

School Musical a Success

Crusaders' performances of *Anything Goes* draws crowds.

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Genesis Wins Accolades

The middle school show choir wins first at Harvard competition.

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Golf Season Begins

Crusader golfers hope to be competitive at state once again.

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20-year drought finally ended

Crusaders take state championship

By Hayden Price

On Saturday, March 13, 2021, the Crusader boys basketball team won the NSAA Class C-2 State Championship. The boys defeated Yutan High School 55-34.

Overall the Crusaders had a balanced offense, with high scorer Dei Jengmer (12) scoring 12 points. D. Jengmer, Gil Jengmer (11), and Koby Bales (12) also snagged seven rebounds in the game.

"We didn't get off to the best start, and we give Yutan credit. They played pretty well against our big guys. They took them away early on, but in the third quarter, we found a way to get the ball inside..." shared Tanner Turek (12).

In the last six games of the season, the Crusaders held teams to an average 34 points. The team utilized a pack-line defense to stifle the Chieftain offense. This defense led to six turnovers in the championship game.

"The defense was really good. It has been good the last couple weeks... We only gave up... 34 in the championship, so we were right on our average..." said Turek.

The team's goals included guarding Yutan point guard Brady Timm, transition defense, and rebounding. Overall, the team had 32 rebounds compared to Yutan's 27. The success of defensive victories led to a jaw-dropping third-quarter dunk by G. Jengmer. Another achievement included two three-pointers by Turek. The team prepared extensively for this performance.

"Leading up to it [the state tournament], we were extremely focused. I mean, we were there last year, so we were kind of used to how it is in Lincoln. So, we weren't really caught by surprise or nervous going up there or tight. We were really focused. We had some good practices leading up to it, and I thought it showed on the court," said Turek.

The state championship victory was the first for the boy's team since 2000. After a state championship game loss to BRLD last year, the team bounced back and looks to return to state next season.



Photo By Payton Gangwish

Marcus Lowry (11) fakes a move before going up for two points against the Yutan Chieftain defense. The Crusaders won the state championship after a 20-year hiatus.

Crusader band tapped for new uniforms

By Hayden Price

For band director Monika Peters, choosing new band uniforms is a coveted experience. Peters has been a band director for 16 years; during this time, she has only been able to buy new band uniforms twice. Fine arts leaders at Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) saw a need for new uniforms.

“The last couple of years have been more difficult for ‘mother seamstresses’ to hem and alter the uniforms with the existing frayed and worn out material. Also, the previous white uniforms and white shoes were hard to maintain and keep clean,” said GICC Fine Arts Guild President Gina Woods.

The band expects the arrival of their new uniforms soon. Peters realized the current uniforms were becoming outdated and approached the Fine Arts Guild with the topic of new uniforms in late 2019. Peters had to ensure the GICC Fine Arts Guild had available funds to proceed with the purchase of the new uniforms. The acquisition also needed approval from Principal Jordan Engle and

GICC Fine Arts Guild board members.

“We had to make sure that we had the funds because this is a big-ticket item... With what we had available, this was the perfect time to use some of the extra funds that we had,” said Peters.

Peters shared that most schools get new uniforms every 15 to 20 years. The process of buying new uniforms can be complicated. Peters also wanted to be thorough because buying 70 new uniforms costs \$35,000.

“I did some research, I think these uniforms are close to 20 years old, and also... just in my one year here we’ve doubled in size. And in two years, we’ll almost double again. Probably the more important reason, though, is that these students devote so much time to supporting all of our athletic activities... So I just felt like the time was now that they should be rewarded,” shared Peters.

She reached out to two companies for bids, Fruhauf Uniforms and Stanbury Uniforms.

“Each company developed a mock-up,

and then the kids voted, and we decided we would go with the Fruhauf uniforms... The prices were comparable. It was just we really liked the Fruhauf one more,” stated Peters.

The uniforms are a classic style that, Peters believes, should stay presentable for longer than trendier uniforms.

Band uniforms take six to eight months to make, and Peters is hoping that the uniforms will arrive in time for the band’s final concert in May. The uniforms were custom measured for the current 38 high school band participants. The 70 uniforms should last for another 20 years. Regardless of whether band participants get to wear the new uniforms this school year, Peters is hopeful that the band will utilize them next school year.

“Hopefully, next year, the world will become a little more normal. And we street march and do parades and have opportunities to wear those new uniforms,” concluded Peters.

New policy changes fundraising for GICC activities and sports

By Angela Messere

This past month, Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) administration announced a new fundraising policy to take effect on August 1, 2021.

“The idea behind this policy is really to create some balance and to give our people the opportunity to know that our fundraisers are being kept in check, that we are not doing anything that is nefarious... and also to spread them out,” stated Principal Jordan Engle.

The main goal of the new policy is to ensure the balance of fundraising activities for extracurricular activities, sport teams, and the school itself.

“... It is important for us to balance out fundraisers and make sure that we are not constantly asking the same people for the same resources for multiple different purposes,” explained Engle.

Engle is confident with the success of this new policy, and is excited to share

the specifics with the school community.

“It is a completely new policy. In the past, our fundraising has been pretty well in check. We have found over time that the volume of fundraisers that our school was doing was slowly increasing... Being a private school... the need for us to fundraise comes from just the fact it is our main funding mechanism—bringing in funds from outside sources,” stated Engle.

Activities wanting to raise money will work directly with activities director, Dick Ross. Previously, activities were able to coordinate their own fundraising.

“They [those who wish to use fundraising] are going to have to apply for fundraising. They are going to have to come to the activities director’s office and fill out an application... and then he will work with them to schedule that fundraiser at a time that works for

everybody,” explained Engle.

Engle believes that this policy will bring stability and coherence to the fundraising efforts of Grand Island Central Catholic, and will greatly benefit the extracurriculars that fundraise within the school.

“... One of the things that we stressed and focused on when creating this policy was keeping fundraisers for specific activities... creating some consistency and accountability is big,” stated Engle.

While fundraising is critical to private schools like GICC, Engle emphasized the policy changes would benefit families and the community who are devoted to the success of the school but who are often frustrated with the frequent fundraising requests.

Middle school soccer team debuts

By Angela Messere

Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) and Grand Island Northwest High School (GINW) are pleased to announce the development of a co-op middle school girls soccer program. The program will be open to any female GICC and GINW middle school students. The team is managed by head coach Paul Watson, who is excited to reach his goals for his team this spring.

“My goals for this first season of middle school soccer are to have fun and build a relationship with these young athletes. I hope each player will find a love and appreciation for this game, even if they have never played a day of soccer before this season. I hope to expose each player to a variety of positions on the field so they each learn more about the game and where their strengths are. I want to make sure they walk away from practices and games with a smile,” stated Watson.

The girls have started to begin practicing after school at the GINW field, and are preparing for their future meets in April.

“My schedule will be practice every day except Wednesdays until we start playing games. Games will be played on Thursdays beginning on April 8th for 6 consecutive weeks. We will play Walnut, Barr, and Westridge each twice. Our “home games” will be played at Northwest High School on the girl’s field,” explained Watson.

Watson also expressed his enthusiasm for the team’s first year of enrollment goal, which had doubled his initial hope.

“My enrollment goal was to have 11, which is enough to field a team. I ended up with 22 girls on my roster! I am more than pleased with this kind of turnout for our first year,” said Watson.

The team’s first game will be at Walnut Middle School in Grand Island, Nebraska.



Photo By Gavin Langer

Grace Watson (7) passes a ball to a teammate during middle school soccer practice on Monday, March 29, 2021, at Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC). The team is a new initiative between GICC and Grand Island Northwest.

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

Federal stimulus bill is not flawless

By Hayden Price

Earlier this month, President Joe Biden scored his first legislative victory as president. Biden, along with congressional Democrats, pushed through a \$1.9 trillion stimulus package called the American Rescue Plan. As many individuals know, this bill will lead to more stimulus checks, but this bill has many flaws.

The \$1,400 stimulus checks for eligible individuals sound great, but in reality, the amount of money the government is spending to stimulate the economy is ultimately not going to have a significant impact.

The Brookings Institute shares, "In all, with the \$1.9 trillion package, we project that cumulative real GDP between 2020 and 2023 would end up close to its pre-pandemic projection." If this bill will not greatly impact the GDP over the next few years, it is hard to justify the price tag. Two-hundred and eleven Republicans voted against the bill in the U.S. House of Representatives because they saw this number as astronomical and because Democrats threw in spending initiatives for unrelated issues.

A USA Today article describes that the bill gives \$350 billion to state and tribal governments and city municipalities. This money will significantly benefit Democratic states rather than Republican states because, in most instances, Republican states opted not to undergo draconian lockdowns. JD Supra shares that each state will receive \$500 million, and \$168.55 billion will be distributed based on unemployment rates over a three-month period from October 2020 to December 2020. The rest

of the \$350 billion will be distributed to local governments. Metropolitan areas will also greatly benefit.

Conservative states, like Nebraska, opted to keep the U.S. economy afloat during the height of COVID-19. As a result, our unemployment rate has stayed low. The Nebraska Department of Labor describes that our state unemployment rate is currently at 3.2%. Comparatively, the national unemployment rate is 6.3%. Nebraska had a similar rate in the three-month period that determines the federal distribution of funds. It makes sense that states that were hit harder get more funding, but these states were hit harder because the governors fully shut down private businesses, and many continue to keep their states partially shut down. As a result, Nebraskans' federal income taxes are paying for government agencies in New York or California, where we have no control over how their state governments spend funds.

The other part of the bill that I take problem with is the funding for schools. A dismal amount goes to private schools, which are suffering worse than public schools. My editorial on school choice highlights the number of private schools that are closing. FutureEd states that \$126 billion will be given to schools across the country. Of this amount, \$2.75 billion will be given to governors to distribute to private schools. The disproportionate aid for private schools is ridiculous. The National Center for Education Statistics describes that over the past decade or so (2009-2018), the number of students at private schools is about 10% nationwide. This statistic puts into perspective the flaws with the \$2.75 billion allocated.

Overall, this bill will likely benefit many struggling Americans. With any bill, though, it is important to understand that there are flaws. Remember, ultimately, nothing comes free.

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Editorial Policy

The Lance is the official publication of Grand Island Central Catholic High School in Grand Island, Nebraska. It is published a minimum of three times per year. The paper is a member of the Nebraska High School Press Association.

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.



Price takes fifth-place in Extemporaneous

By Koby Bales

The Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) speech team finished as runner-ups at the district meet on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, held at GICC.

In the district, the top three orators were sent to the state competition. The speech team placed well at the meet; 15 students qualified for finals. The team also had two district champions in Gracie Woods (10) in persuasive and Hayden Price (12) in extemporaneous. Price placed fourth in informative as well.

Olivia Stava (10) finished second in informative, and the OID group of Jackson Henry (11), Celia Sutherland (12), Brandon Hollister (11), Sheridan Puncchar (9), and Molly Mueller (12) finished second in the competition as well.

The top qualifiers from the district competition competed at the Nebraska State Speech Competition at Kearney High School on March 18, 2021.

Price shined throughout the entire

competition and was the only Crusader to place. He won his first two rounds, including a perfect fifty points in his first round. Overall, Price placed fifth in the extemporaneous competition.

The other members of the team placed just outside of the top six. Woods, Stava, and the OID group fell just a few points shy of reaching the finals in their categories.

"I feel like our state meet could've gone better than it did, but it [state] was probably one of the most fun things I've experienced," Henry stated.

Looking back at the season, the team was happy they had the chance to compete and were glad they got to make memories throughout the season.

"What I will remember most is our final round in the conference finals. We gave our best speech, and we were all super pumped! I will also remember how we never made it through our entire speech in practice all year long," Henry

jokingly said.

The speech team was happy with how the season went this year, and they are hopeful for the future.



Photo By Gavin Langer

Hayden Price (12) gives his award-winning informational speech on dialects during the district speech competition held at Grand Island Central Catholic on Friday, March 12, 2021.

Anything Goes an entertaining piece for school

By Angela Messere



Photo By Angela Messere

CAST AWAY! Jackson Henry (11), Katie Connick (10), Olivia Stava (10), Jack Kenna (10), Reese Reilly (9), and Kennedy Henke (12) dance and sing during their number during a rehearsal of *Anything Goes* on Wednesday, March 24, 2021.

Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) premiered their spring musical, *Anything Goes*, on March 26, 27, and 28, 2021.

"The musical *Anything Goes* is the story of Billy Crocker (Jack Kenna) and how he stows away aboard the S.S. American to try to woo Hope Harcourt (Raegan Gellatly). The only problem is that Hope Harcourt is engaged to Lord Evelyn Oakley (Brandon Hollister). The story is surrounding the shenanigans that Billy and his friends get into to try and break

up the wedding," explained director and choir teacher, Tyler Koeppe.

Koeppe believes that it was truly showtime when the curtains were first drawn out.

"The show is ready. It has been ready for weeks. At this point now we are just trying to make this as professional of a production as possible... It's fun to be in a place where we are ready to perform and everything else now is the cherry on top," said Koeppe.

Although Koeppe was impressed with all of his actors and actresses' performances, he thought that Rylee Lonnemann's portrayal of (Reno Sweeny) was particularly spot on.

"I give a lot of credit to Rylee Lonnemann. Rylee in the halls is often quite shy... when it comes to meeting new people, and her character is this confident and assertive woman... I have seen her this year grow in her confidence..." commented Koeppe.

Koeppe noted that his favorite scenes were ones that involved the whole cast. He believes that the participation and involvement in this year's musical was outstanding as many highschoolers were involved.

"My favorite scenes are the end of act I and the beginning of act II... we have every kid who's in the cast onstage at once and it's just really neat to see how many students are involved in the musical... Right now we have about fifty-percent of the high schoolers involved... it really is a high school musical," said Koeppe.

Genesis takes gold at Harvard

By Koby Bales

Genesis, the middle school show choir, walked away from the Harvard Show Choir competition with gold on Wednesday, March 10, 2021.

Genesis, in addition to the middle school choir and band, also traveled to Malcolm, Nebraska, on Thursday, March 18, 2021, to compete in the Malcolm Music Festival. Genesis performed their *Newsies* number and walked away with a Superior rating.

At the Harvard competition, scoring was different than it had been in previous years due to COVID-19. This year, there were three judges who scored the team out of 20 points. The change did not affect Genesis as they scored well with scores of 16/20, 18/20, and 19/20, respectively. Coach Monika Peters was impressed with these scores and said that they were “impressive” for a middle school to receive.

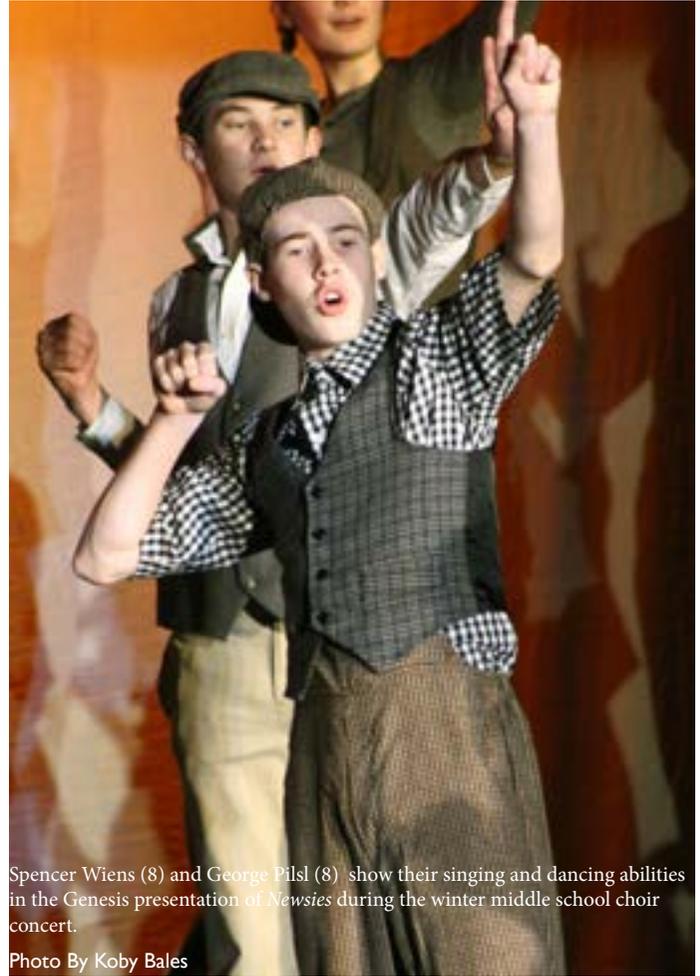
Genesis kept up the momentum as they traveled

to Malcolm and wowed the judges. One judge was so impressed with the performance that she forgot to score because she was just sitting and enjoying the performance.

“I am so very proud of Genesis because they have continued to be committed to the show choir even when we didn’t know that we would have any competitions to attend,” said Peters.

As the year comes to a close, Peters can’t help but look to the future.

“I have tremendous eighth-grade leadership this year. I am going to remember those students because they were also not afraid to take a leap of faith and joined a junior high show choir in its very first year of existence last year... I will certainly miss the eighth-graders but I am excited for what the future holds for Genesis! building on the strong foundation already provided,” Peters eagerly said.



Spencer Wiens (8) and George Pils (8) show their singing and dancing abilities in the Genesis presentation of *Newsies* during the winter middle school choir concert.

Photo By Koby Bales



Photo By Monika Peters

The cast of Genesis proudly hoist their trophy high at the Harvard Middle School Show Choir contest.

Crusader boys just short of victory at Arcadia-Loup City Meet

By Hayden Price

On March 25, 2021, the Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) boys track team placed second at the Arcadia-Loup City track meet in Loup City. The boys were only half a point away from first.

Altogether the boys scored 123, compared to Ord's 123.5. GICC champions included: Gage Steinke (11) in the 200 (23.53) and 100-meter dash (11.68); Ben Alberts (9) for pole vault (12-6); and Gabe Wemhoff (12) in the 110-meter hurdles (16.82). The 400-meter relay (46.08) and 3,200 meter-relay (8:47.72) teams also won first.

Reid Martinez (12), Zach Cloud (12), Tanner Turek (12), and Ben Alberts (9) were members of the 3,200-meter relay team. Martinez was glad to win gold at the meet.

"There was some pretty tough competition there, but we all went out and ran our hardest. Ben and Zach... really took it away for us," said Martinez.

In addition to the 3,200-meter relay team, the 400-meter relay team consisted of Gage Steinke (11), Brayton Johnson (11), Marcus Lowry (11), and Isaac Herbek (11) also earned 10 points for the boys. Martinez thought the team did well but needs to continue to focus on times.

"I think we did really well... We all went out and competed. It was a tough meet... we did the best we could do," concluded Martinez.

Zach Cloud (12) powers through the 3,200-meter relay at the Arcadia-Loup City Meet on Thursday, March 25, 2021, at Arcadia-Loup City High School. The relay won gold at the meet.



Photo By Gavin Langer



Photo By Gavin Langer

Ben Alberts easily clears the height of the pole in the pole vault, in which Alberts won the event on Thursday, March 25, 2021, at the Arcadia-Loup City track meet.

Girls track finishes third

By Koby Bales

Grand Island Central Catholic's (GICC) girls track team competed at the Arcadia-Loup City Track Meet on March 25, 2021.

The team finished third behind Ord and Saint Paul. Overall, the girls scored 101 points.

GICC had three people win events. Grace Herbek (12) won the 800 with a time of 2:33.36. Herbek won the event by nearly four seconds. Marissa Rerucha (11) won the pole vault with a vault of 9-6. Then winning the 3,200 was Avery O'Boyle (9) with a time of 12:46.21. Right

behind O'Boyle in the 3,200, was Raegan Gellatly (12) who had a time of 13:02.06 and finished second in the race.

The Crusader's 3,200 relay team came in third running a time of 10:45.07.

GICC will be back in action on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at Minden and Thursday, April 8, 2021, at Grand Island Northwest High School.



Photo By Gavin Langer

Avery O'Boyle (9) grinds through the 3,200-meter race, with a time of 12:46:21.

High expectations for new co-op team

By Payton Gangwish

After having no soccer season last year, the co-oped team of Grand Island Northwest (GINW), Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC), and Wood River (WRHS) will finally play after the announcement of the co-op last year.

“All of the girls seem to be

“We have a very young team this year. Many have not had the opportunity to play varsity ... However, many of them have been doing pre-season work...”

Jessica Herrmann

meshing well. Many of them remember Lucy Ghaifan (10) from last year and Glenda Ramirez (9) seems to be getting along well with some of the new girls as well,” said head coach Jessica Herrmann.

With all this being said, this season will have its fair share



Photo By Angela Messere

Lucy Ghaifan (10) receives a pass and moves downfield against a defender on Thursday, March 26, 2021, at Northwest High School. This is the first year the girl’s co-op team had the opportunity to play as last year COVID-19 stopped all games.

of difficulties for the road ahead.

“We have a very young team this year. Many have not had the opportunity to play varsity... However, many of them have been doing

pre-season work since October so they are ready to go... We’re looking to build on the 7-7 record we had in 2019,” added Herrmann.

While the girls team is young and inexperienced at

the varsity level, the boys team brings some seasoned veterans back onto the field this year; but it’s not fair to say that there weren’t forks on the road.

“We started this transition two years ago and I have to admit that at first it was not very easy. It took most of the summer to get the boys to accept each other and trust what they were doing. We were very disappointed that we didn’t get to play last year as we were going to have a very good team,” said head coach Ann Purdy.

With the start of the season, and players from all of the schools building chemistry with one another before their first game, the whole team has one goal in mind.

“This year we are hoping for a good season... In 2019, Northwest went to state and that is a definite goal for this year—a return to Omaha,” added Purdy.

Both girls and boys soccer play Thursday, April 1, 2021, at York Cornerstone Sports Complex.

Winnebago upends Lady Crusaders at state

By Koby Bales

Grand Island Central Catholic’s (GICC) girls basketball team season came to an end after a game against the Winnebago Indians in the first round of the NSAA State Tournament on Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

The Crusaders were off to a hot start gaining a 14-4 lead before the Indians called a time out in the first quarter. From there, the Indians were able to find their footing and went on a 23-7 run to take a 27-21 halftime lead.

In the third quarter, GICC found an offensive spark from Alyssa Wilson (11), who hit four three-pointers in the quarter. The Crusaders were able to use a 7-0 run to establish a lead in the fourth quarter.

GICC tried to hold the ball with 45 seconds left in the game until Winnebago

guard Sylvia Valention stole the ball and finished a layup to give the Indians a lead again. From there, the Crusaders were forced to play the foul game to extend the game. Unfortunately for GICC, Winnebago knocked down all their free throws in the closing moments of the game. GICC got a good look at the buzzer but barely missed off of the side of the rim, ending the game with a score of 48-46.

All though the score did not turn out the way the Crusaders had hoped, head coach Kevin Mayfield felt that they had met their goal.

“Our goal was making it to state by being sub-district and district champs and to represent our school and town in a positive manner,” said Mayfield.



Photo By Hayden Price
Lexi Mudloff (12) drives down court during the Crusaders game against Winnebago on Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

Young tennis team learns to mesh as season begins

By Angela Messere

The Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) girls tennis team is gearing up for an exciting season this upcoming spring.

The Lady Crusaders excitedly await the beginning of their competitive season and have been working to improve their athletic skills at their practices every day.

“Right now I just hope we learn how to compete, learn how to practice... Without having a season last year just like every other team in the state, we are just hoping to get better,” said head coach James Lowry.

The girls tennis team has experienced an influx of new members as many have recently joined the team.

“... A lot of question marks right now... in the past there were a lot of times where you were hit with the kids from before. This year, I haven’t... It is their first time learning to practice the way that I want it done... I think right now it’s a lot of learning...,” stated Lowry.

Along with the new players is veteran

Ashlyn Kucera (12).

“I know at number one singles [will be] Ashlyn Kucera. She is very talented and she has been here since her sophomore year and I think she would have competed very well last year. I expect her to be there,” explained Lowry.

Lowry also hopes that success will stem from friendly competition on the team as the girls compete for varsity spots.

“[We are focusing on] improvement... and learning to compete. Right now, we are having a lot of competition to see who gets to be [on] varsity. I think sometimes competition can make you work harder. If you don’t think you’re going to be on varsity, you are going to

“We are focusing on improvement... and learning to compete.”
James Lowry

work harder, and we will see who it means the most to and who will put in extra time,” concluded Lowry.

“Without having a season last year... we are just hoping to get better.”
James Lowry



Photo By Angela Messere
Mia Golka (11) and Brooklyn Kolbet (11) practice how to play in doubles competition.

JV baseball co-op starts season strong

By Hayden Price



Photo By Barb Yager

Junior varsity pitcher Ayden Beran shows his pitching form. Beran believes the key to his success is being able to “throw change-ups.”

On Saturday, March 20, 2021, the Grand Island Senior High and Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) JV Islander co-op team beat Lincoln High School’s team 7-2 at Sherman Field in Lincoln, Nebraska. One of the few GICC athlete’s playing for the junior varsity Islanders is Ayden Beran (10). Beran is a first baseman and pitcher. In the game against Lincoln, he was playing the field. Beran was happy with his team’s performance.

“That was a good game by the team, and if we keep playing like how we did on Saturday, I feel like this is going to be one year to remember,” shared Beran.

To win in such a resounding way, the team worked weekly in the off-season. Athletes worked on specific skills to help them in their positions.

“Each Sunday, we went to the cages and worked on pitching... We kept going at it, went 110%... I honestly feel that all that work is going to pay off,” shared Beran.

Despite the efforts the team has put

forth, Beran believes that the team has room for improvement. Overall at the game, the Islanders batted .217. Focusing on swinging at hittable pitches will be a season goal.

“[The team needs to] watch a few pitches. We’re kind of swinging at a lot of pitches. Even if they’re close, just take a few pitches and find a pitch that you like. And when you find it, hit it, and that’s how we win our ball games,” stated Beran.

Going forward, in terms of personal goals, Beran is focused on working on pitching. He believes that the key to his success is throwing changeups. This type of throwing is when a pitcher throws balls that look like fastballs but end up at the plate much slower.

“The changeup is what makes me me when I pitch. And when I find that I’ll be golden,” concluded Beran.

The JV Islanders play next at Ashley Park in Grand Island on April 3, in a doubleheader against Elkhorn North.

Experienced shooters look to hit their marks

By Payton Gangwish

With a season that could have been out of the picture, the Grand Island Central Catholic trap team will be back in action this spring.

Seasoned veterans and greenhorns alike return after a missed season. Students like Gabe Schmid (11), join in clay pigeon shooting sport for the first time, all with the goal of competing well at the main event that is Cornhusker State.

"The thing I'm looking forward to the most is working to get better... It's really exciting to be involved in a sport where I'm the one who's going to make myself better and it's up to me to stay motivated and push to be better and actually see some improvement both at competitions and during practices," said Schmid.

Fellow trap shooter Kahlan Hooper (11) had a similar answer to Schmid's.

"I am most looking forward to our team improving as a whole. Because our season was cut short due to COVID-19; just being able to practice and compete is what I'm looking forward to the most," said Hooper.

While there are many great shooters on this year's squad, Schmid added that the team is more than just the sum of its parts.

"The thing about our trap team is we are all working together to better ourselves every time we are shooting... It's not like there is just one teammate who is leading us all but rather all of us constantly pushing each other to be bet-

ter at what we are out to do. If it weren't for all of my teammates... I wouldn't be nearly as skilled as I am now and I thank all of my teammates for being there to push me to be better," Schmid added.

While Schmid thought everyone is a leader in their own way, Hooper thought otherwise.

"I think the leader of the team is me. I've shot for a total of 6 years with the team... I take initiative in practice... I am also always there to help the new members of the team," Hooper said.

As trap is not a school-sponsored activity, the schedule for the season is unknown except for the big event, Cornhusker School Shoot, in Doniphan, Nebraska, between April 29, 2021-May 1, 2021.

Golfers set team goal: return to state

By Koby Bales

After not having a season last year, Grand Island Central Catholic's (GICC) boys golf team will look to compete for another state championship.

This year's team returns only one golfer from the 2019 state championship-winning team in Will Goering (12), and underclassmen will look to step up and compete this season for the Crusaders. Coach Craig Rupp believes that Jackson Henry (11) and Bowdie Fox (10) will make a big impact this season.

"Jackson and Bowdie will be big parts this year for the team to succeed. It does hurt that they missed a season of competition due to COVID. They have been practicing well so far, when the weather has cooperated with us, but I look for big things from those two," added Rupp.

The Crusaders are not taking the season for granted, though. Goering is looking forward to hanging out with his friends on the golf course.

"I'm excited to just go out with all my friends, like my boy Bowdie Fox," Goering said.

If GICC looks to compete for another title, they will have to improve their mental game.

"I just want the boys to be able to start to feel comfortable with the surroundings... such as competition, weather, bad holes (meaning... see how they react

if they struggle) and other situations," stated Rupp.

Goering agreed with Rupp's insight. "We are just looking to improve right now. We approach the game mentally because sometimes you can hit great shots, but if you don't plan it out properly or if you don't look where the wind is, it's not going to work out well for you. We just have to work on the fundamentals and understand the game of golf," Goering explained.

Fox believes that Rupp will help the younger players gain the confidence to step up to the varsity level.

"We've got some young guys, and they can use Rupp to learn some tips and tricks. If we can get their scores lower, I think we'll have a great time," Fox said.

Oakland-Craig and Bishop Neumann will be the Crusader's biggest competitors in Class C. Regardless, the athletes have set big goals for themselves. They are determined to win a state championship.

According to Rupp, the competition is not on their minds.

"We don't worry about other teams... if we do that, then our game is not locked in... We have to worry about ourselves and just take each meet one at a time. We play the course and not our opponents. If we get caught up on who

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we play with, then our mental game is out of whack," stated Rupp.

GICC opens its season on April 5, 2021, in a dual against Kearney Catholic at Indianhead Golf Course in Grand Island.



Boys golf coach Craig Rupp instructs Andrew Arens (9) on the finer points of putting during an indoor practice on Monday, March 15, 2021.

03/31/2021