



D.C. Trip a Success

Middle schoolers were able to see the sights in the nation's capitol.

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Editor-in-Chief Farewell

Hayden Price bids good-bye to GICC.

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Foley inspires students; affirms pro-life message

By Koby Bales

At a mass held in Washington D.C. attended by the future Lieutenant Governor Mike Foley, Pope John II said, "Every threat to human dignity and life must necessarily be felt in the Church's very heart." Foley repeated those words to the juniors and seniors at Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) on April 15, 2021.

Foley began his talk to students by preaching the importance of getting involved in politics at a young age. He told students to get registered to vote and study the candidates and their beliefs.

"They are right on the edge of becoming full citizens. I want to remind them how important it is to vote and be well informed when you vote. This was such a great audience to get in front of to encourage them because they are just at that point where they start to get involved in these issues," Foley said.

Foley mainly spoke of pro-life advocacy. Foley has been an advocate for pro-life issues his entire political career, pushing for a bill that passed which charges an individual with murder if someone engages in an act that kills the fetus. Along with that bill, he also helped with the passing of the Fetal Assault Ban. The bill charges anyone who injures a pregnant woman with a crime. The bill also jails women who take illegal drugs while pregnant.

Foley believes that Christians should continue the fight against pro-choice bills, and hopes that eventually the precedent set by the Roe v. Wade case will be overturned, and the problem of abortion will be set at a state level.

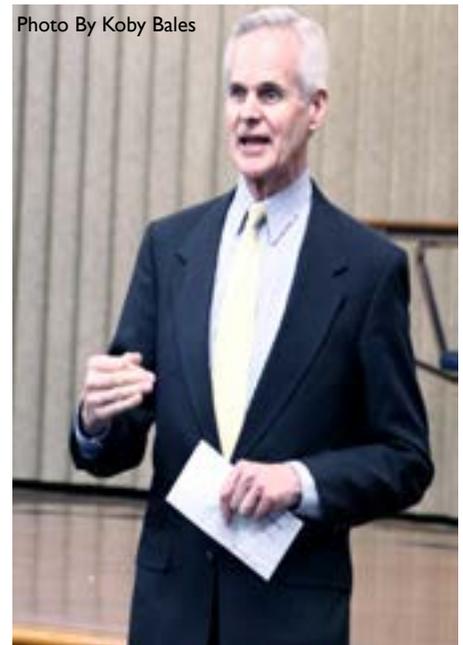
"I think there is a reasonable hope that Roe v. Wade is reversed. That

doesn't change the issue, it kicks it back to the states, and the states will have a lot more authority to protect unborn human lives," Foley remarked.

In the tough world of politics, Foley says his faith is what has kept him going. He attends mass every day and believes that God's strength helps him get through his daily problems.

"I need the help of the Lord every day. These struggles are tough, and they are not going to be easy going forward. The forces that are raided against us are very, very powerful, and there are lots of reasons to be discouraged, but the Lord will bless us with victory in his time," Foley stated.

Photo By Koby Bales



Lieutenant Governor Mike Foley talks about his political career and pro-life advocacy to students at Grand Island Central Catholic on Thursday, April 15, 2021, in the Little Theater.



Photo By Barb Yager-Wach

Payton Gangwish (11), Reid Martinez (12), Isaac Herbek (11), Wargak Tut (11), Gil Jengmer (11), Russell Martinez (12), Theodore Toea (11), and Jonathan Schardt (11), show their cool demeanor while at prom. The event was held at Grand Island Central Catholic on Saturday, April 17, 2021. Cole Kleint (12) and Andrea Palma (12) were prom royalty.

Seniors revel at first and final prom

By Koby Bales

The annual high school prom took place at Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) inside the Howard Schumann Gymnasium on Saturday, April 17, 2021.

The night's festivities began with the crowning of prom royalty at 8:30 p.m. The court consisted of Koby Bales (12), Cole Kleint (12), Willy Goering (12), Jackson Farias (12), Hayden Price (12), Hayley and Kennedy Henke (12), Ashlyn Kucera (12), Andrea Palma (12), and Julia Pils (12). Winning the crowns were Kleint and Palma.

"It felt so amazing! I was surprised that I won, but I felt so honored to be voted on by classmates for such a prestigious award," Palma said.

Prom was a special night for the juniors and seniors who attended the event. Seniors had been anticipating this night since last year because of the cancellation of last year's dance due to COVID-19. The anticipation showed as the students crowded the dance floor

and showed their best moves. Students broke out all of the trendiest moves such as the cabbage patch, the renegade, and the whip and nae-nae. These dance moves were most prominent during the song "Oye Mi Amor" by Mana.

"Prom was so fun. I am still laughing about Daniel [Martinez-Rey] and how he ran around the gym with a wooden shark decoration. That was hilarious," Palma said.

Following the dance students who signed up for post-prom drove to Westside Bowling Lanes to continue the fun during post-prom. There, students participated in games of bowling while also having the opportunity to paint, which was provided by The Happy Brush. Some students also showed off their best singing voices during karaoke.

"I will always remember prom. It was a blast hanging out with my best buds," Palma said.



Photo By Barb Yager-Wach

Andrea Palma (12) and Cole Kleint (12) pose after being crowned prom royalty. The 2021 prom was held at the Howard Schumann Gymnasium.

DC trip fun, exciting, educational

By Angela Messere

On Wednesday, April 7, 2021, through April 10, 2021, students of Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) flew to Washington D.C. for a school-sponsored field trip. Along with the students and many parents, Marketing Director Janelle Armstrong and English teacher Barb Yager both acted as staff representatives on the trip.

“As a parent of a Crusader, I wanted my son to be able to experience the trip. I also thought it would be a great offering for our middle school students. It is fantastic that our school can offer the trip to middle schoolers like other schools in town,” stated Armstrong.

The group visited many historical memorials and attractions during the trip,

as well as enjoyed a pizza and bowling night for the students. A night on the harbor was enjoyed after the festivities to conclude the trip.

“We visited a lot of monuments. We were able to go to some museums that allowed visitors indoors... Mount Vernon, Gettysburg, and the Washington Monument seemed to be [the kids’] favorites. In addition to sightseeing, the kids also got to go bowling. They had one night in the National Harbor, and there was a giant Ferris wheel that they could ride. It was educational and fun at the same time,” said Armstrong.

Armstrong believes that her experiences in D.C. were impactful and insightful to both her and the students who had

attended.

“Just the feeling you get going to these war memorials, seeing all the names on the wall on the Vietnam memorial, seeing the statues in the Korean War Memorial, going to Arlington Cemetery and seeing all of the gravestones makes you realize freedom isn’t free. It was moving,” commented Armstrong.

If given the opportunity to visit Washington D.C. again, Armstrong would certainly go again to explore the city even more.

“Absolutely... I think a lot of the kids would say they want to, as well as a lot of the parents... I think a lot of us would like to go back...” concluded Armstrong.



Photo By Barb Yager-Wach

Kaden Milby (7), Jaxon Thagard (8), Aiden Perales (10), Michael Sambula-Monzalvo (10), Hanna Liske (8), Morgan Schulte (9), Diana Guerrero (8), Jorja Mangeot (8), Haven Buchta (8), Mia Wiese (9), Delaney Chmelka (7), Keiley Wiese (7), Hunter Borges (9), Connor Johnson (9), Isaac Henry (9), Madison Schneider (8), Hannah Hamik (9), Hadlee Hasselman (9), Madeline Logue (9), Shae Van Winkle (7), Molly Graybill (7), Katie Lofing (7), Thomas Armstrong (8), Grace Johnson (7), Emely Gutierrez (7), Cutler Obermiller-Snyder (7), Jacie Palik (7), Tongun Tongun (7), Aaron Madrigal-Long (8), Lucas Williams (8), Kylan Puente (10), Ayden Encinger (10), Axel Escalante (8), and David Sambula-Monzalvo (8) stand in front of the Iwo Jima Memorial on their first evening in Washington D.C.



Hayden Price (12), Editor-in-Chief, The Lance

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Editorial Policy

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Outside submissions, suggestions, or letters to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. They may be brought to Mrs. Yager-Wach in Room 213 or emailed to journalism@gicc.org. Submissions may also be mailed to:

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Any and all submissions must be signed to be considered for publication, and the editor reserves the right to edit or print any submissions.

Good attempt at infrastructure bill, but bill still needs work

President Joe Biden announced yet another major legislative initiative this month. The proposed bill has been labeled as an infrastructure overhaul. Addressing our nation's infrastructure has been a goal for politicians on both sides of the aisle for years. President Biden wants \$2 trillion for the bill titled the American Jobs Plan; yet, Republicans are insistent on a smaller package for infrastructure. Republicans are right to push for a less-funded bill.

A [CNBC](#) survey shares that just 36% of respondents supported Biden's plan as written. The underlying issue with this bill is that the government, under Biden, is becoming accustomed to spending large amounts of money. To fund this immense bill, Biden is focusing on tax changes such as taxing corporations at a higher rate, specifically at 28%, up from 21%.

One might ask why would I care if wealthy corporate executives are taxed at a higher rate? Well, it's not that simple. A higher tax rate for corporations has a profound effect on consumers. The [Tax Policy Center](#) describes that Biden's proposed tax changes would reduce the after-tax incomes of middle-income persons by .4% and .2% for lower-income persons. Surprisingly enough, these estimates are lower than others. For

upper-middle-income households would pay a bit more of their after-tax incomes while the very highest-income households would pay slightly less."

As of right now, the [Tax Foundation](#) describes that with the proposed bill and its source of funding, the U.S. federal-state tax rate would be 32.34%, which is higher than the tax rates of all our major trade partners and competitors. This tax rate puts us at a significant economic disadvantage. Corporations and businesses are far less likely to open businesses in the United States if the tax burden is continuously increased.

The legislative proposal's funding source will impact consumers negatively. Nonetheless, an infrastructure bill has many merits. As a result, this begs the question, could certain aspects of the bill be axed to reduce spending? The simple answer is yes. If done right, this bill could stimulate the economy by cutting proposed expenditures; Republicans and Democrats could potentially come to a rare consensus.

An article by [Vox](#) describes the makeup of the bill. Only \$621 billion is dedicated to infrastructure spending, which is concerning considering the legislation is touted as an infrastructure bill. One part of the proposal that could be cut is the \$400 billion for home and community-based health and eldercare. If provisions like this were slashed, extreme taxation might not be needed. Democrats need to focus on sticking strictly to infrastructure. Republicans are likely to work with Democrats on infrastructure initiatives such as the modernization of our electrical grid. I take no issue with the environmental agenda of the bill. Action is needed for our environment. Fossil fuels are having detrimental effects on our planet, and we should do more to move towards renewable energy and cleaner cars. Republicans and Democrats should be able to agree that we need infrastructure and environmental improvements.



lower-income families, a decrease in income, even small decreases, can be detrimental.

The Tax Policy Center goes on to share, "In the decade 2031-2040, Biden's plan would raise taxes by about \$6.2 trillion, or about 1.6 percent of the GDP. The distribution of his tax increases would be similar from 2030 to 2021. However,

GICC a special place for grads; Price bids farewell to school

By Hayden Price



After five years at Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC), my time as a student has come to an end. It is hard to express in words what GICC has meant to me. I have met amazing people at this school and formed lifelong relationships. Before coming to GICC, I had preconceived notions of what this school would be like. The reality is, I had no idea how much GICC would change my life.

My teachers have not just successfully guided me academically, but they have helped me get involved in ways I would never have expected. People like Ms. Sarah Wolf, Mr. Phou Manivong, and Mrs. Barb Yager-Wach have led me to have memorable speech, quiz bowl, FBLA, and journalism experiences. Most of all, the staff at school has always simply been there for me. Amy Ostdiek has always been a smiling face in the office, and Mr.

John Howard has consistently been able to make me laugh with his never-ending sarcasm. I can honestly say that I have exclusively positive memories with all of the teachers I have had at GICC (not to mention, we have a stellar administration). Principal Jordan Engle and other members of the administration know students by name and have relationships with students. I can not thank the staff and administration enough for all they do.

At GICC, I found that your classmates are more than classmates. I will greatly miss spending schooldays and even weekends with my classmates. I was blessed to be a part of such a resilient, fun, hard-working class. All of my classmates have so much to offer this world and already have had immense success in their activities, hobbies, and relationships. I know that my classmates will continue to grow in life professionally, personally, and spiritually. The class of 2021 has an unparalleled future.

Lastly, I would like to thank the people behind the scenes who have meant so much to me. For example, people like Jeannee Mueller Fossberg and Dave Hulinsky are amazing people and are not necessarily at GICC every day but have had an enormous impact on students and the school. Mueller Fossberg has produced many GICC musicals and served on the GICC board. Her positivity and level of care are unmatched. Mike Kube, from the Diocese of Grand Island and other pro-life leaders, love Crusader students and have been pivotal in helping Crusaders see that life is a gift from God. Other coaches, volunteers, board members, and clergy who impact the school are also noticed every day and appreciated.

As I progress in life, I will never forget my high school alma mater. Current students, cherish your time at school and get to know your teachers and classmates as best as you can. So, for now, I say goodbye as Editor-in-chief and in my other roles, but I will genuinely never say goodbye to GICC. This school will forever be a second home to me.

Three teachers say farewell

In 1994, *The Mask* was a blockbuster hit, Bill Clinton was president of the United States, and Kerry O'Connor began teaching at Grand Island Central Catholic. After 27 years O'Connor bids farewell to the Crusader kingdom, moving closer to family in Omaha. In a moving tribute, English teacher Cathy Howard thanked O'Connor.

"Thanks for the laughs in the faculty lounge that one great year we shared a lunch mod! Thanks for the way you love babies, animals and even plants with your tender, loving heart. Thanks for always being the sarcastic, funny, hysterical bright spot in all our lives for the last 27 years! We shall miss you, dear friend," Howard remarked.

Kate Schendt, Spanish teacher for four years, leaves GICC to teach at Harvard. Schendt has managed Student Council during her time at GICC as well.

"It has been a blessing to have had the opportunity to develop a close friendship with Kate. I will miss having her right down the hall, but this is a wonderful opportunity for her," said English teacher Barb Yager-Wach.

Jackie Dirkschneider, business and physical education teacher, leaves GICC



Kerry O'Connor becomes prom king and queen during prom 2021.



Kate Schendt and Jackie Dirkschneider will pursue other opportunities.

after two years. Dirkschneider commutes from Kearney daily and was hoping to obtain a position to enhance her teaching skills.

"The kids, for sure, you guys are awesome. I had a blast working here... I'm not really motivated to move on. [I'm leaving] probably just to gain more experience elsewhere as a teacher and grow as a teacher," replied Dirkschneider.

Environmental Justice's underlying socialist tone a danger to life

By Payton Gangwish

On January 20, 2021, President Joe Biden signed an executive order that revoked the permit given to TC Energy Corporation to build phase four (named Keystone XL) of the Keystone pipeline system, stretching from Alberta, Canada to Illinois and south into Texas.

TC Energy Corporation announced that its 1,000 union members would lose their jobs temporarily for about a four to eight-month period. While this was one of the many campaign promises Biden made on his road to the presidency, this promise being fulfilled in the name of environmental justice may have had an unintended ripple effect on the oil industry and trade relations with our northern neighbor.

One year ago, gas prices were averaging as low as \$1.84 per gallon according to the [US Energy Information Administration](#) (EIA), and Diesel was as low as \$2.399 per gallon nationwide according to [YCHARTS](#). The future prices of domestic oil had dropped to an astonishing -\$40 per barrel due to the stock market crash of 2020. As the end of 2020 approached, the nationwide price for gas and diesel were \$2.500 and \$2.585, respectively, according to the EIA.

Although there may not have been an immediate effect in January 2021, in March, gas and diesel prices jumped to \$2.792 and \$3.152, respectively, in a report by the EIA.

As some people see the revoking of the Keystone permit as harmful for our domestic economy, lobbyists for environmentalist organizations like the Sierra Club, World Wide Fund for Nature, Earthjustice, and Democrats alike see this as a victory for the environment after years of protest.

One such example of these protests, although it wasn't about the Keystone at all, was the Dakota Access Pipeline protest back in 2016.

With all this being said, this move by President Biden isn't just a one-time PR stunt. This is part of a larger battle between environmentalists and fossil fuels.

While many people have ideas of how to deal with this conflict, some members of Congress are looking to take a radical approach to this endeavor. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), also known as by her initials AOC, have proposed the idea of a 'Green New Deal' (GND), which would seek to eradicate

carbon emissions in a decade. To me, it seems completely impossible to get rid of carbon based emissions without taking out a massive chunk of our economy along with it. According to the [International Energy Agency](#) (IEA) in 2019, while the rest of the world produced more carbon emissions than the previous year, the US had the largest reduction in carbon emissions in the world. This is an example of solving environmental problems without the government having to step in and enforce tighter regulations on one of the biggest markets in the US economy.

While it may seem like a noble deed, the American taxpayer would be the non-beneficiaries of this deal. According to the [American Action Forum](#), the GND would cost anywhere from \$51-\$93 trillion over the next decade. Politicians like AOC are calling for a 70% marginal tax rate to fund the GND, which still wouldn't be able to pay for the GND. This is straight up socialism and the left is trying to sugar coat it. So, the next time someone says, "I voted for Biden, but not for these gas prices we are having," just remember, that's exactly what they voted for, whether they'll admit it or not.



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Fine arts alive and well at GICC

By Hayden Price

On Sunday, April 25, 2021, the Grand Island Central Catholic Fine Arts Guild hosted the annual Fine Arts Banquet in the Schumann Gymnasium where fine arts participants were recognized for their accomplishments over the past year in art, speech, one-act, instrumental music, musical production, journalism, and vocal music.

Artists were recognized for their pumpkin decorating accomplishments, Nebraska State Scholastic Art accomplishments, and many students were recognized for their commitment to the art program.

Speech team participants were recognized for a total of 74 metals accumulated during the season. The team was also acknowledged for being district-runner-ups. Sheridan Puncoschar (9) and Hayden Price (12) were given individual awards, with Puncoschar receiving the Team Spirit award and Price receiving Speaker of the Year.

For one-act, the team was commended for working through COVID-19 quarantines, an injured coach, and a last-minute cast change. In addition, Dave Hulinsky, the one-act coach, emphasized just how complex of a show the team performed.

Instrumental music awards consisted of honoring All-City Honor Band members, Conference Honor Band members, and individuals who lettered in band. Additionally, Sarah McCarraher (11), Brooklyn Kolbet (11), and Hanna Thagard (11) won the Best Balancing Act award. Michael Erives (9) won the Most Dedicated award. Brandon Hollister (11) and John Partington (12) won the Patrick S. Gilmore Band award. Lastly, Molly Mueller (12) won the John Philip Sousa Band award.

Musical and vocal music awards were highlighted by the musical MVP award, which went to Kennedi Henke (12). The National Choral Award was received by

Raegan Gellatly (12) and Kennedi Henke (12).

Journalism accomplishments for the year included Journalism Education Association awards, Nebraska Press Women's Contests placements, and state journalism qualifiers. Journalist of the year was Price.

Overall, the tone of the night was positive, with fine arts advisers expressing appreciation for the hard work of their participants.



Photo By Hayden Price

Monika Peters awards John Partington (12) with the Patrick S. Gilmore Band Award.

Journalists sweep state awards

By Hayden Price

On Monday, April 26, 2021, the Nebraska State Journalism competition occurred at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska.

Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) qualified for in-person competition in 12 events and was awarded in five preliminary events. Staff members brought home a total of 17 medals.

Qualifiers were: Hayden Price (12) in newspaper column writing, newspaper sports feature writing, and newspaper layout, Koby Bales (12) competed in headline writing, in-depth writing, and sports news writing, Kajetan Hubl (10) competed in yearbook layout, yearbook feature writing, and yearbook sports feature writing, Ayonya Birthi (10), qualified in newspaper newswriting and yearbook feature writing, Payton Gangwish (11) qualified in sports photography and sports news writing, and lastly, Angela Messere (11) qualified in headline writing, in-depth newswriting, sports photography, and newspaper sports feature writing.

For events that were completed in

person, participants were given one hour and fifteen minutes to work. Additionally, participants had to deal with live interviews before writing stories. These interviews were mock press conferences. At the interviews, journalists were not allowed to record quotes and had to take in-depth notes. Birthi, who is a yearbook editor, had to adapt to writing a newspaper story. Birthi found the experience to be valuable.

"I thought competing at state journalism was very different compared to what I do every day in class. It's definitely more stressful with the time limit... But overall, it was a good experience, and it took journalism to a whole new level for me," shared Birthi.

With COVID-19 in mind, the event differed from previous years; there was no awards ceremony immediately following competition. The preliminary event awards were mailed to sponsors prior to state competition day while competition day awards were sent overnight to sponsors and announced to all schools through a Zoom call on Friday, April 30, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

State Journalism Results

2021 State Journalism- **5th place overall**

Hayden Price: 3rd place Newspaper Column Writing, 5th place Newspaper Sports Feature Writing, 1st place Newspaper Layout

Koby Bales: 1st place Headline Writing, 3rd place Sports News Writing, 5th place In-Depth Newspaper Coverage

Angela Messere: 7th place Headline Writing, 3rd place Newspaper Sports Feature Writing, 5th place In-Depth Newspaper Coverage, 1st place Sports Action Photography

Payton Gangwish: 6th place Sports News Writing, 7th place Sports Action Photography

Ayonya Birthi: 5th place Newspaper News Writing, 4th place Yearbook Feature Writing

Kajetan Hubl: 2nd place Yearbook Feature Writing, 1st place Yearbook Sports Feature Writing, 6th Place Yearbook Layout

Track team competes at Northwest

By Angela Messere



Photo By Gavin Langer

Gabe Wemhoff (12) leads his heat while running the 110 meter hurdles at a meet held on March 30, 2021, at Grand Island Central Catholic.

On Friday, April 23, 2021, the Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) track team competed at the Dave Gee Invite at Grand Island Northwest High School. Notable finishes included a first place finish in the boys 4x800 meter

relay with a time of 8:22.46.

Many individuals on the team ran to victory as well. Gage Steinke (11) placed first in the boys 100 dash and the boys 200 dash. Brayton Johnson (11) won the boys 400 dash. Ben Alberts secured a

win in the boys 800, with a new personal record of 2:04.77.

“We have a lot of kids both on the field and in the track that we are always looking for personal bests. We are also looking to compete at a very high level, so for me it really doesn’t matter who the individual is...,” said Head Coach Keith Kester.

Kester was pleased that the meet was rescheduled due to inclement weather, and that the team was able to compete against challenging teams.

“I really like the idea that we are able to have today’s meet. I am glad that they moved it from Thursday to Friday because the weather is a lot better... It’s a great meet because it is the best competition we’ve seen this year. If you’re going to get better and get where you want to go, the better competition you see, gives you better opportunities to get there. At the end of the year we want to be at the top of our game, and meets like this help us get there,” stated Kester.

Kester was thankful to report that COVID-19 has not caused any turbulence in the team’s activities.

“It is strange wearing a mask at times. Fewer and fewer requirements are out there, which has been good. For us, it hasn’t been very much of an obstacle at all, other than having a mask on at times at the start of practice... I don’t think COVID[-19] this year has been as big of a factor as the fact that we’ve missed an entire year,” commented Kester.

As the track season continues, Kester’s main goal is to improve his team’s individual times and work on attaining personal records.

“It really depends on which events you are looking at. There are seventeen different events at a track meet... I love doing extremely well as a team... but it is more event to event, who the top people in different events are that you are going to see. Today we saw a lot of good competition,” said Kester.

The team’s latest meet took place on Saturday, May 1, 2021, at Pawnee Park in Columbus, Nebraska.

Wargak Tut (11) stretches to gain the most feet he can during the long jump at the Arcadia-Loup City track meet on Thursday, March 25, 2021.



Photo By Gavin Langer

Ghaifan excels on co-op soccer team

By Koby Bales

For the first time, Grand Island Northwest High School (GINW) and Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) have combined forces to form a girls soccer team. It may be hard to tell the difference between this year's Viking team compared to last year, but the team is now filled with Vikings, except for the one lone Crusader, Lucy Ghaifan (10)

Ghaifan (10) is a member of the Northwest Vikings varsity soccer team. It can be difficult to fit in on a team where nobody else is from your school, but for Ghaifan, she found it to be quite easy.

"I went to middle school with some of them; so I know some of them, but it has been fun meeting the new people also," Ghaifan said.

Though only in her first year of high school soccer, Ghaifan is well acquainted with the game. She has been playing since she was seven years old. Ghaifan acquired

her skills on the pitch by playing games with her friends and family at the Grand Island Fieldhouse. She also played on the Walnut Middle School soccer team.

Ghaifan plays center midfielder, which means she is a link between the defense and attack. Mid-fielders are the players who start the offensive attack; by doing this, they are able to control the flow of the game. Ghaifan has been a true asset to the Vikings this year. In her position, she had racked up positive statistics.

Ghaifan has one assist and one point and averages two shots per game, and is also a presence on the defensive end, using her athleticism to jump passes and create turnovers.

Ghaifan has enjoyed her time on the soccer team this season, but she still has quite a few goals for herself as the season progresses. These goals are not just exclusive to skillset, but to growing in

relationships.

"I just want to get better as a soccer player. I also want to continue to make new friends and have fun while doing so," Ghaifan stated.

As for the team, Ghaifan hopes for them to make it to state. There are high hopes for this to happen, as every team they play in the final games of the season has a winning percentage under .500.

As the season quickly comes to an end, Ghaifan will look back at the year with fond memories. She is glad she has had the opportunity to play the sport she loves at a high level.

"It's [the season] been lots of fun. It's been fun to meet new people, and that makes it a lot of fun to play soccer," Ghaifan remarked.



Lucy Ghaifan (10) dribbles the ball downfield for the Northwest High School co-op soccer team.
Photo By Barb Yager-Wach

Crusader boys upend Tigers, 5-2

By Koby Bales

The Grand Island Northwest (GINW) boys soccer team outlasted the Hastings High School Tigers winning 5-2 on Thursday, April 22, 2021, at Northwest High School.

Before the game, the team honored the seniors on the soccer team. Daniel Martinez-Rey (12) was the only senior from Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) to be honored at the match.

"I felt like I have made my teammates proud and there is not a better way to end the season than being honored," Martinez-Rey said.

The match got off to a hot start as Parker Janky was able to net a goal within the first two minutes of play. Hastings responded by tying the game up 1-1 a few minutes later. The match went back and forth for a while with both teams scoring one more goal before heading into intermission.

"We played really poorly in the first half. We did not get into our offense well at all. We give credit to Hastings, they schemed for us really really well," Ortiz mentioned.

Out of the intermission, Northwest completely took over the match. The Vikings scored three more goals and allowed zero for the Tigers. Najib Ortiz (11) led the way as he assisted on two goals in the second half of play.

"We wanted to play a fast-paced game because we thought Hastings wouldn't be able to hang with us if we did. We executed the game plan a lot better in the second half and it showed on the scoreboard," Ortiz stated.

Northwest's record improved to 8-3 after the victory against the Tigers. The Vikings hit the road against Crete and Seward to round out their regular season before heading into district play

this week.

"I am very excited to see what the rest of the season has in store for us," Ortiz stated.



Photo By Barb Yager-Wach

Najib Ortiz progresses the ball on the pitch in varsity action on March 25, 2021, against Columbus Lakeview.

Golf team plays well despite conditions in triangular

By Angela Messere

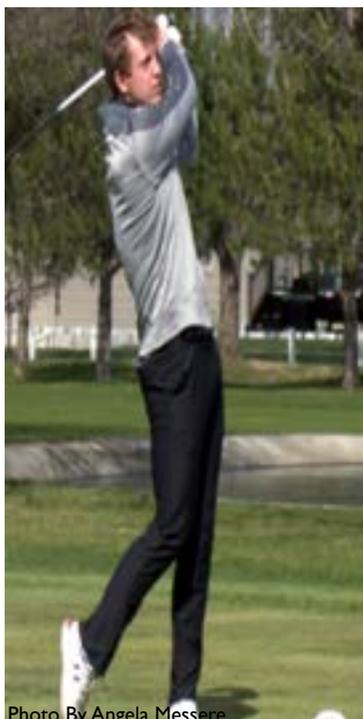


Photo By Angela Messere

Will Goering (12) tees off at Indianhead Golf Course during a windy GICC Triangular on April 22, 2021.

On Thursday, April 22, 2021, the Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) boys golf team placed second in the GICC Triangular, finishing with a total score of 177, putting them between Grand Island Northwest High School, which shot a 175 total, and Aurora High School, which shot a 178.

Although the team had experienced some shortcomings, Head Coach Craig Rupp believes that the team did well despite inclement weather that had affected the scores of many players.

"It's a little disappointing. I thought we could play a little bit better, but the conditions were pretty rough... looking at all the scores for all three players, it was kind of a tough day for everybody," stated Rupp.

Despite the conditions, Rupp believes that the players carried themselves well and played their best games. Will Goering (12) exceeded expectations, shooting a 40 on the back nine. Goering went on to finish tied for first individually.

"Nothing really jumped out at me today. I thought Will played good again.

He just had one bad hole—he tripled hole fourteen and probably could have played better. A couple of other players struggled the first three or four holes and then came back to play very well the last four or five. I think we are a little bit behind where we should be, but we still have about five weeks to play, so we will have time to improve," said Rupp.

In preparation for upcoming rounds, Rupp plans to practice short game techniques, as well as ways to improve mental toughness.

"I think a lot of it is just keeping the ball in play. I think sometimes we want to knock it a hundred miles, and our short game is not very good right now, and we are letting big numbers affect us. We are not putting well, we are not chipping well, so there are a lot of things we need to work on... We have got a lot of time left to work on certain things throughout the week, and hopefully, the kids can put the effort into it," commented Rupp.

The boys will play in the GICC invitational at Indianhead Golf Club on Tuesday, May 4, 2021.

Wenzl: leadership grows during tough season

By Payton Gangwish

With postseason play beginning a week after April 30, 2021, the Grand Island Senior High (GISH) co-op varsity baseball team has a season record of seven wins and 12 losses. Even while the team has had a down year on paper, teammates have built a strong connection to one another, young and old alike.

Second Basemen Brayden Wenzl (12) has played all but one game for the Islanders baseball team this year, and he has taken the opportunity to improve both as a player on the diamond and as a leader in the dugout.

"I feel like I've improved more on being a leader and bringing my teammates up when they make a mistake or something doesn't go our way," Wenzl stated.

While this year's team is younger and less experienced than in previous years, Wenzl said teams need a good balance of young and inexperienced, and old and veteran players.

"You need experience for teams in the future or years coming so you don't

have a bunch of inexperienced guys at the varsity level," Wenzl added.

In sports, especially baseball, where it's possible to get practice everyday, Wenzl states that key facets of what the team overall needs to work on together.

"We need to bring energy to practice everyday and I feel like we just don't have the going for us right now and you can

see it on the field as you can see by our record it isn't where we want it to be," Wenzl added.

"I feel like I've improved more on being a leader and bringing my teammates up when they make a mistake or something doesn't go our way."
Brayden Wenzl (12)

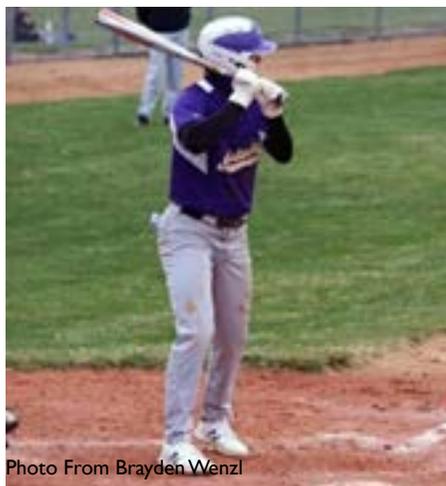


Photo From Brayden Wenzl

The Islanders closed out the regular season with games against Elkhorn South, Archbishop Bergan and a doubleheader against Columbus. The team played against Elkhorn South and Bergen on May 1, and against Columbus on May 3. District tournaments go from May 7-8, 2021, but districts are not assigned to teams and host sites are not announced until the end of the regular season.

Brayden Wenzl (12) approaches the plate during an Islander baseball game.

Crusaders sweep at duel

By Hayden Price

On Monday, April 26, 2021, the Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) girls tennis team competed at Ryder Park in Grand Island against Ogallala High School. All Crusaders who competed at the duel were on the varsity team, and every Crusader won their matches. The Crusaders easily won 9-0.

"It felt really good. I think it was a good win for the whole team and we all really like to win together, it's exciting when we all win," said Ashlyn Kucera (12).

Kucera competed in both singles and doubles and won 8-0 in both. She felt good about the team and herself.

"I feel very good about yesterday. I was playing well and felt good about how I played. Yesterday was just

varsity, and everyone does a great job of competing and working hard," said Kucera.

Going into the duel the team focused on keeping the momentum they had built up throughout the season. Ayonya Birthi (10) and Kucera have only lost one match this season. Prior to the competition, GICC players researched Ogallala.

"All of us felt pretty confident. We had previously looked at Ogallala's records. They didn't look like anything we couldn't handle, and it turned out well for us," stated Kucera.

Going forward the team is focused on post-season play. With the season soon coming to an end, the pressure of the state tournament is mounting. As of now, the Crusaders are

poised for a strong showing at the state tournament.

"We only have two tournaments left, so hopefully we can each pull out some good wins in both of those. We're gonna have some good

competition in the team we see next week. I think it will be good to see these teams before we see them at state," concluded Kucera.



Photo By Gavin Langer

Ashlyn Kucera (12) reacts offensively to smash a ball while partner Ayonya Birthi (10) readies herself to respond.

Congratulations!



We recognize Charles Armstrong for being selected into the KHOP (Kearney Health Opportunities Program), which is a cooperative arrangement between the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha and the University of Nebraska Kearney. Charles will be on the Pre-Medicine track at UNK starting in the Fall of 2021, before beginning Medical School.

Amanda Kulp (L) and Grace Herbek (R) are both alternates for the Pre-Physician Assistant track of the KHOP, and will also be attending UNK in the Fall of 2021.