

What Is Your Most Memorable Moment In High School?

The Flyer

Senior Question

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Ash Albers: "First year of having JCC softball."

Courtney Bailey: "Hearing Liz's story about her grandma Stretch teasing her."

Nakita Baird: "State cheerleading competition."

Justin Bartels: "When Mr. Richard chased Lucas Lada around the shop when he got in trouble."

Robert Broadfoot: "Hanging out with my friends."

Steven Carman: "Deep sea fishing on vacation in Corpus Christi, Texas."

Katherine Carnagey: "When Angie and I got our tattoos."

Pedro Chavez: "My Junior Prom."

Andi Crayton: "First hockey game this coming up weekend."

Bryce Crist: "Falling into a snow drift taller than me while rabbit hunting with Spencer and Justin."

Taylor Davison: "Being with my friends!"

Kindra Dean: "Many memorable moments have been made."

Josh Dieckgrafe: "Getting crowned homecoming king."

Ethan Dresen: "When Spencer, Justin, Lucas, Robert, and I had a big snowball fight in the shop. Mr. Richard wasn't too fond of it!"

Bryant Flewelling: "Winning the first game against Lincoln Christian in football."

Kevin Hamula: "Coming to JCC my Junior year."

Chandra Hazen: "Combining to make JCC."

Spencer Kerner: "Going to the river with my friends."

Justin Kosmicki: "Winning our first football game as JCC against Lincoln Christian."

Nick Kuenning: "My whole high school career."

Derek Kuhl: "I think the best is yet to come."

Lucas Lada: "Getting chased by Mr. Richard."

Angie Martinez: "When Shelby, Lucas, Taylor, and I went to Wal-Mart for eight hours while we waited for Black Friday! We made Lucas leave the line and retrieve our wants. Thanks, Lada!"

Cody Miller: "Taking the day off to get yearbook ads with Katherine and singing Mr. Grinch to her. We almost died five times. Also the 3:00 am trip to Walmart on a school night with Laynee, Courtney, and Cameron. There were some nasty people in the parking lot! AND!!!...seeing my Tar Heels play!!!"

Brandon Mills: "The night Ashley wrecked her car."

Elizabeth Neukirch: "Skipping my junior year because I took summer school."

Ryan Panko: "When Tanner Erdman hit Kam Foss hard at football practice."

Whitney Pfister: "Going to state golf."

Kelly Rathbone: "My whole high school career."

Shelby Reilly: "Taylor, Angie, Lucas, and I went to black Friday at Wal-Mart."

Michala Remund: "Winning our first softball game."

Jose Rojas: "When I graduate will be the my best moment."

Becky Scheer: "Being in study hall with Kelly Brinkman."

Jamie Scott: "Qualifying for State Track my freshman year."

Vince Sherman: "Everything that has happened and will happen."

Alex Thompson: "When Vince and I got into a car accident during lunch."

Kayti Kauffman: "When I met Anna Clarke."

Holly Weber: "Being student manager for the track team with Katie Farrell."

Ashley Wessel: "When Brandon and I started dating."



Elias Green Joins Journalism

Elias Green is one of the new members to our journalism class. He is very excited and gets himself in a writing mood everytime he walks in the room. Elias joined because he, being a fan of *The Flyer*, wanted to be part of it. He wanted to be a part of the monthly *Flyer* and the school yearbook. We all know that Elias is very creative and has a big imagination, which is good for writing purposes. Elias told me that he likes to write raps and short stories in his spare time.

Elias says he likes to write because it is a way to get your opinions and thoughts out there so you don't forget them and so that the world can know what you are thinking. We all think that Elias will do well with us in the class. We will definitely have some very interesting topics to discuss.

Some of Elias's favorite things are... his favorite food is spaghetti (like in the movie *Elf* with all the syrup and candy on it); his drink is monsters, but I don't think he

needs them; and his favorite animal is the jelly fish since dragons don't really exist. We all probably know that his favorite animated character is Sonic, and his favorite restaurant is Taco Bell.

Elias isn't the only one joining journalism this semester; Justin Bartels is also, but he preferred that I leave him out of this story. I will tell you one thing about him though. He loves the shop!!!!!!



SENIORS!!! By Friday, have your senior picture and baby picture for the yearbook turned in!!! If we do not receive it, your school picture will be used and your baby picture will not be posted. Thanks! Journalism Staff

Coming To America

Vow Vongrasmy is a new student at JCC this year. She is 16 and is also a freshman. Vow doesn't speak a lot of English, but she can understand most people as long as you talk slowly. When I talk to Vow, she will stop me and tell me when I talk to her I have to go slower. Vow moved to America because she lived with her mom in Laos when her parents got divorced. Her dad has been remarried and lived here in America, so Vow came to live with him. Vow still talks to her friends in Laos, and told me it has been hard for her to learn English, but she likes it. She also told me that the very first English word she ever learned

was "hello."

I asked Vow if she liked going to school here, and she had a simple reply of yes. Later I asked what her favorite thing about school was, and she told me she liked the teachers and her friends. Then I asked her if she disliked anything about school, and she said, "I like it all, but I don't like snow!" Vow had never seen snow before moving to America. When I asked Vow what her favorite class was, she gave me not just one, but three. She likes the classes she has with Mrs. Weber, Ms. Fox, and Mr. Doran, because she likes the teachers and thinks they are nice. She also plans to stay here to gradu-

ate high school and go to college.

When I asked Vow what her favorite thing to do in her spare time was, she told me she enjoys going to Lincoln to shop. I also asked her what her favorite store was. She told me she liked the store "J-Penney," by which she meant Jc Penney. I also asked her what a few of her favorite things were, such as a book. She told me that in Laos she liked to read a lot in her own language. Her favorite food is hamburger pizza, and when I asked her what color she liked, she replied with an excited, "Pink!" I asked Vow what her favorite animal was, and she told me she liked dogs

and that she used to have one in Laos.

Vow is a nice girl and she is always smiling. She is almost always wearing bright colors, and she tries really hard. I have her in a few of my classes and a few of the kids even ask her to teach her some Laos. Neireda Rojas also taught her a few words in Spanish, such as hello and goodbye, which obviously isn't a lot, but it's a start. Take some time to stop and talk to Vow. You'll be helping her practice conversational English and get to know her at the same time. You can't beat that!

A Chat With Mr. Richard

I decided to make a trip down to our school's shop to learn a little bit more about our shop teacher Mr. Richard. The first thing I was curious about was what made him want to start teaching. He said that the main reason that he wanted to become a teacher was because he simply wanted to coach.

Mr. Richard graduated high school in Waverly. After graduating he decided to go to college at UNL to become a teacher. When he graduated college he got his first teaching job in 1976. He ended up getting a new job in 1978 here at our school, and he's still doing his job. I asked him about the best memory of

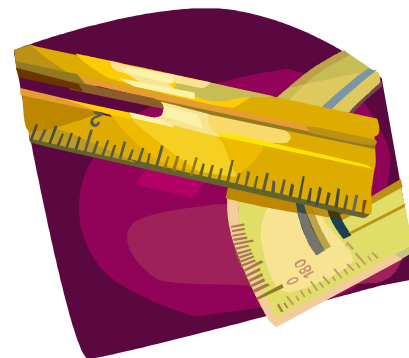
his whole teaching career, and he said that building the first EV car was one. Another was when the school got their first IPM 286 computer which was used as the drafting computer.

His dream of coaching came true. He has coached football, basketball, and he still is coaching our boy's and girl's golf teams. He said that he enjoys coaching girl's golf because there is nice weather during that time, but the thing that he enjoys about boy's golf is that there is a higher skill level.

I was curious if Mr. Richard had any siblings, and he said he has three brothers. Rex is 54, Jon is 51, and Jim is 51. I found out that Mr. Rich-

ard is not only a brother, but he is also a father. He is the father of Ryan, 33, and Brent, 31. Along with this, he is also a grandpa to Lexia and Eleanor.

Mr. Richard is an interesting person with lots of knowledge and experiences to top it off. If you haven't had the privilege of visiting with Mr. Richard, stop down in the shop and have a chat with him.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ACADEMIC DE-CATHLON ON QUALIFYING FOR STATE! GOOD LUCK!

Thunderbirds Fall Short At MUDECAS; Look Forward To ECNC

The MUDECAS Tournament, also known as a "mini-state" tournament, went different for the Thunderbirds this year.

After falling short and dropping to the consolation bracket the past couple years, things went a little different this time around. Entering the tournament, the boys were the three seed, matched up against sixth-seeded Exeter-Milligan, who was ranked 6th in the state in D-1. From start to finish the boys rolled the Timberwolves, solidifying the score at 68-36.

In the semi-finals, the boys were matched up against Pawnee City, who upset the Sterling Jets. Fortunately for the Thunderbirds, the game went the same as the first, as

they defeated the Indians 61-36.

In the finals, the boys had quite the test in front of them. The Freeman Falcons stood in the way of Thunderbirds on their path to a Championship. After leading by a point at halftime, the Thunderbirds weren't able to stop the powerful shooting of the Falcon guards. They were handed the loss, giving them the runner-up plaque.

Following the game, awards were given out for the all-MUDECAS teams. Justin Kosmicki and Derek Kuhl were both awarded 1st team, while Cody Miller and Vince Sherman received honorable mention.

Weeping Water was up next for the Thunderbirds.

Unfortunately, the team was without Derek Kuhl, as he suffered a slight injury to his knee. Thankfully, the boys were able to take care of business without him. They conquered the Indians 61-46.

When HTRS came to town, they let everyone know they were here. The boys were unable to convert on shots and the Titans did just the opposite. The Thunderbirds' home winning streak was snapped, and unfortunately, a deficit of 35 points was handed to them.

After the HTRS game, the Thunderbirds had a make-up game with Wilber-Clatonia, who was a C-1 ranked opponent. Fortunately, the Thunderbirds were able to shut down the Wolverine shooters and win by a final

score of 40-38. It came down to the final play of the game when Wilber-Clatonia was unable to convert a shot at the buzzer.

Next up for the boys was Malcolm. With a slow start, the team was finally able to pull ahead of the Clippers in the second quarter. Unfortunately, they were unable to increase their lead and let Malcolm get back in the game. The fourth quarter is when the boys were finally able to explode and knock off their opponent 58-40.

The Thunderbirds defeated Conestoga Thursday night and will host first round of the ECNC Tournament tonight at 7:45 against the Palmyra /Louisville winner.

Lady T-Birds Hang Tough

The girls' basketball team has had its ups and downs so far this season. But being a team that's been underestimated with its number of players lost from last season, has only given them more drive. After losing a couple games shortly before Christmas break, they quickly recuperated and defeated Auburn and Syracuse, both C1 schools, to win their Holiday tournament.

After the snow cleared up, they were able to play Elmwood-Murdock, losing by seven points. The next week they started off Monday with their first game of the Mudecas tournament, with a loss to Exeter-Milligan by four points. The girls came back Friday, facing Meridian, and came out with a win by two points.

The girls played in Weeping Water that next Tuesday. With having a big lead at

half, Weeping Water managed to come back and tie the game, putting it into overtime. Our Lady Thunderbirds didn't come out with a win, but they managed to get it done on Thursday, over H-TR-S, and again on Friday at Auburn.

The postponed Wilber-Clatonia game was played this last Monday; the girls played well enough to stay in the game but not well enough to get the job done. The next night they added

another loss to their record, losing to Malcolm by 20.

Last night the ladies traveled to Conestoga to play at six o'clock. They played their first conference game in Yutan as the fifth seed.

The basketball season is winding down as we get to the bottom of the schedule, so make sure you make it to a game before it's over! Good luck to the girls in ECNC and sub-districts soon to come!

Saints And Colts Face Off In Super Bowl

The National Football League has had some very great teams this year. Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts went undefeated for the whole season up until the last two games. They sat most of their starters because they already clinched home-field advantage and a first round bye. By not playing their starters the entire time, they lost their last two games. Then the New Orleans Saints led by Drew Brees went 13-3, also trying to capture the perfect season. The Saints have the best offense in the NFL statistically, and whenever the Saints seem to be in a really tight spot Drew Brees pulls through for the offense.

Then there were only four teams left in the playoffs, with a few surprises that nobody saw coming. The New York Jets were the underdogs throughout the playoffs, and their incredible defense shut down the Cincinnati Bengals

offense. The next week they were facing the San Diego Chargers with their 11 straight wins. The Jets secondary proved to be too much for Phillip Rivers of the San Diego Chargers' offense. Then the Jets were facing Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts. The Jets were the favorites because they had been playing such great defense, but the Colts with the better record proved to be too much and pulled off the victory.

The Minnesota Vikings played the Dallas Cowboys after their first round bye, and Tony Romo and his offense were disrupted by the Vikings front four and secondary. The Vikings' defense forced turnovers all throughout the game, and the Cowboys didn't stand a chance. Brett Farve also threw four passing touchdowns, which was the most ever in a playoff game of his career.

I predicted that the

Vikings and the Colts would be in the Super Bowl. I was wrong since the Saints beat the Vikings in the NFC championship game. The Vikings' defense shut the Saints' offense down all game. Brett Farve had his offense on a smooth pace all throughout the game, but turning the ball over kept the game within reach for the Saints. In the last minute of the game, the Vikings had a timeout and were already in field goal position. After a five yard penalty, the field goal was going to be a 56 yard attempt, so Brett Farve decided to try and pass the ball instead of keeping it on the ground and running. The decision Farve made was a big mistake and led to an interception and the game going into overtime. In overtime the Saints got the ball, drove down the field, and won with a 42-yard field goal. On February 7, the Indianapolis Colts and New Orleans Saints will face off in the Super Bowl in Miami, Florida.



Back To The Books After A Snowy Break

Christmas vacation was three days longer than expected. To see what some of our students were doing over this vacation time, I randomly asked four students. Senior Elizabeth Neukirch, junior Brooke McDonald, and sophomores Shelby Strubel and Elias Green were happy to answer any questions I asked them.

Senior Elizabeth was snowed in at home. I asked Elizabeth what she did over Christmas vacation. She replied, "Hung out with my friends and got to chill by myself at home, because I was snowed in." I wondered out loud what she got for Christmas. She said, "Mostly stuff for when I move out. And an amazing D.C. hoodie, and Robbie got me M & M's! Courtney got me an ICP Shirt, I got everything I wanted. She said the worst part of getting so much snow was that she, Megan, and Brooke got stuck in her driveway and had to shovel it all out and stuff. Her best moment: "When Rob-

bie came back from wherever he was and came to see me." Elizabeth's favorite gift she got was her D.C. hoodie. Asking her what was the best thing about being back in school, she replied, "Actually seeing people every day and semi having my mind challenged."

Brooke, a junior, spent time with family and friends. I asked what she got for Christmas, she replied, "Perfume, South Pole coat, FUGGS, and a fur hat." The worst part of her vacation: "I didn't like that it snowed." Her best moment was her Grandma's Christmas Party. The best present she got was her coat. When asked about the best thing about being back in school, she simply replied, "I get to see my friends again, and it gets me out of my house."

Sophomore Shelby said in response to what all she did over vacation, "Spent time with friends and family, went shopping, watched movies, and slept in!" She spent most of her

time at home. For Christmas she got some clothes, money, gift cards, an S- ornament, digital camera, a picture frame, and a few other things. I asked the one thing she didn't get that she wanted, and she merely said, "A new I-pod." She disliked the snow because she was stuck inside. The best moment she had over vacation was spending time with her family and doing a handstand (with help). Her favorite gift was her digital camera; it's even in her favorite color! She said the best thing about being back in school is seeing friends frequently and not completely forgetting everything she learned.

Finally Elias, also a sophomore, spent his break time at home. He said, "I played in the snow, worked for my dad, went on a Casey's trip on Christmas night, and helped someone out of the snow, and became a guitar hero champion on New Year's." He got clothes and adventure for Christmas. He wanted world

peace and a stadium-sized bowl of nachos. He disliked the snow because he was unable to go play outside. Apparently, it was even a little too cold for him. His favorite moment on this vacation: "Watching the sun set on the snow." The best gift he got for vacation was his Play Station three. When asked about being back in school he had this to say: "The awesomeness is back."

So we heard from four different JCC individuals about what they did for Christmas vacation, and we found out that the snow caused some problems with plans. Wherever you were for Christmas, hopefully you were happy that you were near your loved ones, because Christmas isn't just about the presents. It's about being with loved ones and giving, not receiving. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas vacation!

Spring Forward Already

As summer slipped away and so did fall, the winter came harder than expected. As of January first, we (Tecumseh) had a total of about two feet of snow! After surveying a few students, I've come to the conclusion that only about one out of every ten people like the snow. This has been the most snow that any of us students have ever seen in Nebraska. When asked if any of the students got stranded at home or

if they were rebellious and fought the road conditions, Justin Bartels simply replied, "I busted the drifts with the Chev!"

I'm sure we are all still trying to figure out where all of this snow will go, especially if we keep getting more. Whenever it started to snow, I know a few of us were wondering when the wooly mammoths, saber-toothed tigers,

and sloths were going to start roaming around again. Katie Gillott commented, "Y'all must have just missed them; they were here just a while ago!" Katie has a funny sense of humor as you can all tell.

As this issue hits the news stand, the snow has let up for a bit and it has warmed enough to melt some of the still-standing snow. Don't get too excited for spring, though.

The Farmer's Almanac predicts a couple of major snowstorms for the Plains during the month of February. Keep those shovels, boots, and mittens at the ready just in case! And remember: when you're driving on the snow or ice, always be extra careful!



Love Is In The Air

Have you ever wondered what the Valentine's Day traditions are around the world? Well, I did some research and found some pretty interesting traditions. In Austria it is customary for a young man to present his beloved with a bunch of flowers. In Britain it is a standard procedure to send chocolates, cards, and flowers. It is also a custom for young children to sing special songs and receive gifts of candy, fruit, or money. In some areas of Britain, Valentine's buns are baked with caraway seeds, plums, or raisins.

In Denmark Valentine's cards are known as "lover's cards." They also send pressed white flowers called

snowdrops to their friends. Danish men send a form of a Valentine known as a *gaekke-brev* (or "joking letter"). The sender writes a poem but doesn't sign his name. Instead, he signs the poem with dots, one dot for each letter of his name. If the lady who receives the card guesses the sender's name, she receives an Easter egg later in the year.

In Germany Valentine's gifts are usually in the shape of love tokens. Early on in Germany, baptismal certificates and marriage certificates were at one time considered to be Valentine's. In Italy Valentine's

Day was once celebrated as a Spring Festival, held in the open air, where they would listen to music and the reading of poetry. Japan celebrates Valentine's Day on two different dates, February 14 and March 14. On the first date the female gives the male a gift. On the second date, also known as White Day, the male has to return the gift he received back to the female. Chocolate is the most popular gift in Japan.

In the United States most females receive roses and or chocolates on Valentine's Day. Going out to eat is also a big tradition. I asked several JCC students about their plans for Valentine's Day this year and here are some of their responses:

Elias Green – "Give everyone an awesome Valentine's Day hug in the world!"

Whitney Pfister – "Go out to eat and maybe go see a movie."

Ashley Wessel – Has no plans for this year.

Josue Lopez – "Hit up a movie and somewhere to eat afterwards."

Maybe after hearing some of these interesting Valentine's Day traditions you'll think of something new and exciting to do this year. I hope all of you have a safe and enjoyable Valentine's Day. I think Helen Keller's quote says it best: "The best and most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even heard, but must be felt with the heart."

Couples: Overrated Or Not?

"Oh, my gosh! Did you hear about *them*?! Never would have thought in a gazillion years!" "Yea, it's like totally cute! They're like too different but really like each other!" "No way, dude. You broke up? I'm sorry, so, can I see her now?" Believe it or not, this is an ordinary topic, a social norm of typical high school dating, something that is overrated and taken for granted, something that fills the "empty" space in our hormonally-influenced hearts. But where did the idea of hanging out with a mate emerge? And why do we do it? Believe it or not, dating was considered unruly, outrageous, and "totally wack," and still is. For some people, your parents pick your mate, and marry you before you even meet! I'm sure

none of us would be too happy having our parents set up a blind date or a blind marriage. Here and now we have a different system of mate choosing. Let me explain in five steps.

STEP 1: You or your mate talk or call one another, find each other attractive in body or personality, and wish to know more about each other, a.k.a "ask you out." This may be one of the hardest tasks in dating, due to awkwardness and self confidence issues, which is why a lot of us aspire to look "hot" or "fly" to impress our potential mate by wearing flashy clothes and tanning. We also douse ourselves in fragrances such as Bod or Cabana. Not only do we try to look or smell smooth, but we also talk smoothly. We

enjoy the use of pickup lines in trying to get a mate attracted to us, like, "Do you have a map because I keep getting lost in your eyes." However, the best approach is to just be yourself, even though some go to great lengths for dating. You and your potential mate have the power to agree or disagree, and if there is an agreement, we proceed to STEP 2: You and the mate go to an outing and get to know each other better, have fun, and decide how much you like each other. Nowadays either party can decide the date and pay for expenses. Very popular places include beaches, the movies, or just chilling or hanging out at each other's dwellings. If all goes well, we go on to STEP 3: Going steady. You and the mate enjoy each other's affectionate company and decide to stay as a couple.

This is usually displayed by holding hands in public, using pet names for each other like "love" or "boo," and continuing to go on more dates with each other. After that we go to STEP 4: Promise or engagement. This is usually done by older couples, but is not unheard of in teenage relationships. The couple thinks they could stay together forever, they give each other an object of value (usually a ring or bracelet) to show they're "totally serious" and one day they want to be bonded for life. If this continues and the couple is 100% sure of themselves, they proceed to the final stage, STEP 5: Marriage happens when a ceremony is held in a fancy chapel or Vegas that finalizes a couple's relationship and they become mates for life.

...Continued

But we don't date just to get married. We do it to have fun, get other people to date us, stay popular, or just want someone to like us for who we are. Don't by any means take it from me. Plenty of other people know the ins and outs of dating. "I like my boyfriend because it's someone to tell my happy and sad emotions to," says Kelly Brinkman, sophomore. "When I'm with him, everything feels real, and he acts like super mature. I remember our best date was making cookies and having a snowball fight!" Well it's nice to hear relationships go well. Josue Lopez tells *The Flyer*, "Honestly, I just like everything about her. Soul mates are real, because I'm with

mine. She makes me vittle every morning, and I pick at her like a monkey; I can't resist her personality, and I'll never forget when we went to a Husker game. Some day I'll have the perfect date going to Hawaii with her."

But of course, when there are good relationships, there are also bad ones. Cheating, lying, clinging, and controlling abound is the darker side of dating. "I was with them way too much," says an anonymous person. "It was like I couldn't hang out with my friends, and when I did they had to come along. Now that I'm not with anyone, the freedom is awesome!" Having a mate isn't fun and games; it does come with a lot of responsibility. Bryant Flewelling,

a junior, knows this all too well. "He gets me like a whole lot of flowers and stuff," says Cassie Guenther, a junior. "I knew he would be mine when on my birthday, he took me for some ice cream and got me flowers. He's such a sweetie!" Some singles know quite a bit about dating too. "I have nothing to hold me down," says Chandra Hazen, a senior. "Sure I wouldn't mind wearing a dude's hoodie, but controlling and aggressive guys kinda keep me cautious. But I would love a date with Bradley Cooper to do things and stuff." "If you want to keep a good relationship," says sophomore Daniel Jett, "you need to listen a lot." Senior Andi Crayton adds, "There is no reason to date a person if you don't like them. You shouldn't date just to date."

"Being single is fun; I can choose any girl I want," says Justin Dean, sophomore. "I don't want any tomboy, though."

A few couples refused to an interview, but all the same I wonder why people get so embarrassed. It's a reason that drove me to write this article to begin with. You may ask, "Why in the world did he make us sound like a bunch of monkeys on animal planet?" The answer: if you watch animal planet, you find they seem to have a lot less dating problems. We get so worked up about dating, when all it really is, is just a simple act of nature!

Good Luck To Both Basketball Teams and the Wrestling Team At Districts!!!

