

# FOR THE LOVE OF MONEY

## Ewing hopes economic growth attracts and retains residents

Katie Besancon  
*managing editor*

As an Omaha Northwest graduate who was attending the University of Nebraska Omaha, John Ewing was hired by the Omaha Police Department while still taking classes. After working for a bit and earning money, he went back to finish his bachelor's degree and obtained his master's degree, as well.

"If you can get money in a young person's pocket, you can keep them here," Ewing said.

Ewing is Omaha's 52nd mayor and is the first Black mayor to serve the city. He ran his campaign off simple ideas: an increase in available affordable housing, attracting young families and generations to the city and encouraging those living in the city to stay and expanding the activities and attractions Omaha has to offer.

The state of Nebraska as a whole is losing about 4,500 college-educated young people a year, according to U.S. Census Bureau data. By losing those people, the state and the city are losing the opportunity to provide high paying jobs, and Omaha misses out on economic growth.

"That's unacceptable. That's also unsustainable," Ewing said.

Six months into his term, Ewing has not taken his foot off the gas pedal. After serving the Omaha Police Department for 25 years, he decided to continue serving the community when he was elected to the Douglas County

Treasurer's office. He held that position for 18 years before taking on Jean Stothert in the mayoral election earlier this year.

Starting his term in an intentional way, he worked with groups such as the UNO Democrats and the Creighton University Democrats to establish a group of young leaders, including high schoolers and young professionals, who want to improve Omaha. Ewing said he was listening to the group of young leaders about what they want out of Omaha for them to stay. Then, "we're going to do those things," Ewing said.

School districts around the Omaha metro can help keep students in the state by working with the surrounding universities, Ewing said, whether it be UNO, Creighton, Nebraska Medicine or Metropolitan Community College to create a direct pipeline and have more of a partnership, through internships.

"Even if someone goes to school out of town, they'll come back for that summer internship, and then we turn those interns into permanent employees," Ewing said.

"If we kept 2,500 of those [graduates who leave], we would have a better environment for people," Ewing said.

Keeping those numbers in the city would foster a job network that would aid in underemployment issues and continue the establishment of high paying jobs for young professionals.



Omaha Mayor John Ewing speaks about the streetcar during a press conference Dec. 10.

ISAAC PERCIVAL-AIZENBERG | The Register

Ewing is planning an economic package to create more tools to keep companies and young people in Omaha, allowing companies that are in the city to expand here, not in other cities, and create higher paying jobs.

"We need to create greater opportunities for those people who are underemployed. We have the people who don't have the skills. Part of our responsibility to compete is the upskill of those people," Ewing said.

The goal of getting money in the younger

generations pockets starts with creating job opportunities, many of which start out with MCC, UNO, University of Nebraska--Lincoln, Nebraska Medicine and Nebraska Methodist, which all house programs that enable students to get a certification to start that job process as early as junior year of high school.

This creates a kickstart on a student's career while promoting the idea of university and a career in Omaha post-graduation.

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## Nebraska error leaves OPS bracing for major budget shortfall

Steven Dickerson  
*editor-in-chief*

Omaha Public Schools will face a significant budget shortfall for the 2026-27 school year after the Nebraska Department of Education made an error in state aid calculations, resulting in a \$30.5 million overpayment this school year.

In an email sent Nov. 17 to OPS staff and families, district leaders explained that the mistake was uncovered during a recent audit by NDE of the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act, or TEEOSA, formula, which determines state aid to school districts based on factors including property taxes, poverty levels, transportation, student growth, English proficiency, special education and more. OPS has often been the recipient of a large portion of these funds.

LB 1059 established TEEOSA in 1990. The general idea is that the needs minus the resources of a district equal the state equalization aid they receive. Typical state aid and local property taxes fill the cup first, and the state fills any space left with equalization aid. If property values increase, the state's portion gets smaller and vice versa.

"From OPS' perspective, TEEOSA works. It does what it is designed to do," said Shane Rhian, OPS' chief financial officer.

The true TEEOSA formula is not public, and policymakers often call it too complex for anyone to understand. Governor Jim Pillen recently called for its elimination.

Earlier this year, the Legislature created an 18-member School Financing Review Com-

mission, via LB 303, comprised of superintendents, state senators and education advocates to brainstorm ways to reform TEEOSA. The commission is likely to review this error in the future while continuing to report to the Legislature's Education Committee on school funding as a whole. Changes to the formula are expected, as there has been lots of criticism of TEEOSA. However, OPS still believes the current system works.

"It's unfortunate that there was a clerical error that fed incorrect data into the state aid formula. That doesn't mean that the formula is broken," Rhian said.

Despite OPS not being at fault for the error, that hasn't stopped some policymakers from arguing OPS stole money.

"The OPS board approves the school budget...not a single soul questioned the extra tens of millions. Not one person," State Board of Education member Kirk Penner said at a meeting on Dec. 5.

Jane Erdenberger, president of the OPS Board of Education, said Penner's claim was misguided.

"I wish I could make a t-shirt that says, 'It's not our fault,'" Erdenberger said. Rhian agreed, saying, "To insinuate that we somehow stole or did something inappropriate to receive that money is just factually wrong."

Rhian pointed out that he was extremely surprised to learn of the error on Nov. 6. He and fellow district leaders believed it was a mistake until NDE clarified the details, which wasn't until many days later, at which point district communications sent the email to

staff and families. Erdenberger asserted that board members were notified immediately and that the following board meetings revealed as many details as possible.

The Nebraska Department of Education said it will address the error by subtracting \$30.5 million from the state aid provided to OPS next year. However, because of the overpayment this year, OPS now faces an estimated \$61 million impact on its 2026-27 budget, as they face both the reduction in aid and must repay the extra funds they received this year.

"We are told the error related to the 'poverty allowance' for schools and districts participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) of the National School Lunch Program [NSLP]," Erdenberger said in the message to all families. Nebraska Commissioner of Education Brian Maher confirmed this at the Nebraska State Board of Education meeting on Dec. 5.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says, "CEP allows the nation's highest poverty schools and districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications." The goal is to provide free meals while reducing bureaucratic barriers. They achieve this by using SNAP, TANF and WIC data for certain areas.

"When we became a district wide participant in CEP, we were under the impression that it would increase the amount of the poverty allowance and we would receive additional state aid," Rhian said. "I had conversa-

tions with NDE back in 2023 and ultimately their calculations confirmed what we thought was going to happen, which was us receiving more state aid."

The poverty allowance component of the TEEOSA formula provides additional funding to districts with high poverty rates and for districts participating in the CEP of the NSLP, which OPS has qualified for several years.

Maher clarified the miscalculation affected not only OPS, but many other districts. Nebraska Public Media reported that Grand Island Public Schools received a \$3 million overpayment, and Southern School District in Wymore received an estimated \$482,000 overpayment.

It is unclear exactly what districts have been underfunded, but Lincoln Public Schools told Nebraska Public Media they were underfunded about \$8.9 million.

"The NDE has worked to correct the error for the 2025/2026 TEEOSA calculation and for all future calculations," Maher said in a statement, although the department declined further comment. "The correction will reallocate funds to the appropriate districts in the 2026/2027 TEEOSA payments as directed by State Statute."

OPS officials noted the district reduced its tax levy by nearly 11 cents in the 2024-25 school year, a move made possible by the mistaken increase in state aid. The district now anticipates it will need to raise its tax levy in 2026-27 to offset the funding shortfall.

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Meet 14 sets of twins in the sophomore class here at Central!

### Opinion

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In the world of oversaturation and online fanbases, the idea of fandoms have been lost and the shared passion often feels overwhelming,

### Arts & Culture

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The second "Wicked" movie hit propaganda hard but could have just been combined with the first movie.

### Sports

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With the few returning members of the girl's basketball team, the newest players will define the season.

# Minority scholars ends following Allen’s retirement

Brianna Martinez  
staff writer

Minority Scholars was a program that helped minority students prepare for college and kept Honors and Advanced Placement students going at a good pace in their classes. The sponsors of the program were social studies teacher, Jimmie Foster, and former English teacher Diane Allen. The program was founded in 1998; it was brought back in 2021 after 10 years and ended this year due to Allen retiring. Minority students at Central are

underrepresented in Honors and AP classes, according to a Register analysis in 2023. Hispanic and Latino were 33.8% of students at Central but only 25.6% of honors students and 17.6% of AP students. Black and African American students were 25.8% of students at Central but only 22.3% of honors students and 16.2% of AP students. Minority Scholars was an invite-only program and was held during students’ lunch period on A-days. Students would write college essays, do mock interviews, get involved in volunteering and socialize. “That class is where I learned how to

make a resume. No other class sophomore year teaches you how to do that. It’s the year you start applying for jobs, so it was a really important skill,” senior Alexia Vu said. The program also gave students the chance to get in touch with their cultural backgrounds and share them with other students. Culture Day gave students the opportunity to bring a dish that pertained to their culture. “Both years I brought quesadillas, which is a pastry from El Salvador. You get to talk about it to everyone. That was a really cool day, definitely one of my favorites,” senior

Ruth Rivera said. The key parts of the program, like information about college and getting prepared for the future in general, started to be presented in classes like Freshman Seminar and Personal Finance. “A lot of students are going to be able to do those things and learn the skills sooner,” Vu said. “By the end of the program we were doing things that just about every student was getting [in other classes],” Foster said.

# Holdt earns Legion of Valor

Jacquelyn Salgado  
contributing writer

Senior Drew Holdt received the JROTC Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement, the highest national award for JROTC cadets with certain qualifications, for example being involved in other clubs and sports, doing very good in school and having a good reputation around the school. JROTC chapters from all over the nation submit their best cadets, and this year 27 were chosen, given by veterans who have received the nation's highest medals of heroism. “I feel like I can accomplish anything after earning it,” Holdt said. “You know all my life pretty much has been struggles and overcoming challenges, and this award really stands out for me.” He plans to attend Creighton University next year and participate in the ROTC program there and be a member of the Army reserves. Holdt said he’s proud of earning this award, and he felt he earned it because he worked hard for this award since April. He knew he was getting put up to compete with other cadets. He is involved in many activities and sports at Central including varsity

football, Color Guard, Drill Team, marching band, National Honors Society and Concert Band. “I actually had to send in a packet before the end of last year, and my instructor, Maj. [Ryan] Cripps, he had really doubted that I was actually going to get in,” Holdt said. “Just to prove that anything is possible.” “He participates in a lot of things, and that’s what you look for in this person,” Cripps said. Senior army instructors like Cripps are the ones who pick who to nominate as their best cadet, and then they go through a process of filling out a packet from April all the way to October. This packet must be looked at and accepted by not only the principal of Central but by other Army organizations. If the cadet is accepted and chosen later on, they get to attend an award ceremony. “I got to be pretty selective on who I pick,” Cripps said. Alex Krasnoslobodtsev was another Central cadet who won the Legion of Valor award in 2023. He was in JROTC and a musician, a golfer and judo instructor. He also received a 34 on the ACT. He now attends the United States Air Force Academy.



Senior Drew Holdt, second from left, drills during the JROTC Program Accreditation annual inspection Dec. 8. CARTER HILEY | The O-Book

# Freshmen gear up for their first finals week

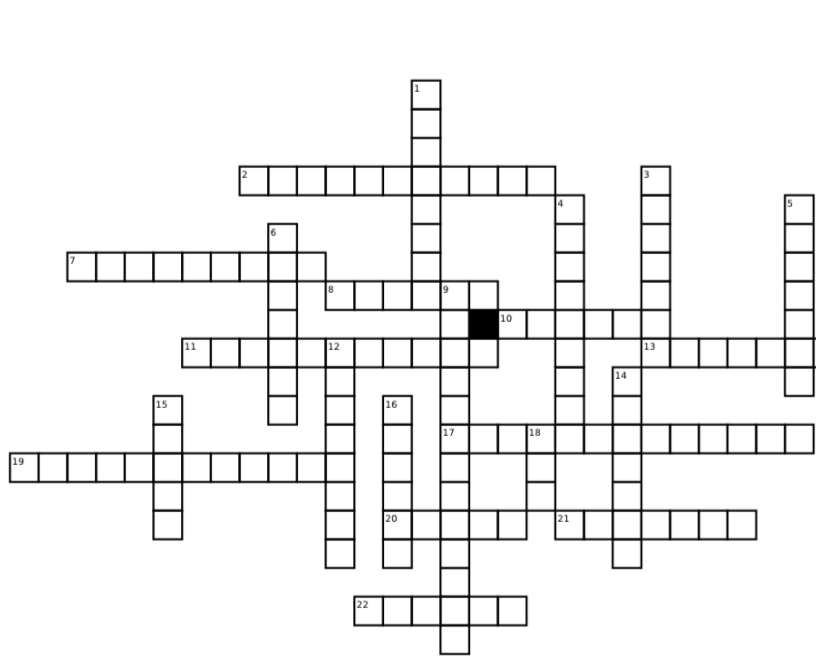
Connie Moenning  
staff writer

Every year at the end of the first semester, students prepare to take on finals week before winter break. This is a stressful time of year for everyone, as these finals will determine the majority of grades for this semester. This is especially daunting for freshmen, as this is their first time experiencing such high stakes at an academic level. Many

aspects of freshman year can feel extremely disorientating and confusing. Finals week is no exception, and that could make it all the more nerve-wracking. In efforts to prepare themselves for the coming exams and projects, many students have doubled the work they are putting into their classes, such as freshman Sumeya Hassan. “I’ve been studying more at home and working harder to pay attention in class,” Hassan said. Others have been catching up in classes

they have been slacking in and doing homework to boost their grades. With the added pressure, many are beginning to understand how important it is to show up and do their work. Jay Ewing explained how their avoidance of work earlier in the semester is effecting them now near the end. “I haven’t been doing my work in a lot of classes, so I’m very nervous about this. I’ve started doing late work in all of my classes, especially biology.” Ewing said. There seems to be a shared sentiment

among freshmen of being nervous, no matter the current state of their grades. A lot of them don’t know what to expect when the final grades for the semester come out, and are unsure of whether or not they are doing enough. This notion is echoed by Aiyana Gomez. “I’m feeling pretty confident, but also a little bit nervous. I’m not really sure how things will turn out for me,” Gomez said.



- Down:**
- 1. Best served with marshmallows
  - 3. Protect your hands from the cold
  - 4. Striped hard candy in the shape of a rod
  - 5. Wintertime celebration of African American culture
  - 6. Winter sport at Central
  - 9. Classical ballet featuring Clara, the Rat King, and the Sugar Plum Fiary
  - 12. Jewish "Festival of Lights"
  - 14. One of Santa's Reindeer
  - 15. Used to treat winter roadways
  - 16. Circular decoration made of evergreens
  - 18. Christmas movie starring Will Ferrel
- Across:**
- 2. Traditional Spanish and Latin America Christmas genre
  - 7. "Kiss me under the \_\_\_\_."
  - 8. Main ingredient in latke
  - 10. Ice skating rink in Omaha
  - 11. American pop and R&B singer that defrosts every year after Halloween
  - 13. What every student hopes for when it snows
  - 17. Jan. 6 holiday in many Spanish-speaking countries
  - 19. Sledding site in Omaha
  - 20. The Polar Express
  - 21. Action movie that could technically be considered a Christmas movie
  - 22. What the Three Wise Men traveled by to visit newborn Jesus in the Nativity

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It is the goal of the Central High Register to represent the student body in issues affecting their lives as young people and students. If you feel that we are not covering an issue that is important to you, we welcome contributing writers who bring fresh ideas to the issues. If you would like to write a story for your student newspaper, please contact Broderick Hilgenkamp at broderick.hilgenkamp@ops.org or come to room 029 to discuss your idea.

# Tons of twins at Central

Trixie Cox  
contributing writer

Being a twin has its difficulties, and the 15 sets in the class of 2028 know it better than anyone. The Register was able to talk with 14 the sets. With four sets of identical twins and 10 fraternal twins, the sophomore class surpasses any other current grade level! The birth rate of twins is 30.7 out of 100 births. There are about 550 people in the sophomore class, and 28 of them are twins. That means that more than 5% of the 2028 class are twins!



Sophia and Michael Bowen

*"It's nice to have somebody around."*

-Sophia Bowen



Maka and Madina Lugendo

*"The best part of being a twin is 'matching.'"*

-Maka Lugendo



Isabella and Sophia Stubbs

*"The best part is probably that like, anywhere I go, I know I'm gonna have someone who I can talk to and I won't be alone."*

-Sophia Stubbs



Rayani and Ramula Abdullahi

*"The best part of being a twin is having a built-in best friend."*

-Rayani Abdullahi



Knox and Blythe Kinman

*"We just like experience stuff together I guess, like go through the high school experience."*

-Blythe Kinman



Ancaam and Anzal Farah

*"Like when our parents mix up our names, that's the worst thing... we don't even look alike."*

-Anzal Farah



Mi'kayla and Mi'liyah Woodruff

*"The best part of being a twin is we can wear each other's clothes."*

-Mi'liyah Woodruff



Jack and Molly Henriksen

*"It's like having a friend, like always at home, you just talk to."*

-Jack Henriksen



Sadie and Hannah Smith

*"I have a clone. Her"*

-Sadie Smith



Arianna and Helena Detisch

*"I don't even think of her as like my twin. I just think of her as my sister, I guess."*

-Helena Detisch



Gabe and Haily Grape

*"The worst thing is that like she annoys me all the time."*

-Gabe Grape



Deandre and Dayonni Wiley

*"The best part about being a twin, let me see... Getting him in trouble."*

-Dayonni Wiley



Annette and Liam Bodmann

*"I like being a twin. I feel like the one time it really is a thing is on our birthday and like that we share it."*

-Annette Bodmann



Lux and Sebastian Tipton

*"You could say it's a double-edged sword because we do get into fights a lot. But overall ... I love my twin."*

-Sebastian Tipton

# Ewing hopes economic growth attracts and retains residents

"Ewing" on page 1

As a public figure working for the city, he has seen the ways in which Omaha can improve affordable housing, recruit companies, create high paying jobs for Omaha's citizens and public transportation. "We haven't done a good job in those types of things that make Omaha an attractive city," Ewing said. He hopes to change that, first with the streetcar. The overall goal for the streetcar is to "be able to take it and build it into a network,"

Ewing said. Comparing Omaha's streetcar to cities like Kansas City, which has seen success within a small proximity of the streetcar and has increased its routes to many parts of the city. Kansas City opened its Streetcar in 2016 with a 2.2-mile route, and since added an additional 3.5 miles of routes spanning from River Market North to the University of Missouri- Kansas City campus. On average, its monthly ridership numbers are around 154,000 passengers in 2024, and has increased to nearly 164,000 in 2025,

according to Kansas City Streetcar data. The Streetcar is one of the many additions to the city Ewing hopes will improve Omaha's appeal and attractions. The city has completed several major projects, including the Gene Leahy Mall in 2022. In addition to the Gene Leahy Mall, downtown Omaha has added a new concert venue, a state-of-the-art science center in the Kewit Luminarium and three renovated parks. Spanning 72 acres between The RiverFront and historic Old Market, these new additions are overall increasing the traffic downtown,

per the Flatwater Free Press. "Not many people, very many cities, that could build a park like the Gene Leahy Mall with philanthropic dollars that we have," Ewing said. The Crossroads development land that has been in the planning phases for over a decade and sat empty for over five years has officially started the construction for the multimedia, urban housing and shopping development, connecting the need for housing, employment and further entertainment within the city.

# Nebraska error leaves OPS bracing for major budget shortfall

"Nebraska" on page 1

"Two years ago, we were able to reduce the levy by \$0.11, and we still have \$0.09 available to us from being at the maximum allowed by statute, so we'll be able to offset some of that lost revenue," Rhian said. "I don't want to say we're going to raise the levy, but I can't imagine where we are going to find all that money unless we have to ask the taxpayers to give it back to us," Erdenberger said. Any decision on raising the tax levy would not be made until after January.

Central Principal Ellisa Kirksey said that since the district likely won't have a clear picture of the full budget impact, neither will Central. "I won't know until September of 2026 how exactly this impacts Central's budget," she said. OPS, however, reiterates that individual schools may not be affected after all. "At this point in time, we are going to do everything within our power to not have any budget reductions filter down to the schools or the students," Rhian said. Rhian explained that the district antici-

pates using tax dollars first, budget efficiencies next, and beyond that, cuts would come to district administration as opposed to any school budget cuts. "Right now, we do not believe that we will have to make any specific reductions to individual schools or even disturb their budgets," Rhian said. Erdenberger reiterated this, pointing out that the district has been overfunding retirement pensions beyond what is actuarially required, saying payments like that can be analyzed before school budgets would be touched.

OPS has long used five-year financial models to plan for the future, and district leaders say they remain focused on student success despite the setback. "We remain focused on our moonshot, getting every student reading on grade level by 2030," Rhian said. The district will present and seek approval for its annual budget in public meetings scheduled for August and September 2026. There is no impact to the operations of the current school year.



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Student of the Year



Application



Teacher of the Year



Nomination

# OUR JOKE OF A PRESIDENT

## Chaos in chief

Charli Tobin  
*sports editor*

Over 200 days into President Donald Trump's second term... holy fiddlesticks! This president has been worse than any I have lived through, and I have lived through four! This president is a giant manchild who throws a fit when he doesn't get his way. His constant attacks against the American people include ordering the National Guard to Portland. This butthead is never anything but immature and bigoted.

Someone who doesn't seem to know how many people live in the United States, saying we have 25 million undocumented immigrants – the lowest he has said – which is just not true.

Of course, we can't forget about the drug prices claims with Trump saying, "We're gonna get the drug prices down. Not 30% or 40% ... we're gonna get them down 1,000%, 600%, 500%, 1,500%." I am going to say this one time: if you lower the price of anything more than 100%, then the company is paying you. This is supposed to be the person running the country! The fact this BUSINESS-MAN does not understand how prices work befuddles me!

The President is meant to protect the Constitution, yet of course this human Cheeto who isn't good at anything except being a bigot, was not good at this either. From immediately attempting to remove birthright citizenship, which is a constitutional right, to ignoring the judicial branch, to violating the First Amendment by arresting pro-Palestinian protesters, to breaking due process in his mass deportation, all of these are massive constitutional violations.

This nincompoop's middle name might as well be unconstitutional. As a president, you are supposed to protect and uphold the Constitution, but of course the fopdoodle can't even do that.

Trump is also just a blatherskite, a person who talks at great length without mak-



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, D.C., U.S., December 3, 2025.

BRIAN SNYDER | REUTERS

ing much sense. "Nothing bad can happen, it can only good happen." This is something he actually said in a press conference he called on Sept. 22. He also just lies like it's the only way he can talk, saying, and I quote, "Basically, what we're doing is equalizing. There's a new word that I came up with, which is probably the best word." Equalizing is not a new word he came up with just for clarity.

Now, of course, what everyone wants to talk about: The Epstein Files. The fact he ran on releasing them and then just immediately changed his mind, then went back to wanting

to releasing them when the House of Representatives voted 471-1 to release the files.

Which, Bubba, that doesn't make you look great, but I won't dive into that.

This idiot makes people's heads hurt and

terrifies people with his authoritarian tendencies and claims, and he should never have been elected in the first place.

## The death of fandoms

Caprice McCoy  
*opinion editor*

Fandoms are not dying because a show ended or because the fanbase is too small. If anything, their size is the issue. Oversaturation, when a fandom gets flooded with interpretations, theories, trends and discourse until it becomes impossible to keep up, is slowly choking enjoyment out of online spaces.

TikTok head canons, aesthetic edits and waves of recycled content pile up so fast that fans barely have time to enjoy the source material before a new "correct" interpretation takes over. What used to feel like a shared passion now feels overwhelming, even for long-time fans.

A lot of this chaos comes from people arguing over characters who barely have canon material to begin with. Fans debate motivations, trauma, relationships and personalities for characters with only a few scenes, then treat their preferred interpretation as the only valid one. For example: a character who appears twice in a show will end up with entire TikTok subcultures arguing about whether they are morally gray, secretly soft, or "definitely abusive," all based on a handful of lines.

Anyone who disagrees gets dogpiled, corrected or dismissed. This level of overanalyzing does not just spark discussion; it di-

vides communities and turns fandom into an exhausting battlefield instead of a fun hobby.

These disputes come with consequences. Existing fans often end up acting like unofficial customer service reps, opening conversations with, "Ignore the TikTok takes, that's not canon." New fans hesitate to join in at all because the fandom already looks messy from the outside. Some do not want to risk saying the "wrong" thing, while others do not want to be associated with the wildest parts of the community. And honestly? Plenty of people just leave. They stop talking about the show or avoid the fandom entirely because keeping up with the drama takes more energy than the media itself.

And I am not going to pretend I am innocent. I have had my own moments of defending certain interpretations like they were gospel or accidentally contributing to discourse spirals. But the bigger picture is impossible to ignore oversaturation; constant speculation, and internal fighting are making fandoms unwelcoming everywhere — not just in one niche corner of the internet. This is not a problem tied to a single show, or a certain genre, or one platform. It is happening across TikTok, Reddit, Twitter, YouTube, literally everywhere fans gather.

Fandoms are not dying because they are fading out; they are dying because they have become too loud, too fast and too chaotic for the people inside them to breathe.

COFFEE ROASTER  
ESPRESSO BAR  
TEA HOUSE  
BAKERY

THE MILL  
EST 1975  
COFFEE & TEA

The Haymarket  
800 P Street

College View  
4736 Prescott Avenue

Innovation Campus  
2021 Transformation Drive

Telegraph District  
330 S 21st Street

Omaha  
31st & Leavenworth

# MOVIES N' MUSIC

## The art of cash grabbing

Noah Sipe  
staff writer

The modern Deluxe Edition stigma in music has continued to grow recently, with listeners even questioning what the point is. Deluxe albums in music used to be a gift to fans, and now they are just marketing scams.

If a tree falls down in the woods, and no one is there to hear it, does it make a noise? Taylor Swift's "The Life of a Showgirl" has approximately 38 variants, including 27 physical editions and seven digital download editions in the timespan of 28 days, none of

which include a single new song. The only thing they add is a different cover or vinyl color. This isn't giving more options for super fans; this is exploitation. Most of these variants will be lost in time due to lack of new content, causing more waste than substance. This all roots back to Swift cash grabbing and clawing to keep her album high on the charts.

One of the biggest recent examples is Tyler, The Creator's new reissue of his album "CHROMAKOPIA", "CHROMOKOPIA+." It was released Oct. 28, adding a total of one new track. There is no point in releasing this, except for expanding sales of the original

album. A strategically smart idea, but it gives fans nothing but a bad taste in their mouths.

Artists are getting so used to deluxe albums just being another way to boost sales; they release them days or even the same day as the original album. Ed Sheeran released both "Play" and "Play Extended Edition" on the exact same day, Sept. 12, which drives his fans to listen to the album, then jump ship to the extended version at once. This adds no specialized feeling to the songs on the extended version, considering they'd get the same feeling if it was on the original album.

Deluxe albums are supposed to grab your

attention with music and content. SZA's album "SOS" holds the record for the longest-running No. 1 album in the history of the Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums chart. Without taking away from the rightful success of this album, in February SZA released "SOS Deluxe: LANA," which added a grand total of 19 tracks, a substantial amount of music. This helped "SOS" return to #1 on the billboard Hot 200 nearly 22 months after its first peak, showing there is a right way to make a deluxe album in modern times, compared to artists doing the bare minimum to attract numbers, not quality.

## "Wicked: For Good" hits propaganda hard, could have been one movie

Grace Sunseri  
chief copy editor

Movies "Wicked" and "Wicked: For Good" are based on the two hour and 45-minute Broadway musical "Wicked" yet split into two separate movies with a combined runtime of over five hours. While the added images of the dangers of propaganda and its influence were welcome, the movie did not need this long of a run time and could have been combined into one wonderfully wicked feature.

The first movie was released Nov. 22, 2024, and almost exactly a year later, "Wicked: For Good" was realized on Nov. 21, 2025. The year that separated these movies was filled with promotional hit after promotional hit. The faces of the two leads, Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande can be found on just about every piece of promotional material you could think of, from water bottles to laundry scent boosters. All this to say, the movie was incredibly hyped. This hype was also heightened by the utter success of the first installment.

"Wicked" told the story of the first act of the play. It followed Elphaba Thropp, who was born green, and Glinda Arduenna Upland. Originally enemies, the girls find friendship at their boarding school, Shiz. Elphaba, born with special powers, gets special lessons from a professor at the school, Madame Marable, played by Michelle Yeoh. Elphaba learns of the mistreatment of animals in Oz, and she wants to petition the Wizard, played by Jeff Goldblum for help. Marable, a friend of the Wizard, believes Elphaba would be very successful with the wizard. The movie ends with Elphaba's dramatic break with the wizard.

In the second movie, the most powerful message the movie conveyed was that of the power of propaganda. Repeatedly, propaganda is disseminated to the citizens of Oz- banners, leaflets, speeches- which strengthens the unwarranted hatred they feel toward Elphaba, who is dubbed the "Wicked Witch of the West."

In his analysis for CNN, Dan Heching says, "those who take issue with the film for getting political,



Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande attend the premier of the film "Wicked: For Good" in New York City.

frankly, have greatly missed the point of the work in all its forms."

The aesthetic inspiration for these posters seems to be McCarthy-era Red Scare, reading things like "Beware the Wicked Witch," but being contrasted with positive posters for Glinda reading "Glinda the Good." The people of Oz were continuously fed malicious propaganda about Elphaba, on the orders of Marable and the Wizard, to garner hatred for her. This is a parallel to the world that exists today. Political rivals and power-hungry autocrats spread all sorts of demeaning ads, social media posts

and posters about their opponents. This was an important message, and I hope everyone understood that.

"Wicked: For Good" included two extra songs, "No Place Like Home" and "The Girl in the Bubble." Both songs were wholly unnecessary and did not add anymore complexity that was not already obvious. In "No Place Like Home," Elphaba is trying to convince fleeing animals to stay in Oz and fight. They do not. "The Girl in the Bubble" tries to deepen Glinda's character, explaining that she is more than how she appears and she has hidden troubles,

KYLIE COOPER | Reuters

things that would never be accepted by Ozians. This message was already obvious through dialogue with other characters.

I believe the two movies were unnecessary and hint toward another motivation of Universal Pictures. I think there are some reasonable arguments for why it should have been- deeper plot lines and more details- I agree more with the idea that the two 90-minute films served as an award and cash grab, only heightening an already immense success.

## Is this the end on cinema?

Suri Alvarado Villegas  
staff writer

Netflix has announced the acquisition of Warner Bros., including its film and television studios, HBO Max and HBO, in a deal valued at \$82.7 billion. This agreement will take full effect after Warner announces the separation of its Motion Picture Studios/ Streaming and Global Networks divisions into two independent companies, a process expected to be finalized late in 2026.

With this purchase, the streaming giant gains control of some of the most influential brands in modern culture: "DC Comics," "Looney Tunes," "The Lord of the Rings," "Harry Potter," "Game of Thrones," "Cartoon Network," "Adult Swim" and more.

Part of the complexity of this acquisition is that Netflix's cash and stock transactions

are valued at about \$27.75 per Warner Bros. Discovery share. Netflix will also take another \$10 billion in Warner Bros. debt, and Warner's cable channel, including CNN, TNT, and HGTV, are not included in the deal. They will form a new publicly traded company, Discovery Global, in mid-2026.

Netflix's co-CEO, Ted Sarandos, has said that Warner Bros. films will continue to receive theatrical releases. However, the exclusivity window (the period in which films are available only in cinemas) will be much shorter. "My objection has primarily been against these very long exclusivity windows, which we don't really think are very consumer-friendly," he said.

Even if they say that they will respect releases and productions that are already made, there is no guarantee the company will continue to pursue theatrical distributions in

the long term. Especially because Sarandos has always been open about his opinion on movie theaters, calling them "outdated."

This move has shaken the cinema industry, which is already undergoing an uncertain transformation. For theaters, survival depends on offering unique experiences that streaming cannot replicate.

Hollywood's reaction has been far from positive. The Directors Guild of America, led by Christopher Nolan, an acclaimed director and one of the most vocal defenders of theatrical cinema and physical media, plans to meet in the upcoming weeks to discuss everything that this agreement may entail. Concerns about creative autonomy, industry competition and the future of moviegoing can be expected to dominate the conversation.

If the clause on theatrical releases is really upheld, that would be great. But it is also clear

that Netflix is no longer going to limit itself.

It's tempting to imagine this acquisition as an opportunity for Netflix to rethink its stance on theatrical exhibitions. Perhaps films like "Frankenstein" will be treated as works meant for the big screen. But it is hard to not feel pessimistic. And even before this sale, there were already fears about reduced competition and the threat of monopoly within the entertainment industry.

Audiences want more studios competing against each other to offer the best quality content. Netflix, however, has been built on convenience over the communal experience of cinema. Some may argue this deal will give viewers more access at a lower price, but Netflix's own history of price increases suggests otherwise. Netflix is no longer just a streaming service; it is now part of the film industry with it shaping the future of film.

# Apple Music and Spotify: which one do Eagles prefer?

Gaby Antunez  
digital editor

Music is something most students listen to daily. It is a way for students to concentrate while also making some situations not awkward. There are many different music apps but two of the most well-known are Apple Music and Spotify.

Spotify is a free streaming service available to anyone for free since 2011 with ads. There is also an ad-free option called Spotify Premium, which costs \$11.99 per month. Apple Music is a streaming service starting in 2015. It costs \$10.99 per month with both streaming services, having student discounts for 18 years old and older while in college.

Central students filled out a survey about which app they prefer and why.

Spotify won 18 out of 28 votes with most votes preferring Spotify as it is free to use. “I think Spotify has a bigger library of music and recommends a lot and better music than apple,” one student said.

Another main reason students prefer Spotify is because it has been around for so long and they have gotten too used to it. “Started using Spotify but have used it for so long that switching to another platform would be too difficult to do easily,” another student said.

Three Eagles were willing to go more in depth into their responses. Those students being senior Nathaniel Segovia, junior Isabella smith and junior Deisy Cisneros-Mondragon.

Smith is a Spotify user and has been one for the past five years. She has 102,780 minutes on Spotify with Spotify Premium. “I know people who do use Apple Music and really like it, but I feel like I see more people talk about Spotify, like in media and stuff,” Smith said.

Cisneros is also a Spotify user with 47,096 minutes but uses the free version and has no complaints. “Right now, Spotify has upgraded. Before, you couldn’t, just pick a song you wanted to, but now you can pick any song you want to play,” Cisneros said.

Spotify is constantly upgrading more for the students who are using it for free gathering more students’ votes.

However, Segovia is an Apple Music user leading to the other side. He has 105 minutes on Apple Music and 63,097 minutes on Spotify. He switched to Apple Music last month and doesn’t regret it. “I’d obviously Apple Music to win because from the times I would use Spotify, it was such a hassle to deal with, and it was so annoying, especially since I like to upload my own music,” Segovia said.

Segovia is someone who likes to upload his music from his own device and Apple Music made it easier. “So, to add more, I

had around 63,000 hours on Spotify, and by a mile, I prefer Apple Music. It would take me, like, genuinely, around 30 minutes just to sync my library from my computer to my phone. But whenever I would upload music on Apple Music, I could just drag whatever album or song,” Segovia said.

One of the main reasons some students use Apple Music is because of the lack of ads. One ad in particular that is making students change their mind is how Spotify allows Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) ads.

“I can play any type of music without getting restricted, and it doesn’t show ads

promoting ICE,” one student said.

When Spotify users were asked, most weren’t aware of this issue as they are premium users.

“I prefer Spotify due to its free trials of premium and the expensive music selection, but I’m looking to switch due to their political stances and usage of artificial intelligence,” one student said.

Currently Spotify is the most popular among students with 64% of students using it. But due to changing factors in Spotify, that might just change in the near future.



KYLEE FULKERSON | The Register

# Fun winter activities to do over break

Isabella Smith  
staff writer

While winter break is a great time for overworked students to catch up on sleep or even a show they’re watching, getting out of the house and making memories is just as important. Living in Omaha means there’s a wide variety of exciting winter-themed activities to do with friends or family during the time off, so here are some suggestions:

1. The Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium: Being one of the best zoos in the nation, there are tons of things to do even in the wintry weather. Each year, they host “Zoolightful,” a local favorite Christmas event which runs from late November to Jan. 11, with the exception of Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year’s Eve. Visitors are welcome to walk the glowing paths, see “larger-than-life”

animal lanterns, and enjoy the festive food and drinks to warm up.

2. The Lauritzen Gardens: This Omaha botanical garden is especially known for its winter events and exhibits, changing it up each year. A recently opened outdoor exhibit is “Thomas Dambo’s TROLLS: Save the Humans” which includes large wooden sculptures of trolls with stories of a mission to help humans reconnect with nature. Along with this, the gardens have their “Bright Nights” events during the evenings throughout December and January, displaying their iconic 20-foot-tall poinsettia tree. This is a wonderful place to go for those who enjoy more artsy and calm environments rather than the chaotic holiday crowds.

3. Santa’s Rock N Lights: Each holiday season, Werner Park is transformed into a

glowing display of Christmas lights, exciting for anyone to see. From Nov. 21 to Dec. 31, you can drive through over a mile of lights synced with music available to play on the radio, making these lights dance with the music. This is perfect for those who want to stay warm and comfortable while also getting out of the house for a while.

4. Try seasonal menu items: Less obvious winter tradition is visiting local restaurants, cafes, bakeries and more to try out delicious foods or drinks from their holiday menus. Some of the best places to go are Pettit’s Pastry, Wheatfields Eatery & Bakery and The Mill Coffee & Tea. Not only would you be supporting local businesses, but you could also make it a fun game of deciding which ones have the best hot chocolate.

5. Ice skating: One of the most popular

winter activities, and really the one most people think of first, is ice skating. In Omaha, we are lucky to have multiple locations such as Gene Leahy Mall at The Riverfront and UNMC’s Ice Rink. Any of these places are perfect for a special, wintry experience, especially when with friends or family.

6. Sledding and making snowmen: On a more traditional side, a perfect way to enjoy break is by doing some of these classic winter activities. When there’s snow, going to Memorial Park and sledding is a tradition. After slipping and sliding down hills, it can be fun to take a break while participating in another cliché winter activity such as building a snowman. This is sure to make anyone feel like a kid again and truly enjoy the magic of the holidays.

# Say no to shopping big box and yes to small shops

Katie Besacon  
managing editor

The holiday season has officially arrived, and with the holidays comes large volumes of shopping. Whether it is food, gifts, toys or holiday decorations- it seems department stores are always bustling with people. Between Black Friday, Cyber Monday and the endless amounts of deals, it is a convenient stop to get all items checked off your list.

However, it is forgotten that all the money spent at these large department stores ends up in the pockets of billionaire chief executive officers and owners. It is important to remember that Omaha is home to many small businesses that offer great ideas for gifts during this holiday season. These purchases benefit the everyday people within the Omaha community. Below is a list of small businesses that would be perfect for the holiday season.

Made in Omaha – with multiple locations

around the Omaha metro, Made in Omaha offers an entire store of goods made by locals- from candles and clothes, to mugs and various dry goods.

Exist Green – for the person kickstarting their sustainable swap journey, Exist Green is the perfect place to start. Located on 49th and Underwood, the shop offers products like reusable dish soap, shower care, household items, makeup, food and storage solutions to help initiate that sustainable product journey.

Five Nine Shop and Project – located in the Benson neighborhood offering a variety of stationery, paper goods, and practical art to the community.

The Next Chapter – for the avid reader, The Next Chapter is a bookstore located in Midtown Omaha offering a great spot to grab a drink and a few books to enjoy this holiday season.

That Pottery Place – treat yourself or a loved one to a day at the pottery studio

painting anything from bowls and plates to paperweights and ornaments. That Pottery Place, located off 78th and Dodge, offers an inclusive and inviting environment to enjoy an afternoon of painting.

Dundee Candle Company – for the scent enthusiasts who love to curate their own signature scent, Dundee Candle Company is perfect. Located on 50th and Underwood, it offers an experience to customize a candle in every way and support a local small business all at the same time.

For the coffee shop connoisseur Omaha offers dozens of great coffee shops including Dundee Double Shot, The Mill, SoZo Coffee House, Zen, Hardy Coffee Company, Village Grinder, Archetype Coffee, Big Grove Coffee Co. and the Grind Coffeeshouse, perfect for a simple but effective gift to aid in the caffeine fix.

For the brunch or food lover in one’s life, restaurants like Homegrown Omaha,

Farmhouse Cafe, Fig, the Brunch Box, Lola’s Cafe and Good Evans are all good spots that provide a comfortable experience, food and atmosphere for a quick brunch stop around the metro.

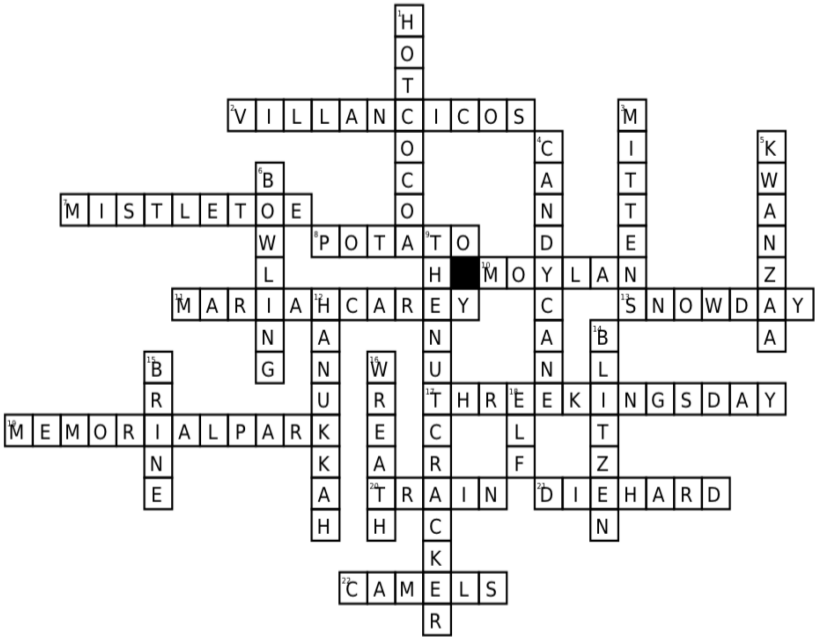
Finally, a gift for the sweet tooth. Magnolia’s Bakery, which has multiple locations around the metro, including Millwork Commons. Coneflower Creamery has locations in Millwork Commons, the Blackstone District and Elkhorn and offers a unique spread of ice cream flavors, including some locally sourced ingredients, and eCreamery, another ice cream shop, offering a fun assortment of flavors. Whether it’s a gift card or pit stops for a special treat, these businesses will not disappoint.

All these businesses are local to the Omaha area or are owned by a member of the Omaha community offering an opportunity to support peers around the community and take a break from the big box stores.

Winter sounds abound as semester ends



The performing arts bands of Central performed a concert on Dec. 11. CHRISHYRA MARION | The Register



# GREAT EXPECTATIONS

## Boys basketball eyes state run

Charli Tobin  
sports editor

With Central basketball season starting off the season 4-0, expectations are high for the boys basketball team. Coach Bruce Chubick said the goal is, “to put it simply, ending in Lincoln, hopefully ending on the third day, hopefully cutting down nets.” Chubick enters his fourth season at Central with several talented players returning. Senior Lenox Haynes comes off amazing performances last season and looks to lead this team to a state championship. “My expectations for the team is as great as possible to leave a legacy. I think it’s the only way our team is going to be remembered is if it ends in the state championship,” Haynes said. Haynes, the team’s highest scorer from last season with 14.7 points per game, had a stellar opening game with 19 points, alongside six rebounds against North. The Eagles beat number one ranked Westview 76-62 in an invitational game Dec. 8. This came with another brilliant game from Haynes, dropping 25 points, two steals, two blocks and five rebounds, showing out on

both sides of the court and his growth from the previous season. “Really just finding little weaknesses in my game and turning them into strengths and making sure, there’s not much things that a defender could do to stop me or my team,” Haynes said. Junior Evan Rodgers described what fans can expect when they watch the team play. “I’d say anything you can expect is just hard, gritty basketball, Central basketball. Trying to bring back, trying to really bring back how good you were before,” Rodgers said. Central has had some success in recent years in basketball, making it to the second round in the 2023-24 season. The last time Central won the state championship was 2012. “If we give ourselves a chance, we can make that happen we just got to give ourselves a chance,” Chubick said. Other key players from the first two games include sophomore Yasir Grixby with 11 points against Westview and 13 against North. Junior King Knight had 19 points against Westview and nine against North.



Senior Lenox Haynes tries to avoid a defender during a game Dec 8. BRADLEY SMITH | The Register



Junior Evan Rodgers shoots a 3-pointer versus Omaha North on Dec 6. BRADLEY SMITH | The Register

## New players define girls basketball

Lashell Harlan  
contributing writer

A new season of Eagles girls basketball has begun, and there are only a few upperclassmen on the team. From last year many of the seniors graduated, meaning more space for lowerclassmen to step up their game. Central is up and ready for the new season. This season is about the new players introduced on the team. Central is preparing to go up against all rival schools. Head coach Nichole Mitchell said basketball gives the players more opportunities to be both competitive and social. “Joining the team isn’t 100% about being competitive, but it’s for you to grow as a person, meaning you’re completing your personal goals that you’ve made for life,” Mitchell said. The slogan for the team is “We Are One.” The slogan shows the team’s goal, perseverance and energy matter to all players of the

team, and new people on the team means adapting. “Getting good at the game isn’t what it’s all about here at Central, but it’s about sisterhood and getting comfortable with the newly introduced sisters of the team,” sophomore Zoie Johnson said. Due to the team having many new players, nobody knows the team’s abilities. Noelle Tcheuhchoua scored over 24 points overall for the season last year but is not on the team this season. The best player that is making a comeback with Central Eagles’ strong approach is Reality Mapp, who had limited time as a freshmen last season. She scored 13 points for the Eagles in the team’s season opening win over Burke and averages 11.3 points through Dec. 11. Freshmen Hadley Anderson is averaging 5.8 points and 4.8 rebounds so far.



Sophomore Reality Map, left, works to get past a defender against Burke Dec. 6. BRADLEY SMITH | The Register

# Powerlifting season begins

Alex Tamang  
contributing writer

Since 2008, powerlifting has been quite popular at Central, originally intended for the football team. It has now gained a large following of lifters once had seven members now has well over 50 kids, and the new season is starting.

The lifters motivate themselves, and the coaches also help them get motivated. “They really enjoy the lifting and the grind,” Baker said.

Second year powerlifter, junior Keaton Carver said the powerlifters are a good community, and they help motivate each other by wanting to get better.

More experienced lifters help the coaches by taking new students under their wings to help the coach and show the newer lifts the ropes. “A lot of my older lifters, like my seniors and juniors, have been doing it for years, they kind of lead the groups,” Baker

said.

Carver is an experienced lifter helping and taking the newer lifters under his wing and helping the coaches as much as possible to lessen the load for his coaches.

“I try to help as much as I can, you know, because the coaches, they’re busy,” he said.

Junior Norah Kovar, a first-year lifter, has learned a lot of things in powerlifting.

“Teaching a lot of form and everything has helped, I definitely learned a lot already,” Kovar said.

Baker said it’s hard to predict what will happen during the season because there are new people and he gets surprised every year.

At the Papillion South invite, the first meet, on Dec. 13, six powerlifters won first place in their weight classes: Anna Lattison, Izzy Worden, Josephine McLaughlin, Russell Callaway, Angel Aguirre and Eddy Alvarado. Additionally, Aguirre broke two school records with a 570-pound deadlift and a 1,380-pound total.



Top right: junior Norah Kovar prepares to lift. Bottom left: Kovar listens as her coach speaks. Bottom right: Kovar lifts. NEVEAH WILSON | The Register

# John Cena’s impact felt as he enters retirement

Noah Sipe  
staff writer

As a kid, whether you grew up in the 2000s or the 2010’s, you watched John Cena dominate the wrestling world. Through all story lines he always found a way to either come out on top or show us there is always a road to being the best you can be. We watched him achieve an immense amount of success as an on-screen character.

He has the most world champions in WWE history and is a grand slam champion. Outside of wrestling, he was the most genuine and generous human being we could look up to. Cena has granted over 650 wishes to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. That is the most by anybody.

Watching Cena’s entrance, he waves a towel reading “Never Give Up.” As much as it translates to his wrestling character, it’s a symbol to all of his fans to keep going no matter the circumstances. He waves this towel every entrance he has.

Cena is not only the best professional wrestler of all time, an international super star, a successful Hollywood actor and even a platinum selling music artist, but to

many people, he is a real-life superhero. He influenced lives.

“I thought he was a real-life superhero. He was someone that gave people confidence,” said fellow teen wrestling fan Jake Bell. “The reason we can see him as a real-life superhero is because he would always be the one take down the wrestlers we saw as villains.”

Almost like he was thrown into boss fights and came out alive each time.

On July 6, 2024, Cena announced to the world his retirement tour from the WWE, and we knew we would never see the legend wrestle again soon. But we had one last chance to watch Cena. This tour included story lines that took people down memory lane, facing his career rivals that include CM Punk, Randy Orton, AJ Styles, and teaming with Rey Mysterio.

Some may say the tour was underwhelming due to match quality and how some of the tour felt rushed, not getting the most out of every appearance. But without it, thousands of people would not have seen Cena live for the first or last time in their life. When we see the last match of his career on Dec 13, a tear will be shed.



NOAH SIPE | The Register

# Central swim sets sights on state as season begins

Wren Bussing  
contributing writer

Coach Kristoff Berzins, senior Carter Hiley, and sophomore Landon Jensen are preparing for the 2025-26 swim season at Norris Middle School and Nathan Hale Middle School to win state.

Before the season, swimmers were making sure to stay in shape by club swimming or other sports, and Berzins has offered open swimming in previous weeks for those not in club swimming. They started their season on Nov. 17, and they practice

Monday through Friday. On Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings, the varsity team also does weightlifting, as well as the JV swimmers who choose to attend.

“Varsity practices at Norris Middle School, the JV squad practices at Nathan Hale Middle School, and if we have divers, they practice at Burke High School,” Berzins said. He also mentions returners Hiley and Jensen, introducing Hiley as the varsity captain for the boys.

Hiley has been swimming for Central for four years, and he is a role model for the

younger swimmers around him. His goal is to win state, and his favorite part about being on swim team is having the feeling of working towards something and learning about himself.

Last year at state, Hiley broke the OPS district record and placed second in the boys 100-yard freestyle with time of 45.82 seconds. Hiley also placed second in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 1 minute and 51.29 seconds.

“I want to get a state title for a school that is not even remotely known for swimming,”

Hiley said.

Jensen, a sophomore on the boys varsity team, has been swimming for Central since the 2024-25 school year, and he enjoys being on the team. Jensen enjoys the familial atmosphere and has been preparing for the upcoming season by running cross-country. His goals this season are to improve and beat his personal records.

“I’ve always done sports and I just feel like seeing myself improve and like getting that time and just reaching for it, like wanting to drop a second or two seconds,” Jensen said.

# DINERO, DINERO, DINERO

## Error en Nebraska deja al OPS preparado para un déficit presupuestario importante

Steven Dickerson  
Jefe de redacción

Las Escuelas Públicas de Omaha enfrentaran una significativa insuficiencia presupuestaria para el año escolar 2026-27 después de que el Departamento de Educación de Nebraska cometiera un error en los cálculos de ayuda estatal, lo que resulto en un pago excesivo de \$30.5 millones este año escolar.

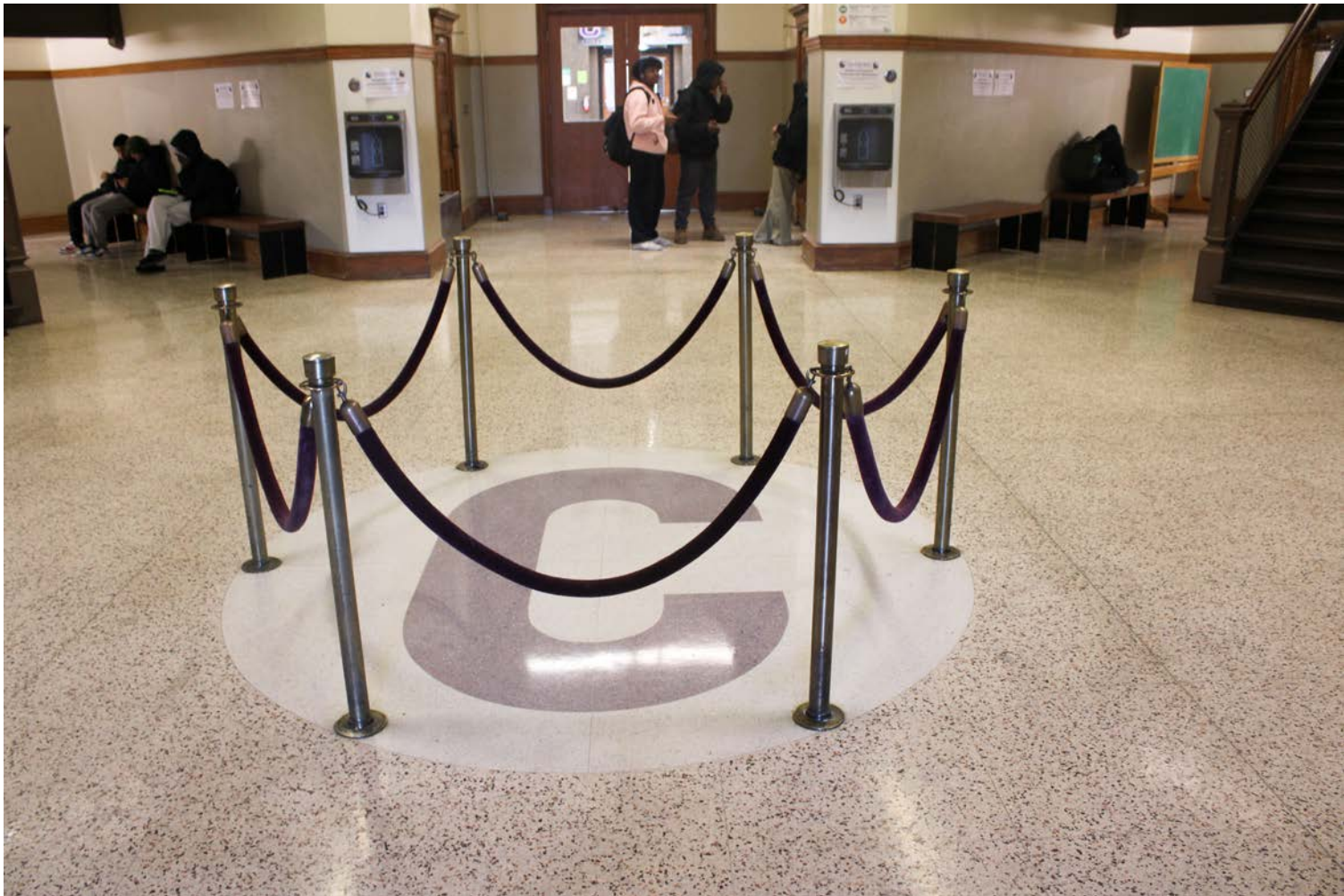
En un correo electrónico enviado el 17 de noviembre al personal y las familias de la OPS, los líderes del distrito explicaron que el equivocación se descubrió durante una auditoría reciente realizada por el NDE a la fórmula de la Ley de Apoyo a de Equidad Fiscal y las Oportunidades Educativas, o TEEOSA, que determina la ayuda estatal a los distritos escolares con base en factores incluyendo los impuestos sobre la propiedad, los niveles de pobreza, el transporte, el crecimiento estudiantil, el dominio del inglés, la educación especial y más. OPS ha recibido a menudo una gran parte de estos fondos.

LB 1059 estableció TEEOSA en 1990. La idea general es que las necesidades menos los recursos de un distrito equivalen a la ayuda estatal de compensación que recibe. La ayuda estatal típica y los impuestos locales sobre la propiedad llenan primero el cupón, y el estado cubre cualquier espacio restante con la ayuda de compensación. Si el valor de la propiedad aumenta, la porción del estado se reduce y viceversa.

“Desde la perspectiva de las OPS, TEEOSA funciona. Cumple con su propósito,” dijo Shane Rhian, director financiero de la OPS.

La verdadera formula de TEEOSA no es pública, y responsables políticos a menudo la consideran demasiado compleja para que cualquier la comprenda. El gobernador Jim Pillen pidió recientemente su eliminación.

Al principio de este año, la Legislatura creo una Comisión de Revisión del Financiamiento Escolar, compuesta por 18 miembros, mediante la Ley LB 303, compuesto por superintendentes, senadores estatales y defensores de la educación, para intercambiar ideas sobre como reformar la TEEOSA. Es probable que la comisión revise este error en el futuro y siga informando al Comité de Educación de la Legislatura sobre el financiamiento escolar en conjunto. Se esperan cambios en la fórmula, ya que la TEEOSA ha recibido numerosas críti-



OPS ahora enfrenta un impacto estimado de \$61 millones en su presupuesto 2026-2027.

cas. Sin embargo, la OPS sigue creyendo que el sistema actual funciona.

“Es una pena que haya habido un error administrativo que introdujo datos incorrectos en la fórmula de ayudas estatales. Eso no significa que la fórmula esté rota,” dijo Rhian.

A pesar de que OPS no tiene la culpa del error, esto no ha impedido que algunos legisladores argumenten que OPS robó dinero.

“La Junta de OPS aprueba el presupuesto escolar... Nadie cuestionó los millones extra. Ni una sola persona,” dijo Kirk Penner, miembro de la Junta Estatal de Educación, en una reunión el 5 de diciembre.

Jane Erdenberger, presidenta de la Junta de Educación de la OPS, dijo que la afirmación de Penner era errónea.

“Ojalá pudiera hacer una camiseta que dijera: ‘No es culpa nuestra,’” dijo Erdenberger.

Rhian estuvo de acuerdo, diciendo: “Insinuar que de alguna manera robamos o hicimos algo inapropiado para recibir ese dinero es simplemente factualmente incorrecto.”

Rhian señaló que lo sorprendió enormemente enterarse del error el 6 de noviembre. Él y sus compañeros líderes del distrito creyeron que era un error hasta que NDE aclaró los detalles, lo cual no ocurrió hasta muchos días después, momento en el que el departamento de comunicaciones del distrito envió el correo electrónico al personal y a las familias. Erdenberger afirmó que se notificó a los miembros de la junta inmediatamente y que las siguientes reuniones de la junta revelaron todos los detalles posibles.

El Departamento de Educación de Nebraska anuncio que corregirá el error restando \$30.5 millones de la ayuda estatal otorgada a

BRODY HILGENKAMP | The Register

OPS el próximo año. Sin embargo, debido al pago en exceso este año, OPS ahora enfrenta un impacto estimado de \$61 millones en su presupuesto 2026-2027, ya que enfrenta tanto la reducción de la ayuda como la obligación de reembolsar los fondos adicionales que recibió este año.

“Se nos informa que el error se relaciona con la ‘asignación por pobreza’ para las escuelas y distritos que participan en la Disposición de Elegibilidad Comunitaria (CEP) del Programa Nacional de Almuerzos Escolares (NSLP)” declaró Erdenberger en el mensaje a todas las familias. El Comisionado de Educación de Nebraska, Brain Maher, confirmó esto en la reunión de la Junta Estatal de Educación de Nebraska del 5 de diciembre.

“Error” en pagina 12

## El alcalde pretende mantener a los jóvenes de Nebraska en casa

Katie Besancon  
editora gerenta

Como graduado de Omaha Northwest que asistía a la Universidad de Nebraska Omaha, John Ewing fue contratado por el Departamento de Policía de Omaha mientras aún cursaba clases. Después de trabajar un tiempo y ganar dinero, volvió para terminar su grado y también obtuvo su máster.

“Si puedes meter dinero en el bolsillo de un joven, puedes mantenerlo aquí,” dijo Ewing.

Ewing es el 52º alcalde de Omaha y el primer alcalde negro en servir a la ciudad. Su campaña se basó en ideas sencillas: un aumento de la vivienda asequible disponible; atraer a familias y generaciones jóvenes a la ciudad y animar a quienes viven en la ciudad a quedarse; y ampliando las actividades y atracciones que ofrece Omaha.

El estado de Nebraska en su conjunto está perdiendo alrededor de 4.500 jóvenes con estudios universitarios al año, según datos de la Oficina del Censo de los Estados Unidos. Al perder a esas personas, el estado y Omaha

están perdiendo la oportunidad de ofrecer empleos bien remunerados, y la ciudad se pierde el crecimiento económico.

“Eso es inaceptable. Eso tampoco es sostenible,” dijo Ewing.

Seis meses después de su mandato, Ewing no ha bajado el pie del acelerador. Tras servir al Departamento de Policía de Omaha durante 25 años, decidió seguir sirviendo a la comunidad cuando fue elegido para la Tesorería del Condado de Douglas durante 18 años antes de enfrentarse a Jean Stothert en las elecciones municipales de principios de este año.

Comenzando su mandato de forma intencionada, trabajó con grupos como los demócratas de la UNO y los demócratas de la Universidad de Creighton para formar un grupo de jóvenes líderes, incluidos estudiantes de secundaria y jóvenes profesionales que quieren mejorar Omaha. Ewing dijo que estaba escuchando al grupo de jóvenes líderes sobre lo que quieren de Omaha para que se queden. Luego, “vamos a hacer esas cosas,” dijo Ewing.

Los distritos escolares de toda el área metropolitana de Omaha pueden ayudar a mantener a los estudiantes en el estado

trabajando con las universidades cercanas, dijo Ewing, ya sea UNO, Creighton, Nebraska Medicine o Metropolitan Community College para crear una vía directa y establecer una mayor colaboración a través de prácticas.

“Aunque alguien estudie fuera de la ciudad, volverá para esas prácticas de verano, y entonces convertiremos a esos becarios en empleados permanentes,” dijo Ewing.

“Si mantuviéramos a 2.500 de esos (graduados que se van), tendríamos un mejor entorno para la gente,” dijo Ewing.

Mantener esas cifras en la ciudad fomentaría una red de empleo que ayudaría a los problemas de subempleo y continuaría la creación de empleos bien remunerados para jóvenes profesionales.

Ewing está planeando un paquete económico para crear más herramientas que retengan a las empresas y jóvenes en Omaha y permitir que las empresas de la ciudad se expandan y creen más empleos bien remunerados, en lugar de expandirse en otras ciudades, y atraigan también a otras empresas.

“Necesitamos crear más oportunidades para las personas que están subempleadas.

Tenemos a personas que no tienen las habilidades. Parte de nuestra responsabilidad para competir es mejorar las habilidades de esas personas,” dijo Ewing.

El objetivo de conseguir que el dinero llegue a los bolsillos de las generaciones más jóvenes comienza con la creación de oportunidades laborales, muchas de las cuales empiezan en MCC, UNO, Universidad de Nebraska--Lincoln, Nebraska Medicine y Nebraska Methodist, que albergan programas que permiten a los estudiantes obtener una certificación para comenzar ese proceso laboral tan pronto como en el penúltimo año de instituto.

Esto da un impulso a la carrera del estudiante mientras promueve la idea de la universidad y una carrera en Omaha tras graduarse.

Como figura pública que trabaja para la ciudad, ha visto cómo Omaha puede mejorar la vivienda asequible, reclutar empresas, crear empleos bien remunerados para los ciudadanos y el transporte público.

“No hemos hecho un buen trabajo en ese tipo de cosas que hacen de Omaha una ciudad atractiva,” dijo Ewing.

“Alcalde” en pagina 12

# Error en Nebraska deja al OPS preparado para un déficit importante

**“Error”** de pagina 11  
El Departamento de Agricultura afirma, “El CEP permite a las escuelas y distritos con mayor pobreza del país servir desayuno y almuerzo sin costo a todos los estudiantes matriculados sino necesidad de solicitar ayuda familiar.” El objetivo es proporcionar comidas gratuitas y, al mismo tiempo, reducir las barreras burocráticas. Lo logran utilizando datos de SNAP, TANF, y WIC datos para algunas áreas.

“Cuando nos convertimos en participantes del CEP, creíamos que aumentaría el monto de la asignación por pobreza y que recibiríamos ayuda estatal adicional,” dijo Rhian. “Converse con NDE en 2023 y, finalmente, sus cálculos confirmaron lo que esperábamos que recibiésemos más ayuda estatal.”

El componente de subsidio por pobreza de la formula TEEOSA proporciona fondos adicionales a los distritos con altas tasas de pobreza y a los distritos que participan en el CEP del NSLP, al que la OPS ha calificado durante varios años.

Maher aclaró que el error de cálculo afecto no solo a la OPS, sino a muchos otros distritos. Nebraska Publica Media informo

que las Escuelas Públicas de Grand Island recibieron una insuficiencia presupuestaria de \$3 millones, y el Distrito Escolar del Sur de Wymore recibió una insuficiencia presupuestaria estimado de \$482,000.

No se sabe con certeza que distritos han recibido fondos insuficientes, pero las Escuelas Públicas de Lincoln informaron a Nebraska Public Media que recibieron un insuficientemente financiado de aproximadamente \$8.9 millones.

“El NDE ha trabajado para corregir el error en el cálculo de la TEEOSA para 2025/2026 y para todos los cálculos futuros,” Maher dijo en un comunicado, aunque el departamento declinó hacer más comentarios. “La corrección reasignará los fondos a los distritos correspondientes en los pagos de la TEEOSA para 2026/2027, según lo dispuesto por el Estatuto Estatal.”

Los responsables de la OPS indicaron que el distrito redujo su gravamen fiscal en casi 11 centavos en el curso 2024-25, una medida posible gracias al aumento erróneo de la ayuda estatal. El distrito ahora prevé que tendrá que aumentar su recaudación fiscal en ayuda estatal.

“Hace dos años, pudimos reducir el impuesto en \$0.11, y aún disponemos

de \$0.09 por haber alcanzado el máximo permitido por ley, así que podremos compensar parte de esa pérdida de ingresos,” dijo Rhian.

“No quiero decir que vayamos a aumentar el impuesto, pero no me imagino de donde vamos a sacar todo ese dinero a menos que tengamos que pedirles a los contribuyentes que nos lo devuelvan,” dijo Erdenberger. Cualquier decisión sobre el aumento del impuesto no se tomará hasta después de enero.

La directora de Central, Elisa Kirksey, dijo que, dado que el distrito probablemente no tendría una idea clara del impacto presupuestario total, Central tampoco la tendrá.

“No sabré hasta septiembre de 2026 cómo afectara esto exactamente al presupuesto de Central,” ella dijo. Sin embargo, OPS reitera que es posible que cada escuela no se vea afectada después de todo.

“En este momento, haremos todo lo posible para que ningún recósete presupuestario afecte a las escuelas ni a los estudiantes,” dijo Rhian.

Rhian explicó que el distrito prevé utilizar primero los impuestos, después las eficiencias presupuestarias y, a partir de ahí, los recortes

se aplicarían a la administración del distrito en lugar de a cualquier recorte presupuestario escolar.

“Por el momento, no creemos que tengamos que hacer recortes específicos a escuelas individuales ni siquiera alterar sus presupuestos,” dijo Rhian.

Erdenberger reiteró esto, señalando que el distrito ha estado sobre financiando las pensiones de jubilación más allá de lo que se exige actuarialmente, y que pagos como ese pueden analizarse antes de que se toquen los presupuestos escolares.

La OPS ha utilizado durante mucho tiempo modelos financieros a cinco años para planificar el futuro, y los líderes del distrito afirman un siguen centrados en el éxito estudiantil a pesar del revés.

“Seguimos enfocados en nuestro gran objetivo, lograr que todos los estudiantes lean a nivel de grado para 2030,” dijo Rhian.

El distrito presentara y solicitara la aprobación de su presupuesto anual en reuniones públicas programadas para agosto y septiembre de 2026. No se verá afectado el funcionamiento del año escolar.

- Traducido por Jazmin Mills.

# El alcalde pretende mantener a los jóvenes de Nebraska en casa

**“Alcalde”** de pagina 11  
Espera cambiar eso, primero con el tranvía.

El objetivo general del tranvía es "poder tomarlo y convertirlo en una red", dijo Ewing. Comparando el tranvía de Omaha con ciudades como Kansas City, que ha tenido éxito a poca distancia del tranvía y ha ampliado sus rutas, llevando a los ciudadanos a varias zonas de la ciudad.

Kansas City abrió su tranvía en 2016 con una ruta de 2,2 millas, y desde entonces

añadió 3,5 millas adicionales de rutas que van desde River Market North hasta el campus de la Universidad de Missouri en Kansas City.

De media, su número mensual de pasajeros fue de alrededor de 154.000 pasajeros en 2024, y ha aumentado a casi 164.000 en 2025, según datos de Kansas City Streetcar.

El tranvía es una de las muchas incorporaciones a la ciudad que Ewing espera que mejore el atractivo y las atracciones de Omaha. La ciudad ha completado varios

proyectos importantes, incluido el Gene Leahy Mall en 2022.

Además del Gene Leahy Mall, el centro de Omaha ha añadido un nuevo recinto para conciertos, un centro científico de última generación en el Kewit Luminarium y tres parques renovados que abarcan 72 acres entre The RiverFront y el histórico Old Market, aumentando en general el tráfico del centro, según el Flatwater Free Press.

"No hay mucha gente, muchas ciudades, que puedan construir un parque como el Gene

Leahy Mall con los fondos filantrópicos que tenemos,” dijo Ewing.

El terreno de desarrollo de Crossroads, que ha estado en fase de planificación durante más de una década y ha estado vacío más de cinco años, ha iniciado oficialmente la construcción del desarrollo multimedia, urbano y comercial, conectando la necesidad de vivienda, empleo y más entretenimiento dentro de la ciudad.

"Creo en hacer buenos tratos que tengan sentido económico para la ciudad,” dijo Ewing.

# Minority Scholars termina sigiendo la jubilación de Allen

**Bri Martinez**  
*escritora del personal*

Minority scholars era un programa que ayudaba a estudiantes de minorías a prepararse para colegio y que los estudiantes de clases colocación avanzados y de honores mantuvieran un buen ritmo en sus clases. Los maestros que organizaban la clase era maestro de ciencias sociales Jimmie Foster, y maestra antigua de ingles Diane Allen.

El programa empezó en 1998, y fue reintroducido en 2021 después de 10 años y finalizo este año a resulta de la jubilación de Allen.

Estudiantes de minorías en Central son subrepresentados en las clases de Honores y colocación avanzadas. Según a un análisis del

registro en 2023. Los estudiantes Hispanos y Latinos representaban el 33.8% de la población estudiantil en Central, pero solo el 25.6% de los estudiantes de honores y 17.6% de los estudiantes de AP. Los estudiantes afroamericanos representaban el 25.8% de la población estudiantil en Central, pero solo el 22.3% de los estudiantes de honores y el 16.2% de los estudiantes de AP.

Minority Scholars era



Lex Vu



Ruth Rivera

un programa que estudiantes entraban solo por invitación y se llevaba a cabo durante el almuerzo en los días A. Los estudiantes realizaban actividades como escribir ensayos para el colegio, simulacros de entrevistas, participar en trabajos voluntariados y socializar.

“En esa clase aprendí como hacer un curricular. Ninguna otra clase del segundo año te enseña a hacerlo. Es el año en que empiezas aplicar a trabajos, así que era una habilidad realmente importante”, dijo Lex Vu, estudiante de último año.

El programa también dio la oportunidad a los estudiantes a conectar con sus raíces culturales y compartirlas con otros estudiantes. El día de la cultura les dio la oportunidad a traer un plato típico de su

cultura. “Los dos años llevé quesadillas, que son un pastel típico de El Salvador. Yo pude hablar de ello con todos. Fue un día genial, sin duda uno de mis favoritos”, dijo Ruth Rivera, estudiante de último año.

Los aspectos clave del programa, como información sobre el colegio y la preparación para el futuro en general, comenzaron a presentarse en clases como seminario de primer año y Finanzas Personales.

“Muchos de los estudiantes van a tener la oportunidad a aprender esas habilidades más temprano”, dijo Vu.

“Al final del programa estábamos haciendo cosas que prácticamente todos los estudiantes aprendían [en otras clases],” dice Foster.

-Traducido por Bri Martinez.

# Apple Music y Spotify, ¿cual prefieren los ágiles?

**Gaby Antunez**  
*editora digital*

La música es algo que la mayoría de los estudiantes escucha a diario. Es una forma de que los estudiantes se concentren y, al mismo tiempo, hacen que algunas situaciones no sean incómodas. Hay muchas aplicaciones de música diferentes, pero dos de las más conocidas son Apple Music y Spotify.

Spotify es un servicio de streaming gratuito disponible para cualquiera desde 2011, con anuncios. También hay una opción sin anuncios llamada Spotify Premium, que cuesta 11,99 dólares al mes. Apple Music es un servicio de streaming que comenzó en 2015. Cuesta 10,99 dólares al mes con ambos servicios, ofreciendo descuentos para estudiantes de 18 años en adelante mientras estén en la universidad.

Los estudiantes de Central completaron una encuesta sobre que aplicación prefieren y por qué.

Spotify recibió 18 de 28 votos, con la mayoría prefiriendo Spotify porque es de uso gratuito. "Creo que Spotify tiene una biblioteca musical más amplia y recomienda

música mucho mejor que Apple", dijo un estudiante.

Otra razón principal por la que los estudiantes prefieren Spotify es que lleva mucho tiempo en el mercado y se han acostumbrado demasiado. "Empecé a usar Spotify, pero llevo tanto tiempo que cambiar a otra plataforma sería demasiado difícil de hacer fácilmente", dijo otro estudiante.

Tres estudiantes estuvieron dispuestos a ampliar sus respuestas: el estudiante de último año Nathaniel Segovia, estudiante de tercer año Isabella Smith y estudiante de tercer año Deisy Cisneros-Mondragon.

Smith es usuario de Spotify y lo ha sido durante los últimos cinco años. Tiene 102.780 minutos en Spotify con Spotify Premium. "Conozco gente que usa Apple Music y que realmente le gusta, pero siento que veo que más gente habla de Spotify, como en medios y cosas así," dijo Smith.

Cisneros también es usuario de Spotify con 47.096 minutos, pero usa la versión gratuita y no tiene quejas. "Ahora mismo, Spotify ha mejorado. Antes no podías, solo elegías una canción que quisieras, pero ahora

puedes elegir cualquier canción que quieras tocar,” dijo Cisneros.

Spotify está actualizando constantemente más para los estudiantes que lo usan gratis, recogiendo más votos de estudiantes.

Sin embargo, Segovia es un usuario de Apple Music que lleva al otro bando. Tiene 105 minutos en Apple Music y 63.097 en Spotify. El mes pasado cambió a Apple Music y no se arrepiente. "Obviamente, preferiría que Apple Music ganara porque, desde las veces que usaba Spotify, era un desastre y muy molesto, especialmente porque me gusta subir mi propia música,” dijo Segovia.

Segovia es alguien que prefiere subir su propia música desde su propio dispositivo, y Apple Music lo hizo más fácil. “Para agregar más, tenía alrededor de 63.000 horas en Spotify, y sin duda, prefiero Apple Music. Me tomaba, de verdad, unos 30 minutos para sincronizar mi biblioteca de música de mi computadora a mi teléfono. Pero cuando subía música a Apple Music, simplemente podía arrastrar cualquier álbum o canción,” dijo Segovia.

Una de las principales razones por las

que algunos estudiantes usan Apple Music es por la ausencia de anuncios. Un anuncio en particular que está haciendo que los estudiantes cambien de opinión es que Spotify permite anuncios del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE).

“Puedo reproducir cualquier tipo de música sin restricciones, y no muestra anuncios que promocionen a ICE,” dijo un estudiante.

Cuando se les preguntó a los usuarios de Spotify, la mayoría no estaba al tanto de este problema, ya que son usuarios premium.

“Prefiero Spotify por sus pruebas gratuitas de la versión premium y su amplia selección de música, pero estoy pensando cambiarme debido a sus posturas políticas y el uso de inteligencia artificial,” dijo un estudiante.

Actualmente, Spotify es la plataforma más popular entre los estudiantes, con un 64% de usuarios. Sin embargo, debido a los cambios que se están produciendo en Spotify, esta situación podría cambiar en un futuro próximo.

-Traducido por Arysbeth Hernandez.