash to many cities across America to repair potholes and cracks and then later spray painted their logo on some of the new smoothed streets. "Dominoes developed the program because there's nothing worse than hitting a pothole - you instantly cringe," Bulger Said. *Photo by McKenzie Gandy*



Madie Ybay
Features Editor

Domino's Pizza has created a program called 'Paving for Pizza' that gives cities in the U.S. grant money to fix potholes in the roads; in January 2019 Bellevue received a \$5,000 grant to fix the city's streets. "Domino's developed the program because there's nothing worse than hitting a pothole - you instantly cringe. And, it can ruin a perfectly good carryout pizza. We wanted

to help smooth the ride home for our pizzas," Domino's spokeswoman Danielle Bulgar said.

In June 2018 Domino's launched the "Paving for Pizza" program, they asked customers to send in communities they felt deserved the grant. Initially, when they asked for the zip codes, Domino's planned on handing out 20 grants to cities all across the US. That quickly changed when Domino's saw the amount of people submitting different areas.

"They delivered, submitting more than 190,000 unique nominations from 17,158 different zip codes in all 50 states," Bulgar said. "However, customers submitted so many notations that Domino's decided to expand the grants to 50."

Domino's gives one community a grant for each state. The states that are next are Washington, Oregon, Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, Louisiana, Maine, New Jersey, and Connecticut. There are grants still open for other states to take action to take to fix potholes on their streets.

"I feel lucky as to receive this grant from Domino's, it won't go to waste. I'm grateful that we are able to make the roads easier for the people of Bellevue to commute and

reduce the damage to any cars that can be caused by potholes," Bellevue public city work director Jeff Roberts said.

In the states that have not had a city nominated yet, people can go online to the "Paving for Pizza" website and enter a zip code to nominate a city. The nominator has to select a Domino's location near them to complete the nomination. Then from there, they get in touch with the representative from that specific location and communicate with the city to see if they are interested in receiving the grant.

"Because of construction, I have to find different routes every now and then and it can make my commute longer than 40 minutes," junior Anthony Holler said.

Bellevue was the city in Nebraska to receive the grant. The money that was given to the city is able to buy 50 tons of asphalt, which equates to around 5 dump truck loads. Construction will begin in the Spring 2018, however the roads that are to be fixed first are currently undecided.

"We knew that people were passionate about pizza, but we discovered that Americans are also very passionate about potholes," Bulgar said.

FBLA volunteers locally for nonprofit

Abbie Deng
Opinion Editor

Bellevue East FBLA students have pursued a path of volunteering this year working closely with the Habitat for Humanity organization to impact the lives of people in the Bellevue Community who benefit from the work Habitat does.

"Volunteering is a big part of FBLA as we stress the importance of helping others. Every year we participate in the Partnership with Business project for state, which is a chapter project. In the past we have worked with Nebraska Furniture Mart, Beardmore Chevrolet, Henry Doorly, and Bank of Nebraska," FBLA Adviser Andrew Werner said. Habitat for Humanity is a global

nonprofit housing organization that works with people in need of homes, according to their website, Habitat for Humanity has their charity accepted the United States as well as in 70 other countries.

"Habitat works with partner families to create decent, safe, affordable housing. Each Affiliate of Habitat of Humanity, through community support raises money through donations and fund raisers to defer the cost of home ownership. By using volunteer labor, the homeowner can secure an interest free loan for the cost of land and materials. This translates into a home that would normally have a mortgage payment of \$1100-\$1200, into house with a \$550-\$600 payment," Jennifer Dunbar Store Manager of the Habitat Homestore said.

Habitat for humanity helps families in many different ways. They hope to emphasize the importance of self-dependence by offering several home ownership assistance programs.

"In response to the ever-growing need for shelter in your community and around the world, Habitat works in many ways: new construction, repairs to existing homes, small loans for incremental building and home improvements, help establishing title and ownership to land, advocacy for better laws and systems, disaster prevention and recovery, and more," according to the Habitat for Humanity website.

The FBLA chapter chose Habitat for Humanity as part of their state event, Partnership with Business. This event requires the chapter to

find a Business in their community that is willing to invest in the students, as much as the students are willing to invest in them. FBLA Copresident Makenna Johannesen was one of the leading organizers.

"With being part of the partnership with business team, we spent a week or so going around Bellevue looking at different businesses that we can possibly partner with for this project and Habitat for Humanity was the most enthusiastic about it" Johannesen said.

FBLA members have been in and out of the home store volunteering to help with the various tasks the store has for the day, even taking a day for the whole chapter to go in and volunteer.

"The benefit from volunteering is most definitely - it's kind

of cliché - but the feeling you get within yourself after you're done volunteering. So at Habitat specifically we got a lot of physical things done so we get to see the work that we did and then we also get to talk to the volunteers there and they always say how much they appreciate us going there," Johannesen said.

Volunteers are able to take on many tasks, from painting the interiors of new homes to maintaining their various home supply stores.

"Habitat can always use many volunteers. Our affiliate can use everything from office cleaning to construction engineers," Dunbar said. "Currently they should call the office and coordinate for non construction volunteer opportunities."

Community develops suburbs

Diego Vasquez Glover
Reporter

According to the residents that live and work throughout Bellevue, the suburb is becoming a more de-

veloped and populated area due to modernization.

As Bellevue continues to expand in population and construction of buildings, English instructor Carla Palo, who has been living in Bel-

levue for over a decade, gave her opinion on whether she believes Bellevue is modernizing or not.

“In the time that I’ve been here, which has been since about 2001, I think some of the demographics

have changed and part of that is just the expansion of the Omaha metro kind of toward the west, more people moving into Papillion and Gretna,” Palo said.

The development rate for Bellevue is currently at what it should be, and doesn’t fall behind the neighboring suburbs like Papillion, Gretna, and La Vista.

“It’s maintaining a good pace, we’re not trying to outrun Omaha, we’re not going outrun Papillion, but yeah I think we’re doing alright,” Superintendent of Lueder Construction Gary Beyersdorf said.

According to mixedusemasterplancommunity.com, one of the top ten reasons companies may relocate is to have new and bigger room in order to expand their business with the need of space, modernize its own facilities and equipment, and to be in a more populated area to get their market in the public eye.

“We got a new convention center open by the theater. New auto-dealerships kind of pulling off of the Fort Crook and they’re now on the bigger road, Kennedy. Offutt just built a brand new building,” Beyersdorf said.

Those living in Bellevue discussed if certain areas in the suburb is currently still developing or not.

“I think there’s been a lot of

kind of new construction and changes maybe farther west in Bellevue, whereas in Olde Towne Bellevue and farther East in Bellevue y’know you see more kind of businesses that have closed or buildings that are not being used which is too bad; I’d really love to see more people trying to build up businesses and things on the East side of Bellevue instead of just automatically kind of heading to the west side,” Palo said.

Younger residents of Bellevue have their own perspectives on if the city has changed in terms of modernization and expansion. East senior Keegan Lombard has noticed little Bellevue growth.

“I believe Bellevue is just growing at a slow constant rate. For all the years I’ve lived here, there hasn’t been a whole lot of changes that has been noticeable to me,” Lombard said.

For the future modernization of Bellevue, residents are hopeful for further expansion as well as more businesses in Olde Towne.

“With the rate the city is growing it’s not going to change much. Hopefully something comes up in the future that will make a huge impact on everyone’s lives and just makes this an even better suburb,” Lombard said.



Many changes have been happening in the Bellevue Area. Stores and restaurants have been popping up at a rapid speed. “I haven’t seen any big changes with places around Bellevue. But there are definitely some small changes that one notices happen,” senior Keegan Lombard said. *Photo by McKenzie Gandy*

Bellevue listed as best place to live in U.S.

Hailey Hendry
Co-Editor in Chief

With a population of 53,424, a story in Money Magazine listed Bellevue as the best place to live in Nebraska.

Many people may agree or disagree due to personal opinion, however, the magazine releases a “best places to live in the U.S.” every year. Because of the criteria that is considered, the publishers had noticed there were cities that had been represented more than once, and others not at all.

“Now, using data from that ranking, we crunched the numbers to find the best place to live in every state. As in our previous rankings, we considered everything from the

cost of buying a home to median household income,” according to Money Magazine. “The results surfaced favorite stand-bys, well-known cities, and plenty of hidden gems.”

Unfortunately, the rankings only considered cities and suburbs that had a population 50,000 or more people living within them, so smaller cities, towns and suburbs had been excluded from the ranking.

“When five states had no places that met this year’s criteria, we considered last year’s Best Places to Live data, which included spots with populations between 10,000 and 100,000,” according to Money Magazine.

Superintendent Dr. Jeff Rippe

believes that there are also many other reasons behind the ranking, whether or not certain characteristics were considered in the criteria. From advancements in schools to the new businesses coming to the town, Rippe believes Bellevue is one of the best places to live in Nebraska.

“I mean I think Bellevue is a great city,” Rippe said. “It’s a part of Omaha, it’s a suburb of Omaha, but you still have an identity of a smaller town. I think there’s great partnerships that exist in Bellevue between: the school system and the base, the base and the city, the city and the school district, the chamber of commerce, all that. I think everybody’s working with a common goal.”

While there are many people who would agree with this statement, many people would also disagree. There are also many negatives to living in Bellevue, specifically where East is located. According to Neighborhood Scout, Bellevue is only safer than 33 percent of every city in the U.S.

“However, compared to other communities of similar population size, Bellevue has a crime rate that is noticeably lower than the average. This means that for comparably sized cities all across America, Bellevue is actually safer than most according to Neighborhood Scout's exclusive analysis of FBI crime data,” according to Neighborhood Scout.

When looking at Nebraska as a

whole, Bellevue is one of the most dangerous cities in the state when taking property crime, violent crime, rape, murder or assault into consideration.

“Based on FBI crime data, Bellevue is not one of the safest communities in America. Relative to Nebraska, Bellevue has a crime rate that is higher than 93 percent of the state's cities and towns of all sizes,” according to Neighborhood Scout. “Neighborhood Scout's analysis also reveals that Bellevue's rate for property crime is 19 per one thousand population. This makes Bellevue a place where there is an above average chance of becoming a victim of a property crime, when compared to all other communities in America of all population sizes.”

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The Right Place to Go...to See

Bellevedettes travel, compete at nationals

McKayla Verneer
Co-Editor in Chief

The Bellevedettes competed and placed at many events this season, even traveling to Orlando, Florida to compete and place at nationals.

“This season we were most looking forward to growing as a team, becoming stronger dancers, and competing at the state and national level,” dance coach Kristin Wheeler said.

The team started off the season placing second at the Centura Dance Invite. After that competition, the team spent much of their practice time continuing to perfect their basketball game half-time routine and also prepare for nationals.

“This competition season compares to past seasons because it is growing. We are excited to keep moving forward with this momentum,” Wheeler said.

Only six of the team members ending up traveling to Orlando for Dance Team Union Nationals. The team placed 13th overall while senior dance team captain Cameron Krishna competed as a soloist and placed ninth in the nation.

“It felt amazing being able to place as well as we did. Not many teams come out in the top 15 at their first ever nationals,” Krishna said.

At nationals, the team had to perform twice - once to make semifinals and then once in

semifinals competition. It was in the semifinals competition that the Bellevedettes preformed and took the thirteenth spot.

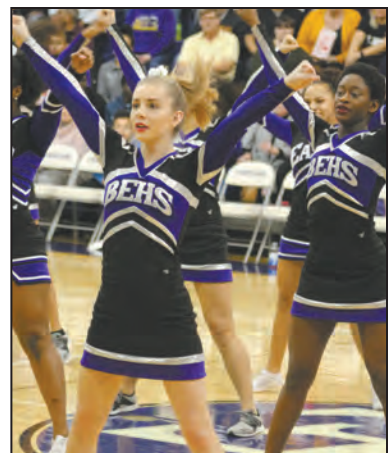
“My favorite part of nationals was making it to semifinals because as soon as it happened we all kicked in to gear and was more focused than we ever have. It just made it proud as a captain to see my teammates work so hard,” Krishna said.

On Feb. 15 the dance team traveled to Grand Island to compete in the state competition. While there, the team spent a lot of time supporting the eight other teams before they eventually went on to place seventh.

“[I enjoy] getting to know more about people I never thought I would and being able to build a bond that will last a while. It’s been very challenging but also very fun,” junior and dance team member Caitlyn George said.

Competition season offers many opportunities for growth for the individual members and the team as a whole. All the time spent practicing is finally able to be shown at competitions.

“The best part of the competition season is coming together as a team and working hard to accomplish our goals. It is awesome to see all of their hard work pay off when they have a stellar performance and outcome,” Wheeler said.



The Bellevedettes participated in competitions that lead them to go to nationals, travel to Orlando, and become stronger as a team. The team made it into the semifinals after competing for the first time in Bellevue East history as well as making 13th place in the nation. “We were really proud of it because we were the first ones to do it coming from East,” junior Savannah Lucas said. *Photos by Madeline Crouch*

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Assembling all the right parts

Madie Ybay
Features Editor

Wheels skid across the floor as robots compete against one another. Students control their robots, as concentration set in their eyes.

“I joined robotics back in 7th grade because I thought it was interesting and would be fun. I joined this year because I wanted to help get it started at East,” sophomore Dublin Smyth said.

Robotics Club is centered around designing, constructing, operating, and applying robots to different challenges. At East, instructor Ronda Aken is the club sponsor.

“We usually kind of relax and talk about how to build a robot. Robotics is pretty good, I definitely have fun,” junior Josh Huewitt said.

Meetings for Robotics Club are held in H-08 and are individually scheduled each week on different days to fit with everyone’s schedule. Currently they are just relaxing as they wait for next year’s competition to be announced.

“The best part is when we can get the robot to work and working with my friends. They’re pretty supportive when we did a

competition,” Huewitt said. “I didn’t really have friends in Robotics Club who I wasn’t already friends with.”

However during competition seasons, meetings start with unpacking the robot and setting a goal to achieve. For the rest of the meeting students work on achieving that goal by modifying and adjusting the robot by troubleshooting it and seeing what problems need to be fixed.

“Designing the robot is personally my least favorite part. It’s so hard to work with restrictions and still make something that can function and win competitions. Building it is my favorite part,” Huewitt said.

When building the robot, they start with gears, motors, metal pieces and other materials that they screw together. First they have to design the robot within an 18-by-18 inch frame.

When designing, students must think about the size, strength, and the different challenges the robot will have to overcome.

“I’m really proud of the kids this year, they’re really focused and working well as a team to get our robot into the best shape it can be,” Aken said.

Robotics competes each year. For the past two years robotics has made it to semifinals.



Clink! While at a meeting for Robotics Club freshman Fianna Glenn and Robert Raffety prepare their robot for competition. “The hardest part is planning, after that you have to assemble and program which takes one to two months.” Raffety said. *Photo by Cora Bennett*

This year’s competition was on Feb. 16 at UNL, where East’s club made it to semifinals once again.

“My favorite thing about being in robot-

ics are the competitions, since I see middle school friends, or programming because it is fun, or just hanging out with the other people in robotics,” Smyth said.

Quiz bowl tests knowledge in competition

McKayla Vermeer
Co-Editor in Chief

Students sit on either side of a room on teams of four, waiting in anticipation. Their hands hover slightly over a buzzer as they listen for the next question to be asked. It’s not long before multiple hands hit the buzzers. Fortunately, one of them was slightly faster than the others, earning the opportunity to answer the question. The student answers the question correctly, earning a point for their team. These students are competing in a knowledge-based competition called Quiz Bowl.

“My favorite part of being on

the team is just the fun atmosphere everyone brings. It makes winning better and even losing better,” junior Breck O’Grady said.

Quiz Bowl consists of a team of students that compete over their knowledge of trivia and random facts. At East, this group meets every Tuesday and Thursday after school in instructor David Bossman’s classroom.

“As a naturally competitive person, I like the competitions. But I also like the large number of students who come to practice. Practice can be loud and competitive and even a bit crazy sometimes, but it’s fun and I like to see my students get into it and passionate about

knowing random stuff,” Bossman said.

Bossman has been the sponsor of the group since he started teaching at East in 2002. He personally enjoys the activity and creating an inclusive environment for everyone interested.

“I love trivia and knowing random things, so naturally I like sharing that love with students who also like knowing random things. Quiz bowl is open to anyone and I’ve tried to ensure that anyone who is interested in showcasing their knowledge of a wide-range of topics can participate and perhaps compete,” Bossman said.

While multiple students attend

these practices, only few go on to actually compete in the local competitions. Students that are not in the group for competition purposes enjoy the social aspect of the group.

“I really enjoy just getting the opportunity to spend time with my friends and bond over our common interests in random knowledge. It is really just a unique experience,” senior Maddie McClure said.

The students that do go on to compete attend multiple competitions in the area. This year, they finished third at the All-Girls Quiz Bowl competition, second at the Ralston competition, and second at the State Science Bowl Quiz Bowl competition.

“The competitions are going pretty good, although we haven’t had one in a while. Last year we had more competitions than this year so it’s harder to compare, but we have improved as a team,” O’Grady said.

Being a part of this group can provide the opportunity for students interested in the same activity to interact and find people with similar interests to them. The community created within this group can build many friendships.

“I joined because I heard it was a good group of fun people who knew a lot about random information and I felt I belong in that group, and I do,” O’Grady said.

AcaDeca helps set the path for college successes

Sharon Guchu
Reporter

Academic Decathlon, Aca Deca, is a class and a competition where the students study a given topic for the year. This year’s topic was the 1960’s.

P K Simmons is the coach and the instructor for Aca Deca. When he started teaching, the principal asked him if he wanted to teach it even though he didn’t know anything about it, but he accepted the job and he is still teaching the class today.

“I didn’t even know what it was then, but I figured if the boss wanted me to do it I would say yes. So then I became the Aca Deca coach. There was no class so it was just an after school activity, but everybody else has a class and all the other schools were competing so, I asked for a class and they gave me a class then the class has gone on from then,” Simmons said.

Something about this class is that there are ten different subjects which combine and be the decathlon and these subjects are used for the competitions. The different categories include art, language and literature, science, history, a selected novel, economics, music and math.

The students learn those subjects in class

and also in practices after school on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for 45 minutes.

“Academic Decathlon practices are really fun we do them twice a week in Simmons room and he always brings snacks to kind of keep it fun so it’s not just people studying but it’s good. We do stations; one station we work on giving speeches, another for learning economics and the other one would be for reviewing art study guides or others,”senior Ellie Foral said.

To be on the team, a couple of students are chosen and those people can go compete out of school with other students and other schools. Being on the team can benefit students because they can put their scores or experiences of how they did on their college resumes. The classes and practices also prepares the students for college speeches and other things that are needed to get into a college.

“They learn lots of really great skills especially ones that come to practice they learn how to do college interviews because that is one of our events and they learn how to do improv two speeches prepared speeches,” Simmons said. “They also just learn a lot because you know we read so much, so you just learn a lot about a lot of different things. Against competing forces you have to have a



Study hard! Academic Decathlon students study the literature resource guide to prepare for regionals at one of the after school practices. “All this preparation paid off, because we scored well enough to advance to State,” sophomore Sara Vance said. *Photo by Sharon Guchu*

little bit of a higher level academically, so it’s good for them and it also looks good on your college resume because registrars at colleges know what AcaDeca is. So when you are in AcaDeca, right away they think you’re really great.”

The competitions are quiet and everyone is focused with answering the questions being asked. They do two scrimmages each year. One in Nov. and another in Dec.

The regional competitions were hosted this year by East on January 19. The AcaDeca

teams did well enough to advance to state. State was hosted at the University of Nebraska at Omaha this year. AcaDeca members say can be on the team or class if they put effort in their studies and work outside school.

“Yes, it is open to anybody. We especially need people with B and C average because the vast majority have A average. But it doesn’t really matter as long as you study hard and are willing to put in the work you can make the team,” sophomore Sara Vance said.

Teacher gives dogs a home

Jacob Kriewald
Reporter

excitement with a hug.
“My husband and I call him our ‘little stinker.’ He was returned twice and after that I couldn’t allow him to be adopted again. So we adopted him,” Donner said.
Fostering dogs is when a person, in this case Donner, takes in an animal who has been injured, left, or is a stray. She has been fostering

dogs for almost 3 years. The fostering takes place mainly in her home.
“My dog Olive was rescued by HHP [Hands Hearts and Paws], so once I bought the house I decided to return the favor and rescue more dogs,” Donner said
Donner also said that she loves to foster because of the way she feels

when she helps the dogs. Fostering is something of a family tradition.
“My parents fostered for GRRIN (Golden Retriever Rescue in Nebraska) growing up,” Donner said.
Hands, Hearts, and Paws is an organization which takes in animals that need to be cared for. They take in animals and then have meetings with foster parents who can take in these animals and provide them a home while they wait to be adopted.
“I am contacted by shelters or rescue contacts of dogs needing rescue help. I then post the dogs to our private Facebook group and foster homes decide who they want to foster. We gather new intakes to one location, where we do intake photos, have food ready to disperse and foster homes meet there for pick up,” Debbie David from Hands, Hearts, and Paws said.
Fostering can save the lives of innocent animals. It gives animals another opportunity at having a good life. One Green Plant says that 7.6 million dogs enter American shelters every year. Fostering is helping lower those numbers.
“Fostering is important because it helps reduce overcrowding in shelters and opens up space for another animal to be saved,” One Green Plant said.
Fostering can be a labor intensive job. The parents are taking care of an animal that may or may not have ever been in a home environment

before. It is almost like having a full grown puppy.
“The application for fostering is: Application, vet reference check, home visit. We provide the food, vet care, kennels, etc. Foster homes provide day to day care, love, basic training, take to vet appts, weekly meet and greets and say goodbye when an approved adoptive home comes along,” David said.
Fostering is not a full time job, the people who foster also have another job. For instance, it is Donner is not only a foster parent, she’s also a full-time teacher.
“I cry the moment I see their family take them away to their new home. However, once they are adopted, that means I can get new puppies,” Donner said .
When it is all said and done the dogs are not permanent in the foster home. They eventually have to be adopted and the adoption of dogs can be a bittersweet event for some.
“I have realized how horrible people can be, but I’ve also seen how amazing people can be. I have been open to a different kind of love. When you rescue a dog that has been chained up their whole life, or running around as a stray in an urban environment, that first night of safety they just give you this look. That look just says ‘thank you for saving me.’ From there, my husband and I just show them unconditional love,” Donner said.



Science instructor Karen Donner takes in dogs that have been injured or just need homes temporarily. “[These dogs are named] Purdy and Bucky. These two were absolutely filled with every intestinal parasites. I think I was making them sit for more medicine to kill off some worms,” Donner said. *Photo courtesy of Karen Donner.*

East welcomes French students with open arms

Camrin Smith
Reporter

Sophomore Georgia West is spending her last few days alone cleaning up her house. She was preparing for a change very few people get to experience. West, during the month of February became a host for a French exchange student, Chloé Courtine.
“Having someone from another country living with you is very nerve wracking because I’m a very tidy person; I like to keep things clean,” West said.

French exchange students stayed with host families from February 3 and left on February 23. In that time they went to school and learned American customs and experienced the everyday life of an American teenager in high school.
“I decided to come to the U.S. to discover the culture because I’ve only seen this country in movies, so by coming here I’ll get a different idea of what the U.S. is. It’s interesting to discover a new country so far from my country,” Courtine said.
The process of preparing consisted of applying to become

a host early first semester and then playing the waiting game. Patience wore out according to West and she spent the last night tidying up her house and while she was cleaning, Courtine was on a bus to Bellevue from Chicago.
“It was stressful getting here because my flight got cancelled last minute, but we were able to find a new flight. The traveling was very long, we had to sleep in Chicago and then we had a 9 hour bus ride. I just have to get used to the jet lag,” Courtine said.
While Courtine was visiting,

West has a list of activities she was to check off so Courtine can get the full American experience. The girls attended events such as choir concerts together and musical rehearsals.
“Besides going to school, I’m planning on taking her to the zoo and going to the Durham and going shopping in downtown Omaha, hopefully, if the weather permits. On our 4-day weekend, we’re going up to my grandma’s ranch for a real country Nebraska experience,” West said.
To become a host, a student

should be taking a French class of any level and go through an application process, which includes references and a home visit from the teacher, Nora Boyd, to make sure it will be a good match for the family.
“The process of applying to become a host family wasn’t hard. Boyd talked about it in class and she gave me all the information. I showed my parents and they were really excited. We had to do it online and answer a few questions. It was really easy and I would encourage other people to do it as well,” West said.

A collage of various people in different settings: students in a classroom, people working in a warehouse, and individuals in professional or academic environments.

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Understanding the Fourth Estate

Photo by Hailey Hendry

Role of Press | Journalists revolutionize way current population gets news over time

Brooklyn Anderson
News Editor

The role of the press is to give the people information that is truthful so they are able to make decisions and choices to better their lives.

“To me, the role of the press is to be objective on issues that the people in this country care about and provide multiple perspectives from qualified sources on those issues,” sports reporter at Daily Nebraskan Elic Chisam said. “There are at least two sides to every issue and it’s important that we in the press allow all sides provide their perspective.”

The role of the press is to take action and provide facts to people all around the world. From politics to daily local news, there are always journalists finding new stories and making sure people know those stories. When making these stories public, there are certain notes to take before heading face-to-face with the facts.

“I think it’s important to note that my job isn’t to make people feel good. My job isn’t to do public relations for a group that has a public relations committee,” Northwestern Missourian chief reporter Samantha Collison said. “In my work, writing about the LGBTQ community, I tread very carefully because the

last thing I would want is to out someone, violate their privacy or misrepresent someone. I remind people multiple times that they don’t have to answer every question if they’re not comfortable and I do my research. Getting the facts straight is super important to me, especially when sources are normal humans who would be seriously hurt by undue public ridicule.”

As a journalist, there are precautions to be taken into consideration when reporting on a specific topics before they make the story accessible to the public. For broadcast journalism, there are extra precautions for airing a story. These precautions include the topic, the amount of information, and how the people would react to the information.

“I think that all journalists should be cautious, but in some respects, broadcasters need to exercise more caution than print journalists and in broadcasting you get one shot to communicate the facts,” Chisam said. “You have to write your script and deliver it in a way that is clear and easy for the audience to understand and in print, people can go back and reread something if they don’t understand it at first. Broadcast journalists do not have that luxury.”

How journalism impacts people can be hurtful or uplifting, depending on the topic being talked about. The people then take charge and create marches, stand ups, and other community marks which can depend on the topic being fought for. That gives journalists to provide facts instead of opinions.

“I’ll say with the recent ‘climate’ around the press, people are very hesitant and resistant to believing what they read and watch,” KWWL reporter Jalynn Soucek said. “That’s why it’s much more important to always be fair and accurate. There has never been more pressure to do so.”

Criticism is something that everyone goes through, especially when it is being published out into the public for a lot of eyes to see and connect to it. Journalists go through a lot of criticism for telling the truth.

“It just comes with a larger audience,” Chisam said. “One of the harsh realities of this job that I learned during my internship at KETV in Omaha last summer is that people in the audience almost never reach out to tell you, you did a good job and 99 percent of the time its’ to yell at you about something, and their criticism can range from taking offense to something you said to something that you’re wearing.”

Abbie Deng
Opinion Editor

Journalism has been around for centuries informing, developing and impacting humanity as the times have changed.

“Journalism as we presently understand it appeared shortly after the development of moveable type in the 15th century. News books and pamphlets with accounts of news events were published throughout the 16th century, and by the 17th century newspapers were being published throughout Europe.” John Bender Professor of journalism and mass communications at UNL said.

Today Journalism is the primary source of information for those who access media outlets on a regular basis. Throughout wars, Supreme Court cases and moments of challenge in the U.S., journalists have been there working to educate the masses.

“I think the main importance of journalism is helping people know about what is happening their world and what can be done about it” Bender said. “They can’t

do that if they are uninformed or misinformed. James Madison, the 4th president of the United States, said, ‘Popular government without popular information is but a prologue to farce or a tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power that knowledge gives.’ I can’t think of a better way of expressing the importance of journalism.”

Journalism has progressed throughout the years taking different forms of adding efficiency to the way society receives information including the integration of radio and broadcast journalism.

Wm. David Sloan, in The Media in America, said “Teletype Setting equipment, photo transmission devices as well as national radio networks that were set up by 1926 sent news across the country with breathtaking speed.”

Broadcast journalism was the new and improved method of getting information out to the public.

“Industry professionals

and historians generally credit Edward R. Murrow with being the originator of broadcast journalism. In 1937, CBS sent Murrow to London to report on the news from Europe. Murrow, along with other reporters, reported on the rise of Nazi Germany and World War II,” Jim Timm President and Executive Producer of the Nebraska Broadcast Association said.

Then came television, according to Sloan’s The Media In America, the first public demonstration of television took place in September of 1927, and by 1950 news anchors began taking on television, paving the way for networks we see today.

“While newspapers had the news business to themselves for decade after decade, the advent of ‘instant’ news via radio and TV drove people to tune in throughout each day and night for bulletins and updates on news from across the world, nation, state and local areas” Timm said.

“Broadcast journalists like Murrow, Walter Cronkite, Dan Rather and Tom Brokaw...and so many more, became trusted faces and voices.”

Currently, many print

publications are being moved online. With the accessibility of the internet most people can Google what news updates they’re looking for.

“The internet has completely revolutionized our industry not only with evolving, faster technology but also with the speed in which broadcast journalism can be delivered, and the speed at which consumers expect ‘instant’ news.” Timm said.

Locally, the cities of Omaha and Bellevue have their own media outlets, taking the forms of radio, television, online and print, the Omaha World Herald being one of the most prominent media outlets in the area.

“The World-Herald has a long history dating back more than 150 years. And we have evolved with the times. About 20 years ago we

added the

Omaha.com website for the growing number of people who prefer to get their news online.” Henry



Photo courtesy of Hybrid Camera Revolution

Nebraska state Legislative Bill 206 protects student journalists, advisers

Hailey Hendry
Co-Editor in Chief

McKayla Vermeer
Co-Editor in Chief

The New Voices Bill (LB 206) was presented in front of the Nebraska state judiciary committee on Feb. 1, 2019, which would protect the rights of student journalists and their advisers.

According to the text of the bill, “The bill an act relating to journalism; to define terms; to provide protection for freedom of speech and freedom of the press for student journalists; to provide protection for student media advisers; to provide immunity for schools; and to provide exceptions.”

The reason student journalists and advisers across the state are seeking this protection is because of the landmark Supreme Court case of Hazelwood vs. Kuhlmeier.

“In 1988, the principal of Hazelwood East High School

outside St. Louis, Missouri, censored from the student newspaper a special teen issue section that included articles on teen pregnancy and the impact of divorce on students. Members of the student staff sued,” according to Student Press Law Center (SPLC).

In 2016, the first New Voices Bill was introduced in Nebraska; however, it was not the first in the nation. It’s purpose is to grant First Amendment rights to student publications at both the high school and college levels. Former high school journalist, Madi Pohlman, went to testify at the hearing on Feb. 1.

According to SPLC, “If you want a populous of educated people, you need to allow journalists to educate people,” Pohlman said. “And this journalism starts in high school.”

Students and advisers from across the state came to testify, while others just came to watch the testimonies. State senator Adam

Morfeld has been the one to sponsor this bill each year since 2016.

“If we’re truly preparing our young people for being good citizens, we need to give them the skills, responsibility and sometimes consequences of exercising their First Amendment rights,” Morfeld said.

Across the state, students and advisers are punished and reprimanded for writing over important, yet controversial topics and stories. At Millard West, adviser Lisa Lukecart was punished for standing up for a student’s First Amendment rights.

“I am ashamed I am a graduate of a high school that allowed that,” 2017 graduate of Millard West, Emily Seaton said.

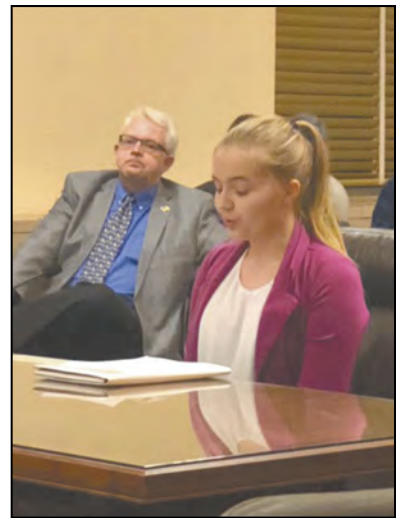
To date, 14 states have passed New Voices legislation, including states that are near Nebraska, such as Wyoming, Kansas, Arkansas, Iowa, and Illinois. However, in Nebraska many schools are subject to prior

review, where administration reads every article before printing. In most schools, the students make all of the content decisions and the bill help make sure that the students are responsible for their work.

“Each student journalist is solely responsible for determining the news, opinion, feature, sports and advertising content for any school-sponsored media,” according to The Wayne Stater journalism staff at Wayne State College.

On Feb. 22 the judiciary committee voted unanimously to advance the bill to the full legislature for a vote. With this vote came the institution of certain amendments.

“In brief we, 1) Removed the immunity to the schools ... 2) Included commonly accepted ethical journalistic standards as one of the several reasons administrators can intervene, and 3) took out private schools because of religious freedom concerns,” Morfeld said.



(Above) Journalists from East traveled to the state capitol to testify in support of LB 206 on Feb. 1. Juniors Emily Nelson and McKayla Vermeer spoke about their experiences as members of The Tom Tom staff. “This was my second year going to testify and I think that really puts in perspective how important I believe this bill is to not only myself but also the future student journalists of Nebraska,” Vermeer said. Vermeer also testified in 2018.

Current mass media affects political views

Camrin Smith
Reporter

Journalism has been around for centuries to inform the public. Over the years, the public has lost their trust in the because of the fictitious stories and photos spread through media platforms by unreliable sources. What would be considered a biased political outlet and news feed would make no exception to fueling the distrust in the people.

“Although most news organizations are economically independent of political parties and political leaders, coverage of government and politics remain the core of the news business,” University of Lincoln Nebraska Journalism Professor John Bender said.

Politics and journalism have always played a role with one another, as according to Bender, journalism was around to report about political ideas. Any other type of news story was for human

interest.

“The primary role of early journalism was the dissemination of news and ideas about politics. In the 19th century, as newspapers developed as a true mass medium, they started carrying more news about business and economics and news of a nonpolitical nature,” Bender said.

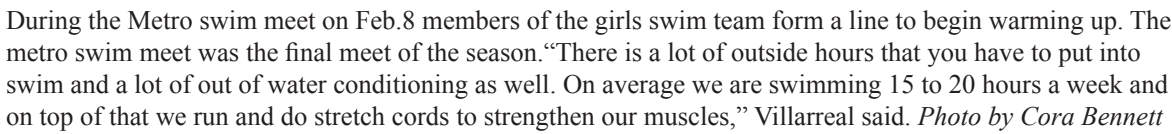
Politics will always be a key component in journalism as long as there is democracy, Bender expressed. The public’s views about journalism will stay consistent.

“Some journalism does reflect the biases of writers or editors, but I believe this is less frequent than many think. For the vast majority of news coverage, journalists strive to be neutral and fair. The perception of bias emerges, I believe, largely from the fact that the news and reality do not always conform to the ideological expectations of the readers and viewers. Their responses is to brand the news as biased,” Bender said.

Emily Nelson
Reporter

“My teammates and I ensure others success by cheering everyone on,” Johnson said. “We always encourage others to cheer on members when waiting for events. It’s a great feeling to see everyone at the other end shouting your name and it gives you an extra boost of energy.”

“There is a huge sense of relief after I finish a race,” Holbrook said. “I’m usually nervous before the race and worried I won’t do well or that something will go wrong,” Holbrook said. “Afterwards, it always works out, everything went right and I dropped time or improved from the last race I had.”



"We have three what we call kits so our uniforms are in the pieces so we have an all-black uniform a purple uniform and white uniforms," girls soccer varsity head coach Sara Fjell said, "They say BEAST on the front which is something that's new and

The budget rotation is something that most sports do to be able to afford and buy uniforms equally for every departments of sports. They rotate after every five years and this year was the soccer

The players on the team for the next years can use them, too until the next budget rotation. Soccer players such as Izasha Giraud

“I like them because they come in three colors instead of two the pattern looks nice and they are

"I like the memories that came along with them and they remind me of my first year of varsity soccer. I don't like that they were only short sleeve it made the games quite cold," Anselmo said.

Dodging for charity

Off-season athletes make improvements

Brooklyn Anderson
News Editor

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) held their third annual fund raising dodgeball tournament on Jan. 24 in the north gym and included 48 students.

“This year was for a community service project and we are working with Make-A-Wish to grant a student their wish,” sophomore Laynee Benne said.

FBLA holds fund raisers throughout the school year to raise money for the project being currently worked on like the community service project. The dodgeball tournament has been an annual activity for the third year in a row and will probably be continuing in the future.

“At the beginning I didn’t have a team and I wasn’t going to play,” senior Christian Archie said. “I decided to play because it’s fun and I just joined Antonio’s team late and he was the team captain.”

There were six teams with eight people in each team including the team captain. The north gym was split in half so there was two games going at once and the tournament was based around double elimination.

“The team captains had to meet with me and discussed what the rules were and everything,” Benne said. “At the same time we were making the bracket so the teams were all ready to go and start playing.”

Double elimination is when two teams go against each other and whoever lost, that team plays again against another losing team. While that is happening, the winning teams go against each other and the same process happens again.

“The winning court was on one side and it helped with the double elimination so if they were winning they would have a break off,” Benne said. “If they lost the first game then they would have a quick break while the others teams faced each other.”

For the past couple of years, the winning team would receive back their admission fees back as a prize. This year’s prize was bragging rights and the tournament bracket.

“I know what my friends weaknesses and their strengths so I felt better playing with the team I had,” Archie said. “I’m a two time champ and it’s not that easy to do.”



FBLA hosted a dodgeball tournament on Jan. 24 at East. Students on all different teams competed to win. “I was running to go get the balls for my team in a dodgeball tournament,” Jason Bishop said. *Photo by Sharon Guchu*

Diego Vasquez Glover
Reporter

East off season athletes take steps to improve their conditioning for on season performance. Many players must maintain their fitness and skill set while in the off season until the on season begins; this requires the process of off season conditioning to have more challenges for players to undergo in order to be prepped up when the on season hits.

“Off season you can push a little harder because you don’t have to worry about playing a game that week, off season is where you’re going make all your gains so we encourage heavier loads when they lift. We can push them a little harder on the running because we don’t have to worry about them having their legs for a game that week. It’s all about the off season to make gains,” varsity head football coach Nathan Liess said.

An athlete off season conditioning blog by Johnsonfitness.com said that any athlete should plan to make their gains while off season and that many hours in the weight room are necessary because strength is needed for any sport.

“I would recommend all athletes to be in a weights class and in addition to that I would have them do running workouts after school at least a couple of days a week to build upon that,” Liess said.

Student athletes who are currently

in the off season compared their current conditioning experiences to when they are on season.

“They’re pretty much the same, off season is like everyday, like Monday through Friday, and then when the season starts we just don’t do as much, [or] go as hard. Like for game day you still lift, but it’s not as much,” senior football player Jacob Larson said.

Another student athlete compares her experiences of off season conditioning in a different sport until she is back on season.

“You really have to save your energy, we don’t do a lot of conditioning during on season because we have to save our muscles, if we have a game on Friday or Thursday we have a pre-game practice where it’s only like half a practice we do like light stuff to rest our bodies, and then during game our coach expects us to go all out,” volleyball player DeAnn Marr said.

Certain conditioning is also changed to meet the physical requirements of that student’s particular sport.

“We do a lot of running/cardio and a lot of lifting off season during the summer,” Marr said.

Resources are readily available for any student athlete looking to improve themselves before their sport is back in season.

“We use the weight room and go outside, so all the facilities are there for us,” Larson said.

Girls, boys basketball seasons come to a close



Junior Keiley Hein talked about leading her teammates in a different way her junior year. “I was one of the team captains this season so I was someone that the underclassmen looked up to,” Hein said. *Photo by Cora Bennett*

Sophomore Reese Floro guarded an opposing team member during a varsity girls basketball game. She believes she has made many important improvements this season. “I thought I did good for my first year of varsity. [I] definitely will work harder this summer,” Floro said. *Photo by Cora Bennett*



Senior Christian Archie dribbled past his opponent to lead his team to victory. “My biggest accomplishment this year has been when I got injured at practice and played on my injury, winning four out of our six games at the end, and being able to help to get the job done,” Archie said. *Photo by Cora Bennett*

Bellevue best place to live? Not quite

Diego Vasquez Glover
Reporter

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.CONY@RPSNE.NET



The city is a close-knit community consisting of multiple local events from a 2-day long celebration on the river to a farmer's market at Washington park every Saturday during the summer. Personally, one of my favorite events would have to be

People say that Bellevue is old fashioned, and in some cases that can be a bad thing, but for this traditional city it's good. Not changing our ways is all by choice, we as the people of Bellevue love the way that we are, we love our city, and our community and in return our city gives us a loving environment full of entertainment and once in a lifetime experiences that always makes us feel at home.



While I can give enough credit to the small suburb just off Omaha, the place I am supposed to call home, to say that it is not the worst place to live in Nebraska; I cannot imagine saying it is the best. From the stuck in their ways townies to the lack of excitement in Bellevue, there just isn't much to root for to get us to number one. I even began to wonder if the writer of the article had been to Bellevue before. Probably not.

Maybe I am just bitter, or my heart belongs in a big city somewhere. Either way, a

Unfortunately, I do still have to live here until I go off to college, but I fear for future generations of Bellevue. What will they do when they want to change the ways of the city? We must start early and encourage growth before we fall behind any more.

Time management an issue for students

Many students do not learn these skills as they age. Once they've developed the habit, it is hard to learn good time management skills, even though there

“Depending on your child’s age, have her use a calendar or planner to map out chores, school assignments and activities. She might need help learning how to fill it out. Post a big family calendar to show her how it’s done. You can also try free or inexpensive mobile apps to help your child manage time,” according to

Even though, students may have all of their elective core class credits to graduate, failing grades are still put on their transcripts and may not be accepted. If the students have already been accepted,

“If a student gets a bad case of ‘senioritis’ and stops working in second semester of the senior year, the student needs to be aware that the college acceptance might get pulled. They get midterm and final year grades from your high school, for this very reason,” founder of Position of U 4 College LLC, Kris Hintz said.

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Bullying issues should be taken more seriously



McKayla Vermeer
Co Editor in Chief

Even with the emphasis of no bullying policies in schools, bullying still is an active problem at East and remains inadequately addressed by school officials. In my personal experience, an instance of bullying had gotten to the point that I no longer enjoyed doing an activity that I previously loved. The worst part about this experience for me was not necessarily the lack of action by anyone in this situation, but the realization that I was assuredly not the only one that had gone through this before. After the fact, I heard many accounts from both my friends and other students about similar incidents of bullying and how they had tried to fix the situation by speaking to their teachers and the school administrators, to no avail. While it is understandable that there

is not much that can be done about bullying that does not occur physically, it is not fair to the individual being bullied to have nothing be done. Even though in these situations it is mostly a “he said, she said” scenario, that does not excuse the ineffective action taken by administrators or teachers. In my experience, what the school officials had done was call me in and hear my account of the events that had occurred. At the end of this meeting, I was simply told that they would keep an eye on the situation but that there would be no further action taken. The Bellevue Public Schools Student and Family Handbook states that “the school will ensure that students are provided appropriate interventions that support the safety and wellbeing of all students.” If this is true, then there should not be any cases of bullying with lack of effective action from administrators in our school and there should not be any instances of students feeling unsafe in their environment to the level that they do not want to come to school or they do not want to stay in activities. Nebraska state law requires that each school district have a policy on bullying, but even with that, they do not require that districts train the staff and administrators on how to handle the bullying that may occur. I believe the problem with this lack of training is that it creates lack of action because the administrators or staff may

not know the best way to handle situations as they arise within their schools. When specifically looking at the Bellevue School Board policy for bullying, it simply defines bullying as an “ongoing pattern of physical, verbal (spoken or written), or electronic abuse.” The policy then goes on to list the punishments students may face for bullying (including suspension or expulsion) and states that the superintendent is in charge of instituting any programs that would educate students on bullying prevention. The policy itself has no specific guidelines for how the district or each school should handle cases of bullying. According to Dean Mary Trowbridge, the standard procedure at East begins with identifying whether or not the case is actually bullying meaning that they have to be able to show that it is repeated and not just an isolated case. If the case does end up being bullying, then they interview both of the students to figure out the situation. She stated that they first tell the bully to stop and if that does not work they have all parties sign a non-harassment agreement. Finally, if that does not stop the bullying then the deans go on to look at suspension or expulsion for the offending student. While this is the standard procedure when handling bullying, I believe that it is not enough when dealing with student’s safety and well-being at school. There needs

to be more of a follow up to make sure the bullying actually stops, which could include having a follow up interview with the student weeks later to make sure that they feel safe and comfortable in their school environment. According to Sheri Bauman, a member of the Department of Educational Psychology with the University of Arizona states that after her research, it had been concluded that no-tolerance policies for bullying are not as effective as just implementing prevention techniques. These techniques could include just giving further education to students regarding the long-term effects of bullying. Without following up on cases of bullying, some students may continue to feel unsafe and unwelcome in their classes and extracurricular activities. According to StopBullying.gov, students that are bullied can experience depression and anxiety and also have a decreased academic performance and school participation. If bullying remains treated with ineffective action in schools, then students will continue to experience all of these effects. While our district does have a no-bullying policy, I feel the administration needs to find a way to keep it better enforced. In a time where #BeKind is taught and encouraged, it is also the right time to take bullying in our school more seriously and not only begin to take disciplinary actions when it progresses to physical altercations.

Professional athletes overpaid for playing



Camrin Smith
Reporter

NFL quarterback, Aaron Rodgers, is an exceptional player. An exceptional player that became the highest paid player in the U.S. in 2018. Rodgers averaged a salary of \$66.9 million last season. Athletes are overpaid simply by playing a sport. They might

work hard, condition for months on end and play in front of crowds of thousands of people, but there are people that work just as hard, if not harder, trying to scrape the barrel to make a living. There are people starting their own businesses, discovering things around the world that get paid less than half what a lot of players make in a game, in a year. Athletes worked hard to get where they are now, or where they were when they were playing. There’s no denying their talent, nor the work they’ve put in. But while they’re making millions of dollars per game, no matter what sport it is, teachers and doctors, and people that actually help better the communities they live in aren’t getting paid enough. Teachers average a salary of \$41,925 to 79,637, depending on the state. Teachers are the ones that carve a path for these athletes to succeed and go to college, and eventually

go pro. Anyone that is passionate about what they do will work as hard as they can. Teachers are passionate about spreading knowledge and helping students of any age grow academically, in almost the same way athletes are passionate the games they play. But the difference is that baseball players hit a ball with a stick and teachers go to college for a career lasting more than 50 years. No ones cheering for teachers the way fans scream at the television screen when their home team hits a home run, or scores a touchdown. And that is extremely unfortunate. People hear stories about how teachers impact students lives in all sorts of ways by motivating them to succeed or inspiring students to do great things. Those stories people hear on local TV stations that people don’t pay much mind to. Most stories about athletes are about drug abuse or sexual of-

fences, and those stories go viral. The most recognition teachers get is on local news stations to the community for a night. Teachers don’t get pay raises or more funding for their classrooms or their schools in general. If we start paying teachers the money they deserve, the education system would be a lot more effective. There would be more funding for the classroom environments so students have other ways to learn. Teachers in Bellevue get around \$40 a year to pay for classroom supplies. There would be more money to utilize for the classroom. If teachers are paid more than \$40, the quality of education would sky rocket. They will have the motivation to teach with the energy students of all ages need to succeed. The real heroes are not on a field, or in a stadium, they are in classrooms, hospitals, and family owned shops. Teachers deserve to be paid like heroes.



Comic created by Zayda Birkel

Writers recieve money on Wattpad

Brooklyn Anderson
News Editor

Writers all around the world take chances to get their stories out to the public and Wattpad is a place for them to do so. From fan fictions to dramas, there are millions of stories that are able to be read for free everyday. Wattpad has been a favorite app of mine for a long time because of the originality it brings and the fact that I tried to write my own book (but we do not talk about that).

The new update, in my opinion, gives a chance for upcoming writers to become published and known around the nation for their hard work. Now, how does this update even work?

Wattpad was founded by Ivan Yuen in 2006 as a website and eventually became an app for Android and iOS. The more applicable phones to get Wattpad, the more downloads there were and still are to this day. Wattpad has been making updates the past years to give writers recognition for their work.

The Wattpad team has recently created

a beta program called Wattpad Next Beta. It is a beta program that currently gives 49 writers payments for their stories. The way they get these payments is through coins that readers purchase on the app. When getting these coins, you take actual money and purchase them on the app. These coins are then used to unlock the next chapter or to unlock the whole entire book.

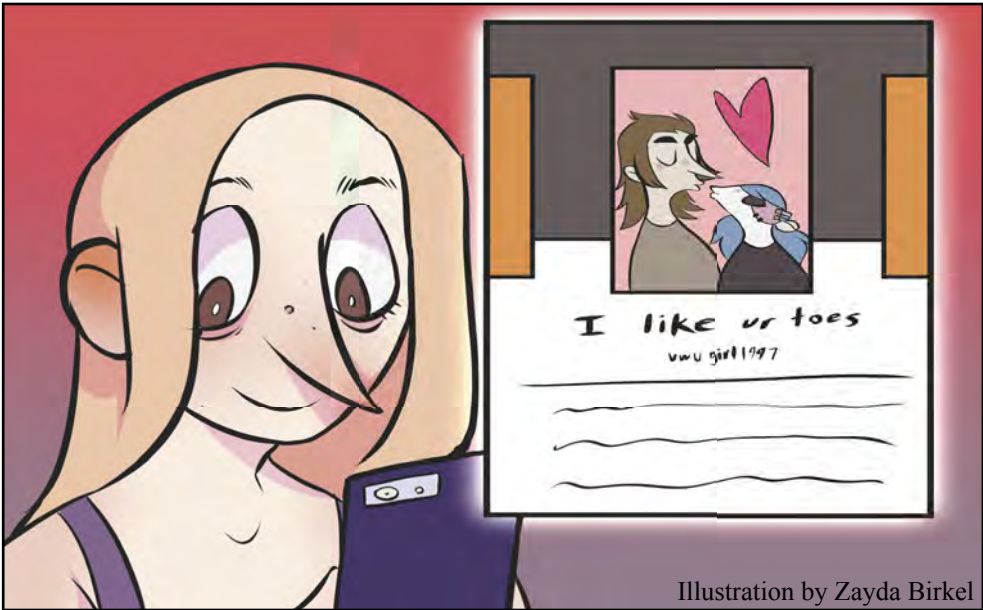
There has been backlash because no one gets refunds if they purchase a book that they end up not liking so they are just stuck with wasted coins. The program is still being developed (hint: the reason why it is called beta).

When getting a choice to purchase coins, I always find a loop on how to get it for free. With the specific stories chosen, those authors will be getting all profits when you purchase a chapter or the whole book and it really supports them and wanting to do something they love as a job.

The way I see this program is writers getting recognition for their work and dedication toward their stories and feedback from young adults all around the nation and even the world.

This beta program is just the beginning of something that is worth waiting for. For just being the beta of this program, I would give it a 3 out of 5 books because of the amount of people already a part of it and the amount of stories being used and getting that support from fans. I love how this

app allows people to create and can show other people their writing and get feedback in a safe environment. I definitely recommend Wattpad because you can read original stories for free as well as write your own if you are passionate about writing and want to get recognition for your stories.



New Hawaiian and Filipino restaurant in Bellevue

Emily Nelson
Reporter

The smell of salty, savoury meat wafted into my nose as I stood in a line backed up to the entrance. Behind anxious customers who awaited the fate of the restaurant, I was unaware that this place would become my go-to place.

Ono Pinay Kitchen recently opened in Old Towne Bellevue, just off Madison

St. The restaurant is a mix of Hawaiian and Filipino food, and it was originally a vendor at the Bellevue and Papillion Farmers' Markets.

Providing authentic Hawaiian and Filipino food, this place is a huge hit in Bellevue receiving a 4.8 out of 5 stars in their first week.

As I walked in, an array of comfortable seating surrounded me. I made my way up to the counter, which doubled as an order

and pick up spot. For a plate of kalua pork, that included a piece a lumpia, pancit noodles, and white or fried rice plus a drink, my total was \$11.75.

The kalua pork is commonly the shoulder butt of a pig, while the lumpia is considered a spring roll, and the pancit noodles are thin, clear noodles.

By no means am I a food enthusiast. I enjoy eating, but I stick to your basic

chicken tenders and french fries. To say I was nervous to try Ono Pinay Kitchen is an understatement.

It was a first time for everything type dish for me, the only thing I had tried before on my plate was the fried rice. The pork, while a little salty, was not too chewy and paired well with the cabbage.

The pancit noodles and lumpia contained loads of flavor that made my mouth

water and my stomach smile.

Their mix of Hawaiian and Filipino dishes are made fresh on-the-spot with a selection of pork, chicken, and beef.

I watched one main cook come in and out of the kitchen to refill the stock of pancit and the different kinds of meat. Having hot, fresh food kept the quality high and made it better.

Ono Pinay Kitchen ex-

ceeded my expectations. As it was my first time trying a restaurant as such, I can say I will be returning due to thoroughly enjoying their food.

I recommend Ono Pinay Kitchen to people wanting to stop in for a quick and affordable lunch. I give the restaurant 4 out of 5 stars because of the delicious food, but difficult hours of 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Ybay reviews: ‘Escape Room’ is not a half bad suspense thriller



Madie Ybay
Features Editor

Common sense won't get you anywhere but dead in this movie. To survive in the escape room you must use your perceptiveness, witt, and knowledge. Otherwise your time is up. If you manage to win, you get to take home your life and a huge amount of money.

I went into this movie expecting to have a panic attack in the movie theaters; thankfully, I did not. Let me elaborate, I am intensely claustrophobic and in the trailer for "Escape Room" there was a scene that looked like it would freak me out. However, just because I did not cry at the

movie, I still found the it to be pretty good.

At first when I saw the trailer for the film, I thought it would be one of those movies that was really mainstream but not actually any good. I grew up watching the other kind of "escapist" movie series. I would binge watch intense, tortuous movies. I thought that in comparison, "Escape Room" would fade into the background and live in the shadow of better movies. This film stood a part from the rest. I think if the director, Adam Robitel, did it right, he could make sequels that continue to follow this storyline.

The main plot was that six strangers are given invitations to an escape room. These nvitation are cubes that have to be solved. They are then awarded a cash reward if they can make it through the rooms. They go through different trials that tests their intelligence and perceptiveness to see if they can survive. Like a good suspense movie, most times it came down to the wire for these poor

contestants. It was intense.

There are points where I was frustrated at how slow the characters were being, but when I think about it again I would probably be the first to die in this scenario. It was still cheesy and seemed like it was trying to hard sometimes, but otherwise it was decent. If you are a horror movie junkie, this movie won't really give you that rush of adrenaline. However, if you are a person who can get scared easily I think that this movie would be good for you to watch. It can get a little scary, but not enough to traumatize you.

I really enjoyed this movie, it reminded me of movies I adored, the plot was executed excellently, the special effects looked nice, and it was better than I thought it would be. It definitely gave me a thrill that made my heart race, however it just wasn't a intense thriller. I think there are better thriller/escapist movies out there that actually make me squirm in my seat. I give "Escape Room" a solid 3.5 out of 5 stars.

Focus and get rewards

Hailey Hendry
Co-Editor in Chief

Sitting in class, listening to the lecture of the teacher when the portable computer in everyone's pocket steals the attention away from the task at hand. Students take their phones with them everywhere and use them in class.

However, there are apps that use incentives and reward the user for being off of their phone. The application I have recently discovered is PocketPoints. This app gives you points every ten minutes your phone is locked and not in use. These points can then be used to buy coupons or deals for your favorite restaurants, clothing and apparel websites, etc.

The best part about PocketPoints is it allows you to select the school you go to and your graduation date, and detects when you're driving. Whenever you are on school property, the app gives you double points for being off your phone. The downfall, however, is you only get double points only when you set a timer on the "goal" screen of the app. If you unlock your phone, or leave the app once you've set a timer before the goal

is met, it will not give you the points you earned.

It will only allow you to be off your phone for a max of two hours, unless you are on the stopwatch that automatically tracks how long you've been off your phone. Unfortunately, this section of the app does not give you double the points no matter where you are. I see two hour as being very reasonable, though, because there aren't many things today that will last more than two hours, and I don't believe any student can last all day without using their phone.

When I found out about this app, I immediately got very intrigued and excited to earn points for doing something as simple as being off my phone as much as possible.

Overall, I use the app quite often and it has helped me become more engaged in my classes. It also sends you notifications right after you lock your phone to remind you that you are currently earning points. I 10 out of 10 would recommend this to every student and teacher. It has greatly improved my attitude, relieved stress, and has helped me do better this semester.