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Cadets vs. Cadets

WP-B volleyball kicks off their season with a friendly scrimmage

By Camila Calderon

As the beginning of the school year arrives, our fall sports have been working behind the scenes during the summer to improve their skills. Given the chance to showcase their talents at the Healthy Snacks & Gatorade scrimmage on Friday August 21, the volleyball team brims with excitement as the day approaches. It is safe to say that the team has definitely been working hard by testing their limits to show the community what the team is capable of.

This year's players are quick to adapt to many changes, one major change being the new head coach, Brittany Larsen, and assistant coach, Melissa Weddle, taking the reins. With a new form of training, players have worked to dedicate themselves to making this transition as smooth as possible, and as of now, they have done an incredible job. Larsen mentions, "Over the summer, we did weightlifting every day four days a week. We had open gyms, sand volleyball and a lot of camps."

Weddle also adds, "One of our biggest strengths as a team is how well we get along. We work together, we lift each other up, and we never tear anybody down when they're having a hard time."

The team's chemistry is bound to show during the scrimmage, and the coaches are very excited for families to see it shine through.

With these many new changes, many seniors have been willing to lead their teams and help coaches as they work through new drills and ideas. Senior Ellie Bruning voices a way that the team could change for the better as the new season

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begins. “As a senior, our two setters are young and haven’t played with me as much, so I think if our communication gets better and we work on different types of hits, we could definitely become better,” she states.

One thing Bruning believes she contributes to the team is being willing to try to get the team out of a rough spot, and keeping up the energy even if it dies down. Senior Camila Catalan also states that her best strength is maintaining positivity on the court. “In a lot of moments, we’re all sisters. We create fun memories, and no matter how much you grow over the years, you keep working hard and never give up,” she adds.

Catalan is most excited about mid-season because that’s when things start to come together, and the team starts flowing really well. “Everything starts to usually click, and we get to see how well we play together and how far we’ve come.”

Connecting as a team and being able to work together is extremely important. However, when new team members come into the mix, it can prove to be a little difficult getting accustomed to how things work, but being new doesn’t always have to be a bad thing. Freshman Kylie Fisher shares, “I’m really excited because it’s freshman year and being a part of a high school volleyball team is a whole new experience for me.”

She also adds how excited she is for the scrimmage by going against her own teammates. “I think it’ll be fun going against our teammates. Watching Ellie and Maida (both middle hitters and blockers) joust is always making us laugh during practices.”



Hoping to get better, she plans to improve her blocking and hitting to become a stronger wall against upcoming opponents.

Even before the school year started, the volleyball team has been putting maximum effort into becoming the best players they can be. The scrimmage will be the best way to show how they will continue to work together as a team throughout the season. With confident seniors and promising freshmen as well as fresh ideas from the new head and assistant coaches, there is no doubt that the volleyball team will continue to shine before the season comes to an end.

Football Season

WP-B Football kicks off season

By Sebastian Perez

With Football season around the corner, there is a lot of excitement with the football schedule being revealed. The high school’s football team has a total of 14 games. There are 7 varsity, 6 junior varsity, and 1 reserve game. The first game of the season is a Varsity game at home versus Bishop Neumann. The final regular season game

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of the season is October 9th versus Logan View.

When asked what he was most excited for,Junior Kaden Kumm said “I am mainly excited for the homecoming game. I feel like this season is going to be great, and I’m excited to play our first game of the season next Friday.”

There are a lot of questions on how the football team’s season will start with the team’s first two varsity games being against Bishop Neumann and Yutan. Bishop Neumann finished with a 12-1 overall record last season, and won the NSAA Class C-2 State Championship by defeating Grand Island Central Catholic, 37-15. Yutan finished with an 8-3 record and was 6th overall in division C-2 rankings. The first two games look like they will be tough matchups, but we are confident in the boys’ chances of pulling through and starting off the season with some wins.

The football team’s staff consists of assistant coaches, Mark Bender, Lucas Troyer, Remington Gay, and head coach Dalton Tremayne. To prepare the team for the season, the coaches held camps and many practices during the summer. The boys worked hard during the summer to make sure they have the proper conditioning and are prepared for the tough season ahead of them. Despite all the training in the summer, the work doesn’t stop once the school year begins. During the school week, the boys have two hours of practice every day after school. There is no doubt that the team works very hard.

Come out to support the Cadets as they take on Bishop Neumann next Friday!

XC Season Coming Up!

WP-B runners are training hard for the upcoming season

By Joshua Gonzalez

West Point-Beemer’s Boy’s and Girl’s Cross Country Teams are starting the season with a bang (from a starting pistol), ready to showcase their hard work and training by competing against fierce competition.

Logan View, their first course, is treated more like a warmup meet. While it’s a fast course, runners might be sore going in because of the workout they may have prior. But overall, Logan View should be a great meet to start the season.

Head Coach Noah Burtis discussed his excitement for some individual runners on the team. “I am really excited to watch Zaq and Hector go out.” Zaq Leslie and Hector Cabrales, a senior and sophomore on the team, have both put in many miles to prepare for the upcoming season over the summer. This is Zaq’s fourth season on the high school team,



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and Hector's first running with the Cadets.

Coach Burtis also highlighted his excitement for members of the girl's team. "I think we have a really strong girls team with Kim, Evelyn, Emerson, Mara, Gianni, and Sherlyn being new to the team." Of the girl runners, both Kim Pena and Emerson Meiergerd are returning state qualifiers to the state meet, with Emerson competing last season and Kim the year before.

"My expectations for the season overall is to build a team and a culture and watch our runners grow into not just excellent runners, but also excellent people as well," Coach Burtis stated.

Of the runners on the team, Senior Zaq Leslie is particularly excited for this season. When asked what his final year means to him, he stated, "I had a good run. Everything good does come to an end, you just need to enjoy the times while you're there and even when you have a bad race, just think: I still got more coming."

With the upcoming season being his final year of high school cross country, every race has a little more meaning. After years of competing for the Cadets, Zaq Leslie knows he needs to make the most of every opportunity.

"Every race is your last one on that course," Leslie said, "so I need to take advantage. I know years before, I could tell myself that the next year would be better. But now it's more of knowing that this is my last time here."

As he enters his final season, Leslie plans to put everything he has into each race. He hopes his hard work will allow him to finish his high school career on a strong note.

"I'm going to put all my effort into it," Leslie said. "I'm going to come out hopefully running on top."

All in all, the West Point-Beemer Cross Country Team is ready to put their summer training to the test. With returning runners, new faces, and a senior class looking to make the most of their final season, the Cadets are ready to see what the season has in store!



Student Council sets Starting Plans

Student Council Members discuss plans for upcoming events

By Javier Berganza

When asked if they're excited to begin planning, Student Council Advisor and Teacher Lauren Pribnow said, "I am definitely looking forward to planning homecoming and also putting on another blood drive." The Student Council is responsible for putting on these events each year. Last year, both events were a huge success, largely in part due to the planning and hard work of all involved.

When questioned if she is going to run the organization the same way as before, Pribnow stated, "It will change a little but due to the fact that we have a couple new sponsors and have a new advisory board." Last year's seniors did a lot of planning for the events that occur throughout the year.

When asked how she motivated people to join Student Council, Advisor Pribnow said, "I mostly try to stop people in the hallways and say, "Hey, you'd be really good for student council," and I try to get the previous members to talk to their classmates about joining student council."

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After interviewing senior and advisory board member, Samantha Francis about why she joined student council, she responded, “I joined student council so I could give our teachers an idea of what the student body actually wants and to help give back.” Last year, Francis helped with activities such as homecoming which were a huge success at West Point-Beemer Public Schools.

When asked what her main goal in student council is this year, she said, “My main goal in student council this year is to be more prominent in the school body.” She wants to be more involved in Student Council this year to accomplish this goal.

When asked why she joined Student Council in her first high school year, she said, “I wanted to help with homecoming and know what was going on.”

When asked about what she wanted to see in her first year of the student council she responded with, “ Lots of people being involved, people showing up, raising enough funds for homecoming, picking out themes for homecoming week, and more homecoming games and decorating.”

Be on the lookout for upcoming events planned by Student Council throughout the school year!

Got Any Grapes?

West Point FFA continues their lemonade tradition

By Blake Wegner

The West Point FFA Chapter was at the fair once again serving their famous freshly squeezed lemonade. The local FFA chapter has been putting on this stand for years to kick start all the fundraising they will need for the upcoming school year.

The lemonade stand is operated by many FFA members throughout the fair. During every shift, an officer needs to be present. One of the officers who worked many shifts throughout the fair is junior Austynn Batenhorst. Austynn said, "Her roles changed from being an officer to a normal member."

She had to uphold more responsibilities and help count and hand out cash. She was also the person leading the shift so if someone didn't show up, she would have to message one of our advisors.

Each person's shift is a bit different than someone else's. Since the FFA chapter is combined with the 2 local West Point high schools, WP-B and GACC, the members work with people they may not know. As West Point FFA advisor Rebecca. Wulf said, “This fundraiser helps get our chapter ready for the year to come. It brings both schools together."

This is West Point FFA’s first fundraiser of the year and it helps bring everyone together.

Even though the lemonade stand is during the fair, the prep work does not start there. As Austynn stated, "We wash, squeeze, and put the lemon juice in buckets and store them in school. We also have to make our sugar water solution all before the fair."



The lemonade stand takes a lot of time at the fair and also beforehand. Students were squeezing lemons and making sugar water for many hours. They learned many valuable skills such as hard

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work and continue to try to make the lemonade as best as possible.

The lemonade stand is a fan favorite, but it isn't all sunshine for the workers. As many members have stated, the floors and work place can get very, "sticky." Even with all the success, there are some improvements that Advisor Wulf would like to make. She would like there to be coolers in the lemonade stand, so they don't have to haul lemons and strawberries down to the fair as often.

This fan favorite stand runs smoothly, but it isn't perfect, and improvements can still always be made.

Lastly, the most important question was asked, "Does the lemonade stand have any grapes?" Advisor Wulf unfortunately responded with, "No."

Even though they don't get any grapes, they continue to follow the FFA chapter as they go through all of their district CDE and LDE events and future state qualifiers.

Ea$tbound is Down

WP-B Junior hosts first concert

By Viviana Morales

On Saturday August 16th West Point - Beemer student Easton Gibson, better known as hometown rapper Ea$tBound, held a concert behind the West Point theater to introduce his new project to awaiting fans.

Many supporters had shown up ready to hear the premiere of his new music. Signs were made, people came in their best dressed and the energy was palpable throughout the entirety of the show. It wasn't simply a small crowd but rather a vast sea of people all waiting for Ea$tBound's appearance.

The number in attendance was a shock to even the artist himself. "Everybody being there really helped me feel like, oh yeah, this is awesome. There's really people showing up. It was pretty cool." Those that showed up were not only fellow classmates but upperclassmen, teammates and underclassmen.

"There were a lot of people from school there. Almost the entire football team was there." One of these many football members being Emmanuel Figueroa, Ea$tbound's self proclaimed number one fan.

"I know truly that I am his number one fan. I've been there cheering him on, telling him things that are fire and asking him when his new album is going to be released." Emmanuel had shown up at the very beginning, ready to show his unwavering encouragement.

The "thrilling" concert came to an abrupt stop when cops showed up. As soon as Ea$tBound had begun to make his voice heard, he was silenced. One would think that someone as young as Easton would have been fearful or at the least nervous about the interaction, yet he seemed the exact opposite. "I wasn't scared at all when the police came. The cops said the people at the theater apparently didn't have the authority to say yes."



Still, the shutdown does not mean the end. It has become clear that Easton's music is gaining traction quickly. When asked why he

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thinks he garnered so much attention through his concert , he responded, “It gives people a thing to do on a Saturday. It was just a fun time for everybody to hangout and be with each other.”

Already he has 225 monthly listeners on Spotify. Ea$tbound’s popularity is only growing. Fame, however, comes with expectation from fans about more. Easton is already taking steps to meet the wants of audience members that may have been disappointed from his last performance. He spoke on talking to the “right people” and plans to speak with the city council.

The devotion to his music is apparent through the effort presented in his planning of future endeavors. His inspiration is a similar case. “It’s an easy way to express yourself…express your feelings. It’s exciting to do.” He takes enjoyment in being able to create. Sharing his creativity and having so many people backing has only made him want to continue

“I want to thank everybody that came out, showed love and everything. That meant everything to me, having so many people show up. I hope people keep showing up because we’re just going to get better and better from here. Thank you.” Be on the lookout, his next concert is only 3 weeks away.

Get the Flock Out!

Why are people so mad about Flock Cameras?

By Ally Wolken

If you’ve skimmed the news in the past few months or doomscrolled on social media you’ve probably heard of the Flock camera. These twelve foot tall cameras, paid for by tax payer dollars, primarily serve as automatic license plate readers (APLRs) in nearly 120,000 traffic locations. These cameras take photos of every single car that passes by, and all of the Flock data goes to a third party platform, Amazon web services. Flock Safety markets them as new technology that helps “deter crime” and serve the community; however, Flock Safety has recently gone under fire for misuse, privacy concerns, and its effect on civil liberties.

Civil rights group American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) believes that these cameras generate more problems than solutions. In the modern age, it’s increasingly difficult to get away with crime when there are cameras nearly everywhere you look. A plausible conclusion is that these cameras can continue to find wrongdoers and criminals; yet, what happens when you aren’t a criminal? Ask the twenty eight victims that were stalked by their ex-partners who were law enforcement officers using Flock Safety’s database. This same type of tech, Digital Recognition Network (DRNs) sells accident and vehicle data (even mundane things like slamming on breaks too hard) to insurance companies, they're battling class action lawsuits as well. The APLRs can identify vehicle characteristics and license plates incorrectly, often leading to the driver being falsely arrested, held at gunpoint, and even jailed. These issues aren’t all entirely on the hands of Flock Safety, as



many other tech companies (such as Motorola) have their own APLRs scattered around

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the nation, with 500 in Nebraska.

Ord, Nebraska was recently in the news for their vote (5-0) for removing Flock cameras in the town. Towns and cities are beginning to dislike the cameras themselves, with the topic of Flock cameras beginning to infiltrate city council meetings. Recently The Flatwater Free Press reported that these cameras are being used in immigration searches, with more than twenty immigration searches in Nebraska in the span of six months.

While Flock has been successful in finding criminals, missing children and the elderly in danger, many think that there should be tighter guardrails in how the Flock information is obtained and searched. These cameras, according to one lawsuit, allegedly turn on the ability for out of state law enforcement agencies to view data...and you can't turn it off. Some taxpayers aren't happy that this is what their towns and governments are spending their money on, while some think that it's a good investment for catching criminals in the future.

GTA 6: Pushback or Release?

Rockstar's nears release of Grand Theft Auto VI

By Roberto Perez

Gamers worldwide are rejoicing as their long wait has finally come to an end; tech giant Rockstar Games has finally planned the release of Grand Theft Auto VI as early as November of this year.

This excitement has made its way into the halls of West Point-Beemer Public Schools. Senior Alex Ramos has been following the release schedule of the game closely, feeling the worldwide disappointment every time the release date is pushed back.

"My expectations for GTA VI are very high since we've had to wait 13 years for its release," Ramos stated. "I'm also trying to justify spending $100 on a single game, so it'd better be pretty good."

GTA VI getting pushed back has allowed others to be able to play GTA V and understand the game. It has also made gamers wonder if they want anything from GTA V to be in the new edition of GTA VI.

Ramos claims, "I really like the car mechanics for how well detailed they were when they crashed, so I think I would want it to improve in GTA VI." He also stated, "I would also like if the maturity of the game stayed the same, cause the jokes and everything were pretty funny and I wouldn't want them to become too woke and not do stuff like that anymore cuz that's what Rockstar is known for."

Journalism Instructor Carter Ossian is excited for the release of GTA VI as well. "I spent a lot of time playing GTA V and I am really excited for the release of GTA VI." Everyone was at different levels throughout the online version of GTA V, but this was Ossian's favorite way to play the game.

"I played GTA V when I was a lot younger, it was my favorite video game for a while. I completed the main storyline and ended up on level 120 online."

GTA VI is a game that will without a doubt be a massive, worldwide success. The Confirmed Release date is November 19, 2026. You can play it on Ps5 or Xbox Series X/S.

