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Flood washes out Midwest



#NEBRASKASTRONG

An aerial view of Offutt Air Force Base and the surrounding areas affected by flood waters Mar. 17. Increased water levels in many rivers and waterways were caused by the most amount of snowfall over this past winter. In addition, a large drop in air pressure caused massive amounts of flooding across the state of Nebraska. Due to this, many families in Nebraska have lost their homes, as well as many precious valuables. Many organizations have donated their time, effort and money to help these people. *Photo courtesy of U.S Air Force TSgt. Rachelle Blake*

Madie Ybay
Features Editor

Recent weather conditions have caused flooding in the Midwestern area forcing families to evacuate their homes on March 13.

“I had such little time to prepare and pack everything that we would need for however long we are going to be evacuated. I was so scatterbrained I couldn’t even really put a list in my head of what we needed,” flood evacuee Katrina LaRette said.

A flash flood warning was issued on Mar 13 and roads began closing the next day. Highway 370 closed and households in Paradise Lakes and Green Acres were the first to evacuate. Over the course of a week, 93 counties were evacuated and four people’s lives were lost in this flooding. Most of the flooding has been contained and residents are now allowed to go back to their houses, un-

less stated inhabitable.

“The hardest part is the adjusting, I have two little ones, one just a newborn and another two years old,” LaRette said. “They are way too young for them to understand that we won’t be back home for a couple of days.”

With the amount of damage done to the livestock, crops, infrastructure and buildings, Nebraska faces huge losses. The estimated amount that Nebraska has lost is around \$1.3 billion, \$400 million from livestock, \$440 million for crops, \$449 million for roads and \$85 million for the businesses and buildings lost. Vice President Mike Pence came to the flooded area to see the damage done to the communities. Pence then spoke to Governor Pete Ricketts about the recovery from the destruction caused by the floods.

“When I had spoke with our vice president, he said that it was one of the worst flooding disasters that he had seen. I’m hop-

ing that it’ll help with making the decision on whether or not this is a disaster. If it is declared an official disaster the state could receive some money back from the Federal Emergency Management Agency,” Ricketts said.

Sixty-seven families at East have been affected by the flood, displacing many people from their homes. Because of the loss of items to the flood, East has sprung into action to help the victims of the flood. Many of the classrooms have had boxes for donations, they have asked for toiletries, snacks and health items. Culinary also made cookies and cupcakes for the first responders to help.

“Honestly, because everyone is okay in my house and I have a nice place to stay, I personally don’t need anything. I have everything I need; I feel if people are going to help any of the flood victims they should help the people who haven’t been as fortunate as I

have,” junior Joshua Talley said.

Many groups and organizations in the community have been helping the flood victims. The American Red Cross and Life Gate Church have been providing shelter to families who have been displaced. Supermarkets such as Hy-vee, Fareway and Target have been donating food and water as well. Some banks in the area have donated money to the American Red Cross. To help out any victims in the community, anyone can give donations to the Salvation Army or the American Red Cross.

“As an adult in the community I believe that we have an obligation to show students that adversity is a part of life and that most often you grow stronger as a person when you go through these hard times. One of my favorite quotes states ‘you grow through what you go through,’” culinary instructor Lori Huffman said.

Updates on transportation

BPS signs a new contract and has begun the transition of implementing the new buses and technology

Brooklyn Anderson
News Editor

New technological advances and updates are being made to improve the safety of students on Bellevue Public Schools (BPS) buses.

Changes to the 9-year contract from First Student caused BPS transportation to switch to Student Transportation of America (STA) in the middle of the school year. First Student increased the cost per bus per day from \$7 to \$46, which required BPS to look for a cheaper contract and STA offered better pricing. The new contract also includes new bus drivers, creating confusion for some students.

"We had a guy that was on and off for a week and then was just not there anymore and then we had another person and after a month or so a lady came up and now she's the bus driver now," senior Dashaun Torry said.

STA is not the only change; there has been

a purchase of more buses, as the decision to go from diesel to propane buses. The three buses that were purchased in February are propane buses.

"There are a lot of reasons to go propane and the propane industry has really been promoting propane buses and the issues with emissions with diesel engines has been an ongoing issue for us and with any school district," Director of Transportation Rich Casey said. "Diesel engines require a lot of emissions equipment because EPA regulations steadily increased and become harsher since 2014, so with those additional emissions equipment, diesel engines don't work so well on school buses."

Money is being spent on diesel buses to repair them and the emissions equipment. Diesel buses are challenging to run during the winter.

"Diesel is expensive and they require to be plugged in the winter time and they don't

start so well when it's cold out and we bring in a crew on cold mornings to start diesel buses to make sure kids don't get left standing on the side of the street," Casey said.

There are alternative buses in the area that are being sold and have fewer issues with maintenance and cost.

"All of our 81 buses are currently diesel. With all those issues, we looked at alternatives, and there's a lot of alternatives to diesel buses like electric school buses, gasoline, compressed natural gas, and then propane," Casey said.

Propane buses cost a little more than diesel, but run quieter, are cleaner, and cost less to maintain. There is no emission equipment on propane buses.

"If you ride a bus you'll be amazed at the difference of propane and diesel. You can actually hear yourself talk over the engine and so there are a lot of reasons to go propane and we are excited to start down that road,"

Casey said.

With the new buses, there is new technology on them as well, including cameras on the stop arms and in the buses.

"I don't think we should have voice recording, but cameras are fine because we do need that information just in case something does happen on the bus so we can prove something because the bus driver can't see anything," Torry said.

After analyzing the costs and benefits, the superintendent and Casey make the decision to make a switch with First Student to STA during the middle of the school year before second semester started.

"It's been a smooth transition and we are super pleased with STA, but we will save \$11,000 just this second semester by switching to this other contract with STA and we will save \$22,000 next year," Casey said.

Asbestos discovered; safety of staff, students forces Health Science classes to move for removal

Hailey Hendry
Co-Editor in Chief

In the midst of the HVAC installation, the crew for Leuder Construction found Asbestos in the Health Science classroom.

Health instructor Jennifer Carda was surprised to walk into room J-04 and found a sign on the closet door where the Asbestos was found; however, no students or staff were affected by the chemical.

"It's not a danger to anybody," head custodian John Dengel said. "What it is, the glue that they put the tile down, the mastic, it has some kind of agent in it. We always have to make sure that everybody's safe, so when you break it up, that's when it starts to become a problem. It's from the old glue from the tiles."

According to Carda, none of the students had any strong reactions or opinions concerning the chemical as no student mentioned any

issues they had. Senior Alyssa Sailer, however, did not know about the Asbestos.

"I'm not like, 'that's bad' or anything because that's what they had when it was built," Salier said, "but I mean I guess you can see why it's dangerous for us now since there's a ton of kids probably going in there every single day."

Asbestos is most hazardous when broken into particles. It can cause Asbestosis, lung cancer, mesothelioma, and other cancers, according to Oregon State University. According to Dengel, the biggest concern is the safety of the staff and students. A main priority was to remove it as fast and efficiently as possible, and to remove it entirely.

"If it does happen to break up and we all get sick that's be a huge problem because then the kids wouldn't be able to come to school," Salier said. "It'd just be a big risk."

Leuder Construction is not allowed to

handle those types of chemicals, so other professionals had to be called in for a safe removal and avoid breaking up the Asbestos. The removal is as simple as bagging up the material and carrying it off to the dump.

"[The removal took only] minutes," Project Superintendent Gary Beyersdorf said. "The whole stigma of that is people see that and is like 'oh my gosh, I'm gonna die.' Unless it's a dust, in a dust form, and you inhale it that's where it is."

According to Beyersdorf, the reason behind using Asbestos for buildings in the past was because it was the best insulator and wouldn't burn, and could be combined with water or another binding material to be molded around other objects.

"Given the construction, again an older building, I'm not shocked that we would have that and those types of things in our building, but I just thought I would've gotten an email," Carda said. "When you're trying to

do things on a timeline, sometimes it doesn't always happen that way."

According to Carda, she and her students were given a couple of days to transition to an open classroom in the B-wing in order for the construction crew to remove the Asbestos, and make sure there was adequate time for the room to be cleaned up.

"The space was great. I think they've been using those couple of rooms in the B-wing as many teachers transition," Carda said. "I think overall it's been pretty smooth."

The hardest part about the transition to Carda was not knowing exactly what she was going to need for her classes, forgetting materials she needed, and getting back in to her classroom to grab those necessary items.

"The construction staff was really good about making sure that they were able to help us move things if we needed to get stuff, and the custodial staff has been really good at helping us with that, as well," Carda said.

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Organizations win state competitions

Emily Nelson
Reporter

Three East organizations took on the challenge of presenting their projects at the state level over the past month. Students have been working on their presentations since the beginning of the school year.

East's DECA chapter competed in Lincoln on Mar 14-16. The chapter brought home 12 national qualifiers. Adviser Dawn Danauskas said she took a total of 17 students.

“DECA is a student organization that helps students achieve more leadership and communication skills,” Danauskas said. “It concentrates on the area of marketing, finance, business management operations, and hospitality and tourism.”

Now headed to nationals in Orlando, Florida at the end of April, Danauskas said her students will work on perfecting their projects. After only the top 8 in the categories get to go to nationals, they now focus on the funding. Danauskas said the students use the money from the school store to help with that.

“Now [at nationals] we’re Nebraska DECA, not just Bellevue East DECA,” Danauskas said. “So, we want to go and beat the Canadians and the kids from all around states and countries.”

Sophomore Marissa Danauskas will join her chapter to compete at nationals. She competed in quick serve restaurant management, which she placed 6th in and received a leadership scholarship.



leadership skills at nationals and continue to try hard in DECA for the years to come,” Marissa Danauskas said.

Shortly after state DECA, Health Occupations Students of American (HOSA) tried their hand at their own state competition.

Adviser Jennifer Carda said she was very proud of her students. She said they worked from the beginning of the year on their own projects.

“Just to prepare themselves for their events, a lot of the students studied for the written tests on their own,” Carda said. “We also had study sessions during guided

practice study where they came in and worked on practical skills with each other.

The categories ranged for the students. East HOSA came out with 13 national qualifiers. Carda said there was a variety of projects from the students.

“We took 20 kids to state this year and they competed in all kinds of events from community awareness, biomedical lab science, medical assisting, forensic medicine, community emergency response team, and a variety of others,” Carda said.

One of the 13 winners was senior Morgan Sautter. It was



(Left) Junior Shelby Van Holland, and seniors Abbie Deng and Hailey Hendry earn 5th place for Broadcast Journalism Apr. 6. *Photo courtesy of Gabbie Estep.* (Above) DECA students competed in Lincoln March 14-16 and 12 qualifiers will go on to nationals at the end of April *Photo courtesy of Dawn Danauskas.*

Sautter's second year on HOSA and first year qualifying for nationals. She placed first with senior Madison Luderman in the community awareness category.

“Our project was Baby Shark saves lives where we taught middle and high schoolers how to do hands only CPR,” Sautter said. “We chose the song ‘Baby Shark’ because it has 100 to 120 beats per minute which is what you need for CPR.”

East's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter was the last to take on state Apr. 4-6. FBLA had 11 national qualifiers. Senior Makenna Johannsen was

among those winners and said their goal is to now prepare for the trip.

According to Johannsen, she taught students about business by partnering with Habitat for Humanity Home Store and volunteering there. The FBLA advisor Andrew Werner said the chapter is now preparing for nationals in San Antonio.

"I think state went really well," Werner said. "The students put together a lot of good projects, worked really hard, went there and competed well. In the end we had four state champions and brought home nine trophies."

Winter Winds provides musical opportunity

Abbie Deng
Opinion Editor

East marching band has taken things indoors with the Winter Winds Ensemble. Currently, the Winter Winds program at East is one of the top in the world.

“We moved up a class this year we’re in Scholastic Golden. WGI [Winter Guard International] is a world championship, so currently the group is fourth in the world in Scholastic A and we will be competing at Open so we will see how that goes, we got about another couple weeks to enjoy that title if you will, and then we’ll see what scholastic

open does for us,” Wright said.

These group of students use the Winter Winds program as an opportunity to continue to strengthen their skills for the marching season.

“It’s all winds; it’s another avenue to keep them moving with marching band as far as moving their feet, moving their body,” Wright said, “It really helps the marching band aspect of it when we talk about body movement. We will do different body things when we’re moving or maybe there’s a little dance”

Winter Winds is open to all band students to participate in and has been a

great opportunity for many students who are involved, according to freshman Nadija Logans.

“One of my favorite things about Winter Winds is that since there are only a few people, it’s very close knit, almost like a family and we also get to have fun during our show,” Logans said. “At our competition on Saturday, we got first in our class so that’s awesome and we’ve put together a whole show already which is crazy because there’s a lot of stuff to it.”

Junior Noah Feemster participates in the ensemble by playing the trumpet. According to Feemster, he has learned a few major

factors that add to the prosperity of the organization.

"I think the key components of this group are definitely respect, I think teamwork is big, we're all one big team you can say we're also a big family so," Feemster said. "Winter Winds has helped me improve, it keeps me playing my instrument at a more advanced level because concert season can be a little different sometimes so doing winter winds has helped me stay up to my highest potential. If they really feel like they're into what they're doing they'll definitely fit in because they'll be around people who also like to do what they're doing and so it will work out."

(Below) Senior Lydia Kirkland performs her flute solo at a competition on Mar. 30. The Winter Winds competition was held at East. *Photo by Silas Chisam.*



East musical cast, crew performs 'Les Miserables'

Camrin Smith
Reporter

Walking into the auditorium before the show started created a feeling of excitement that buzzed throughout the crowd. Backstage, a cast and crew upward of 50 students prepared for opening night of East's spring musical, "Les Miserables."

"This year I was very nervous, but also excited because I've had a lot more time to prepare the music than I have had in previous years. I felt a lot more put together," junior Alex Campuzano said.

On Mar 14 through 16, Chieftain Theater put on "Les Miserables" in the auditorium. Following auditions, cast ran music and blocked scenes.

"The cast and crew have had very sporadic rehearsals, usually every night during the school week," Campuzano said.

Les Miserables takes place during the French Revolution, and highlights the corruption of the class system. It is a tragic story with a series of love affairs and follows the story of a young girl growing up in the poverty, being abused by her caretakers and then being taken away by a man who raises the girl on his own.

"I played Thenardier, who is a drunkard, who in the beginning of the musical owned an inn, but after the inn wasn't bringing in

enough money, he started a gang in the streets of Paris," Campuzano said.

Rehearsals took place in the months of January, February and the first two weeks of March. The rehearsals varied during the weekdays over the course of preparation.

"The music is really tough. It's much more intricate and demanding than the past couple of shows we've put on. I'm very proud of all of the people involved in the show," director Joe Hamik said.

With the amount of snow days East encountered, the cast and crew were surprised that the show went the way it was designed to, according to sophomore Kaytelynn Webb.

"With the snow days, I feel like it affected act two more than act one. I feel like it showed through the more intricate solo scenes and when there were several layers to the music. Obviously with missing a lot of days we missed a lot more music days than actual blocking days and that really showed," Webb said.

Much like previous years, the cast and crew put in a lot of effort. Webb also said the show was more challenging than the years before on account of the harsh theme of "Les Miserables."

"This musical was so emotionally challenging with getting in the mindset of being poor and homeless, [which] can really be seen by the main cast," Webb said.

Seeing double with twins, triplets at East

Sharon Guchu
Reporter

Looking around, it is hard not to see when two or more people look alike. Sometimes the slight differences are noticeable, and sometimes it takes a second glance to notice any difference at all. At East, there are many sets of twins and even one set of triplets, both identical and fraternal.

"It is really cool to be a twin," junior Chase Rody said.

Sophomores Lindsey, Christine and Sara Vance are the only triplets and juniors Chance and Chase Rody are one of the sets of twins here at East. Lindsey, Christine and Sara Vance are fraternal triplets and Chance and Chase Rody are fraternal twins.

"Well, I've never known anything besides being a triplet," sophomore Sara Vance said. "It's like having a built-in two best friends."

Being a twin means growing up with another person who is the same age and when people are nearer in ages they tend to get along or have some similar interest. That is why people think that twins have a special power of communicating, but it's just they bond they have created during the years.

"My brother and I tend to get along and bond differently than my stepsister," Chase Rody said.

Although twins and triplets were born on the same day or around the same time that does not mean they are the same person. They might hang around each other and even say or do some of the same things, but

they also have different personalities like everyone else.

"We don't have much [in common], other than we like gaming," Chase Rody said.

Having different personalities doesn't mean that they don't have similar interests. Lindsey, Sara and Christine are all into music.

"We have some similar interests such as music and we all play instruments," Sara Vance said.

Birthdays are some of the things that many people ask twins about. According to Lindsey Vance, that is the most popular question she receives when she is asked about being a triplet.

"We developed different personality traits and such and the birthday song is one thing that is always interesting because either a jumbled mess of everyone's name or we sing three times and nobody wants to sing the birthday song three times," Lindsey Vance said.

It is common for multiples to run in the family. For the Vances, this remains true in their family.

"Multiples run in our family because my grandma is a twin and then our distant cousin is a twin so yes multiple do run in our family," Sara Vance said.

Being a twin or triplet seems fun and for twins they could not imagine being the only child because they have grown up knowing the other twin or triplet.

"It's also kind of hard to imagine being an only child because you always have someone there for you," Lindsey Vance said.



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Career Technical Education

Bringing career readiness East offers many career-based courses

Madie Ybay
Features Editor

All across America, high schools and public community colleges are following the Career Technical Education (CTE) program which has different pathways consisting of classes to help prepare students for their future careers.

“Having CTE is very beneficial to students seeing as if they have at least some idea of what field they want to go into, they can test the waters by going down a pathway. It also gives students the knowledge

to be prepared for college when they graduate,” counselor Sara Powell said.

CTE is a program integrated into high schools and community colleges across the United States. CTE helps shape and perfect skills students have for certain career choices by setting up a framework of pathways students can take. These pathways are illustrated with specific classes to help succeed in that field of work.

“I have taken introduction to business, management internship and marketing. I plan on taking

VEI and accounting. All of these classes are preparing me for my future career in business and I am glad that East has all these classes available so I can be set for my future,” freshman Samuel Samenko said.

There are 16 career clusters which are the overarching categories of careers. Within those categories are 79 pathways for each individual job. The clusters include: agriculture, architecture, performing arts, business, education, finance, public administration, health science, hospitality, human services,

information technology, law security, manufacturing, marketing, engineering and transportation.

“We will offer the Introduction to Skills and Technical Sciences class this summer for the first time,” Powell said. “The hope will be more students will be able to take this prerequisite during the summer allowing them to take more advanced classes during the school year.”

CTE is taught across America under the same structure. Prerequisites guide students and give them the knowledge they will need

to continue in other courses. In 2008 the central core was created and was updated in 2012 to give the students a more defined pathway that will help further them in their path of success. Schools with CTE programs work with many experts in each field to set the standards.

“We introduced several new career paths last year and continue to look for new opportunities to bring these classes to East or offer them to students off campus,” Powell said.

At East, we currently have the clusters that follows the Nebraska Career Educational Model. Those clusters include natural resources, information systems, technical sciences, health sciences, human services and marketing and managing. This model is on display in every classroom and shows off all the core academics that can branch off into different specific careers. East will also be getting a new building to assist in having enough space to teach CTE courses.

“East and West have had CTE course offerings for many years. The courses can range from an introduction level through advanced levels. The classes are offered as electives and students can take any of the courses they have an interest in,” district Coordinator of College and Career Education and Program Services Brad Stueve said.

Second semester, students receive the registration guide that explains each class and the amount of credits needed to graduate. There is also a section in the guide that gives an explanation to the different clusters that the school offers. Students can reach out to counselors to receive more information on how they can set themselves up for success in high school.

“These classes have helped me a lot to understand the importance of business and how to be successful in a business setting,” Semanko said. “I think it’s not only beneficial to me in business, but to all students because it gives a chance to learn more about their future careers.”

Senior Madison Luderman instructs how to perform CPR during the 8th grade Career Expo. CTE classes give students the opportunity to participate in classes that can potentially lead to their future careers. The district envisions a CTE capstone program to be house in a new building in the future. “We will work to determine the programming and space needs of each program. At this time, we do not have an exact date for the program to begin,” Assistant Superintendent Robert Moore said.

The building where the courses would be held would house classrooms and programs for students of both East and West high schools. Programs that could have capstone courses there include, but are not limited to journalism,

Jacob Kriewald
Reporter

East offers many courses that bring the opportunity for students to get ready for what they want their future career to be.

“It helps students know career paths and which classes and activities they should take and be involved in to lead to their career choice,” counselor Colleen Pribyl said

The CTE courses are the elective classes that file into a career pathway. At East, there are the journalism classes, for example, Video Journalism and

Journalistic Writing. Those both fill into the yearbook and newspaper production classes which prepare students for a career in journalism or media production. According to some students, the pathways are not clearly explained during course sign ups.

“I can’t say we are great at advertising these. I wish we did more, but we have so much information to cover and so little time that, unfortunately, some of it gets skipped,” Pribyl said.

Because this is not advertised as well as it could be, many students do not actually get the exposure to these opportunities. This affects



the students who do not have the courage to get out and talk to someone about college and careers.

“I think that there is a better way to get the information out to students on the courses that we offer and what doors they may open for students. I think that we have to sell our courses to our students and get them interested in the courses we offer,” Pribyl said.

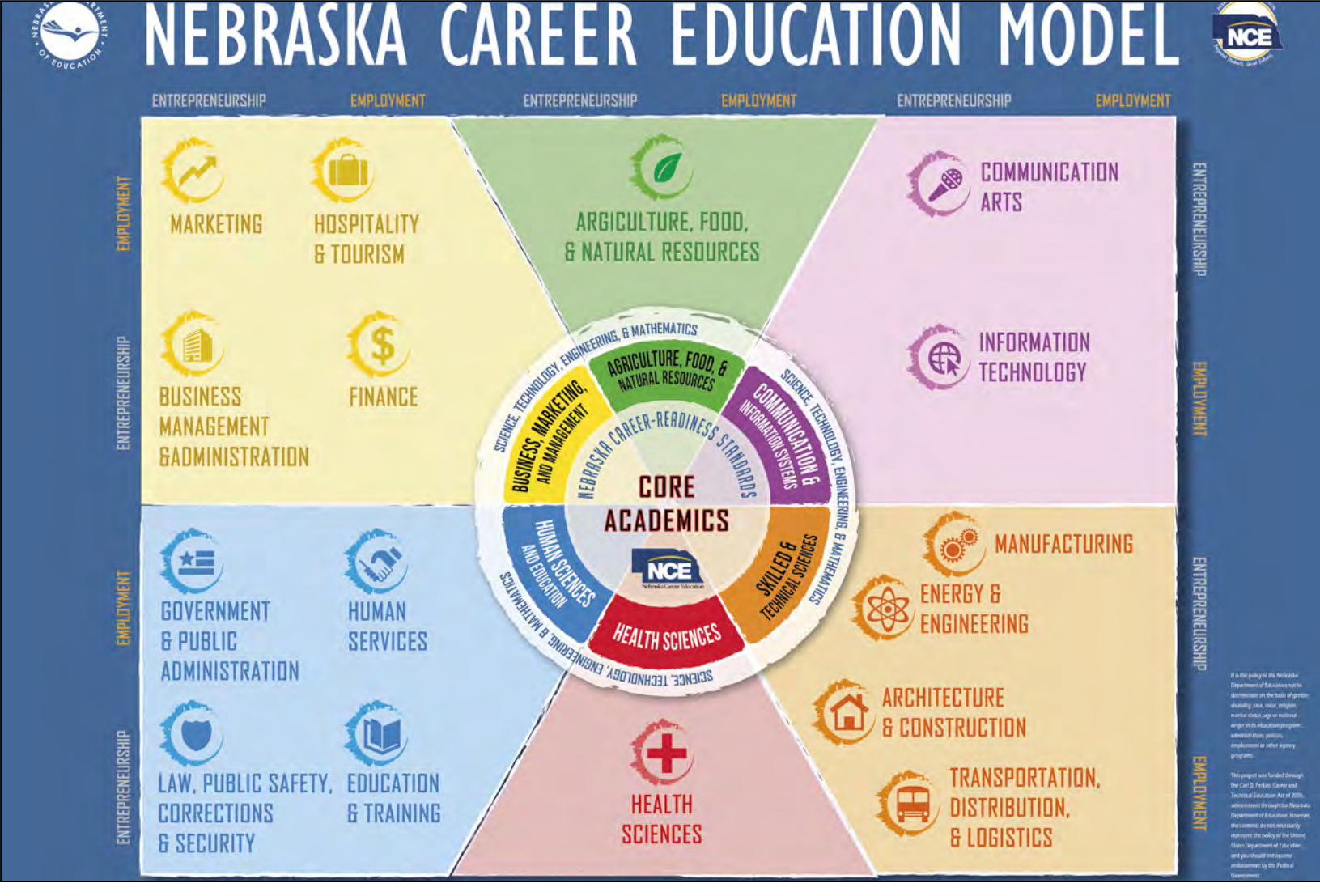
The courses that East offers range from health sciences to computer programming. The school in general houses a variety of different classes and clubs. Some of these courses are organizations, as in Health Occupation Students of

America, Future Business Leaders of America, or DECA. Others classes are, journalism, skilled and technical sciences, forensics, and culinary arts.

“Each career field is composed of career clusters. The clusters are more specific segments of the labor market. Each cluster is a grouping of careers that focus on similar subjects or similar skills. A basic understanding and exploration of each of the clusters will provide students with a solid foundation for career decision-making to conceptualize the entire world of work,” according to Nebraska Career Education.

The future for the CTE courses will move onward and continue to expand and develop. There are plans set in place to renovate an old building and turn it into a CTE course only building that will be used by both East and West.

“As a district we are always working to implement new things. We are looking at creating more full pathways and adding more internships and job shadowing experiences for our students. We are also looking at adding more certifications for our students to complete as well,” assistant principal Nathaniel Bacon said.



The chart provides information to students about career pathways and is the basis of the new career center planned for Bellevue Public Schools district. “BPS believes our district is ready to provide programming that will allow students the opportunity to participate in ‘Next Level’ work-related experiences and internships across the community,” assistant superintendent Dr. Robert Moore said. *Infographic from Nebraska Career Education.*



(Left) CTE capstone courses such as business, health science, and culinary could be included in the new building. Senior Kaylene Serrano-Rivera talks about why she loves taking culinary. “I love cooking with my friends and making many dishes,” Serrano-Rivera said.

(Right) Business classes can help the future generation understand how the economy works and functions. Senior Alexander Warren is a part of one of the business classes at East. “I like being in these classes because you learn about real life stuff and how to buy a house, do investments, and loans,” Warren said

District shares plans for new CTE building

McKayla Vermeer
Co-Editor in Chief

Bellevue Public Schools (BPS) have been working on securing a building to house several CTE capstone courses and implement them into the high schools’ curriculum.

“We want to develop programs that are relevant and beneficial to a multitude of students in a variety of career fields. We would be looking to develop a new structure for and to expand our current internship, mentorship, and on the job-related programs,” Assistant Superintendent Robert Moore said.

The building where the courses would be held would house classrooms and programs for students of both East and West high schools. Programs that could have capstone courses there include, but are not limited to journalism,

business, marketing, skills and technical sciences, health sciences, information technology, and culinary arts

“We are working to identify capstone type coursework to enhance our current career programming. Nothing specific has been determined at this time. But whatever is developed would be shared programs between the two high schools,” Moore said.

The building for the classes will possibly be in the old Computer Cable Connection building near the Welcome Center. One of the classes that is in the plan to be extended is the current culinary and hospitality program.

“I love being a part of the culinary classes and I’m excited that there could be an expansion. I really think that this could be an exciting addition for future students,” junior and culinary

student Elizabeth Noble said.

The purpose of including the courses into the BPS curriculum is to provide “next level” education for students interested in specific areas. Moore said that the hope for these courses is that it will provide preparation courses for career fields that students have interest in.

“We are currently facilitating interest within our community to expand opportunities for students to access these experiences that are related to career fields of interest. These programs will be designed to provide our students with real-life and relevant learning experiences in collaboration with local businesses, non-profits, and industry professionals,” Moore said.

Because the building has not been purchased and the plan for the new career classes has not been approved, nothing is definite at this

point. Many changes could still be made as there is not a set timeline at this moment.

“Even the idea that these classes could be extended to be more in-depth is exciting to me. I know that students go into these classes for their future career, so I think that this could be great for those students especially,” Noble said.

While there is not a formal or official timeline for this program and building, there is still hope that the plan will workout. The plan and design of the program are still in the works, which leaves a lot of room for change later.

“We are really in the early stages of designing a career center concept,” Moore said.

The center would be focused heavily on career readiness, so administrators are looking at getting institutions of higher education involved. Having the

new center as a resource would provide a more flexible schedule to students in either extracurriculars or co-curriculars.

“We are looking for opportunities to partner with local higher education agencies to provide dual enrollment credit for career classes that are taught at the center. We would try to schedule programs at the center to provide flexibility for those students involved in extra and co-curricular activities,” Moore said.

Ideally, the courses would end up continuing to benefit many future students. To some, the courses themselves could be a selling point to join BPS.

“I know that if these courses ended up being offered then that would definitely persuade me to looking into switching into BPS, if I didn’t already go here,” Noble said.

Soccer kicks off season

Sharon Guchu
Reporter

Soccer season just started and the teams have been preparing for the games coming up. Sophomores Anthony Melendez and Kate Dumbase are conditioning and practicing with the team.

“I was super nervous since it’s my first year playing,” Dumbase said.

Different people can try for the team, including players like Kate Dumbase or players who have played their whole lives like Anthony Melendez. Coaches will coach anyone, but behaviour does affect

whether you get on the team or not.

“If you have a positive mindset, you’re coachable, and you work hard on the field, I think those are 3 things that stand out. All coaches want kids who are going to do those 3 things well,” girls varisty soccer coach Fjell said.

Other than players on the field, coaches are present to lead the players and guide them anywhere they might be stuck or need help with. Fjell has been the East coach for 15 years and this is her 13 year of being the head coach.

“I started coaching just because when I was at college I got the opportunity to

help on a team that was playing in college and I just really liked coaching,” Fjell said. “I knew when I was done playing soccer in college I still wanted to be with the game and I just love working with kids so putting those two things together.”

While playing the games, the teams have practice their footwork and condition to get the stamina to play longer. At East, they practice with games and get help whenever they need it or whenever the coach sees there is a place for improvements.

“We do a lot of drill work a lot of ball work, physical work as well sometimes

we go to the weight room,” Melendez said.

The upperclassmen have been helping out with the new coaches and that helps the coaches by having more help.

“I am really excited about this year it has been kind of fun year to coach so far because there have been so many new players we have eleven on the field 67 of them are freshmen so we have a brand new squad this year. We have a lot of good upperclassmen that I think are going to take a leadership role to kind of help push out team along all season long.” Fjell said.

Sophomore Sami Redding heads down the field to attempt to score. *Photo by Sharon Guchu*



Making the move from West to East

Athletes transfer from West to East in search of different environment

Emily Nelson
Reporter

Athletes that have transferred from West to EAsT have made the switch in search of a different sports culture. Some student athletes said they left West to pursue other opportunities.

“I went to West my freshman and sophomore year and played basketball, but after then I decided to transfer to East,” junior Tre Norman said.

Norman said he transferred in hopes of receiving more opportunities for his basketball career. He said while he missed some of his old teammates this season, he was excited to start off the season with new ones.

“I think it was a good move for me just because I could show my skills better through this team,” Norman said.

Similarly, junior Kendall Mercer said he transferred for the same reasoning, but for baseball. The juniors said they wanted to shine more in the sports they love to do. Mercer played baseball for the Thunderbirds until he decided to transfer to East for his junior season.

“I am excited for a new chance to play on a different team and to see how this season goes,” Mercer said. “I definitely get along better with my teammates and coaches here.”

In regards to the process of transferring, students must acquire a transfer form from the Welcome Center and give a description of why they want to transfer. Students then wait to hear back in the form of a letter to know whether or not their transfer has been accepted.

“I wanted to transfer for my own reasons; no one really pushed me to transfer,”

Norman said. “Another reason to transfer was to be able to get to school easier than before.”

Students cannot put on the form that they want to transfer for athletic reasons and after transferring are not eligible to play a varsity sport for 90 school days. Activities Director Chad Holtz said the attendance border closed and the transfer of students without hardships decreased.

“Now that the district has closed the attendance boundaries, if you’re zoned for East you go to East, if you’re zoned for West you go to West,” Holtz said.

Holtz said to determine where the student wants to go for sports initially, coaches will promote their programs to prospective 8th grade athletes. In cases like Norman and Mercer, athletes may choose to transfer in their high school career. Holtz said coaches may promise unrealistic plans for an athlete.

“I think there is a right and wrong way to promote your program,” Holtz said. “I don’t think I would ever talk to a kid about playing time because you can’t really guarantee that when they’re in 8th grade. So really you need to promote the benefits of being in your program, but not necessarily saying, ‘Well if you come here you’ll be a starter on varsity’ because you can’t really predict that.”

Norman and Mercer said that neither were promised such, but that they didn’t believe they were awarded the opportunities they hoped for.

“I want both schools to do their best,” Norman said. “I just think it was better for me personally to come to East and this past season showed that. We didn’t do as good as we should have, but we are a strong team no matter what.”

Caring for fields, track

Hailey Hendry
Co-Editor In Chief

As spring sport athletes begin to practice and use the fields, the damage from previous years and the long winter starts to surface. The turf and baseball field have little to no damage, while the track could use the most maintenance.

“The general care of the athletic fields really depend on the weather. If the weather isn’t very good we try to stay off the fields because we don’t want to do any damage to them a lot of times you need to be patient and wait for mother nature to melt the snow or dry out fields,” Activities Director Chad Holtz said.

The turf was recently re-done last school year, but the track itself has significant damage that has been brought up to school officials. It is scheduled to be resurfaced in the future.

“Our track has some serious issues at this point. We have a huge gouge across three lanes and a lane that the track is lifting at the start line. This has been pointed out, but not sure what they will do since it is scheduled to be resurfaced after the season,” head track

and field coach Kendra Holmes said.

According to head soccer coach Sara Fjell, there is not much to do for upgrades concerning the turf as it is in good condition. As far as maintenance goes with the new turf, the snow cannot be touched. The track and soccer players that require the use of the turf had to wait until the snow and ice have melted.

“It is very frustrating considering the fact that we had games we need to practice for soccer,” senior Lauren Roberts said. “We need to see how the girls for are starting line up would look like. So we had to practice indoors in tight gym where you can’t play a realistic game.”

The city of Bellevue maintains the baseball field since it is used by the College World Series (CWS) for practices and games, according to senior Tyler Haney.

“The field is easily the best in Class A,” Haney said. “More and more schools are going to the full turf fields, or the turf infield/ grass outfield, but we won’t here at East, which is what I like. Our field has a top of the line draining system and there are even drains in both dugouts. We as a team take pride in the field and love playing there.”

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Coach Fjell shows passion for supporting athletes

Diego Vasquez Glover
Reporter

After a back and forth between teams stuck in a 0 to 0 game, girls soccer athletes approached the opposing goal and closely missed; head soccer coach Sara Fjell gave a quick kick to the ground and started taking mini-hops with both of her fists clenched.

“I’m super competitive; you can ask any of my former or my current players, I was always a competitive athlete myself, just love to play the game, love to compete, don’t like to lose,” Fjell said.

Getting to her current status of head girls soccer coach took many years of being a student athlete herself, which inspired her passion for staying as East’s coach for a total of 15 years.

“So I was a varsity letter winner in high school for soccer and basketball and then I played college soccer at Doane University, and I played four years there, captain of my senior year. I always knew I was going to be a part of coaching probably because I just loved the game and I loved working with girls and just loved being a part of that atmosphere,” Fjell said.

Being a part of that atmosphere has allowed Fjell to expand in working with her athletes outside

of being soccer players, and has helped her form relationships throughout the years in giving advice to students, which in turn helps students to grow. The 2019 NSAA manual states that aside from educational based activities, it is possible for students to learn from settings outside the traditional academic classroom.

“All of the girls that come in before school, come after school, they might just come in to talk about stuff that’s going on, they might come in to just ask for advice, I just try to always try to do that for my girls cause I know that I want them not only to just be good soccer players but just good people,” Fjell said.

For her current team, there is much growth waiting to be expanded upon in the next few years with freshman, leaving Fjell excited to for the current on season.

“Right now we’re three and three [wins vs. losses], we have of our 11 kids that play, we have six freshman that start, so it’s going be really fun to see what that freshman class is going to do over the next four years,” Fjell said.

Senior Morgan Sautter describes what soccer coach Fjell can be like when playing for her during games.

“She’s very compassionate, and



During the girls varsity game against West, head girls soccer coach Sara Fjell looks for senior Nydia Clarke to sub into the game. “You kind of try to match up your personnel with your opponent’s personnel,” Fjell said. “The goal is to have everyone playing at the same high level on the field so as long as we can kind of eliminate some of those small weaknesses along the way.” *Photo by Diego Vasquez Glover*

really competitive. She always wants the best for us but she also knows that we can do better,” Sautter said.

The relationships created

between coach Fjell and her soccer athletes, senior Hannah Madison explains how Fjell is there for any students wanting to speak to her or even get some advice.

“She’s basically the soccer mom, she’s always there like if we’re having a problem or a bad day she’ll listen. She’s basically like a counselor,” Madison said.



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The role of the Tom Tom is not only to promote the accomplishments and high-lights of the school, but also to inform the Bellevue East community of events and issues that will affect the students, fac-ulty, 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, accord- ing to standards of journalism. Material judged to cause significant psychologi- cal 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. The policy of the Bellevue Public Schools is to provide an equal opportunity for all students; to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, physical or mental handicap, marital status and political affiliation; and through affirmative action to promote the full realization of equal opportunity. Registration practices will demonstrate full adherence to the letter and intent of federal and state government policy guaranteeing equal opportunity for all students.

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Lack of diveristy in film, television creates issues

Editorial

Tom Tom Staff

For as long as the common person has had access to television, shows and movies have entertained audiences across the world. Throughout time, visual media in the form of television has grown to evolve, with streaming services like Netflix and Hulu coming to the forefront as the way consumers view shows and movies.

While the amount of content viewers can watch is growing, so are concerns regarding diversity. We believe that it is the duty of writers and producers to accurately portray the diversity of society in shows and movies.

When thinking about diversity in media, the most common thought specifically regards racial diversity. In 2016 when the Oscar nominees were announced it came out that all 20 actors in the lead and supporting role categories were white for what was then the second year in a row, which then sparked the Twitter hashtag #OscarsSoWhite.

Researchers with the University of Southern California (USC) conducted a study with 900 of the most popular films from 2007 to 2016. In this study, they found that 70.8 percent of characters in these films were white, 13.6 percent black, 3.1 percent Hispanic, 5.7 percent Asian, and 7 percent other.

Twenty-five of the 900 films had no African American speaking characters, 54 had no Latino speaking characters and 44 had no Asian speaking characters.

The results of this were staggering especially when considering that in 2016, 49 percent of moviegoers were from these underrepresented groups.

While racial diversity is most commonly thought of when considering diverse media representation, gender diversity also remains an issue.

According to the USC researchers, only 31.4 percent of characters in the same 900 films previously mentioned were females, and out of the top 100 films of 2016, only 34 of the leading and co-leading roles were portrayed by females.

Statistically, females make up approximately 50 percent of the population which means that they should make up 50 percent of characters portrayed in movies, at least.

Additionally, out of 1,438 content creators for films, there were five female directors, 38 female writers, 213 female producers, and two female composers. This creates a total of 258 women and 1,180 men in charge of creating content for films, which boils down to ratio of approximately 4.5 men for every 1 woman.

The lack of representation of LGBTQ characters in television shows and movies also is an issue because approximately 14.7 million adult Americans identify as LGBTQ.

According to Gallup. GLAAD - a media monitoring group founded by LGBTQ people - states that the diversity of regular characters on

primetime scripted broadcasting is at an all time high at 8.8 percent of these characters being in the LGBTQ community, which equals 75 characters. While this statistic is at an all time high, it is still strides away from equal representation of sexualities.

Once again referencing the USC study, of the top 100 films in 2016, 76 percent had absolutely no LGBTQ characters. Of the 24 percent of films that did have one or more LGBTQ character, 79.1 percent of the characters were white.

One of the most underrepresented groups in film is people that have a disability. In the same USC study, only 2.7 percent of all speaking characters were shown to have a disability.

The breakdown of this 2.7 percent includes 64.5 percent with a physical disability, 31.5 percent with a mental disability and 21.8 percent were communicative.

The lack of representation of people with disabilities just perpetuates the idea that people with disabilities are somewhat of a rarity in society and our culture.

When television shows and movies portray people with disabilities either inaccurately or as uncommon, then it continues to spread negative ideology about those with disabilities.

Without proper representation, people may have misconceptions of those with disabilities which can overall just end up being harmful to that community.

According to Psychology Today, having diversity is important

because it gives children someone to look up to. When children grow up having someone portrayed on screen that looks/acts like them that they can idolize, they are more likely to grow up with more confidence compared to those that are a part of underrepresented demographic groups.

Representation of everyone in the media is important because it gives a more accurate picture of what our society looks like. People of many different backgrounds and life experiences exist and deserve to be portrayed more accurately and extensively in film and television.

It should not be considered “wild” or “out there” to create characters from underrepresented groups, because everyone deserves to see themselves represented in some way on screen, and this should be heavily taken into consideration when writers and those who cast for movies make their final decisions.

Of course the ideal solution would be make every single movie perfectly accurate and diverse, but as that is unlikely anytime soon, an easy first step would for filmmakers to even consider those that are not as represented.

Overall, an increase in representation in both television shows and movies need to increase in order to create a more accurate picture of the diverse society that we live in. By choosing not to represent a large part of our people, filmmakers are functionally erasing these minorities which only brings the quality and accuracy of these movies down.

Teen drug use should not be common



Camrin Smith
Reporter

In the beginning of what felt like 2014, the ideology and upbeat sense of the use of electric tobacco products known as “vape culture” has flooded our social media platforms and the minds of many teens and young adults.

The idea of smoking and drinking has always been appealing to the youth, and has increased dramatically in the 20th century with e-cigarettes.

With the changing technology,

new vape products like Pods, Juuls, and other nicotine ridden products have become easier for teens to obtain, and with the resurgence in marijuana use, teen drug use is becoming normalized.

The fact that drug use has become normalized and accepted is not okay and the necessary actions should be taken to dilute this epidemic.

E-cigarettes, also known as “vapes,” have made a spike in popularity in the last year from 11.7 percent of high schoolers to around 20 percent. That is about 3 million teens admitting to having a nicotine addiction from different types of Pods and, Juuls. 24 percent of teens are reported to vape on a daily basis says Newport Academy.

The fact that the most that schools are doing is putting up “vaping kills” signs outside of the bathroom, rather than educating the student body on what the effects are is dumbfounding.

In the United States, according to therecoveryvillage.com, 35.1 percent of high school seniors smoked Marijuana last year. That may be below half, but it is still a

big enough number to be a problem that people refuse to address. If people do not smoke marijuana, they will vape.

Vaping has become a major issue in schools across America, including Bellevue Schools. Memes and celebrity use plastered all over social media promoting the use of various vape products and sensationalizing the use of these products have also influenced the young minds attraction to the products.

Harder drugs such as opioids (pain killers), LSD, and acid are also falling into the hands of teens and young adults. Nearly 25 percent of high school students in America have used at least one type of illicit drug.

Over 2 percent of high school seniors are addicted to cocaine. This is all because the topic of drug use is not talked about enough to students.

Small units in health classes shed light on the fact that drugs exist and adults use them, but never once have I heard the statistics of teen use prior to research on my own time.

Nicotine in general raises blood pressure, and could cause a heart attack. Different liquid additives such as glycerol and glycol have been linked to cancer and heart disease.

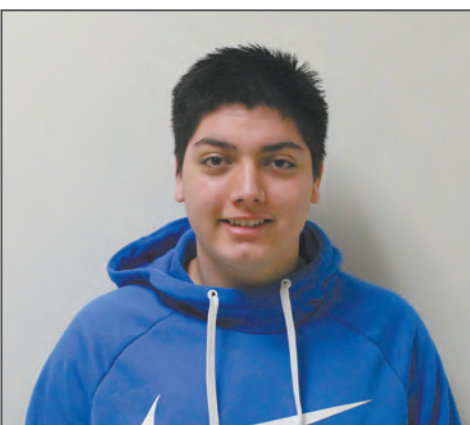
Also from Newport Academy, chemicals in the different e-juice flavors have been linked to blood cell damage.

Stimulant drugs, such as cocaine, cause people to experience paranoia, irritability, and a plethora of other short term effects. As for long term, weight loss, eating disorders and other serious health complications come into play.

So with all the drama behind the harm of these products, why is it becoming normalized? Why do people just expect teens to do this, and why is more to rid the issue not being done?

Of course, the use of drugs in teens will never go away, but making fact that there is a problem and implementing into health and science curriculums the effects of what they choose to put in their bodies is a start to deterring people from harming themselves and people around them.

Defending yourself against viruses



Diego Vasquez Glover
Reporter

With technology today, many people have utilized it for any daily needs in their lives, whether it be for work or simply entertainment. However, many people can still learn how to take preventative measures

against the multiple tactics used to steal personal information or defend against programs made to cause damage to your device, with or without the use of anti-virus software.

The rate that viruses, malware, phishing attacks, and many other unique threats are being made and spread poses great risks to any user on the internet. It's up to those that browse the internet to be educated in how to avoid these frequent risks.

According to Kaspersky Lab, an anti-virus software company, users alone using their services had encountered a grand total of 187,597,494 malicious files reported and logged as well as identifying 282,807,433 URLs containing malicious software in 2018 by itself. Those who may have known how to stay safe or not still are failing to identify the tricks used to get someone to download malware.

The dangers of your device becoming

infected are already prevalent, with at least 1/3 of all the world's computers in 2014 to have faced off against malware according to techneworld.com.

Those who have fallen victim to phishing techniques or malware run the risk of having their credit card numbers, passwords, and any other sensitive information they use on their devices exposed. If you fall victim to a phishing scam, you are just 1 out of 10 million other users who have had their information stolen says budgeting.thenest.com.

The U.S. Department Of Homeland Security mentions that depending what kind of malware is present on your device, any file could be damaged or destroyed, your device could be forced to use all of its resources causing it to possibly shut down, and more damaging malware could be installed by the present malware itself.

Some easy methods to identify the many

computer dangers facing us today can be utilized in order to prevent your devices from facing the risk.

In a techlabguys.com blog it is mentioned that a way to identify a malicious website is to read URLs, and they should actually be read from right to left in order to spot out any piece of the link that actually shows you are not on the correct domain.

Another way to help check to see if a site is safe is to type up the company or website domain name in a search engine for comparison between URLs. Very small details can be changed increasing the difficulty to spot the differences, but it pays to be cautious.

In a world of technology it is heavily recommended to pay for an antivirus program that is reputable, as programs exist where fake antivirus pretend to keep your system safe, but actually is downloading more malware, known as trojans.

Changes in climate should bring concerns to all



McKenzie Gandy
Reporter

Around the world, climate change is affecting the environment and the atmosphere one step at a time. Many species are going extinct because their habitat is no longer habitable. But why should we care about climate change? Climate change is an occurring issue that has worsened since 1988.

June 1, 2017 President Donald Trump stated he wanted to withdraw from The Paris Agreement which includes 174 countries working to decrease the chance of climate change around the world. The National Resources Defense Council stated that The Paris Agreement ensured that any country that had officially joined would not be officially withdrawing until November 2020.

That means that the United States would withdrawal right before the work starts happening to decrease the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency stated "The United States is one of the biggest countries contributing to the release of all these gases in the air along with China." That is a huge issue because we all need to do more to help the planet. The effects climate change has on animals and the environment is frightening. Why don't we care enough? Do we want the human race to slowly die off, too?

We all need to look at what we can do to help our planet from all of the long term effects. There are so many ways we can slow

down climate change.

For example, our cars that run on gas release a lot of carbon dioxide and other greenhouses gases into the atmosphere which also causes pollution. Teslas are electric cars that do not dispense any gases into the atmosphere which saves gas just by plugging it in at night so when you wake up it's ready to roll.

Even if you cannot afford an electric car you can still cut down on the amount of gas you produce into the air. In order to create a solution you can choose to use more eco friendly tools and products to help the environment.

Eco friendly tools are products you can use to keep the environment mostly clear from harmful things. Locations of stores across the nation provide different substitutes for plastic products. Eco tools consist of disposable towels, aprons. Using reusable straws save the turtles and many other inhabitants of the sea.

Doing things such as recycling and reducing the amount of plastic and gases you let out into the economy can help out tremendously. We could all plant more trees which would put more oxygen out in the atmosphere, but the main problem is we do not have enough room for it.

Industrialism includes the building and development of building and cities which can happen through deforestation. When we remove our natural resources like trees to make room for these developments, we harm our planet even more.

Industrialism is everywhere and its advancing at a rapid speed which causes habitats to be torn down and trees to be deconstructed. The biggest effects from industrialism is the pollution in the air we breathe and water.

Many groups and organizations such as Sierra Club are working hard to try and keep our planet safe from letting out more greenhouse gases into our atmosphere.

The Sierra Club is an organization in which people take on protecting the earth in different ways including on educating people in how to protect the planet and how to minimize the use of plastic.

A variety of people around the world also pick up all the plastic and trash off our beaches to keep our oceans safe which helps the different kinds of species in the sea to not swallow it.

We as the inhabitants and the dominant species of Earth really need to work harder to keep our planet safe before it gets too dangerous to live here.



Illustration by Zayda Birkel

Billie Eilish quickly becomes rising artist

Brooklyn Anderson
News Editor

Billie Eilish has become a rising artist since her first single “Ocean Eyes” has came out in 2017. Later in the years, Eilish released an extended play album called “Don’t Smile At Me” that has nine songs and “Ocean Eyes” being one of them.

In 2018, Eilish came out with “When The Party’s Over” single which was the debut single for her new album that recently came out. This album contains 14 songs and “Bury a Friend” is the single that really made her album present to

the people.

The first time I heard the “Bury a Friend” single, it gave me chills down my spine in a really good way. I have always loved Billie Eilish and when I found out she came out with a new single, I hopped right to the song and listened to it a lot of times. It is the type of song that is spooky and gives the vibe of being dark and different. When the music video came out, I already knew that I was going to love it because of the past music videos I have seen by Billie. I watched it the first time in the dark and really enjoyed it because it, again, gives that dark and creepy vibe. I was

loving the whole entire video as well as the song.

According to Eilish, the song “Bury a friend” is the perspective of the monster under the bed. The beginning starts with the chorus that draws the attention to the monster asking questions to the human being sleeping, wondering why the human is not scared of them. The last question in the chorus “When we all fall asleep, where do we go?” could imply a lot of meanings. The meaning that Eilish was trying to get across is that there could be an afterlife when we “fall asleep,” also known as when we die. When I say that this song is dark, it gets

pretty dark.

The first verse talks about how the monster is wanting to get answers from the human. In the last part of the verse “I wanna end me,” Billie is talking about how a lot of artists are sad and getting to that point of just wanting to end it all because of the sadness. The rest of the song continues on talking about death and the monster seems to change to keeping a secrecy so the monster doesn’t seem like it’s scary.

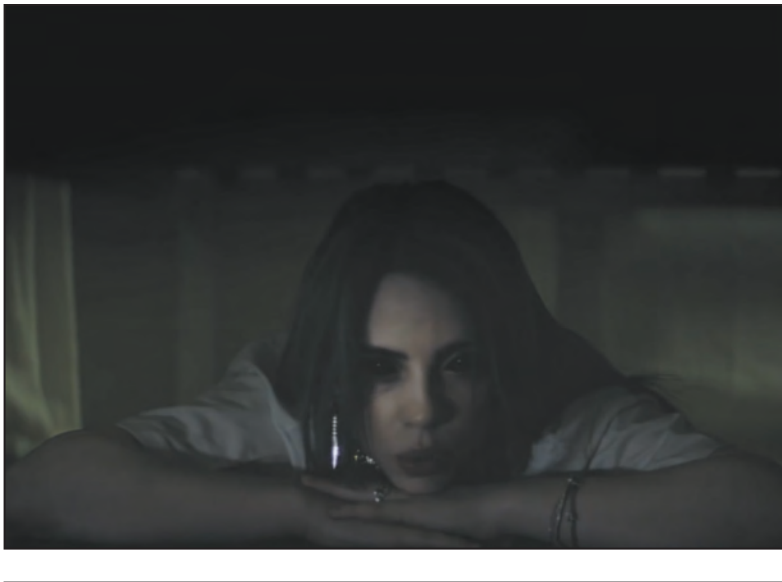
The music video allows people to understand the lyrics more because of how Eilish portrayed the monster under the bed. It really

showed off the lyrics and the meaning behind this song. One specific part of the video shows Eilish’s bareback and all of these needles start stabbing her back after the “I wanna end me” line which is a deep meaning to depression and suicidal thoughts.

The moment this song came out, I jumped so fast to play the song because personally I love Billie Eilish and her music. Eilish always has a meaning behind her lyrics and they are mostly depressing and sad which is her style. Eilish is a rising artist who shows her emotions through the way she sings and the videos that she creates.



Billie Eilish gets into character for her new album cover, “When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?” “If you put yourself in that mindset, what is this creature doing or feeling?” Eilish said. *Photo courtesy of Go Moxie. See more about Billie Eilish and her music on thechieftainspear.org.*



In her music video, “bury a friend” Billie Eilish is representing the monster she faces within herself. “When we made ‘bury a friend,’ the whole album clicked in my head,” said. “I immediately knew what it was going to be about, what the visuals were going to be, and everything in terms of how I wanted it to be perceived. It inspired what the album is about. ‘bury a friend’ is literally from the perspective of the monster under my bed.” *Image from Billie Eilish’s video courtesy of Moxie. See her videos on thechiefetianspear.org*

Ybay reviews: ‘Captain Marvel’ empowers women

Madie Ybay
Features Editor

If you are even thinking about watching this movie, you should -at least for Goose the cat. By far, the most important character in “Captain Marvel” would be the cat. Yes, the cat. Goose is the best character to be on screen. “Captain Marvel” has been one of the most highly anticipated movies of 2019, ever since that end credit scene of “Avengers: Infinity War,” Marvel fans have been waiting for this movie to help set up the plot of “Avengers: Endgame.” Boy, this movie did not disappoint. Not only was it a great set up to “Avengers: Endgame,” but on its own this movie was stunning.

I do not know if it was intentional or not, but “Captain Marvel” was released on March 8. Which happens to be International Women’s Day and “Captain Marvel” is the first major Marvel film with a female star. The movie is very empowering for women and sets a strong example for girls all around the globe. Brie Larson, who plays Captain Marvel, did an excellent job as this powerful heroine, showing the strength that she has. She

is constantly told she is not strong enough because she is a woman or she cannot control her emotions. However, she continuously rises back up and does not let anyone tell her she cannot do something. Captain Marvel shows the strength of being a woman with or without her powers.

This movie is set in 1995 making it one of the earlier movies in the Marvel Universe timeline. The movie explains certain details about the Marvel Universe that I was unaware of since I never really read the comic books. It even explained the little things like Captain Marvel’s suit colors. I might have “geeked” out a little in my seat when I saw the things that I recognized from other films. I also verbally “awww-ed” when I saw the cameos of Stan Lee. I think it’s so sweet to have the opening credits of Stan Lee instead of the regular heroes. I think it was such a nice tribute to the man behind all the magic.

The movie itself had a good plot line, amazing actors, beautiful special effects, but also the beginning of the movie is slower paced. I don’t have many negative things to say about this movie, nonetheless I wasn’t completely head over

heels in love with it. I think it was a great movie, just not an absolutely perfect movie. I give it a 4 out of 5 stars because of those small reasons previously mentioned. I recommend that really anyone watch it, I went with someone who really was not a Marvel fan and she told me after that she felt so empowered as a woman. If you’re looking for some empowerment or just a good movie, you don’t really have to be into Marvel for you to enjoy “Captain Marvel.”



Spring clothing styles

East students took a survey to determine the most popular clothing styles and brands.

Hailey Hendry
Editor in Chief

With the slow progression from winter to spring, some fashionable clothing trends have made it through the transition at East. East students were asked about their clothing preferences.

Using a random number generator, a poll was sent to 40 students, ten per grade level, on Apr. 2 to determine what fashion trends are the most popular within the school.

Beginning with shoes, the poll consisted of five categories: Converse, Vans, Nike, Adidas or other. Based on the sample, there was a tie between Vans and Nike at 40 percent and Converse at 20 percent.

The students then had to determine their favorite trend for pants. They had to decide between leggings, jeans, skinny jeans, mom jeans or other. Out of the respondents, the students chose both leggings and skinny jeans at 40 percent and mom jeans at 20 percent, as well. The

students were also asked if they preferred ripped jeans or not. 100 percent of the respondents said yes, and none said no. As well as determining whether or not they preferred ripped jeans, students were also asked to decide the fashion in which they wear their jeans. Checking all that apply, the students chose high waisted most often at 80 percent.

Concerning the style of shirt, the students were asked to choose between: crop tops, short sleeve, long sleeve, tank tops or other. At 60 percent, long sleeve was the number one choice with short sleeve at 40 percent.

According to the survey, students were asked if they preferred: jackets, hoodies, crewnecks, crop top hoodies or other. Students had also chosen hoodies at 80 percent and crewnecks at 40 percent.

After determining which trends students favored the most, the last question asked the students their favorite brand. Out of the choices, Nike, Adidas or other, students preferred Nike over Adidas with 60 percent of the votes for Nike.