

The Cadet Courier

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Roaring crowds, roaring talent!

Senior Kenna Hughes discusses her experience participating in basketball

By: Samantha Fehrer

As the crowd cheers and the pressure rises, one particular basketball player rises to the occasion, Senior Kenna Hughes. From dribbling on the court to helping out her teammates, she has become a role model for all. As she enters



her last year of basketball, Hughes is determined to leave her mark.

Kenna's origin in basketball started as early as elementary school. She talked about how the 4th grade science teacher, Mike Waak, reached out to her in 4th grade to join the sport.

"He knew my older brothers, and he figured I would have the same athletic ability and talent like they had," Hughes mentioned.

She also joined because all of her friends were joining.

After she joined, she realized how much she enjoyed it and looked forward to every practice. Even as a kid, basketball was always an interesting sport for her, which is why she continued throughout all 4 years in high school.

What stands out about basketball for Kenna are the practices. The environment and energy makes these practices

enjoyable for her. It turns the fast-paced sport into a space without stress.

"Everyday at practice is a fun, new drill. The energy in the gym is unreal, and it is just a great environment to be in," Hughes says.

She also discussed since Jordan Miller is the new coach, she never knows what to expect. Kenna looks forward to getting into the gym everyday and improving each day.

"My main goal going into my senior year is to have a winning record," Hughes stated.

Even though the girls basketball team lost 5 seniors last year, the team is willing to step up to the plate. Kenna talked about how this year will be a surprise to everyone and how she hopes to impress people. Kenna's last goal is to make it to state this year.

"My favorite part of being a role model upperclassmen is the fact that the underclassmen look up to me and ask me for advice," Hughes says.

She talks about how being involved in basketball is a huge change in high school, she tries her best to help in any way she can. Kenna makes sure that the underclassmen are comfortable and include them

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in drills, group hangouts, and even conversations.

“I love helping others and being put into this position most certainly fuels my passion,” Hughes mentioned.

However, there are always worries for an athlete. Kenna’s major worry is not having a winning record and losing a bunch of games. Kenna states how those losing games will haunt her mind a few days after.

“Other than that worry, I believe we will cause some unexpected havoc,” Hughes said.

When Kenna looks towards the future, she does not want to pursue basketball or any sport in college. However, she would love to participate in intramural sports if her future college offers it.

As Kenna steps into her final season, she carries with her not only the skills she has sharpened over the years, but also the pride. Her dedication on the court makes her a standout athlete and a strong role model. When that final buzzer sounds, her legacy leaves a mark.

Gobble, gobble

West Point-Beemer hosted a grandparents Thanksgiving lunch for grades Pre. K - 4

By: Zaq Leslie

As Thanksgiving approached, countless families across the United States prepared for one of the most cherished holidays of the year. Among the many traditions that resonate within these celebrations, Thanksgiving lunch with grandparents stands out as a significant and meaningful experience. The annual event isn’t just a meal but a vital opportunity for families to create memories, share stories, and pass down cherished memories.

The significance of this tradition comes from its ability to bring together different generations. Connecting grandchildren with their grandparents in a unique setting.

Junior Syliva Meiergerd stated, “I remember when my grandparents came to my lunch and it is something that I will always remember.”

In a time where technology often creates a barrier between family and friends, the Thanksgiving lunch tradition offers a reminder of the need for face-to-face

interactions, deep conversations, and the sharing of memories. As families gather around the table to celebrate their unique traditions, they create bonds that can withstand the test of time.

However, not everyone had grandparents that could attend. High School Principal Neil Riley and Elementary Principal Doug Gross came together and made a plan. They had high school students eat with the younger kids. Helping lighten up the mood and create memories for those whose grandparents were not able to attend.

Junior Kenadie Lindstrom stated, “It was interesting to sit there and talk with little kids,” she then stated “They just talked about random stuff like Roblox, but I still enjoyed spending time with the kids.”

However, the lunch is about much more than just the food. It becomes a place for storytelling, reminiscing, and learning. Grandparents recount tales from their childhood, often sharing lessons learned through triumph and hardships. Through these stories, grandchildren can find inspiration and guidance as they navigate their own lives.

The shared experience of Thanksgiving lunch also helps

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the significance of gratitude. In a world that is focused on individualism, this gathering serves as a reminder not only to grandchildren, but grandparents as well, of the importance of family support and recognition.

In addition to the benefits for children, this tradition also provides emotional fulfillment for grandparents. As they age, maintaining connections with younger generations becomes hard. The lunch gives them an opportunity to help these relationships, providing a sense of joy and love.

Having a tradition like grandparents thanksgiving lunch is crucial for fostering relationships, sharing wisdom, and creating memories. As this holiday ends, families should remember the importance of family. Embracing the Thanksgiving lunch means embracing the heart and soul of family, and a treasure worth preserving in an ever-changing world.

As you and your family gather around the lunch table next Thanksgiving, it's important to recognize that these moments create memories and long lasting connections. In celebrating together, families reinforce the foundation of love and support,

which are vital for navigating the challenges of life.

Jamboree jumpstart

Boys Basketball kicks off season with a jamboree in South Sioux

By: Ethan Corrales

The team went up against South Sioux City along with Homer and won both of their games with the scores being 36-28 against South Sioux and 38-10 against Homer.

When asked about how the jamboree went overall, Head Coach Tyler Polacek stated he thought it had good parts and bad parts. Both teams liked to speed them up which in

Brockman, Peyton Penrose, Hunter Swanson, Myles Nielsen, and Ian Schiller.

The team had started practice a few weeks before the jamboree and were working hard to get the team in order along with conditioning themselves to run long and hard during the game.

"I think that everybody was communicating pretty well, but I don't think we were being good enough with our rebounds," stated Sophomore Josh Snodgrass when he was asked how he thinks the team did.

Many of the team members stated that they believed that while they did win their games, they were very



turn caused them to take rushed and inaccurate shots.

The team's starters for both games were Seniors Blaize

rusty and saw room for improvement. Snodgrass believes that the team needs to be able to throw more shots

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and, in return, more shots will be able to be scored. In addition, he believes that rebounding could also be a big area of improvement allowing the team for more second chances. Judging from the results, the team believes that each game will show improvement and will build onto the next.

The coaches are very confident with their schedule and opponents and are very optimistic that each game will be an improvement on the last. Many of the players have also stated that building up the team and improving on their results is also a factor of self improvement and are striving to improve themselves for the betterment and success of the team.

To sum up his hopes for the season, Coach Polacek stated, "I'm very optimistic that we should do a little better. But every game can be a toss-up but we still have to be able to play to the best of our abilities to win."

The team will be hosting their next game at home against The Arlington Eagles on Thursday December 4th. The team will be practicing hard to smooth out their flaws and polish their strengths in order to play to the best of their abilities on

Thursday. Good luck on your season boys and go Cadets!

Evolution of Journalism

How journalism class has become what it is now

By: Angeline Berganza

When Mr. Carter Ossian was hired at West Point Public Schools in 2023, he was responsible for renewing Journalism as a class offered to students. This class started off small, but as time went on, the Journalism class got recognized for their hard work. In the beginning, there were 6 students who were learning the process of writing good articles and starting up the school's newspaper. With the class being brought back and being a first year teacher, he found himself a little stressed.

"At the beginning of the class, I thought I was way in over my head. I had never learned about Journalism, taken any classes, or participated in high school or college. I wasn't sure how to go about tackling the class, and am thankful that we created what we did," mentions Ossian.

The goal of Journalism was to originally get students into the art of writing and

learning about the interview process.

"My first goal was to simply have a lesson everyday for students. We accomplished that by finding new ongoing projects that students could complete," says Ossian.

Last year, during the 2024-2025 school year, Journalism had expanded with the amount of students joining, increasing the number of articles being published in the town's newspaper.



"We have elevated the class by starting the newspaper, allowing students to become published journalists through the town newspaper, and have recently started creating articles for the purpose of submitting to state competition," Ossian mentions.

Journalism class throughout the years has improved not only with students publishing the newspaper, but how Mr. Ossian teaches and incorporates students into the lesson.

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“We have the same structure for putting together the school newspaper every week, from our topic/question/interviewee generation to our interviewing to our writing to our workshopping to our newspaper creation! By following this process consistently, our students always know what the next step is,” states Ossian.

Journalism has not only improved by allowing students to become published artists it has also improved their writing and communication skills.

Mr.Ossian’s hard work and dedication has been shown throughout the years, especially since the second semester of his first year when class articles were introduced to the town’s newspaper. The student’s hard work and dedication has not gone unnoticed, proven by their articles being published for the community to read.

“The quality of articles has drastically improved as we have learned proper article structure. We have also explored opportunities for showcasing our work in more ways than one,” states Ossian.

Journalism has gone from a starting point of I’ll try my best to the point where students are being recognized and that’s amazing!

Stranger things have happened...

Stranger Things Season 5 review

By: Camila Calderon

Stranger Things Season 5’s first part was released on November 26, 2025, and as far as crazy starts go, the season has been a wild ride that has left viewers on their toes, brewing with anticipation every step of the way. Not only that, its profoundly heartwarming moments from the characters we all know and love leave their audience in awe of their newfound emotional discoveries that are almost always followed by comedic, but– at times– cheesy line deliveries.

The action begins as we accustom ourselves to the new version of Hawkins: heavily guarded by the military and completely isolated from society with a large gate to the Upside Down found in the Military Access

Control Zone, also known as MAC-Z.

Greeted by the Morning Squawk every morning, Rockin’ Robin uses her radio broadcast as a communication hub to send a secret, coded message to the group scattered across Hawkins about their next crawl. When the crawl doesn’t go as planned, they face grave setbacks that lead to Holly’s kidnapping among other unfortunate events. Determined to find Holly, they conduct a major search and use



Vecna’s next victim, Derek, in order to save other kids from facing the same fate they

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dedicate to save Holly from living.

Many character arcs have developed over the course of the season. For example, Will has significantly evolved from a timid, isolated boy to a man who is no longer scared of speaking out and embracing his role as Vecna's vessel. We also see a change in Hopper who at first used to be an alcoholic and heavy smoker grieving his daughter, Sarah, but has grown to become a loving man who seeks to protect his adopted daughter, Eleven. Another character we see evolve over time is Steve, who isn't a bully the way he was introduced in the first season, but now a full-time babysitter for six kids and loving it. Although, unsurprisingly, Murray is still his quirky self who hasn't changed at all.

Taking in a new aspect, the Duffer Brothers have outdone themselves with the fantasy of living with Henry, giving it a sort of Alice and Wonderland type of feeling with endless pancakes, dresses, and toys in order to satiate Holly during her stay. We also see breathtaking views that we encounter as Holly explores her eerily beautiful prison made by Henry as she discovers a new friend who forces her to perceive her fantasy to feel so

large yet simultaneously limited.

It is safe to say that the quality of production in cinematography has significantly upgraded. From Will's satisfactory dolly zoom when he passes out in the barn to the screen blurring or pulsing when danger lingers nearby, the creative camera movements enhance our otherworldly experience. While *Stranger Things*'s setting is widely known to be based in old times, they were able to find a connection to modern times by introducing Will's discovery about his sexuality which is an idea that we currently see on a daily basis.

One of the important relationships that has developed in season five is the deep, unexpected bond between Will and Robin. They ultimately share the same position and Robin guides him through his mix of emotions, providing the outlet that Will needed when it comes to helping him through his journey of self-acceptance.

Not to mention the genius music selection through the songs "Mr. Sandman" by the Chordettes that plays during the credits of episode one, Dustin's hilarious "Oh Yeah" by Yello scene, and the iconic "Running up That Hill" by Kate Bush.

On a more emotional note, the Duffer Brothers also explore many themes conveyed through multiple scenes. With Dustin, they show how bravery allows you to fight for something that you love that might not be seen as acceptable through the eyes of society. We delve into the ability to find love and comfort, whether it be familial or romantic, in times of darkness when the world seems out of place throughout the entire group. We also tap into how grieving in the possibility or event of losing a loved one can bleed through emotional conflict within oneself through Hopper, Nancy, Dustin, and Lucas.

Leading up to the final plot twist, Will realizes that all the answers were within himself and the way they evoked that realization was through a touching montage of his happy childhood memories with Robin's inspiring words filling the silence before the final piece of the puzzle clicked into place. This visualizes the moment that Will finally embraces his newfound identity, role as a hero, and emphasizes his unique connection to the Upside Down, allowing him to truly fly.

Speaking from a personal perspective, I absolutely consumed the first

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volume and can't wait to see how the events unfold as the final season of the hit show draws to a close. Knowing what I want for Christmas now, I am bubbling with excitement and prepared to end my year with a possibly gut-wrenching yet one-of-kind finale.

Running on Thanksgiving?

Jesus takes on Turkey Trot!

By: Jesus Montoya

On November 27, 2025, Fleet Feet hosted the annual Turkey Trot at the Omaha Memorial Park. Fleet Feet is an American franchise of specialty running, where they sell running shoes, apparel, and accessories. The admission fee consisted of options of donating any amount of money for the Food Bank of Heartland, or bringing at least 5 cans of non-perishable food to the race.

At the Turkey Trot, over 800 people showed up from 6 to 65 years old. Turkey Trots are fun events in which anyone can come around to go on a 5k run or a 2.5k walk. These runs are always done on the morning of Thanksgiving to kick off the holiday.

People showed up in all kinds of attire, some people decided to show their

Thanksgiving pride and wore turkey and pilgrim costumes. Some people decided to show up in Christmas costumes, like Santa or reindeer.

In total, with the amount of donations that the foundation received, they obtained an impressive amount of \$3553.85 in cash donations, and over 1,948 pounds of non-perishable food. This equates to over 1,623 meals for individuals and families who are in need.

This was my first year attending the Turkey Trot, and upon arrival at 8 am the place was already filled with people warming up for the run that was about to take place. The air was cold and hard to breathe in so everyone was bundled up. I started with a mile warm up around the park, then I did some stretches to loosen out my legs.

When the race began, everyone in the back of the crowd had to wait around 5 minutes just to get past the beginning of the line because of the amount of people that were present. I ran the event at around a 7:30 pace for my 5k.

Upon finishing, people stayed around the finish line cheering on others. Crowds stayed behind having conversations while finishing their walk around the park. In

the end it's supposed to be a fun event.

Overall, Turkey Trots have been around for several decades, and they have now become a tradition for many families. The tradition continues to expand to families and friends across the country. It is an exciting event which can be used for fundraisers, and get people into the spirit of Thanksgiving!

Brester's Best Bets

College Football Playoffs

By: Chase Brester

These are my picks for the 2025-26 College Football Playoffs, but first I'm going to pick my Heisman trophy winner for this season. As much as I want to say Emmett Johnson (Running back for Nebraska), I can't. I believe because of the Big Ten Championship, **Fernando Mendoza** (Indiana Quarterback), wins the Heisman.

For the first round, none of my picks should be a surprise to anyone. **I have Oregon beating James Madison, and Ole Miss beating Tulane.** I don't think either of the group of 5 teams stand a chance this year and I think they will both lose by more than

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2 scores. Also in the first round, **I think Texas A&M will beat Miami** because I don't believe Miami deserves to be in the playoffs over Notre Dame. Although Miami did win the head to head matchup, Miami has had terrible losses this season. Notre Dame's only losses came against ranked opponents. **My last pick for round 1 is Alabama.**

Alabama lost to Oklahoma earlier this season by 2 points, but I believe it will be different this time.

For the Quarterfinals round I only have 1 small upset. I believe Indiana is the real deal this season and we saw it on Saturday when they took down #1 Ohio State. I think **Indiana beats Alabama.** This matchup between Texas Tech and Oregon is a hard one to pick. Both of these teams have some of the top offenses in the country. **Oregon beats Texas Tech in a shootout.** I think this game will have over 60 total points scored. Next is Ohio State vs Texas A&M. This game will have 2 top 10 quarterbacks in college football. We saw it last year, Ohio State is a whole different team when it comes to the CFP. **Ohio State takes down Texas A&M.** I really think Ohio State is going to win by more

than 2 scores. The final quarterfinal matchup is between Georgia and Ole Miss. Georgia has been on a roll recently with 3 of their last 5 wins coming against ranked opponents. Georgia also beat Ole Miss earlier this season. Things are looking bad for Ole Miss since their coach left for LSU. **Because of this I picked Georgia to beat Ole Miss.**

Next, the semi finals. We are now down to 4 teams: Indiana vs Oregon, and Ohio State vs Georgia. Indiana vs Oregon is a rematch of a rock fight we saw earlier this year. Indiana has played great all year while Oregon has struggled some this season. I believe this game's outcome will be no different than earlier this season. **I have the Hoosiers taking down**

Oregon. Ohio State vs Georgia will be the biggest matchup so far. Both of these teams have been dominant, but I believe Ohio State is the better team. **Ohio State wins in a close game.**

Finally, the National Championship. I believe it will be a rematch of the Big Ten Championship game, but with a different outcome. Ohio State is going to want this game more than any other. The Buckeyes had so many chances to beat Indiana, but they ended up losing 13-10. I think **Ohio State wins in a rematch against Indiana.**

