

UPROAR

THIS IS

THE END



Students reflect about their final days at Sandy Creek.
To read more indepth coverage about ending go to pages 8-12.

Young and Relentless

By Ty Schweer

The extremely young Cougar boys' basketball team battles for experience in the 2017-2018 season.

Every team must face adversity to succeed, but no team has faced adversity quite like the 2017-2018 Cougar boys basketball team. The starting squad this year would consist of a lone senior, one sophomore and three freshmen. The majority of the Cougar bench would also consist of underclassmen, most of whom had never played in a varsity game before this season.

With just one senior, Austin Wilson, to lead the team, a sophomore, Wyatt Mach, stepped up to the plate to try and inspire his fellow Cougars. Mach did more than just inspire, however; he led the team in scoring, shooting percentage, rebounds, blocks and assists.

Mach had only good things to say about his fellow teammates.

"We had a lot of hard workers and good leadership from our lone senior [Wilson] and definitely a lot of potential," said Mach.

Wyatt said he felt ready for his newfound leadership role.

"It was a big change, but I'd do it for my team 100 times because they work hard for me so I'll work hard for them," said Mach. With two more seasons ahead of him, it is safe to assume that big things are going to come from Mach during his junior and senior years.

The record doesn't look pleasant, the team finished at 1-21, but one of the people who see through the record is Coach Matt Swartzendruber.

"I know a lot of people from the outside are going to look and say we've only won one game so this year wasn't successful, and that's absolutely not true," said Swartzendruber. He was put into a difficult situation when the entirety of his

starting squad left Sandy Creek, mainly because of graduation. With only 13 boys participating this season, Swartzendruber had to start three freshmen and change the starting lineup multiple times because of injuries and illnesses.

Despite the hardships, Swartzendruber had faith in his squad and their ability to work hard and improve.

"These boys have worked very, very hard each practice, they've been very coachable and we've improved," he said. "I see things in games and in practice that show me that they are improving."

While this year's success can't be measured by the team's record, the impact of this season will be felt in the next few years of Sandy Creek basketball.

"I think the next three to four years of Sandy Creek basketball are going to be very exciting," said Swartzendruber. "We've got kids that if they improve as

much the next three or four years as they did this season, they're going to be very good basketball players."

Though, in the coming years, the 2017-2018 Cougar basketball season will likely be remembered for the attitude and effort of underclassmen. Sandy Creek was blessed with one of its best leaders of recent memory: senior Austin Wilson.

"He's definitely been what we needed, and definitely more than what we've had in the past," said Mach.

Swartzendruber also had kind words for his lone senior leader.

"Austin Wilson has done a phenomenal job with senior leadership this year, and that's why we're having the work ethic in practice and the attitude we have this year," he said. "It's because it's a reflection of Austin and the work he's done as a leader."

Russ or Bust?

By Ty Schweer

Sandy Creek's girls basketball team battles their first season without Coach Ninemire in 40 years.

After 40 years of service, Head Coach Russ Ninemire moved on from Lady Cougar basketball at the end of the 2016-2017 school year. He left his team in the hands of his assistant coach, Jeremy Borer. At the time of writing, the Lady Cougars are 8-12, but the record doesn't speak for the heart and attitude of the team in the 2017-2018 season. The girls have been a part of some close battles, many of their games being decided in the fourth quarter.

Borer was left with a cast of talented senior leaders, including Kenzie Turman, Coree Lipovsky, Jordan Woodbury and Kambria Chohon. These girls have the necessary skills, but they had to adapt to a new coaching style after playing for Ninemire for their first three years of high school basketball. Senior Kenzie Turman had only good things to say about her former coach, as well as Borer.

"I enjoyed playing for Ninemire," said Turman. "He always cracked some funny jokes, but he was a great coach and knew what he was doing."

Turman and the other seniors' final season might have hit a slight bump learning a new coaching style. However, Turman believed that the transition went smoothly.

"I feel like the transition from coaches went well," she said. "We all like Borer and have been enjoying him as a coach this year."

Borer said he learned a lot from Ninemire during his time as an assistant coach.

"I learned a lot from Coach Ninemire," said Borer. "He coached for 40 years and had like every trick in the book... it was nice to learn those tricks from him." Borer gave a lot of the credit for his basketball coaching career to Ninemire.

"I didn't ever think about getting into girls' basketball coaching until I got to Sandy Creek and working with Coach Ninemire," said Borer.

"He was my main inspiration."

The Cougars fought hard till the end of every game, never giving up when it seemed hopeless. When they faced off against the best team in the Southern Nebraska Conference, the Superior Wildcats, during regular season, the Cougar girls came closer than any other team to taking down the undefeated Wildcats on the court. Unfortunately, the Cougars wouldn't get their shot at payback in the conference tournament, falling to Milford in the second round. There is little doubt that a rematch between these two teams will be a slugfest until the end of the fourth quarter. While the seniors will have played their final game, Turman offered some advice to the underclassmen on how to improve next year.

"I think that effort and attitude need to be improved," said Turman. "If the underclassman can put in the work, the team can be successful in the coming seasons."

Warming Up to Spring Sports

By Calie Schliep

As the weather begins to change outside, so do the winter and fall sports. Basketball is getting wrapped up for the year, so that means it's out to the track and golf course.

Last year's track team consisted of 20 people, and the team is hoping to have a bunch of students participate this season. This year's track team has lost a couple of coaches for the boys and the girls, Mr. Graeser and Mr. Ninemire. That leaves Mrs. Mandi Clark and Mr. Matt Swartzendruber; Clark will be taking over as the girls coach and Swartzendruber will be the boys coach. Former junior high coach, Nate Jarosik, will also be coming in to help

the runners during practice and the meets. The track team's first meet is on March 16 at Concordia University.

The boys golf team had six members last season. Like last year, they will be coached by Mr. Jared Blackwell. Blackwell starts this year off with a brand-new bunch of varsity golfers since most of last year's golfers were seniors or have transferred out of the district. Blackwell is eager to get started with this bunch of guys with all the play they did this summer.

"I'm ready to try a new sport and open my sports horizon, let's hope it's something like putt putt golf," said first year golfer Austin Wilson.

"We will be fairly young to start, but I am hopeful that good things will happen towards the end of the spring," said Blackwell.

The boys will start practice on Feb. 26. Their first meet will take place at Superior on March 29.



SENIORS WRESTLE WITH SAYING GOODBYE

By Tyler Black

Now that the wrestling season has come to an end, it's time to say farewell to our trio of senior wrestlers: Hunter Rempe (The Beast), Colt Rademacher (The Hulk) and Ryan Haack (Haack Attack). They each fought hard all four years of high school and did well at their respective weights: Rempe, 285; Rademacher, 195; and Haack, 160. Each has given it his all this whole season, and they have inspired each other along the way.

"Colt was really the one who convinced me to wrestle," said Rempe. "He needed a sparring partner of his size and it turns out I was pretty good, so I stuck with it." Rempe is a state qualifier from last year and is hoping to medal at state this year. He is very confident in his abilities yet a little nervous. Rempe does not plan on joining any college wrestling team, so his wrestling career is likely over.

Rademacher is recognized as one of the most passionate members on the team. He cares about the team as a whole and wants to see everyone get better.

"I like to shake it out and stretch before each match," said Rademacher. He encourages each and every member to do the same to prevent possible injuries. He

enjoys the time he spends with his fellow seniors.

"They push me to be a better wrestler, especially Hunter," he said. Rademacher currently does not plan on wrestling in college, but if he happens to medal at state and a scout sees him, he may accept offers to wrestle for a college.

Finally, there is Haack, the jokester and the man who always keeps you on your toes. Haack enjoys scaring various people on the team by tackling them and putting them in his favorite move, the "Twister."

"I love this team," said Haack. "They are my family, and I would do anything for them." Along with the rest of the seniors, Haack has state medal dreams and hopes to "Twister" his way there. He does his best to push everyone to their fullest potential, especially when running cross countries or sprints. Like Rempe, Haack does not plan on attending college for wrestling, so this is his final season.

The younger wrestlers have expressed sadness at the imminent departure of the seniors.

"The seniors are like brothers to me and it's going to be sad and weird not having them there to help us," said Wyatt Schutte, junior. "They left very big shoes to fill."

A Breath of Fresh Air

An effort to make school a more positive environment

By Samantha Janda

For 35 weeks out of the 52 in a year, we spend eight hours a day or more at school. That's nearly 1,400 hours—per one year—spent inside this building plus more if you're involved in the various teams and clubs that are offered here. Because of this, school has to be a positive place.

There is a lot of negativity in this world today—whether that be in the media, at home or at work. Because of this, school should be a sanctuary to escape these horrors, not a place that's dreaded to go to. Negative phrases and attitudes at school are getting out of hand, and the teachers are putting it to a halt. For me, along with others, it's hard to maintain a positive attitude while in our building when the surrounding attitudes are so negative.

Making suicide and special needs

jokes are a couple of the most common types of negative phrases you can hear ringing through our halls and classrooms at school. These definitely display a lack of consideration for others. Possibly many students don't even realize what they're saying is offensive, but thankfully our teachers are trying to put a stop to it. Maturity, kindness and consideration of others go a long way in life! While some students have responded by making fun of the new rule that has no tolerance for these kinds of comments, I see the new rule as a breath of fresh air in our school.

To help combat this negativity, some of the teachers are implementing five random acts of kindness each week, and they are then discussed in FOCUS at the end of the week. Yes, this task is very difficult for some students, but I

think that over time this could change students' actions and attitudes. Making the choice to do good for others may be out of some students' comfort zones, but just as negativity feeds negativity, I believe this positivity could be just the contagious behavior our school needs in order to create a more positive environment throughout.

I don't know about you, but I remember learning about the Golden Rule from my parents long, long ago. Maybe the school needs a refresher. Treat other people the way you want to be treated. Life is too short to waste time on negativity. Four years of high school—approximately 5,600 hours of your life. How do you want this time to be? Be a positive force; help get rid of the negative!

Skiing in the USA

By Barbora Janáková

In this article, I am going to write about one of my favorite sports: skiing. Since I am in Nebraska, the state with a lot of cornfields but no mountains, I cannot go skiing or snowboarding here. And I miss it so much because in my country, the Czech Republic, we have a cottage in the mountains, so I go skiing and snowboarding a lot. This does not mean that I haven't tried to ski here in the USA. I got the chance to go skiing with my host family during Christmas break. I was so excited, and I liked it. We went to South Dakota, and the skiing area was called "Terry Peak Ski Area." There were many different levels of ski slopes, so it was fun to try all of them. I also tried to teach my host sister



Grace how to ski because it was her first time, and she did really well. If I can compare the skiing in my country to here, it is pretty much the same, but the clothes are different. What surprised me is that many people do not wear a ski helmet, which I usually do. I am also excited

for Senior Sneak in March when I will get the chance to go skiing again.

And why did I want to write an article about skiing? I have skied since I was three years old; my whole family goes skiing, and it is one of the sports I know I will never get bored with. So if you have chance to go either skiing or snowboarding, go because you will not regret it.

What I most like about skiing and snowboarding is the pretty view of the mountains and fresh air; it is kind of relaxing.

How Juniors Prepare for the ACT

By Grace Messenger

Along with GPA, extracurricular activities and other considerations, the ACT test results are a significant factor when colleges and universities make their admissions decisions. Scores on the ACT can lead to numerous scholarship offers from colleges, making it easier for students to pay back student loans after graduation. This test has four mandatory subjects: English, math, reading, and science—plus an optional writing section. Students in high school are required to take the ACT in the spring of their junior year.

Students from Sandy Creek have been preparing for the ACT by participating in OntoCollege with John Baylor. John Baylor is a test prep program that

helps students in high school prepare for the ACT. Throughout the video lessons, he provides helpful tips and tricks for each subject, and students find his energetic approach helpful.

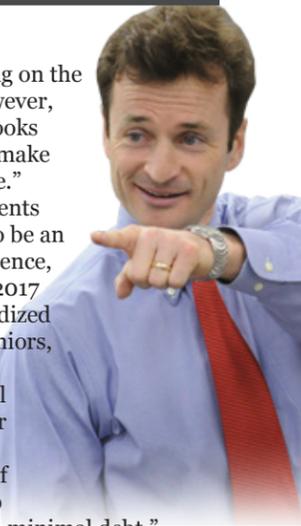
"I think that it's good we have the opportunity to practice the ACT before taking the test for the first time without any experience," said junior Samantha Janda. "John Baylor has helped immensely because he has given us a lot of strategies, and the homework also benefits when the effort is put in."

Senior Maggie Rieckman has taken the ACT three times during her high school career.

"Both preparing for and taking the ACT is very stressful," said Rieckman.

"Our futures are riding on the composite score. However, resources like prep books and John Baylor can make the endeavor bearable."

Though many students find taking the ACT to be an anxiety-ridden experience, it was established in 2017 as the official standardized test for Nebraskan juniors, and it's not going to go away. Students will strive to perform their best for the test to better their chances of getting into a "two- to four-year college with minimal debt," as our friend John Baylor would say.



Dear Simon Sinek

By Grace Messenger

Simon Sinek, the man who participated in a recent viral internet video about millennials, is an individual with whom I disagree. Sinek, along with others, believes millennials will be the downfall of society.

This article is for pretty much anyone over the age of 37. I say "pretty much" because I'm not going to classify you all as the same when I know you are all your own person. There are good people of all ages; all have different hearts, and everyone needs to be treated as such. That's why I find it particularly frustrating when people automatically stereotype someone in a millennial generation--the generation I am usually grouped in--as a bad person.

The definition of "millennial" is a person reaching young adulthood in the 21st century. The literal age of a millennial is 21-37. "Millennial" is a word that I feel a lot of people use today. When hearing people talk about millennials, I notice that there is usually a negative undertone. Let's see if this sounds familiar: "Entitled, lazy, narcissistic and addicted to social media." This is a real quote from CNBC. If you're someone from this generation, I would assume that you would get offended by this, or at least I hope you would.

Technically, we aren't even millennials, and if you're going to use the word, you should probably use it right. Something you should also know is that I am not even a millennial, though at 17 years old, it seems as if I fall into this category at times. I wanted to write this article because I want to stand up for the millennials and the generations after. I also wanted to express how upset I am about how the word gets used. I hate the word "millennial" because of this. It's not the

fact that the millennial generation did anything wrong for me to hate this word, but I'm sick of the negative connotation it has every single time it is used. I'm tired of seeing millennials getting bashed on almost everything they do.

It seems as if anyone over, say, the age of 40 likes to belittle the "millennial" generation and say how lazy they are. No, I'm not some in denial teenager and think that I don't do anything wrong because, honestly, I know I do stuff wrong and will admit it. I'm sure we have all seen it before whether it was a video on Facebook talking about millennials or in magazines. Most of these videos or articles talk about how we are "addicted to our phones or celebrities" and how "lazy" we are. Isn't there something lacking in these videos and articles--something they forget to mention? After all, the past generations were the ones who created social media. They raised these "lazy, addicted-to-their-phones, no work ethic" young adults. It's time to stop blaming the generation and look at the cause of this.

In the well-known video about millennials, Simon Sinek says, "What this young generation needs to learn is patience. Some things that really, really matter, like love or job fulfillment or joy, all of these things take time." I agree that these are all important things that everyone should consider big aspects at some point in their lifetime. However, it's not right to say that all millennials as a group have not realized these things because I believe that some of them have. This is offensive to me because I believe we already know these things matter, but we are just trying to experience as much as we can whether it's with love, a job or joyfulness. For example, I could

be content in finding a someone I get along with or finding a job that gets me by, but that wouldn't truly make me happy. I think we need to go out and chase these things that could make us happy and get as many experiences as we can before we settle on solely one thing, and that, to me, is patience.

When people talk about millennials, they talk about them as a whole group. This is what I don't like and what I believe needs to stop. Talking about millennials as a whole group isn't fair. Oh, sorry, did you want to throw in a "life isn't fair" in there for me? Because this seems like a phrase someone would like to tell a young adult when they talk about their problems. Talking about millennials as a whole group is like talking about a group of people with the same name in the entire whole world. You can't group all the Jessicas together and say, "Yeah, Jessicas aren't very nice." This is because they are all DIFFERENT. I think you should say something like: "The Jessicas I know aren't very nice." That would be the better than saying every single Jessica is rude.

Now, if you think I'm trying to tell you "how awful of a person you are" if you raised a millennial, that's not right either. We all need to realize that there are other factors that come into play. But we need to not blame the millennial generation, which the world has turned so technologically dependent and apparently "can't say anything face-to-face." Every person is different and needs to be treated as such. So please, next time you talk about millennials, keep in mind how they got to be this way and that everyone is not the same person--that everyone was not raised like you, something a lot of us seem to forget.

Art Finds Sweet Spot in Annual Showcase

By Faith Mueller

For many years Sandy Creek, like many other small-town schools, has had very little focus on the arts. This was an irritation to many students who felt that they deserved a spotlight. Last year, the proposition of a night filled with arts began to surface, and Sandy Creek had its first Sweet Affair of the Arts. The walls and windows were covered with works created by students, and parents could behold the art of their children as they listened to band and choir students perform. It was a wonderful moment of growth for the sports-minded community.

The Sweet Affair of the Arts is a wonderful opportunity for students and the community alike. It is important to acknowledge the successes of all students who do well in any field, even the ones that aren't made of grass. The second opening of this event will take place on March 19. To prepare for this event, some groups of students are singing and playing their instruments. Whether they are working alone to do a solo or with a friend for a duet, this event takes bravery.

"I am so proud of the students who have chosen to perform for Sweet Affair of the Arts," said Alyssa Wetovick, the first-year choir teacher at Sandy Creek. "It takes great courage to perform individually and these students have risen to the challenge; they have found confidence and are offering their thoughts and feelings to an audience, which can be scary." This is the first time Wetovick has seen anything like the Sweet Affair of the Arts in the public school system, and she welcomes it with open arms.

"It is so important that we allow our students to showcase their hard work," she said. "It also helps students to

communicate in other expressive ways, something that seems to be dying out in today's culture." Other students are hard at work molding their clay and painting their canvases. The art they create can be bought at the event.

"Students get 50% of the profits and the other 50% goes to the NAHS account to pay for student field trips," said Crystal Hassenstab. "It costs \$5 to attend and it is split between band, choir, and art." The entire program last year was meticulously pieced together by the students in NAHS in hopes of raising money for field trips, said Hassenstab. The student body is hoping that the quality of their hard work last year was impressive enough to bring forth a larger crowd for this upcoming program. As March 19 approaches many students begin to feel stressed about their presentation, practicing every line in hopes of perfection or putting finishing touches on their artwork. This is true too for Wetovick.

"I, myself, am just a bit nervous for this event," said Wetovick. "I trust my students to do their best job, but I have never directed or been a part of anything like this! I'm thrilled for the students who participate because performing and showcasing hard work is exhilarating. I have faith in my students and am hoping I can be calm and collected."

Even though the Sweet Affair of the Arts is just a small event once a year, it still means so much to all of the students and staff. It is inspiring to see young musicians and artists coming together to perform. Sandy Creek staff and students expect to see much growth in this event as the years go by, but humble beginnings are important in all inspiring success stories.

SWEET AFFAIR OF THE ARTS

COME JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF ART, MUSIC, PERFORMANCES, AND DESSERTS!

WHEN: Monday, March 19

WHERE: Sandy Creek High School Commons and Stage

\$5 admission fee

Art show and silent auction begin at 6:00 p.m. Dessert will be served during art show with performances following at 7:00 p.m.

Fundraiser will benefit the art and music programs. Free will donations are welcome.

New Year, Fresh Start

By Kyara Fike

New Year's Eve: a time where people get together to watch the ball drop, while reminiscing over all of the memories made in that year. We say goodbye to the past year and hello to the new year. A lot of people decide to make a New Year's resolution, a promise to themselves that they hope to keep. Plastered all over Instagram, you'll see pictures that say "new year, new me." It may be a new year, but it's still the same old you.

Some of the resolutions people make consist of losing weight, reading more, exercising, going on a diet, eating healthier, and being more positive. Some people take their resolutions seriously, while others treat them like a joke.

"I think New Year's resolutions are dumb because no one ever follows through with what they say," said sophomore Daelene Hinrichs. "I don't understand why people have to wait until a new year to make their goals. If they want to make themselves better, then they could do that any time of year. Honestly, if there are people who actually follow their resolutions, then good for them."

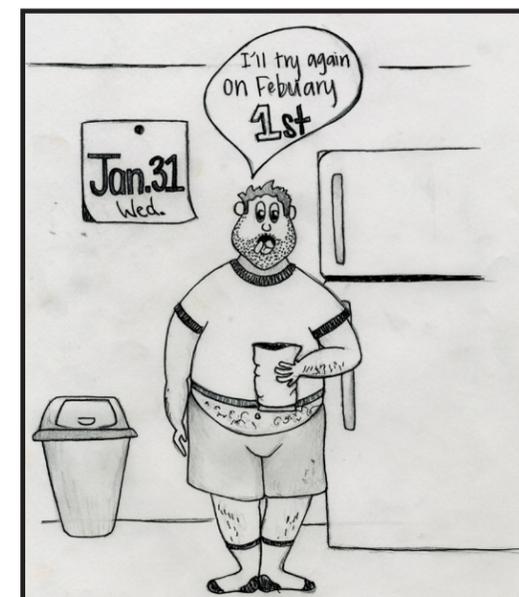
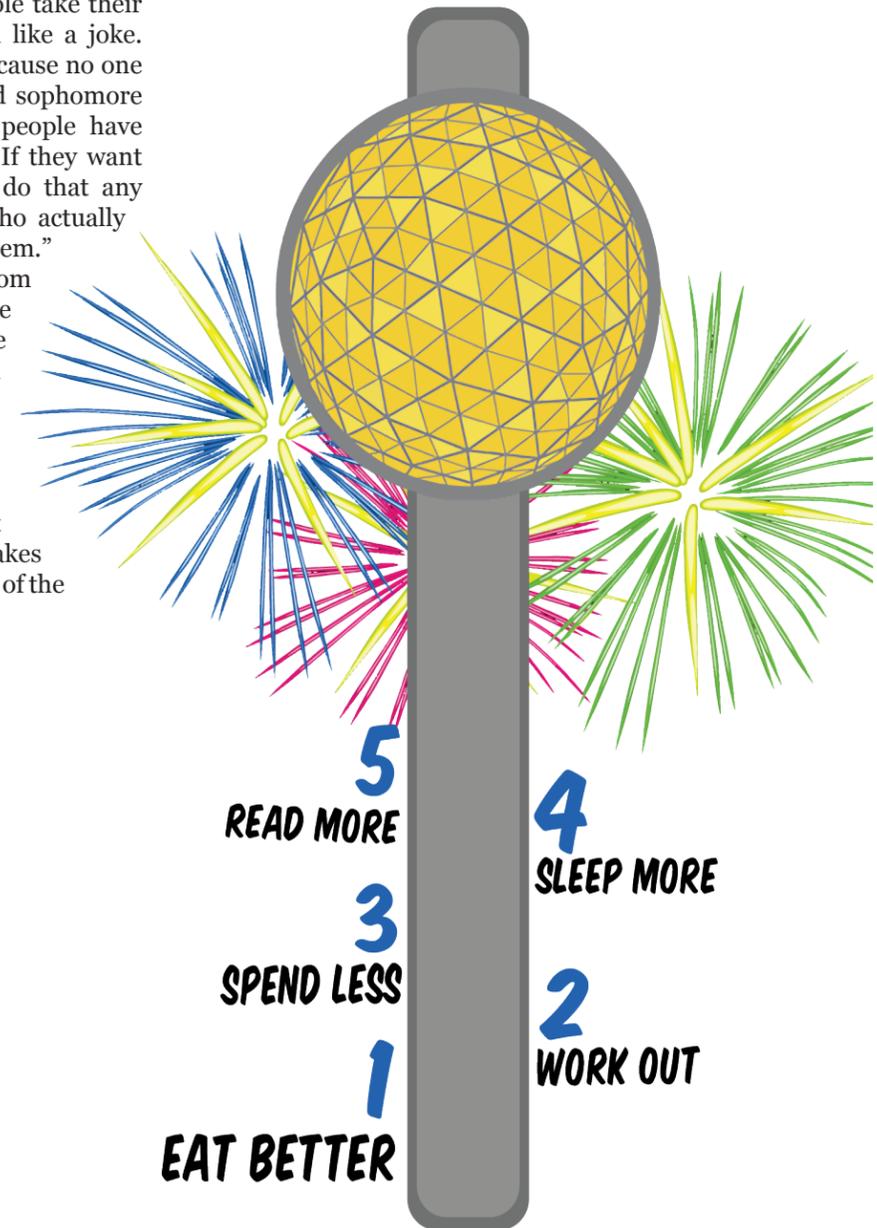
New Year's has a lot of different traditions--from watching the ball drop, toasting champagne and making New Year's resolutions. Everyone spends their New Year's differently. Even different countries have different traditions.

"In the U.S. celebrating New Year's is a little different than in Spain," said senior Mariona Sauri Sanchez. "In Spain the last 12 seconds we put one grape in our mouth each second to count down to the new year. No one in Spain really makes any resolutions either. We just celebrate the end of the

past year and beginning of a new year with friends and family."

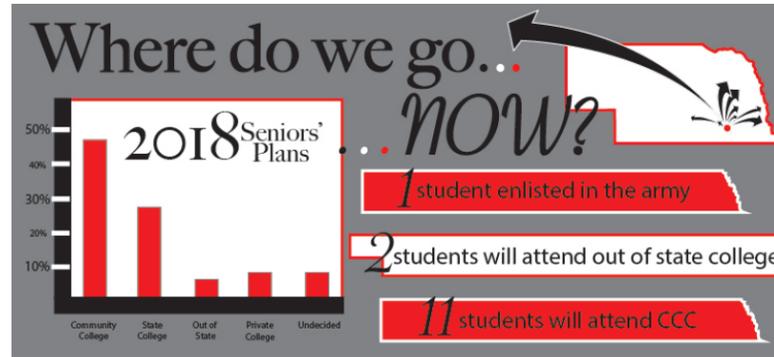
Regardless of cultural traditions, New Year's is a time for reflection and gathering with family and friends.

TOP 5 NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS



Editorial Cartoon By Kaylee Yost

Infographic By Brett Schnakenberg



Infographic by Kaylee Yost

A Final Farewell

Sandy Creek Seniors Start Anew

By Genesis Ramirez

Senior year is by far the most intimidating year to start. Scholarships on top of homework is something students do not look forward to. What students do look forward to is the freedom and privilege you gain as a senior. High school is finally playing in your favor, and sometimes you forget that you're almost done. Some people can't wait to leave, and others are hesitant to leave the place they've gone to for the past four years.

Margaret Rieckman, a senior, said, "It's scary leaving a place I consider safe, but it's time to move on."

That's how most seniors feel at this point of the year. Sandy Creek has been good to them, but there's just not enough room for growth. College is a new and intimidating experience that is slowly becoming more of a reality. As students visit more colleges, the world seems to grow. The world opens up and you discover all of these options that you didn't know applied to you. You realize how exciting it is to have all of these options at your fingertips.

"I'm relieved to finally have the opportunity to move on," said senior Ty Schweer. "I've matured a little but had a lot of fun. I'll miss a few of the people here, but I'm definitely ready to move on."

There are two ways you could go your senior year. One way is to load up on hard classes like Kyra Sorensen did. When asked about her senior year, she said, "I feel this year is going extremely fast. I think that all of the classes are very stressful, but it's preparing me for the real world and I'm very thankful for that."

Another thing you could do is take advantage of the fact that you have limited required classes and take mostly electives like Kaylee Yost. When she was asked about her senior year, she said, "My senior year is going just fine as I have mostly art classes, but I'm still super excited to graduate."

That's the beauty of senior year. You get to choose what classes you want to take. It's almost like a little taste of what college is going to be like. The freedom and the electives are a couple of things that make your senior year the most

Exchange Students Exchange Thoughts

By Mariona Sauri Sanchez & Barbora Janakova

What follows is a conversation between two exchange students in Nebraska. Mariona Sauri Sanchez from Spain and Barbora Janakova from the Czech Republic have spent the 2017-18 school year at Sandy Creek High School. They discuss some of their feelings so far including experiences, enjoyments, homesickness and thoughts on leaving the United States in only a few months.

Bara: I am going to start from the beginning. What was your first impression when you came to the USA?

Mariona: I arrived in the United States on the fifth of August. That week was new for me and at the same time different because of the food, the people, the different hours between Spain and USA and the new language. My first impression here was: OMG I'm in USA!!!! I'm in a movie; this is amazing! What was your first impression when you arrived in the

enjoyable. You can make it as fast-paced and challenging or as calm and relaxed as you want.

Senior year is full of new experiences like Senior Sneak, college visits and sometimes even just being treated as an adult. It's especially new to foreign exchange students. Exchange student Mariona Sauri Sanchez, from Spain, said, "This year has been one of the best in my life. I'll miss feeling like I'm in 'High School Musical.' This year has gone by so fast. I learn so much about American culture and their lifestyle. I wish I could live this amazing experience for the rest of my life."

For the senior exchange students, playing catch-up all year long while still trying to have fun can be hard. Still, the time goes by fast. Czech exchange student Bara Janakova said, "It feels like it was just yesterday that I came to Sandy Creek, and now in a few months I will have to leave. I will have to say goodbye to the Cougars and my American high school life. So I would just like to say thank you to everyone for this opportunity."

Even through the rough patches, senior year is bound to be enjoyable. It may be overwhelming at first, but at the end of the year, it will be hard to say goodbye. Whatever you do and wherever you're going, you will always remember Sandy Creek as the place that transitioned you into adulthood. Good luck, seniors.

United States?

Bara: I was tired and excited at the same time. I remember being glad when I saw my host family in the airport. After a long journey, I had realized that everything was so different. For example, I remember seeing a large number of fast food restaurants and noticing the different landscape: no hills and lot of cornfields. What have you learned so far?

Mariona: This year I've learned a lot of things that will be helpful for my future. I've learned how to live without my parents and my friends by my side. I've also learned about typical things in America and its culture, such as my host family's customs and daily lives. I still need to learn more things and improve my English, but I have worked hard to get to where I am. What have you learned during these six months in the United States?

Bara: That is a really good question. I feel like I have learned a lot of things that nobody can teach you--things you have to experience. I have learned that people can be so friendly, unlike in my country. I asked my host mom, and she explained to me that it is not like this everywhere in the USA and that people are like this more here in the Midwest, so I am lucky I can be here. Who came up with the idea go to the USA for ten months? Was it your idea or someone else's?

Mariona: Since I was little, I wanted to live the "High School Musical" experience. This idea came when I saw the movie for the first time. I've always loved learning new cultures and languages, so it was my dream to come here for 10 months and have this amazing experience. Why did you decide to come to the United States and

live this experience?

Bara: Actually it was not my idea but my family's idea. I got Christmas present from my family that I can either choose go to study abroad for 2 months during the summer break to the England or go to the USA for 10 months. Have people ever struggled to pronounce your name? What do people call you?

Mariona: All the people I have met here have pronounced my name in many different ways. Some of them are Marion, Marions, Merion, Meriona... I love how the American people try to pronounce my name and laugh about it. I understand why they don't know how to say it because it's hard for me to say some American names. Do the people in America know how to pronounce your name?

Bara: Well, this is a little bit confusing for the people here. In the documents, passport or ID card I have my name spelled like B A R B O R A, but since I came I told everybody, "Call me just Bara for short." I supposed it would be easier for them, so everybody started to call me just Bara. After that, I realized they can easily pronounce my name Barbora. Honestly, I don't like it when people in my country call me Barbora because of the way it sound, but Barbora with an American accent sounds so much better. But I like it best when people call me Barbs. Do you think that you are going to miss the American life when you go back to Barcelona?

Mariona: I miss my family and friends, but I don't want to go back to Spain. I love the American daily life, and I know that I'll miss the food, the views, the corn, the Huskers games, my host family and my friends. This year has helped me get to know who I am and

what I want to

do in my life. And the most important thing is that I have made a lot of relationships that I will never forget. What about you? Are you going to miss America at all?

Bara: Of course I will, and I know it already. I have gotten to know a lot of people here, and I will miss them along with the school, sports, shops and the food. I am going to miss "my American life" most of all. I will never forget the moments I have had here. It is the most interesting and unforgettable year in my life so far, even if it wasn't perfect all of the time.

Mariona: Thank you for answering my questions; this has been an interesting conversation. We are lucky to have lived this amazing experience that not everybody gets the chance to. I hope you will have a good end in the United States with your host family and all your friends.

Bara: It was nice talking to you too. I could see in the exchange that we have similar feelings and struggles because we went through the same "experience." We have less than four months here, so we should enjoy it. It seems still like a long time, but time goes so fast. So here is to a great rest of the school year in America. Thanks to my family and friends here for this opportunity. I hope I will visit you sometime in the future and also get the chance to see the new school building.



“It's scary leaving a place I consider safe, but it's time to move on.”



It's the End of the Movie as We Know It, and I Feel Fine

Warning: Spoilers Ahead

by Maggie Rieckman

You drive to the theater; park as near to the entrance as you can; march through the doors; buy your ticket(s) and possibly show your ID; buy overpriced buttered popcorn, pop and Raisinets; locate the room where the movie is showing; and find a seat not too close but not too far from the screen. Then, you wait. You arrived a bit early, anticipating a crowd. Soon enough, the lights dim, and the familiar reminder to turn off phones is played. The previews begin, and while watching them, you conclude that you must return to the theater to see every one of those movies. Here we go, the production company logo; whether it's 20th Century Fox, Warner Bros., Paramount Pictures, Lionsgate or Columbia Pictures, you listen to the familiar sounds and watch the familiar animation, anxious to see what they have created.

Finally, the movie commences, and your popcorn is already half gone. You become engrossed in the beginning scene. But you are aware that the beginning matters little. You know that the beginning only sets the stage; the quality of the movie lies in the middle and end--especially the end. You believe in the saying "A movie is only as good as its ending."

However, in cases like "Titanic," people still seem to love the movie, even though it has a painfully pointless ending. I'm not talking about the door thing or Jack dying (that was necessary). I'm talking about the senile, wrinkly and thickheaded Rose tossing the "Heart of the Ocean" diamond (worth \$20 million) into the blue abyss of the sea, symbolizing nothing but ignorance. As said in an article on the Complex website, "that diamond could have given an arts scholarship to thousands of Jacks. The wrong person got on the door." Agreed.

On the other hand, some endings make good movies great--"The Breakfast Club," for example. The brain, the athlete, the basket case, the princess and the criminal depart Saturday detention as unlikely comrades. We didn't know exactly what it meant when John Bender pumped his fist into the air at the edge of the football field, his trench coat flowing behind him, but we loved it.

"The Shawshank Redemption" is another lovely movie made even more lovely by the ending. Two forever friends from prison, Andy Dufresne and Red (they're actually really good people), are reunited on a breezy beach under an incredibly blue sky.

An additional example of one of the best movie endings of all time (and my personal favorite) is that of the "The Truman Show." Truman, an unknowing reality TV star since birth who has been lied to by everyone in his little world, discovers the truth. He sails across the fake sea, survives the fake storm, finds the edge of the fake town and bids the world watching and the "creator" farewell by voicing his catchphrase: "In case I don't see ya, good afternoon, good evening and goodnight." Also, we are led to assume that he gets the girl he fell in love with so long ago--an ending no one can complain about. The movie came out in 1998 (before I was born), and I can't imagine how gratifying it would have been to see "The Truman Show" in theaters.

The experience of watching a movie, especially in a theater, is one that we all know. Everyone knows the feeling of satisfaction when that movie is terrific. Everyone also knows the feeling of disappointment when that movie is awful, potentially due to its ending. The end is sometimes dreaded, the end is sometimes welcomed, the end is sometimes

yearned for and, always, the end is important. In movies, it usually comes within two hours. In life, endings can be longer or shorter, and there are many more of them: the end of secondary school, the end of college, the end of a vacation, the end of a song, the end of a relationship, the end of a nap and, eventually, the end of life. It's okay if we are not prepared for any ending, whether in a movie or in life, just as long as we accept it for what it is.



Infographic by Chase Davis

A "Green" Thumb

A review of John Green's latest novel: "Turtles All the Way Down"

by Maggie Rieckman

For the first time in six years, the world has been blessed with another young adult novel by John Green. His past work has had tremendous success with "Looking for Alaska," "An Abundance of Katherines," "Paper Towns" and "The Fault in Our Stars" being New York Times Best Sellers. The latest novel, "Turtles All the Way Down," was released on Oct. 1, and it, like its predecessors, is a New York Times Bestseller.

The title, "Turtles All the Way Down," stems from an old philosophical joke discussed in the novel. Origins of the expression are unclear, but an example of it being used is recorded in Stephen Hawking's "A Brief History of Time." It is an anecdote of a lecture about the universe and how Earth orbits the sun and how the sun orbits the galaxy, once given by a well-known scientist. Following the talk, an old woman in the audience commented that everything he had said was a lie and claimed that the Earth is a plate that sits on the shell of an enormous tortoise. The scientist smiled and questioned what the turtle was standing on, and the woman replied, "It's turtles all the way down."

In John Green's book, though, the term "turtles all the way down" is used to describe the spiraling and ever-tightening anxiety of the main character, Aza Holmes. The novel begins with 16-year-old Aza contemplating if she was real or not. Meaning: was she just a sum of thoughts she couldn't control, followed by actions that she, again, couldn't control? Aza worries about notions (both emotional and physical) like this one constantly,

and it often hinders her in activities that most teens or adults participate in without giving a second thought. Because of this part of herself, Aza often feels like a burden to her friends and family. In the first chapter, she says, "Even I found myself annoying."

One of the people Aza fears she annoys is Daisy Ramirez, her "best and most fearless friend since elementary school." Daisy's energetic and outgoing personality

leads the two to embark on an adventure to discover the whereabouts of a runaway Indianapolis billionaire wanted for bribery and fraud, the reward for his location being \$100,000.

The billionaire has two sons, one of whom Aza met at "sad camp" (a summer camp for kids who had lost one or both of their parents) when they

were little. Davey had lost his mother (and now maybe his father), and Aza had lost her father. Daisy pushed Aza to rekindle her old friendship with

Davey to unearth some clues because, well . . . \$100,000! Reluctantly, Aza did, and the meeting between her and Davey grew into a budding romance full of poetry, stars and metaphors.

The story leads us on a journey where puzzling clues are investigated, Star Wars fan fictions are published online and astronomical phenomena are gazed upon. In addition, Aza's meddling anxiety causes problems

with her best friend, boyfriend and mother. Unlike other authors within this genre, Green does not resolve Ava's mental illness to end the book in a fairytale-esque manner. The author recognizes the struggles of mental illness (having OCD himself) and the reality of being a teenager today.

Green wrote "Turtles All the Way Down" with integrity and ended it beautifully, in a way that is representative of the gritty human condition. The most special thing, however, about Green's writing is the way it touches people, especially youth. As teenagers, we sometimes feel like nobody understands us, but after reading his books, that changes. I've been able to relate in some way to all of John Green's books, whether it be to a character, a situation or an emotion. And that's all we really want as humans, right? We want the well-

written words of authors who describe how we feel better than we ever could to resonate in our gut--to let us know that

we are not alone. If you, gentle reader, long for this feeling, I highly recommend anything Green.

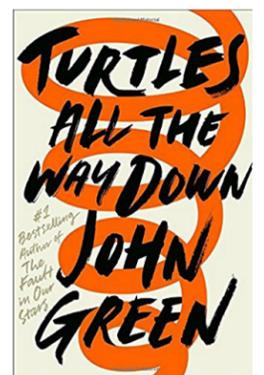
"Was released on Oct. 1, and it, like its predecessors, is a New York Times Bestseller."

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"If you, gentle reader, long for this reading, I highly recommend anything Green."

"Everything he had said was a lie."

Davey to unearth some clues because, well . . . \$100,000! Reluctantly, Aza did, and the meeting between her and Davey grew into a budding romance full of poetry, stars and metaphors.



Girls' Choice is a Good Choice

by Samantha Janda

Originating from an acclaimed 1930s comic strip called "Li'l Abner," Miss Sadie Hawkins became known as a pursuer of men on one specific November day each year. On this day, unmarried women would chase bachelors around the town; if a man got caught, it was known that he had to marry his pursuer. This started out as a fictional event but soon turned into a high school and college rage—a girls' choice dance.

On the evening of Saturday, Feb. 10, Sandy Creek Student Council hosted their first ever Sadie Hawkins Dance. Overly excited girls put on their fancy dresses and went to the dance with the boy of their choice. They indulged themselves in scotcheroos, pop and many fistfulls of popcorn while they mingled and danced.

"I was a little nervous about how it would turn out since this was our first winter formal dance," said sophomore

Kyara Fike. "When I first walked in and saw all of the girls, I was in awe because everyone looked so pretty. Even the guys got all dressed up in their dress shirts and ties. It was so awesome to see everyone looking nice rather than in the typical shorts and t-shirts like all of our other dances."

Though attendance was hampered by the harsh weather, those who braved the snow said the event was a success.

"The dance was a lot of fun for the amount of people that made an appearance," said sophomore Connor Crumbliss. "I wish there would've been more line dances played, but other than that I had a blast. The food was good, too."

Although there will be no teenage marriages as a result of the dance, Sadie Hawkins' idea sure resulted in a night of great fun, food and memories for many of us at Sandy Creek High School!

Speakeasy? More Like Speak-Not-Easy

by Maggie Rieckman

Rising at 5 a.m. may not be the perfect scenario for a Saturday morning, but when coaches Shandi Tobias and Ashley Bauer bring donuts, students are willing to wake up at any time.

Speech meets may start early and last all day, but the time proves to be well spent, with students forming fond memories, experiencing successes and seeing improvements in their public speaking skills.

"At this point in the season, people are making strides towards growth" said Tobias. "Hopefully this continues as we move forward towards districts."

Participants in speech perform in front of an audience in multiple rounds, either with a script or extemporaneously.

Speech categories include OID (oral interpretation of drama), duet, serious prose, humorous prose, entertainment, informative, persuasive and extemporaneous.

An OID is a competitive event in which team members act out a script—either funny or serious—without making eye contact with each other and without touching each other.

The team has two successful OIDs, having placed multiple times. One is a movie cutting of "Napoleon Dynamite," and the other is a cutting of the musical "Wicked."

"We chose to use the script of 'Napoleon Dynamite' because it's one of my favorite movies and different from the typical OID," said senior Maggie Rieckman, who plays Napoleon Dynamite in the OID, which also

included seniors Charlotte Okraska and Faith Mueller, junior Dylan Schweer and sophomore Jordan Heinz.

Junior Bailey Switzer has participated in speech all three years and has recently found success in the extemporaneous event.

"I like doing extemporaneous more than any other event I've done because I feel more comfortable and confident," said Switzer. "It also doesn't get boring because the topic varies from round to round."

As students prepare for districts, Tobias reflects on previous speech meets.

"When we went to the Fairbury meet, everybody came home with a medal," she said. "I felt like that was a really big confidence booster."

As the season winds down, seniors prepare to say goodbye to a club that acts as an outlet for their creativity. Though the team will soon lose their senior members—Rieckman, Okraska, Mueller, Allison Story, Alexia Schiermeyer, Brittany Godtel and Tyler Black—there is no doubt that the team will continue to succeed next year, as there are several talented underclassmen ready to fill their shoes.

"I plan on doing speech next year because, though it's stressful, it's worth it," said freshman Breanna Brennfoerder.

The team has three more competitions on the docket: the SNC invitational at Fillmore Central on Feb. 24, the McCool Junction varsity invitational on March 3 and the district tournament on March 13.

Update on the Catalans' Declaration of Independence

By Mariona Sauri Sanchez

The independence of Catalonia is important to me. For a long time, the Catalan people have been fighting to have freedom and independence without any problems. The issues came when the Spanish government did not let us be independent and have our own country. A lot of people don't understand why it is so important for the people in Catalonia to be independent. The story of Catalonia and Spain is so long, and there were and are a lot of issues with the government. It's hard to be on the other side of the world without my family during this hard time in our lives. On the first of October, the police from Madrid came to Catalonia and started hitting people including the elderly and youth. For a long time, we tried to do a lot of things to try to have our own country, like demonstrations.

That day, Catalonia had the opportunity to express how we felt all of these years—that we wanted to

vote to have freedom. The problem came when the police arrived, and they didn't let us do that. They didn't let us express ourselves and say, "Hey, Spain is stealing money from us; it is not yours." We had many bad years without money and jobs, and a lot of families were poor. It's hard to see all the old people from Catalonia, who have been fighting since they were kids, struggle. I saw videos from the first of October when Catalanian peaceful protesters were getting beat, and I started crying out of rage, sadness and hate. My grandparents remember how they couldn't speak and learn in their own language, Catalan, because the Government did not let them do it. The people in Catalonia spoke Catalan secretly. They were afraid of their own country. If the police saw them speaking in their language, they could go to jail. A long time ago, when my dad was a child, he saw the police threaten little children for playing in the street with

their friends and speaking Catalan. For the past four years, Catalonia has planned referendums but has been met with opposition by Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy. Right now, the Catalan people are fighting to have freedom and start their independent lives. The issue is that the president decided to put 10 people in jail who were accused of rebellion, sedition and embezzlement. They only wanted to express themselves and try to communicate the world why we deserve to be independent.

Catalonia wants to be independent and responsible for everything that promotes the good of its people. Catalonia wants their independence to establish the best international relations. Catalonia deserves this because they should not have to ask for permission to be independent; they should be able to simply declare it. I'm so happy to say that I live in my country, Catalonia, and I feel free.

Honorable Mention

By Ty Schweer

On Wednesday, Jan. 24, eight members of the junior class were inducted into a society of individuals who excel in our school and community. No, this is not a cult; this is the National Honor Society.

To be inducted into NHS, juniors and seniors must have earned a 3.7 GPA and have done 10 hours of community service. Acceptance into this organization is one of the highest honors our high school can bestow on a student.

The new NHS inductees include Erin Bruning, Chase DeVries, Samatha Janda, Devoney Keeler, Dylan Schweer, Luke Searle, Bailey Switzer and Atley Van Emmerik. They were sworn in by seniors Coree Lipovsky, Ty Schweer, Genesis Ramirez, Maggie Rieckman, Kyra Sorenson, Allison Story and Charlotte Okraska.

Senior NHS member Coree Lipovsky had

kind words to say about the future of NHS at Sandy Creek. "I think this year's inductees will represent our school and communities very well,"

Junior Bailey Switzer expressed eagerness

to begin his work as a member of NHS. "I am thrilled to to be a part of this organization," said Switzer. "It will be a privilege to be a part of it."

These juniors will take part in multiple service projects, and of course, the induction of next year's class. This year, the NHS chapter did a Start Over Rover pet toys/food drive. Currently, the members from last year, along with their new inductees, are planning yet another service project to help improve the community.

With all their hard work and dedication, these eight juniors personify what it means to be an honor student.



Have Faith in Me!

By Faith Mueller

It's February, people! This means here are some real high-end relationship questions!

What should I do for my girlfriend for Valentine's Day?

This would be such an easy question to answer if it were the summertime. Picnic! I've always loved a good picnic. Keep that one in mind for when you make her angry and need a lovely surprise.

Buy her at least one rose. Make her dinner: I'm thinking spaghetti and some nice biscuits or breadsticks. I may or may not be referencing a cliché candlelit dinner. Valentine's Day is the day you are allowed to be cliché! Take advantage of it!

Why can't I get a girlfriend?

and

Why can't I get a boyfriend?

Heeeeyyyyy! You two should meet up! Matchmaker Faith, back at it again!

There is always that thing that people with SOs say. "Just be yourself! Don't be fake! You will find someone!" and that is legitimate! This does not mean that you can just sit around and do nothing. If you have interest in someone, you have to pursue that interest. The idealism of "If it's meant to be, it'll be" is bull. That works with literally nothing! Who even made that saying? They were stupid.

In all honesty, we are high school students. Having a boyfriend or girlfriend means nothing at this point in our lives. Don't fret the fact that you don't have a SO yet, because you have so much life for that!

How do you know if a crush is unhealthy?

So you have a crush, eh? Congrats! Is that crush unhealthy? Well, we should probably find out. Crushes can be very different from person to person. In general, being nervous when you interact with a crush is

normal, and so is thinking and talking about them. What I would consider unhealthy is if you are constantly anxious about making them angry when you are being yourself, whether that be over text or in person. Literally any situation where you aren't comfortable being yourself around them or in general isn't healthy. It's also really not healthy if having this crush leads to you being kind of stalkerish. Instagram stalking doesn't really count, but if you are checking that Snap Map to see where they are and what they are doing... you may want to check yourself, honey. If you know that they are going to be at the library at 5:30, so you purposely go to the library at 5:35... you may want to check yourself, honey.

How do you know if someone likes you?

Oooh, girl, this is a hard one! This varies so much from person to person. If they make an effort to talk to you and they don't just ignore you. Maybe if they share things with you, like food, that might be a nice hint. However, that doesn't necessarily mean they like you. Maybe they just want to be friends! Being friends is good too!

Now this next part is very important. If you read nothing else, read this next sentence. Being mean is not a healthy way of expressing feelings. Being verbally or physically abusive is not a healthy way of expressing feelings. Someone sexually assaulting you, verbally or physically, is not a healthy way of expressing feelings. That's very important to know. Sometimes parents are stupid with their elementary children and they convince them otherwise, so I thought you might need that.

How should I establish boundaries in a relationship?

Talk with your partner! Communication is soooooooooooooooooo essential!



Before you start to do any sort of thing, you need to establish what you are comfortable with. If you only want to hold hands, that is fine! If your partner agrees, then you are good to go, and you can talk more if your feelings change. If your partner disagrees and insists on more than what you are comfortable with, that is not a relationship you want to be in. You don't want someone to pressure you into things you don't want to do. A person who knows your boundaries and still decides to cross them has earned themselves a doctorate in skulduggery, and I would not suggest staying in that relationship. If your SO doesn't respect your boundaries, they don't respect you, and, honey, you deserve respect.

Thank you to all those who submitted questions for this quarter's Uproar! Remember to be safe and have Faith in me! *Finger guns in hopes that you understand the indication that I just made a reference towards the title of my column and the pun associated with my name.*

Prom-Posterous!

by Maci Maldonado

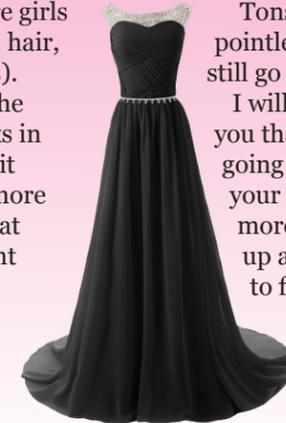


We're about a month away from spring, and you know what that means. It's almost time for prom: that special time of the year where girls spend way too much money on a dress, hair, nails, etc. (I am definitely guilty of this).



The idea of prom can be traced all the way back to co-ed university banquets in the 19th century, and since then it has gotten more expensive and more extravagant than ever. People think that prom is such a special and magical night where you get to fulfill your childhood dreams of dressing up like a princess, but it really isn't that great and the majority of people think that it is very overrated.

The average cost for a prom dress is around \$699.56. That is absurd! There isn't any point in spending



almost \$700 on a dress in high school that you are going to wear once. It isn't a wedding.

Tons of people think that prom is a pointless high school tradition, yet they still go along with it. Why is that?

I will tell you why: it's because society tells you that if you don't go to prom, you are going to miss out on the best event of your high school career. This couldn't be more wrong. Some people don't enjoy dressing up and dancing, so why should they be made to feel bad for that? I also think it is perfectly fine that some people look forward to prom for months and months. If they are excited for it, then let them be excited. Prom may be overrated, but you can still have a great time.

It's not the actual prom that makes it a fun time. It is about the people that you go with.



WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

Tyler Black discusses Columbia Picture's new film "Jumanji"

by Tyler Black

Recently at your local theater you might have seen that the movie "Jumanji 2: Welcome to the Jungle" was playing. This action-packed comedy is sure to bring any group of friends or family a good laugh. When four mismatched teenagers get stuck in detention, they are forced to take staples out of old magazines. This is where they find an old video game that transports them to Jumanji. Jumanji is a game set in a jungle, where players must return a stone to its rightful place to bring peace to the jungle. Along their journey the four meet up with a fifth character, Alex, who was transported into the game many years ago. He assists them on their quest and helps them get out of the game alive. They have the power, but can these five be fearless enough to save the jungle and their lives?

The things that make this movie so great are the actors, the jokes and the quality of the movie as a whole. With big stars like Dwayne (The Rock) Johnson, Jack Black, Kevin Hart, Karen Gillan, and Nick Jonas, you know that this was not a cheap movie to produce. These actors work together to bring an absolutely hilarious new take on a old movie



that many people loved. The way they deliver the jokes is almost poetic since most of the cast members either are comedians or have worked in several comedy movies. This movie will make you double over with laughter. The quality of the movie is simply stunning: you feel like you are right

there next to them in this foreign jungle running for dear life. Everything looks like you can just walk up to the screen and take it. It is truly amazing how with each scene change they are able to nail the habitat perfectly. The jungle is full of large trees and dangerous animals that are constantly trying to kill the characters, and the bandits from whom they stole the stone are also trying to hunt them.

The movie as a whole will go down as a great sequel to its predecessor, the original "Jumanji." This family comedy will continue to rise through the charts and go straight to the top. The movie brings friends and family together for a fun night out with a good laugh, too. So round up all your friends and get to the the theater to see this instant classic.



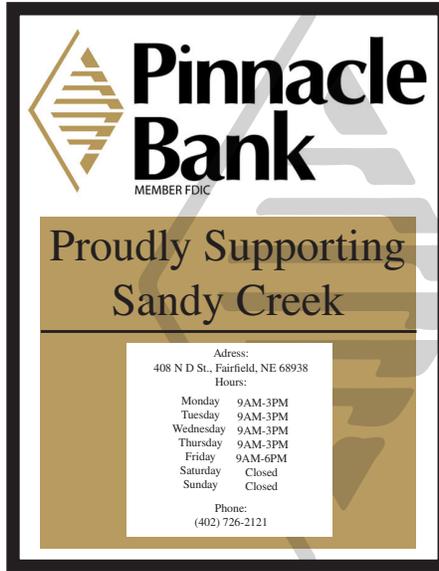
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