

Coming soon (Above) Raising Cane's announced their arrival to Bellevue on Friday, Feb. 2., Senior Elena Felix eagerly anticipates the new restaurant. "I am so excited to see Raising Cane's coming to Bellevue. I think it's about time we get some new restaurants around us," Felix said.

Photo by Briana Benak

East business introduces Virtual Enterprise International class into curriculum next year

Madie Ybay
Opinions Editor

The new Virtual Enterprise International class will be offered by business instructor Andrew Werner next year. Students will learn to respond to business opportunities and get a feel for the business world. “I am looking forward to learning about the different business departments and meeting and working with the people in it,” business student sophomore Breck O’Grady said.

The class will teach students about entrepreneurship, global business, problem solving, personal finance, technology and communication that will help them in not only college, but also in everyday life. VEI is a project-based, student-

run class in which students can go to competitions, similar to FBLA and DECA. Students will choose their own business in the beginning of the year. At the end of the school year the students will evaluate their performance based off of how well their business did or did not do.

“I mainly wanted to take the class because I thought it would be a cool new experience and would look good for college,” sophomore Abigail Secrist said.

VEI first appeared in 2010, in New York, when the New York City Department of Education researched practice firms in Austria looking at the benefits of the instruction model. Since then VEI has been implemented into 500 U.S. schools. However, at East, the FBLA officers first noticed the

organization. When there was a competition in St. Louis for FBLA, they visited a school that already had VEI and then decided to bring the curriculum back to East. From there, they talked to Werner and principal Jeffrey Wagner about adding the class.

“We also had an opportunity to go to a school in St. Louis that currently has the VEI program; we visited them and were very impressed with the students’ learning curve. The students had nothing, but good things to say about it, so we decided to pursue it and add that program to Bellevue East,” Werner said.

VEI is a class that requires students to fill out an application, just like they would for a regular job. The application came out to students throughout the day on Jan

18. Students were chosen for VEI through recommendations from teachers and previous business experience, looking for students that would excel well in business.

“When I first heard I was selected I was kind of confused as to what it was exactly, but once I heard more about the class I got excited and hoped I would get in,” Secrist said.

This class will be like FBLA, but it will have major differences. FBLA is the foundation of understanding business and students can really get proficient at business topics. VEI is taking it that extra step further and is more hands-on. When compared to DECA, VEI is more about business as a whole. DECA is more focused on the marketing side of business, which can draw

out students to take VEI rather than any other business class.

“The purpose is to give students a real-world, hands-on learning experience where they acquire both the hard and soft skills of business,” Werner said. “We were looking for something that would be challenging for the students.”

If anyone would like to take this class, they will need an application. The way student get an application is if a teacher recommends them for the class. And even then, they will have to fill out the form and get accepted to take VEI. VEI is an advanced class that challenges the students, so that there is only a select few that get in.

“I wanted to take the class because of its real world application and it seemed fun,” O’Grady said.

Concert Band no longer choice for upperclassmen

Brooklyn Anderson
Entertainment Editor

The East band department is planning to take away the option of taking Concert Band from sophomores, juniors, and seniors to further their education and improve their skills.

According to band director Charles Wright, Concert Band is directed toward ninth graders who want to improve their fundamentals and techniques for advanced band. Concert Band was available as a second choice for students who did not want to do advanced band.

“I think overall it’s going to improve the program immensely,” Wright said. “We are getting the ninth graders in a consolidated class where they can focus on technique and fundamentals.”

Concert Band is a class that performs at home games, pep band performances, parades, and concerts. That class does not travel out of the school district like Marching

Band. Concert Band teaches the basics in the band department. That class will no longer be an option for upperclassmen because of the curriculum that the older students might have already been through.

“I hate to see that happen [cutting out upperclassmen] but at the same time, looking at what a comprehensive band program is, looking at what the curriculum and what we do feels what’s best for the overall program,” Wright said.

This years’ freshmen will not have a choice to for Concert Band next year. The idea of adding another class for the upperclassmen has been brought up at the beginning of the year and students formed some opinions on it.

“I was kind of sad that they were cutting concert band for upperclassmen,” freshman Mackenzie Porter-Iltzsch said. “I wanted to stay in concert band next year and not do marching band because of the things I have planned for the summer.”



All together Underclassmen practice in their concert band class. This class will no longer be an option as they become upperclassmen.
Photo by Selena Lewis

April at a
GLANCE
Events

April Fools Day
April 1
Prom/ After Prom
April 7

No School
April 3
Early Dismissal
April 20

Academics
ACT Test Day
April 3

Athletics

Girls Varsity Soccer
April 2

Varsity Track
April 3

Girls Varsity Soccer
April 9

Girls Varsity Tennis
April 10

Girls Varsity Soccer
April 10

Girls Varsity Tennis
April 11

Boys Varsity Soccer
April 12

Varsity Baseball
April 17

Varsity Baseball
April 21

Boys Varsity Soccer
April 21

Varsity Baseball
April 23

Boys Varsity Soccer
April 23

Varsity Baseball
April 24

Girls Varsity Soccer
April 24

Girls Varsity Tennis
April 28

Varsity Baseball
April 30

All athletics listed above are played at Bellevue East High School

Culinary I, II medal at Metro Invitational

Brooklyn Anderson
Entertainment Editor

East participated in the Culinary Invitational at Metropolitan's Community College's Fort Omaha Campus on Feb. 23 with a selection of five teams from the Culinary I and II classes.

The teams were judged on knife cuts, safety, sanitation, uniform and team work. The teams chose their own recipes based on a theme. Every team chose a theme based on the food they were going to make. Each of the teams were called Beauty and the Beast, Ice on my Neck, IncrEdibles, Fab Five, and Cheddar. Beauty and the Beast and Ice on my Neck received a bronze medal, while Fab Five and Cheddar received a silver medal.

"Students are judged based on industry standards and if they do not meet that standard they do not medal," Culinary Arts instructor Catherine Hansen said. "Two teams received a bronze medal and two received silver."

Before the invitational, each of the teams prepared for six weeks by choosing recipes, gathering the proper materials and measurements for each ingredient for their recipes. Senior Sarah Stoltenberg competed last year in Culinary I and took Culinary II in her last year of high school.

"I loved the experience and challenge," Stoltenberg said. "Cooking is something I really enjoy to do."

On the day of the invitational, students packed up gallon tubs for pots and pans, coolers full of wet and dry ingredients, knife kits and made the trip to Metro.

"We had everything measured out in advance and had to keep cool food at 41 degrees Fahrenheit or below, otherwise it was thrown out," senior Alyssa Black said.

At Metropolitan Community College, the teams were given two tables to set up their materials and ingredients on, along with one hour to complete one full-course meal. The teamwork put into the recipes was the most important part to make the food presentable.

"You learn so much about leadership and teamwork," Stoltenberg said. "It doesn't matter if you win or not, as long as you put your best in the challenge."

When presenting, the teams plated their food on one plate for each judge and placed them on the judges' table to be judged.

"I felt a lot of anxiety because we couldn't watch them taste our food and it was my first time at competition, so I didn't know how nice the judges were going to be toward my group," senior Makayla Schaffer said.



Cooking it up (Above Right) Senior Razha Duke competes alongside with teammate Asia Robards and their team Ice on my Neck, while chopping up vegetables at the annual MCC culinary competition Feb. 23. "My overall experience was bitter sweet. I prepared for this by literally cooking every other day and working on my cuts, getting the best flavors, plate representations and constantly timing our group," Duke Said. *Photo courtesy of Cathy Hansen*

Timing's everything (Middle Right) Seniors Ky Jackson, Pierce Pennell, Bryan Carver, and Sarah Stoltenberg make up Team Cheddar. The team worked on perparing multiple dishes for the MCC competition on Feb. 23. including salmon, chicken, and peanut butter churro. "I knew what to expect so I was not intimated since it was my second year doing this. I was just excited to be cooking and having fun with my friends," Jackson said. *Photo courtesy of Cathy Hansen*

Dream team (Bottom Right) Alongside her students, Culinary Arts instructor Cathy Hansen takes a breath as the busy day begins. "It is pretty stressful. In all other sports and most activities coaches can talk to their students during the competition, I cannot. Once the competition starts I cannot say anything to them and they cannot say anything to me. They are on their own. You see them making mistakes and you want to say something and you cannot. Sometimes I just have to walk away for fear they will say something to me," Hansen said. *Photo courtesy of Cathy Hansen*

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“The CBL project just happened to come up when I wanted to implement this project, so I made it as an assignment and I really want to continue this on to next year when I am a senior, and hopefully lower classes are able to continue for me when I graduate,” Laredo said.

Coach Taylor leaves after twenty years

Hailey Hendry
News Editor

East will be losing a long-time teacher and coach. Next year, due to lack of space for the new football coach, Nathan Liess, changes will be made to the school and coaching staff.

After finding out he was being reassigned, baseball coach and physical education instructor Aaron Taylor said he will continue

to coach for the upcoming season, but will not be returning after this season. He will become a physical education instructor for Avery Elementary.

“I was definitely surprised, but I understand that it was a business decision,” Taylor said.

Most of the players have heard about Taylor’s reassignment and have been supportive in wishing Taylor luck moving to Avery.

“If I wasn’t graduating and

would be back next year, it would be devastating because coach Taylor has been my coach for the last four years for two sports,” senior Alexander Pavon said. “I have learned from him, and he has taught me very good skills whether it’s in sports or in everyday life.”

For the past 20 years, Taylor has been coaching two sports, football and baseball, which was a year-round job on top of teaching, so moving to elementary will be a

brand new experience for him. According to Taylor, he will use that extra time to spend with his family for now and see about future opportunities.

“I think it will benefit him by taking some stress off of him,” Pavon said. “He deals with a lot believe it or not because kids don’t like to listen or don’t take weights serious and just mess around so then he has to use all this extra energy to get them in their place.”

Pavon has been around Taylor for the last four years and created a bond with him that all started with baseball, football and weight training. Now, that bond extends into their everyday lives.

“All of the relationships that you build with our student-athletes. Knowing that I might of had a positive influence in someone’s life,” Taylor said.

Working together

Physical education instructor Aaron Taylor talks with instructor Tobin Higgs while teaching a weights class. Taylor has taught a weights class at East for many years and has worked with students to improve their skills. “[I have enjoyed] watching student-athletes transform from beginning of freshman year to the end of their senior year. The weight room can be a valuable place if used correctly. It has to be a priority in a student’s plan for success,” Taylor said.
Photo by Selena Lewis



Helping out Spotting on bench press, coach Aaron Taylor makes sure that a student does not get hurt. At Bellevue East the weight room has a safety policy, and they take it very seriously. “What I’m going to miss about East is the students and the hardworking staff because that’s what make East a special place,” Taylor said. *Photo by Selena Lewis*

East High Singers hit all the right notes

McKayla Vermeer
Features Editor

Students begin to line the stage in an organized fashion as the audience prepares for the upcoming performance. Everyone is silent. Slowly, the voices of all the students on the stage fills the air and everyone in the room is watching, impressed by the talent of the singers. This group is East High Singers and they are one of the top singing groups at East.

“The season in Singers has gone by so fast. When you’re learning new music every week, sometimes

it’s hard to keep up, but I love the challenges we face when reading through the music,” sophomore Stephanie Hernandez said.

East High Singers (Singers) is a vocal group that students from all grades have the opportunity to audition for. Unlike show choirs, this group focuses more on the music and less on the visual performance.

“I think they are doing well because they are a very talented people who work very hard to improve their skills,” Vocal Music Director Marjorie Simons-Bester said.

The group spends a lot of their practices preparing for the upcoming

concerts. One such concert is the Candlelight concert in the fall, which senior Samantha Moore said is her favorite part of being in Singers.

“I love performing at Candlelight. We start the Singers portion by turning the lights off and singing in the aisles with candlelight. We then get up on stage and finish our portion with candlelight. After that, the Singers alumni come on stage and sing the Hallelujah Chorus. Candlelight is such an amazing time and I love it a lot,” Moore said.

Singers doesn’t only perform at school events, however. The group

and members of the group also get multiple opportunities to perform at other events.

“Singers gets to perform at variety of events, last school year we got to sing at All-State and that was an honor. Singers is such a great and accepting place and I love the hard music that we’ve gotten to do,” Moore said.

The group does compete, but very rarely. This year, there is one competition even though the season is year-round.

“We don’t really have a season, it really lasts all year [but] there is one competition in April,” Simons-

Bester said.

In order to be a part of Singers a student would have to go through an audition process. It is a more advanced and difficult vocal group which means that not everyone that auditions gets accepted.

“I wanted to audition because when I was a freshman I would see Singers in concert and when I first heard them sing I got chills and I knew I wanted to be a part of the group. I look forward to new challenges and I knew that this would be a great one where I could continue to develop as a singer,” Hernandez said.



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School safety protocols questioned

Abbie Deng
Reporter

An increase in shootings around the nation has triggered responses from people who hold different opinions on what should be done to safely get through active shooter situations. The Bellevue Police Department shared a video on their Facebook page from the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) that instructed viewers on steps they should take in an active shooter situation, which didn't match the SRP procedures students and staff are to take. Assistant Principal Nathan Bacon and SRO Anthony Orsi both reviewed the protocols one should take in an active shooter situation. BPS follows the SRP guidelines from the I Love You Guys Foundation which was founded after a gunman entered Platte Canyon High School in Bailey, Colorado, held seven girls hostage and ultimately shot and killed Emily Keyes. While she was held hostage, she sent her parents this text message: "I love you guys." The SRP is now a national program and includes protocols for lock down, lock out, evacuate and shelter. "All of Sarpy county uses the same protocols so everyone has the same language. That's kind of our protocols and our procedure, and the reason we follow that is so first responders have the same language that we have so if we sent something out that we're in lock down they know exactly what that means. If you're in Walmart and you hear lock down you know exactly what that means. So its effective in that everyone has the same common language and we utilize," Bacon said. The video shared by the BPD instructed the first thing for people to do was to get out. The SRP protocols advise people to seek a safe room and hide in a dark corner. "I know there's two different theories of thought, which is one that we teach and there's another

one that's ALICE, and ALICE actually teaches the students and staff to fight back. If you can't get out then you have to fight back, which is a theory that we do not use. If you're somewhere where you can escape, escape. If you're somewhere where you can defend yourself and fight back, fight back. It's just every situation is different. We teach a lot to secure and place and wait for further instruction," Orsi said. ALICE stands for alert, lockdown, inform, counter and evacuate. It was specifically created for dealing with active shooters by former law enforcement officer Greg Crane after the Columbine shooting. However, it is not the protocol followed by BPS. The effectiveness of the protocols is now in question. The Parkland shooting raised questions on what should be done in active shooter situations after the SRO at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School failed to go into the school and control the situation. Even though the video that Bellevue Police Department posted did not reflect the protocols that BPS uses, Orsi explained that the police work in support of the school and of the protocols the district decided to implement. However, he did have additional suggestions. "There's a lot of things we should do. We should have extra locks on the doors; we should have bullet proof doors; we should have first aid kits in the rooms in case that would ever happen. However, I just don't know if there's a budget for it or if it's something the school has ever considered. [The current protocol] seems to be effective, however," Orsi said. Bacon reiterated the SRP guidelines as the first step and Orsi gave the same instructions because SRP is the official BPS protocol, even though it differs from the information put online by the Bellevue Police Department. "If we had an active shooter our first step is obviously to initiate a lock down so that all students can be

safe, and then from there try to kind of eradicate the situation, which we rely on our SRO and BPD to help us. Things we advise students not to do - obviously not texting or calling people, it's not something you want to do until the situation is over because the thing is you're lighting up your phone in the room and it kind of gives it away that you're in there, and basically what we want them to do is follow the instructions of the teacher," Bacon said. Both Orsi and Bacon mentioned the importance of students and staff being trained effectively and continuously, to be prepared. "We should have curtains on windows, first aid kits and more in-depth training in our students and staff is needed in case a situation arises," Bacon said. Students have voiced their opinions as well. A walkout planned by East students signified their understanding of an issue with the protocols and more. Sophomore Shelby Van Holland was one of

the students who helped plan the walkout on March 14. She shared her ideas for solutions. "I believe the school is doing their best to make the lockdown drills more effective, but we still need to work on making more real life situations. I think schools need to prepare their students more to be kind and respect each other and change the Bellevue East culture to be a happier environment so school shootings and things like that should not have to happen," Van Holland said. The protocols were created for students to feel safe where the risk of harm is at a high. When students go to school every day the understanding is that they are safe. "I personally do not feel safe at school and I think by creating programs that can help students talk and connect with each other more and providing less space for students to be isolated can help make a safer Bellevue East environment," Van Holland said.

IN AN EMERGENCY WHEN YOU HEAR IT. DO IT.

LOCKDOWN! LOCKS, LIGHTS, OUT OF SIGHT.

STUDENTS	TEACHER
Move away from sight	Lock interior doors
Maintain silence	Turn out the lights
Do not open the door	Move away from sight
	Do not open the door
	Maintain silence
	Take attendance

LOCKOUT! SECURE THE PERIMETER.

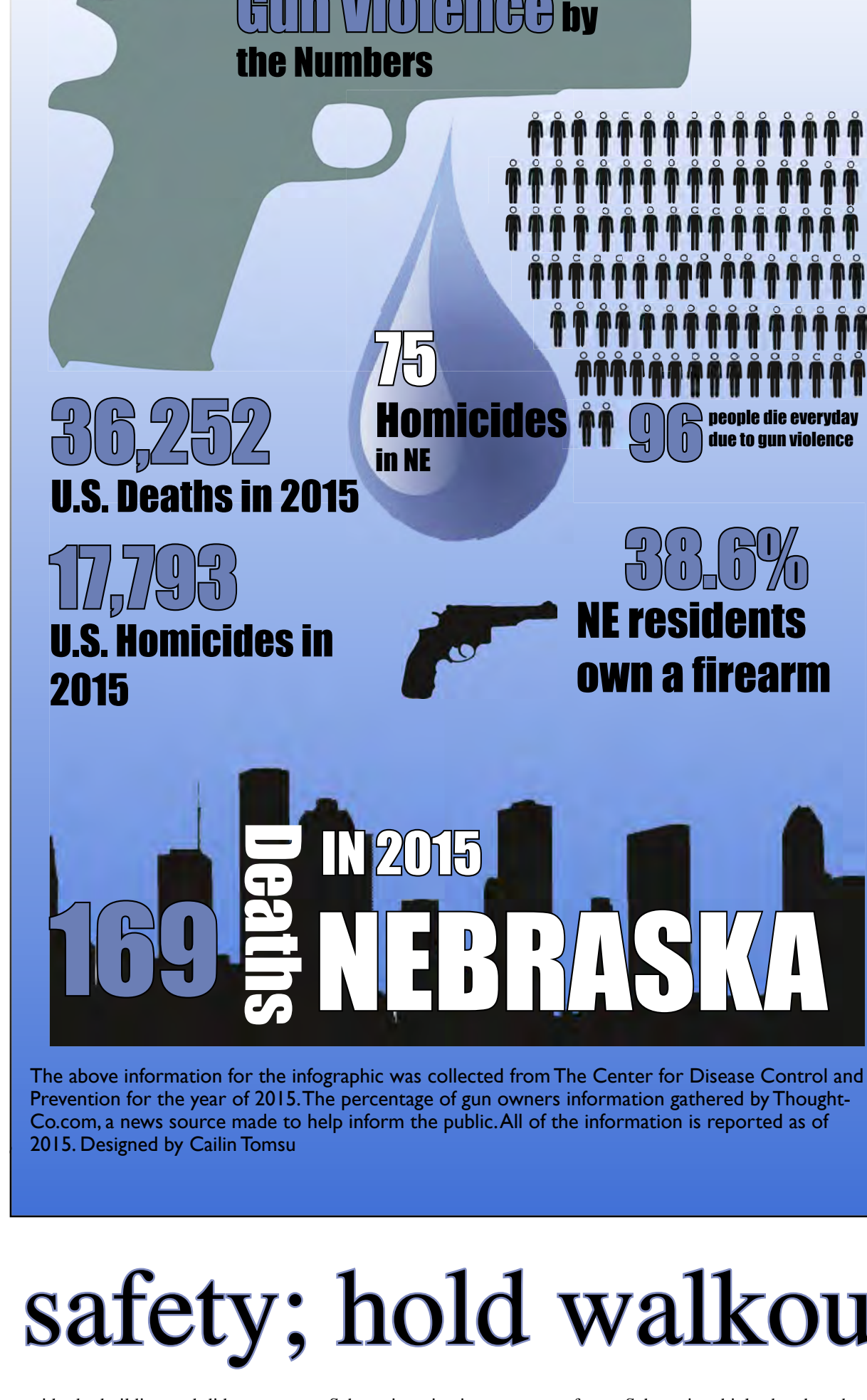
STUDENTS	TEACHER
Return inside	Bring everyone indoors
Business as usual	Lock perimeter doors
	Increase situational awareness
	Business as usual
	Take attendance

EVACUATE! TO ANNOUNCED LOCATION.

STUDENTS	TEACHER
Bring your phone	Lead evacuation to location
Leave your stuff behind	Take attendance
Follow instructions	Notify if missing, extra or injured students

SHELTER! HAZARD AND SAFETY STRATEGY.

STUDENTS	Safety Strategy	TEACHER
Hazard	Evacuate to shelter area	Lead safety strategy
Tornado	Seal the room	Take attendance
Hazmat	Drop, cover and hold	
Earthquake	Get to high ground	
Tsunami		



Gun shop follows state laws



Raven Head Arms is a gun shop in Bellevue that is located on Galvin Road Monday through Fiiday.

Cailin Tomsu
Editor in Chief

State politicians are facing scrutiny after the increase in gun violence by proponents of stricter gun legislation. The gun laws in Nebraska are not as strict as other states. "Registration for both handguns and rifles is not necessary as well. The only firearm permit mandatory by state law is for carrying and concealment purposes," gun.laws.com said. According to gun.laws.com, a site that contains the laws surrounding guns in the 50 states, Nebraska does not require a license or a permit to purchase or possess a firearm. The only thing that the law requires is a certificate to validate some kind of training with firearms. "A criminal history check is immediately conducted upon submission of the application. The certificate will be upheld if the applicant is over the age of 21, and is not prohibited by law from purchasing or possessing a

handgun (applicant must also not be a drug addict or former felon). Once approved a certificate will be obtained within 3 days. The certificate varies from a standard firearms permit because it does not require a safety or weapons training course, and it only takes 3 days to process as oppose to 30," gun.laws.com said. To receive a firearm permit, you must be over 21, and have completed a series of training courses that entail safe handling and firing, storing, loading and how to avoid violent altercations involving the firearms. You also need to pass an eye examination, submit two sets of fingerprints. "Nebraska has very little regulation on gun distributors and sellers. State licenses, record keeping, communication with the state, and police inspections are all not found in the states gun laws. Bulk purchases, universal background checks, ammunition records, and ballistic reports are also not requirements of Nebraska. Firearms permits may be necessary

to conceal or carry a handgun, but they are nonexistent in the purchasing or distribution process," gun.laws.com said. There are multiple gun shops in the Bellevue area, one of those is Raven Head Arms that is owned and operated by a father and son, who both perform proper checks to ensure they are selling to someone who is eligible. "Me and my dad have been doing this forever and we just decided to take it out of a hobby. We primarily do repairs, but we can do special orders if someone is having a hard time finding something," Co-owner Spencer Lemieux said. The shop ensures that their customers meet the expectations set by the Nebraska laws. Nebraska is has 38.6 percent of the population owning guns, according to ThoughtCo.com. Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts is not in support of any gun control legislation, and is in favor of the laws set in place by the state now. "I strongly support the Second Amendment," Ricketts said.

Students voice opinions on safety; hold walkout to ask for kindness



Cailin Tomsu
Editor in Chief

There have been 18 shootings in 2018 on school campuses across the nation, five of which resulted in injury, the Washington Post reports. Injuries from guns have caused much discussion on how to effectively solve this issue, whether it be gun laws passed, better security in schools or arming teachers, and many students at East have their own opinions on what might be done. "The way I interpret the Second Amendment is that it's in place so that citizens in the United States can protect themselves and their families against whether it be intruders into their home or people who want to enact violence on others in public areas or private areas and also it's in place so that citizens can create a militia," senior Holly Schwarting

said. Schwarting is not in support of banning or taking away a person's firearms, however she does recognize the issue at hand. She believes there are more deeper problems that occur before a shooting takes place. "I think there's a lot of problems that lead up to the gun violence that we've seen in America. One of the biggest things with recent events that I think should have been done is that actions need to be taken when something is wrong and people know that something is wrong, especially law enforcement. The 'see something, say something' idea doesn't work if the people you are saying something to don't do anything about it, so that's one thing that I think needs to be done," Schwarting said. During the school shooting in Florida, the SRO on duty stayed

outside the building and did not go inside to respond to the situation taking place, the Washington Post reports. The SRO and Sheriff's Department received much criticism, and the question of whether or not schools should have more security arose. "I do think if there is a procedure in place to make it safe for teachers to own a firearm, then I would be in support of that. I know there's veterans in our school who know how to keep us safe and could if a situation arises, because we have seen in school situations where one School Resource Officer wasn't able to stop it, so if that's what it takes to have more protection in our school then I do agree with that. I just think it should be an extremely complicated process to get through it, it shouldn't be easy by any means," Schwarting said.

Schwarting is in support of metal detectors in schools as well as a chance to increase security and keep track of who is entering and leaving the building and if they have anything that could cause harm with them. She said that even though they are expensive, no amount of money could make up for what would happen if a school shooting took place. "I would be in support of a different process of how our procedures go for school shootings. I don't necessarily agree with the way that we handle it with the lights off and just hiding all clumped together. I think that self defense should be taught to students; they teach them to put books up or barricade the doors, and we just hide and sit there, like basically sitting ducks waiting for something to happen," Schwarting said.

Schwarting thinks that the school should practice more proactive procedures when it comes to lock downs and lock ins. She is not alone in her opinion. "I'm definitely fearful of a school shooting at Bellevue East because this is a plague that is crossing all throughout the United States and it's nothing against Bellevue East specifically. No matter what school I would attend I would be scared of a school shooting because you can never truly guess when it's going to happen. Most students from a school where this atrocity happened in were not expecting a school shooting when it occurred and so I am definitely fearful of one happening at East because I can never be sure if one will happen or not," junior Jadon Putney said. Putney also said that he is fearful of a school shooting happening

primarily because such events have been a recurring issue. Putney believes that any school could be a target, but hopes East will never be one. He and others do not think the protocols in place are adequate. "I think the school likes to say it's well prepared for an active shooter; but I don't think you can be prepared anymore. Any drills or protocol you teach the students, there's a good chance you're teaching a shooter what to expect, which is scary to think about. That's why we need to prevent the feelings that school shooters get before they have the thoughts of bringing a gun onto our campus," junior Nate Zyla said. Zyla also believes that schools in general may not be as prepared as they would like to be in the case of a school shooting. Zyla, Putney and others organized a school walkout on March 14, the one month anniversary of the Florida

shooting. The walkout was attended by around 100 students. "I helped organize a walkout of school because unfortunately, as teenagers, our voices are not commonly heard and so we have to do grand actions such as a walkout for our voices to be heard. The message we are trying to spread would be kindness; a lot of people think that we're trying to protest gun laws, but that's not the case. We are trying to show that we need to spread kindness around the school and that love and peace is the way to solve most situations," Putney said. The walkout was an effort to draw attention from the gun control debate toward the idea that any person can make a difference by being nice to one another and spreading kindness. At the walkout the students handed out "17 Acts of Kindness," that was a list of ways students can be kinder to one another, with such ideas as

simple as holding the door open for someone. "We hoped that during the walkout kids would see that horrific acts like Florida or Columbine can be avoided with something as simple as an act of kindness," Zyla said. The walkout conducted by the students at East was were also done around the United States, as a part of the larger 'MarchForOurLives' movement. The walkout was planned to be held on the same day at the same time for schools across the nation. However, the students at East took a different approach and hope that they will see change. "We all believe that there needs to be change in our community, after seeing Bellevue go from this once amazing place to a toxic place and we want to return back to this great 'we're here for you' type of town," junior Joseph Rousseau said.

Winter sports memorable plays by students

Abbie Deng
Reporter

Winter sports have come to an end; each season has been highlighted by various forms of success. Basketball, swim, and wrestling have their own plays created

to ensure a great season and prosperity for these different teams. “I think the season went well, we had two divers qualify for state swimming and we hadn’t had a diver qualify for a long time. Wrestling, qualified 10 for state . And the boys basketball played in the the district finals. Overall, I think our winter

sports had a really good year; it was fun. We had good crowds,” Activities Director Chad Holz said. Bellevue East boys’ basketball practiced hard the entire school year with their work paying off and earning them second place at the district tournament. Coach Chad Mustard reflected

on the season and chose a play that resonated with him the most. “There were many great plays throughout the season. The kids played hard and had a ton of success. I could one of 50 great plays the guys have made, but I’d have to say Austin Slie’s corner 3-pointer against Lincoln Southwest was probably the biggest. It gave us the lead in overtime with about 6-8 seconds left and was the game winner,” Mustard said.

During the game junior Fred Knotts set a pick against Austin Slie’s defender allowing Slie to get around to the 3-point line and make the 3-pointer, winning the game. “It was made impactful because he (Austin) had to hit a big shot, he had to step up and make a play to win the game. Which we did win, but we should have won by fifteen we knew we were in a slump in the third and fourth quarter, that dude Austin was a goat for that and getting us to over time,My role was a screen, so like i’m a big dude so I had to set that screen for Austin so he could hit that corner shot, it was wide open and he knocked it down,” Knotts said.

The girls basketball season came to an end after a loss at the girl’s district tournament. Coach Blake Anderson recalled a game that was full-on consistent plays, resulting in the team winning the game.

“I don’t think any one particular play; I would say the ending to the Lincoln North Star game. A bunch of kids made plays for that; it was a super, huge team effort. I think that each one of them that played in that game had a special moment that I remember during that game and it definitely paid off for us, getting the ‘W,’” Anderson said.

Hein is a Sophomore who transferred from Bryan High varsity girls basketball program to play for the Bellevue East girls basketball team, playing her freshman year and moving up in rank to varsity for her sophomore year.

The play mentioned by coach Anderson is just one of the many successes Hein has had on the team. “At the end of the game I went in for a lay up and they [Lincoln North Star] fouled me, and then we were tied at the last few seconds at the game. I had two free throws and I made my first one and missed the second one, and toward the end of the game we got a steal and we won,” Hein said.

The swim team has also had some successes during their season. Coach Gregg Beeman led the swim team to the metro tournament where two swimmers came out to be successful. “For girls, Jacque McCullough’s swim in the 50 free at Metro bettering a secondary state qualifying time. For boys, Tristan Wilkins swam in the 100 breaststroke at Metro bettering a secondary state qualifying time,” Beeman said.

The swimmers did not make it to the state tournament, but did have personal achievements that they took from the season. “I hit a wall at about 109’ seconds in the 100 yd breaststroke swimming. And so at metro which was unfortunately my final meet because I did not get to state, I broke that wall and made a state qualifying time. it really brought some joy to the whole team,” Wilkins said.

The wrestling season was also highlighted with various successes throughout the school year. Wrestling coach Todd Porter and his wrestlers worked hard this season to get the team to state.

“ Well we don’t have “plays” in wrestling. But in terms of big moments, senior Derek Wagstaff pinning the defending state champion in the 1/4 finals of state this year was a biggie. Derek hit his signature move - a front headlock, timed it beautifully and pinned a stud! State quarterfinals. Clinched a state medal for Derek. It put Derek in the state semis,” Porter said.



Prepare to splash Senior diver Ryan Hatcher swam his way to state alongside with his teammate Robert Anthony. “It felt very satisfying to make it to state after the hard work that was put in to get there,” Hatcher said. *Photo courtesy of Taylor Schultz.*

A successful end to the winter sport season

McKayla Vermeer
Features Editor

The East winter sports of wrestling, diving, and boys basketball in the 2017-2018 season all succeeded in having members qualify for state or come very close to.

“It felt great accomplishing something that this program hasn’t in awhile,” senior basketball player Austin Slie said.

A total of ten wrestlers made it to state this year, and two placed this year. Coach Todd Porter said that having ten people qualify is a pretty impressive number.

“Ten is a great number, only 7 Class A teams (of 32) had 10 or more kids qualify for State [so it was] very good. We also barely missed qualifying for the State Duals meet, finishing 9th in points to go (top 8 make it). We missed by 2 points,” Porter said.

The wrestlers that made it to state were seniors Bryce Alderette,

Kyle Waring, Derek Wagstaff, Tyler Nawrocki, Josh Francois, CJ Semanko, sophomores Caelan Hester and James Larson, and freshmen Preston Welch and Daniel DeRosier. Wagstaff ended up placing third and DeRosier placed sixth

“It felt like one of my goals that I had set when I was a freshman was achieved,” Hester said.

Following the trend of winter sport state qualification, senior divers Ryan Hatcher and Robert Anthony also made it to state. At the meet, Hatcher placed 29th and Anthony placed 26th.

“I didn’t get as far as I wanted to but my goal was to just make it there at the beginning of the year. It felt very satisfying to make it to state after the hard work that was put in to get there,” Hatcher said.

It has been several years since there has been two divers from East qualify, and even longer since a male has qualified. Qualifying in general was a success because

both Hatcher and Anthony were completely new to the sport.

“Bellevue East has not had a guy qualify for state since the 2007-2008 school year and two divers have not qualified for state since the 2010-2011 school year. Both of the divers had zero previous diving experience and made a lot of improvement over the season. I am proud of what they accomplished,” diving coach Taylor Schultz.

Boys basketball were able to make it to districts, and if they would have won then they would have advanced to the state. Slie said that even though they did not win, it was still a great experience.

“It felt amazing getting the opportunity to play at a high-stake game. I hadn’t had that opportunity before in my high school career so it was nice to be able to do it my senior year. We couldn’t have had as much success as we did this season without all of the amazing support from the student, teachers, and awesome fans,” Slie said



For the points Senior varsity basketball player Austin Slie shoots a free throw to help raise the score.“I think this season went really well this year from having a no win record to almost a 500 record, which is really good, and I think it’s showing positive things for our school,” Slie said. *Photo courtesy of Wane Eudy*

Soccer players prepare to dominate the field

Madie Ybay
Opinion Editor

Cleats ram into the ground and sweat falls upon a furrowed, yet focused brow, as the grass stained ball gets passed around from player to player, each one determined to impress the coaches and land a spot on the soccer team.

“I think we’re going to have an amazing group this year because everyone did pretty good,” sophomore Mikayla Wingate said. “I’m looking forward to meeting people, making new friends, getting out there and having fun.”

This year for soccer, tryouts for both girls and boys were held at the end of February and March. After going through rigorous work through tryouts, students found out at the end of the week just where they would end up for the rest of year, whether that be on varsity or junior varsity.

“Tryouts went very well, yet it was tiring and hard work, but it was kinda fun,” sophomore Matthew Paul said.

Each year the head coaches choose around 20 players for the varsity teams. Sometimes they allow people who are trying really hard and leading the team in JV to have a swinging spot, which means that they can play for either the JV or Varsity team. This year specifically there is a large amount of freshmen joining teams. It’s the largest class of freshmen that the soccer teams have had in about six years.

“We are off to a great start. We have a lot of younger players who are coming in to the program with more talent and soccer specific training,” girls head soccer coach Sara Fjell said.

With the teams all set up, the games are just around the corner. The first game for both the girls

and boys was on March 15 at Bryan High School at 7 p.m. The last game that is currently known about, since there is the chance of playoffs and districts, is on April 27 at Papillion- La Vista at 7 p.m. for the boys.

“I’m looking forward to playing games with my team and seeing us improve throughout the season and to go be victorious at our games,” Paul said.

For those who are looking to support the team, they can go to the games, and stay updated on social media. Fans can follow the girls soccer team on twitter @BEAST-GIRLSOCCER for updates on the team.

“We always tell kids that we want students to come out and play. Soccer is a great team sport where no matter where you are technically we feel that it is a great way to meet people, learn a fun sport, and be active for your school,” Fjell said.



Putting in work Spring sports at East are just starting up and senior Edén Liebenenthal tries out for her final year in soccer. “Getting onto the team is not too hard, but actually working hard and getting playing time is the struggle,” Liebenenthal said. Photo by Carly Regnas

Lenz takes the lead as new soccer coach



Looking through his Lenz Bellevue East has a new soccer coach - Jeremy Lenz. Lenz is a math teacher at East who says being able to interact in a different way with the players outside of school is his favorite part of being a coach. “I expect them to play as a team and battle hard in each game; obviously typically we are the underdogs, but in games where they show up and play with a lot of heart, we can have a lot of success still,” Lenz said. Photo by Carly Regnas

Brooklyn Anderson
Entertainment Editor

Instructor Jeremy Lenz became the new head coach for this year’s soccer season. Lenz was an asset to the coaching department for a few years serving as an assistant coach at East. He is now

being promoted to head coach, and has his own vision for the team.

“I grew up playing soccer my whole life so I wanted to make sure to stay involved,” Lenz said.

Lenz has been involved with the sport since he was very young, and he wanted to make sure that whatever his career field choice was, he still had soccer in his life. He kept soccer in his life by being a head coach at a high school team in Sioux City, Iowa for a little while. He was also assistant coach for the Morningside Men’s team for Morningside College which is also in Sioux City, Iowa.

“I’ve coached swimming before and I coached soccer in Sioux City and assistant coach for the Morningside men’s team,” Lenz said.

Lenz has been coach for about four to five years at East and has become a huge part of the soccer team. Players on the team look up to Lenz for inspiration and think highly of him from his coaching styles.

“Once the head coach stepped down I wanted to make sure that I could step in and keep the program on the right track,” Lenz said. “I wanted to make sure I could help other players develop their skills and love for the sport.”

Junior Daniel Reedy has been playing since his freshman year and plays center back and mid-field for the boy’s soccer team. Reedy looks up to Lenz as a role model on and off the field.

“I’m excited to have Lenz as the new head coach,” junior Daniel Reedy said. “You can tell he has a lot of knowledge of the game.”

Senior Brayan Zuniga is another student that plays the forward position for the soccer team. Zuniga did running, weight lifting and ball workouts to get prepared for the season. His relationship with Lenz is a close and good relationship that is needed to have to be best on the field.

“I feel good [about Lenz being head coach],” Zuniga said. “I like the way he coaches the team and I’m super excited for the season.”

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**READ
THINK
SPEAK OUT
BE HEARD**

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Fashion hair color to dye for



Carly Regnas
Videography Editor

So I decided to do something outlandish and out of the ordinary from my normal, boring life on January of 2018. I want out to get mermaid hair with my best friend, not knowing the consequences I was about to face. After getting my hair dyed a beautiful blue and turquoise color, I was promptly faced with what I soon realized was the judgemental side of having an unnatural hair color. I had everything from disapproving looks to people absolutely in love with my hair - I've heard it all. I'm honestly sick of it, too.

I think that if you want to dye

your hair some crazy color on the rainbow, do it! If you want to take the leap and go outside the box, it really doesn't hurt anything and you get to have the color of your dreams on your head.

For my hair color, I went to Trio's Salon in Omaha and my experience was about five to six hours in the salon chair. It helped that the lady who did my hair had fashion color herself (which is the colorful hair dye), so she was completely into the mermaid locks I always wanted.

To achieve the color, they first have to bleach your hair and lighten it, then they add the fashions color. I had three different mixing bowls of a dark green, blue, and black for my roots. Going from my golden blonde hair to a dark color was quite scary at first and I didn't know if I liked it, but once it was finished I was soon in love with the color. After paying around \$270, I left feeling like a new person with a hair color that is definitely far from normal.

Now, having colorful hair isn't as all as it's cut out to be, though. According to Bustle in their "15 Things That Happen When You Have Weird Colored Hair" arti-

cle, they state a lot of things that I personally experienced having blue hair, such as people forgetting that you have personal space and touching your hair. Now this may seem a bit odd, but when you dye your hair an outlandish color people are either totally fascinated or your biggest critics.

Another thing I wasn't prepared for was the staining from having wildly colored hair. I did get a little blue staining on my hands when I would blow dry my hair. Other problems with dying your hair a fashion color is that on blonde hair, blue and green dyes are some of the hardest to get out. I have a friend who has stained her hair and the color never faded fully and so she had to wait for her hair to grow out to get her natural color back.

I recently went back to blonde on Feb. 22. Going back to blonde was refreshing, but scary because I had the fear that the turquoise would not fade and not turn back to my original color. My hairstylist was scared for me, too, but she did her magic and I was back to a bright blonde. There was one band of color that was tough to fade near my roots, but she solved this by giving me honey blonde and low-

lights throughout my hair and this helped it all blend together. I was totally scared the whole time just because using bleach on your hair is not good for it at all.

I recomend that you go to a trained hair stylist that knows how to bleach and dye without too much damage. Afterward, I had to get my hair trimmed up to get rid of some split ends. My hair through this whole experience did get a little damaged, but I ended up with healthy full hair.

All in all, I think that even though risking your natural hair color is scary and something not everyone wants to do, it is something everyone should try. You could have it temporary or even permanent - either one is definitely something I tell everyone to experience. Having blue-colored hair changed my life and I think it made me more outgoing in a way. It's fun and freaky; people either love it or hate it so just prepare yourself for comments and stares. So try one of your favorite colors and step outside of the box because being a colorful person in your hair really brings out anyone's personality.

Staff torn over animal testing ethics

Staff Editorial

Animals and humans coexist on one planet and that has been the case since the dawn of humanity; however, as humans became more advanced physically and intellectually, we overpowered the animals. Studies have been conducted to let us know which species are closest to us in DNA, and as a result we used this to our advantage, to include everything from domestication through agriculture to testing on animals. Testing on animals dates back to early Greek scientists like Aristotle, according to the National Library of Medicine.

Animal testing is used for makeup, skincare, medicine and more. It is estimated that 26 million animals are tested on each year in the United States alone. We, as the Tom Tom staff, believe that animal testing comes with both harms and benefits.

Drug testing on animals became very important in the 20th century. A pharmaceutical company in 1937, created a drug using a solvent that was deadly to humans, however the chemist and chief pharmacist were unaware of that fact, and proceeded to make the drug public. This lead to mass poisonings and hundreds of deaths. No animal testing was done on the drug and because of the public outrage, the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act was passed the following year, requiring animal testing to be done with products before they were allowed to be marketed.

Another drug incident occurred in the late 1950's and on into the early 1960's. A drug called thalidomide was created and

believed to be a miracle drug. It relieved coughs, colds, and often morning sickness. Many pregnant women took the drug to get rid of their symptoms; however, the effect of the drug was not tested beforehand, and more than 10,000 babies in 46 countries were born with missing limbs or malformations. The drug was removed from the market.

These incidents illustrate the harms of releasing products onto the market that have severe side effects to humans because they had not been tested on another subject before being given to humans. This underlines the importance of animal testing to prevent future injuries from occurring. Animal testing has allowed major biomedical advancements.

However, on the flipside, forcing animals to be the test subjects of a potentially harmful drug is inhumane and cruel. According to the Humane Society International, the animals that the tests are being conducted on are victim to: forced feeding, forced inhalation of chemicals, food deprivation, inflicted injuries such as burns, and long periods of physical restraint. The Draize eye test involved rabbits being held while their eyelids were clipped out to test irritation that could be caused by shampoo and other products.

The lethal dose 50 test, is used to find what dose of a chemical will kill 50 percent of the animals in the study. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that in 2016, there were over 71,370 animals that suffered pain during experiments and were given no anesthesia for their pain.

Regardless of the potential

medicinal and scientific findings that could occur with animal testing, the mistreatment of the animals and the immorality of testing these animals should be taken into consideration.

However, yet again, there have been huge medical advances that are due to testing on animals. The California Biomedical Research Association states that almost every breakthrough in the past 100 years is due to animal testing. The discovery of insulin, a life saving drug in people that have diabetes, was due to studies on dogs that had their pancreases removed. The polio vaccine was tested on animals, and decreased the amount of cases from 350,000 in 1988 to 27 in 2016.

Director of the University of Texas Anderson Cancer Center's animal research facility, Chris Abee , M.D., said there wouldn't be a vaccine for Hepatitis B without Chimpanzees. Hepatitis B is a disease that kills thousands of Americans every year. Testing medicines on animals, has led to large breakthroughs in understanding breast cancer, brain injury, malaria and many other health conditions.

Animal testing has several benefits, but is followed by several moral and ethical decisions that need to be taken into consideration. Regardless of benefits, the animals need to be treated in fair ways.

Some of the medicines tested on animals may not even show results that benefit humans. For example, Aspirin, a well known painkiller, was ineffective when tested on animals, even though it is helpful to humans. Vitamin C was useful to the human body, but made no difference to the mice it was tested

on. According to Slate.com, many products are shelved because they cause problems or do not work in animals, when that may not be the case for humans. According to neurologist Aysha Akhtar, over 100 stroke drugs that were found to work on animals, failed when they were tested on humans, and 85 HIV vaccines failed when with humans after they worked in the animal tests. Overall, 94 percent of drugs that pass animal tests fail in human trials.

However, the counterargument is that animals are protected by the Federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) that was put in place in 1966. The act made the animals have certain housing requirements in regards to size, temperature, access to clean food and water. The act states that the facilities conducting the research also need to be inspected by veterinarians.

If a facility wishes to conduct animal tests, they must have it approved by an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, then each facility is reviewed by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International. There are steps and programs in place to ensure that the animals are well taken care of, and are not mistreated within the guidelines set forth.

Animals have been useful in certain situations where medical breakthroughs were beneficial; however, the amount of animals it takes to effectively test a product, and the suffering that the animals endure outweigh the possible advancements. We, as the Tom Tom staff, believe that animal testing comes with both harms and benefits.

Black Panther attacks

Hailey Hendry
News Editor

“Blank Panther” was released in theater on Feb. 16. This movie takes place when T’Challa returns home, after the events of “Captain America: Civil War,” to the suspected third world country of Wakanda, Africa, which turns out to be very technologically advanced. T’Challa’s father was originally the Black Panther. T’Challa tried to save his father, but his father dies in an explosion in the U.S. T’Challa is then made the new Black Panther when he returns home.

This was a nice touch to the movie because it gives a background to the story, and whoever is watching the movie won’t be left in the dark wondering why the movie is set in Africa, but the Black Panther has knowledge of America, as well.

Vibranium (a precious metal) is the source of everything in Wakanda, and shortly after T’Challa is made the Black Panther, Klaw

(antagonist) steals a stolen piece of vibranium. T’Challa then calls a mission to go get the vibranium back. While they have Klaw in custody, Erik Killmonger busts open a wall and takes Klaw with him. Later finding out, Erik is T’Challa’s unknown cousin.

T’Challa’s uncle went to the U.S. long before and fell in love with a U.S. woman. Not long after Erik was born, Erik’s mother dies and Erik’s father tries to kill T’Challa’s for refusing to supply African Americans in the U.S. with their weapons to help gain their rights. He is then killed for trying to kill the Black Panther, leaving young Erik to raise himself. Erik grows up hating T’Challa and takes the trip to Wakanda to overthrow him and supply Americans with their weapons.

I ten out of ten recommend watching this movie, it’s full of action but still has humor and full of emotion. When watching the movie, it’s hard to look away or doze off and it’s a movie that people will want to go back and watch it more than once.



Netflix makes ‘Dirty Money’

Cailin Tomsu
Editor in Chief

“Dirty Money,” a Netflix documentary series added on Jan. 26 is a based on unravelling corporate greed and corruption. The show, as of now, contains one season with six episodes. The executive producers include Oscar winning documentary filmmaker Alex Gibney. “Dirty Money,” is not the usual documentary. It includes exclusive interviews with people who were affected by the corruption, and those in the company guilty of corruption. The show includes rarely scene footage, and a huge amount of pathos, and human interest, keeping the viewers on the edge of their seats. Rotten Tomatoes gave the show a 100 percent on their “tomatometer,” and said “amid growing public and consumer skepticism, ‘Dirty Money’ is sure to tap a vein of outrage as audiences identify the pervasiveness of corporate greed and misconduct.”

The first episode, “Hard NOx,” investigates the Volkswagen “clean diesel” scandal. Diesel cars get better gas mileage and have more power than their gasoline counterparts, so VW wanted to make a car that ran on diesel, but did not release harmful emissions into the atmosphere. Creating a car that does not emit chemicals, but runs on diesel is a complicated process, but VW was able, or so the public thought. VW released several test results showing their cars were “clean diesel” meaning they emitted the very minimum amount of chemicals into the air while hav-

ing more power to the cars. “Dirty Money” went in depth while recapping how VW got away with this scandal for so long, who knew and was responsible for it in the high levels of the corporation and who discovered their scandal. VW was found guilty of using defeat devices; regardless they are still a prominent car company today; however, they did suffer during the unraveling of their wrong doings.

The second episode named “Payday,” goes undercover into the workings of a payday advance company. The company gave many people small short term loans, but the specificity of the loans, interest rates and recharge policy are hidden in confusing blocks of text, that to the average consumer, they would not make sense. The company was able to make around 930 dollars off of a 300 dollar loan due to those hidden policies while the consumer lost money and suffered in the end. They interview the victims of the loan scam, and the man behind the scam as well, making the show even more intriguing.

The show continues to explore other companies corruption and the details of how they managed to scam consumers along with how they were caught. Dirty Money takes documentary making to the next level. I have yet to see another documentary series that contains as much human interest and first hand interviews as Dirty Money, along with interesting graphics, pictures and videos, keeping the viewer engaged the entire time regardless of the length of the episode. I highly recommend this show to anyone.

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Snapchat shifts opinions

Odd animals roam around

MyKayla Vermeer
Features Editor

In the ever-changing world of technology, it is not really much of a surprise when apps are constantly updating. Normally, updates serve to fix minor things throughout an app, but sometimes the updates are just drastic enough to receive major backlash from users. Earlier this year Snapchat released a new update that immediately received backlash from just about every user of the app. The new design of the app made it so people’s “stories” were on the main messaging screen, making it difficult for people to see specific stories that they wanted, or even find them at all. There was also the trouble of just figuring out how to navigate the app in general and where to find everything that they previously loved about it, as the whole thing was completely switched up. At first, I found the update annoying and

unneded, because why fix something that isn’t broken? There were all of a sudden people that I haven’t talked to in years showing up on my main screen, but people I talked to on a daily basis were missing. The thing that was most irritating was how where everyone’s stories used to be, in their place was now a whole page of this app dedicated to the stories that companies produced and paid to have on Snapchat. Eventually, I learned how to use the app and now it doesn’t bother me at all anymore, but that is not necessarily the case for everyone. Over one million people have signed a change.org petition in hopes of getting Snapchat to revert the app back to its previous state, and the number of signatures is still growing each day. Snapchat did eventually respond to the petition, saying that the update will still stand as is, and users will just have to get used to it.



Oh Snap During his freetime, sophomore Cole Burton checks his Snapchat messages. Burton keeps up with his friends on Snapchat when he has nothing to do.“I liked the pre-update because it was fluent and now when someone puts something on their story it goes right to where my messages are,” said Burton. Photo by Jacob Mallow

Brooklyn Anderson
Entertainment Editor

- Q:

What kind of pet/pets do you have?
- A:

Freshman Kenneth Duke: I have a turtle named Smalley.
- A:

Senior Kaila Recio: I have a leopard gecko named Stewart.
- A:

Junior Isabel Walker: I have two ferrets named Chica and Bandit
- Q:

How long have you had this pet/pets?
- A:

Duke: Nine years.
- A:

Recio: Two years.
- A:

Walker: At least a year.
- Q:

What certain requirements are needed for your pet?
- A:

Duke: Smalley needs swim space and daily food and water.
- A:

Recio: Stewart needs a heat mat, a moist hide to help with shedding, and a warm hide with the heat mat.

- A:

Walker: Chica and Bandit need to be let out to play a lot.
- Q:

What do you feed your pet/pets?
- A:

Duke: Smalley gets fed fruits, vegetables, dried shrimp, and worms, feeder for fish.
- A:

Recio: Stewart eats crickets and meal worms for food and takes vitamin and calcium supplements to avoid certain diseases.
- A:

Walker: Chica and Bandit get fed certain food pellets for ferrets.
- Q:

How did you get your pet?
- A:

Duke: My uncle gave him to me for my sixth birthday.
- A:

Recio: I got him at a reptile expo that Nebraska has twice a year. Local breeders sell them at the expo.
- A:

Walker: I got them at the Nebraska Humane Society.

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