

AUTHORS NEAR AND FAR

Volponi brings unique teaching, writing perspective to Central

Kylee Fulkerson
staff writer

Award-winning author Paul Volponi came to visit Central on April 10. He spoke to English classes about his travels across the country and shared his experiences working as a teacher at Rikers Island.

Volponi has written 24 bestselling books, and his book “Black and White” won International Reading Association for children’s book award. He was a teacher at Rikers Island, a juvenile detention center off the coast of New York City. He also taught at Rikers for six years and from 1999 to 2005 he taught at a center for teens undergoing drug treatments.

Where he taught English for six years while writing the book. About to best friends Marcus and Eddie two high school basketball stars, begin robbing people for money. After a gun accidentally goes off during a robbery, Marcus takes the blame and goes to jail while Eddie who fired the gun goes off to college.

He started the day with a visit to Jodi Martinez’s junior class in the library. He ended the day with Molly Mattison’s freshmen literacy skills students.

Volponi said that writers need to be out exploring stuff, and he wouldn’t have been able to write his books without that first-hand experience.

“You couldn’t have imagined how it was going to be. You actually had to be there,” Volponi said. “So that type of knowledge really influenced me as a writer because I was writing firsthand from things I was seeing, even though it was fiction.”

Mattison said students would benefit from hearing different viewpoints, and meeting an author isn’t an everyday experience.

“I think it will benefit the students because it’s good for them to see people who didn’t necessarily like reading when they were their age, and how changing their mind about



Author Paul Volponi, left, speaks to McKenna Paintin’s literacy skills class in the library April 10.

Isaac Percival | The Register

reading led to success,” Mattison said.

He grew up in Queens, New York. He also got his bachelor’s degree in arts in English. Volponi also works as a journalist for “The Blood Horse” since 1996.

Volponi said he does not want his work to influence students. He just wants them to read. “I try to hold a mirror up to society. So, I don’t want to change the way anyone thinks,” Volponi said. “I don’t want to influence them. I just want them to see what I see and come to their own conclusions.”

The biggest part of his career is meeting with the readers that he impacted. He said that his books are approachable and enjoys hearing that students read his books front -to -back.

“I try to take the reader on a very quick journey. I don’t waste time,” Volponi said. “My books seem to flow in an easy narrative. And I’m very happy that students who may not like other books use my books as a jumping off point to go forward and read other writers.”

Martinez said she hoped students saw they can move from being on their phones to being creative and be able to be excited about reading and learning. “I hope they got a little bit of raised awareness about the act of being creative and how fast and how quick their minds can be,” Martinez said.

One piece of advice Volponi gave to young writers was “not to focus on finding someone else to say, ‘Yes. You’re a writer.’ Not because they publish something you wrote. You are a writer because you are writing,” Volponi said.

AP Language students visit Red Cloud to see Cather’s home

Eduardo Torreblanca
staff writer

Advanced Placement English Language students went to the National Willa Cather Center in Red Cloud, Nebraska, on April 8. Advanced Placement English Language teacher Kelsey Porter organized the trip and English teachers Marcella Mahoney, Jonathan Flanagan and Jennifer Kawecky helped on the trip as chaperones.

Porter prepared the students with a presentation on Cather and gave her students the book “My Antonia” as a background for the trip.

At Red Cloud, students were given a tour divided into two parts, one walking and the other driving. Students also went inside the Burlington Depot, an old bank that was turned into a museum and archives for the Cather Center, and an opera house inside the Center where Cather went to see plays and performances. The last part of the driving tour was the Pavelka homestead.

Even though Cather is a prominent

author from Nebraska, her birthplace was in Back Creek, Virginia. When Cather was 9 years old, she and her family moved to rural Nebraska, and later on to Red Cloud. After finishing high school, she went to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, originally to become a doctor.

After graduating from UNL and a change of mind, she became a journalist and a teacher, lived in Pittsburgh and New York City, and became the managing editor for “McClure’s Magazine.” After publishing her first book, “Alexander’s Bridge,” Cather left her position to focus on being an author.

Cather wrote “O Pioneers!”, “A Lost Lady,” and “Death Comes for the Archbishop,” among others. She also received awards for her works like the Pulitzer Prize for “One of Ours” and was featured in “Time” magazine in 1931. Cather passed away in 1947, and was buried in New Hampshire.

During the walking tour, students went inside the home where Cather grew up, the Miner home, and the Grace Episcopal Church. In both places, they saw artifacts from her and

her family, historically accurate replicas, and learned how Cather used them in her works.

“I learned a lot about Willa Cather, like her connection to Nebraska and how it like went through her writing,” junior Ingrid Theophilus said.

Junior Donato Cruz said he appreciated learning the inspirations for her works and her backstory, her childhood home, and “see where we saw her stories come to life.”

Junior Jackeline Reza said it “was really fun to like be with like the other classes while we got to see like literally where she had been and like what she wrote about.”

Junior Jones Grot said, “I thought it was



The home where Willa Cather grew up in Red Cloud, Nebraska.

Eduardo Torreblanca | The Register

Cather on page 2

News

District to drop cellular data for student iPads p. 2 / pagina 2

Citing a budget shortfall, Omaha Public Schools will not provide cellular data on student iPads next school year.

Opinion

Goodbye Register and Central p. 4 / pagina 4

No ceremony can capture spending four years in such a historic building as Central, nor working on the Register during that time.

Arts & Culture

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Don’t dismiss art because you don’t understand. Take the time to understand the meaning behind each work of art.

Sports

Reese leads girls soccer in senior season p. 7 / pagina 7

Central girls soccer’s goalie was a key source of leadership on a young team.

iPads won't have cellular data in 26-27 as district looks to save money

Imtiaz Hussain
contributing writer

Omaha Public Schools revealed a plan to remove cellular data from district provided student devices on February 11. This plan came in response to the district anticipating a significant reduction in state aid, and its impact on their budget during the 2026-27 school year, and subsequent need to cut down on district spending.

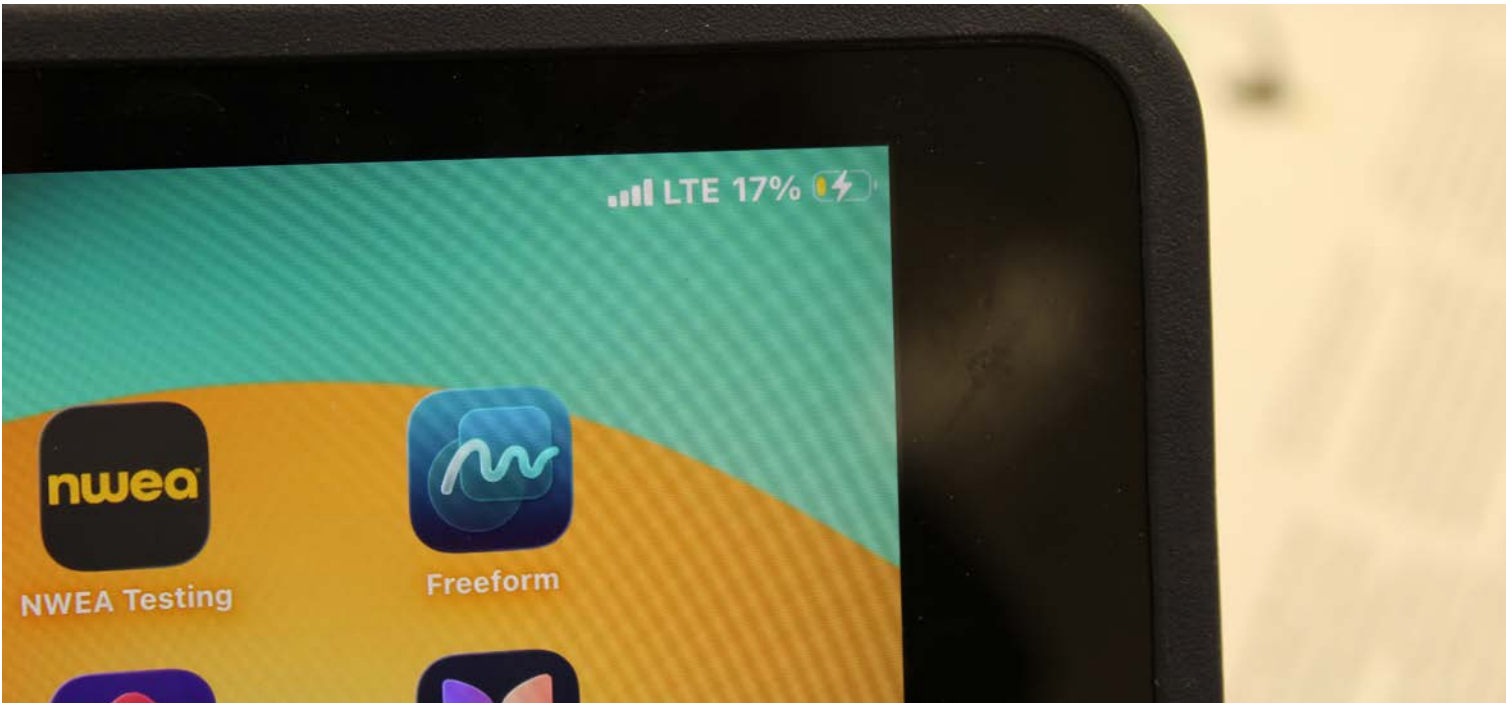
Since the introduction of iPads to Omaha Public Schools' curriculum, both cellular data and local internet access have been available on students' iPads. Providing of cellular data was enabled by Covid-era emergency funds. These funds ended in 2024, and the district became responsible for the cost, which the district says is around \$7 million.

Following the end of the 2025-2026 school year, cellular data will no longer be an option, and students will have to rely on the local networks at their schools and homes. Students have expressed concern over this, citing difficulties this change may impose on their ability to effectively complete schoolwork, along with wider district-wide implications.

Out of five Central students interviewed on the matter, all five said they believed the change would have a negative impact on students, and make completing work, and school overall, more difficult.

Junior Zaakir Vance highlighted that he, along with many other students, uses his phone or his iPad's cellular data to do schoolwork.

"If I'm in a place where I can't use wifi, cellular data will allow me to do my school-



A close-up image of an iPad with its cellular data on.

NEVEAH WILSON | The Register

work, and allow me to access apps on the iPad," Vance said.

Benjamin Boeckman, a social studies teacher at Central, said the loss of cellular data could exacerbate inequalities among the student population. Boeckman compared this modern issue to electricity in the 1920s.

"Electricity is a basic thing that a lot of people need, you can't live in a home without electricity, technically. It's becoming a question now in our modern society, is access to cheap, relatively reliable, [and] relatively fast wifi a basic need that people need?" Boeckman said.

Boeckman echoed many arguments seen in students, predicting that the impacts of this change will generally be negative for students in the district due to added barriers when it comes to doing schoolwork if students don't have internet access at home. Boeckman also made an inference that the district may have already been planning to make this change do to misuse of student devices and overall desire to cut back on technology use as a whole, with the budget changes simply being what finally pushed the plan over the edge.

Boeckman mentioned that many teach-

ers, himself included, have become highly reliant on iPads in the last few years since their introduction, and he questioned how beneficial they really are to learning.

Some students even rely on cellular data while they are at school.

Sophomore Lola Walker said, "I only use cellular data in school, like when I need to do my assignments and stuff, because the school wifi is really slow."

Legaci McCray, also a sophomore, said, "The wifi at the school is trash, and goes out all the time."

Social Studies teacher to take on new role as dean next school year

Jasmin Gutierrez Garcia
translation editor

Social studies teacher Peter Pham has taught at Central High School for 22 years. Pham will be promoted to the role of dean of the students for the following school year. He hopes he can do the job needed to be dean after the on-the-job training of six months.

A dean has multiple responsibilities. "They administer disciplinary actions using the code of conduct," Pham said. Pham gave an immediate example of checking where students should be when they create a distracting environment in the hallways.

After dedicating many years of teaching in a classroom, he expresses eagerness for his new role.

"It is a great opportunity for me to impact

the school outside of the classroom," Pham said.

As a teacher, he defines success "giving every student the ability to achieve success," Pham said. Pham does this by providing students with the rigor necessary to be successful in the future.

His top skill that makes him the best fit for this position is communication, such as communication with the students, staff, parents, and guidance. "Communication in all aspects of life is really important," Pham said.

Pham strongly believes his immune system is a big support for his position as dean because he does not get sick easily from students.

"My first role as dean is trying to get intramural, a basketball league going for Central," Pham said.



Social studies teacher Peter Pham.

CHRISHYRA MARION | The Register

Students see Cather's home in person

Cather from page 2

very educational, and I thought that getting to see where Cather grew up and how she lived out her childhood and that sort of ronment was very helpful in order to fully envision and kind of paint a picture when reading her books."

Porter said in an email this trip is the second time she took students on a "on a literary pilgrimage to Red Cloud, Nebraska, home of the National Willa Cather Center. I think it is a valuable trip for students to be able to learn about Willa Cather but also be in the same space as the novel we are reading. A novel that has many relevant themes to today—memory, coming of age, immigration, and what it means to be a Nebraskan."

Junior George Marshall said the trip was interesting.

"The bus ride was pretty long, but I thought the bus ride was kind of, I think it was worth it for the trip," Marshal said.

Cruz said he would come back again with his family. "Since I'm already kind of familiar with the place now that I've gone, I think it would be fun to show them around," Cruz said.

Porter said she would come back with AP Lang students back to the Cather Center. Marshall said he would recommend the trip to future AP Lang students.

"I feel like you learn a lot about it, and it's free, it's worth it, and yeah, it's a good lesson," he said.

When asked on their thoughts on the trip helping to view the influence on Cather's works, all found it helpful to

even impressive.

"It helped me a lot because I like could see like the connection to her work through like the places that we visited and like the relationship they had," Theophilus said.

Grot said it's impressive that she did a lot with Red Cloud and the amount of inspiration she took from the Plains, Red Cloud, and people is inspiring.

"Especially as a teen like when they're restless and sort of wanting more," Grot said.

Porter said the trip was "memorable" because Mahoney is retiring from Central.

"I was thankful to get to spend time with her on her last field trip. It was also long because of the [two] accidents on I-80," Porter said.



ADVISER

Brody Hilgenkamp
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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Charli Tobin
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CHIEF COPY EDITOR
Grace Sunseri
PHOTOGRAPHERS
Chrishyra Marion
Julius Wakole
Isaac Percival-Aizenberg
Whitman Rutledge

STAFF WRITERS

Neveah Wilson
Sasha Canady
Arysbeth Hernandez
Eduardo Torreblanca
Kylee Fulkerson
Brianna Martinez
Noah Sipe
Connie Moennig
Jazmin Guimenes-Mills
Reegan Meredith
Isabella Smith
Chloe Schwartz
Kot Malwal
Surizaday Alvarado

ATTN: the REGISTER
124 N. 20th Street
Omaha, Neb. 68102
Phone: 531-299-5611
central.register@ops.org
omahacentralregister.com

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.

Congratulations!

class of 2026

ONCE AN EAGLE, ALWAYS AN EAGLE

You may be moving on from the halls of Central, but the Central High School Foundation is ready to keep you connected. From networking to reunions, we keep the Eagle Nation alumni family strong. No matter where you land, you will always have a home here. *Thank You for Upholding a Tradition of Excellence Since 1859!*



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RETIRING FACULTY!
Thank You For Helping Our Students Soar!

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BILL CANNEY
BILL CANNEY

18 YEARS

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CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION

1111 N 13TH ST STE 318 OMAHA, NE 68102-4252

402-556-1996

FOUNDATION@CHSFOMAHA.ORG

WWW.CHSFOMAHA.ORG

Fond Final Words

Goodbye, Central. It's been a great four years.

Katie Besancon
managing editor

By the time you are reading this story, I will no longer be a Central student. Walking into school in August of 2022 for the freshman first day, I had no idea the opportunities Central High would offer. Like most students, I was a ball of nerves. It was the first time that I had gone to a school where I knew fewer than 10 students, and to say that it added to my nerves is an understatement.

It was in those first few days that I walked into 029, the room that would be my safe place for the following years -- a room full of creativity, expression, and years' worth of history waiting to be read. For me, 029 has always had a special place in my heart.

I have had numerous family members -- including my aunt and dad, who held editorial positions -- work on The Register, which meant it was only fitting that I would join staff as an official staffer my sophomore year, followed by holding two editor positions the following years.

This school, let alone this newspaper, is foundational to who I am today. From the people I have met and worked with, to the students, staff members and community members I have interviewed, each person has influenced the stories I write, the person I have become, and the experience Central has provided me.

The Register to many is a paper that comes out every month with interesting stories and various views. To me, it is one of my proudest accomplishments.

The paper that comes to your shelves and classrooms is a work of love, a culmination of countless hours obtaining interviews, finding quotes, writing, editing, page designing, taking photos, mastering headlines, and finally the distribution.

My final weeks at Central have been a mix of excitement as another chapter comes to an end. However, the other part of me is in denial that my time at Central is over. I have counted down the days not necessarily out of excitement but out of the realization that when those days pass, I will no longer go to school with people I have seen every day for the last 14 years.

The people I have met at Central have been instrumental in the four years here, whether it was a teacher or a friend I made along the way. Those closest to me have seen every up and down, every academic crash out, and have shared almost every laugh.

I have caught myself on more than one occasion saying this doesn't feel real. I don't feel like I should be a senior, I don't feel like I should be graduating in three weeks, I don't feel like this is my life. But it is.

Graduation is the next step looming over my head. Four years of non-stop going: getting good grades, working towards chords, volunteering, playing sports; it all comes down to an hour and a half at Baxter Arena. May 21, a date that has been circled on my calendar since August, is quickly approaching.

However, it's become more of an afterthought. I personally don't feel that one ceremony will give me the closure needed for this chapter. I have a feeling there will be no grand finale, no feeling of relief, or epilogue to the book that has been high school.

May eighth we seniors walked out of our classrooms for the last time. That Monday following our leave, the juniors will be wearing their crowns, as we are preparing our caps and gowns to walk the stage and end the chapter that was high school.

For many of us, the importance of these

four years will not be concluded when we walk across that stage at Baxter.

Many of us will look back at our high school years and will be elated that those years are over, the days of academic stress and teenage emotion, while others will continue to look back at these years with fondness that will continue to blossom as the years go by.

I hope that as the years go by, I will not look back on my years at Central and wish something different had taken place. I hope that I look back and realize just how much growth occurred. Whether it was academically, athletically, through friendships, and

I have caught myself on more than one occasion saying this doesn't feel real.

Katie Besancon
Managing Editor

my personal growth, all four years were marked by my growth.

I will walk out of Central as one more student whose life and future path has been shaped and altered by a building on 20th and Dodge and the experiences it provided.

Central is a school that provides its students with opportunity far greater than many realize. No matter how many people tell you, "It goes by in the blink of an eye," I can confidently say that you won't believe it, because I did not believe it until three weeks ago.

When school started in August, graduation, the end of the school year and summer

all felt like they were so far away. Yet between the college applications, the athletic events and schoolwork, May arrived in the snap of a finger.

Don't take it for granted. It is easy to walk into this school and dread the day of work that is to come, but one day, you too will be preparing for your exit, and it will come faster than you may think. So, admire the creaky floors, the echoing Courtyard, and the little quirks the school has to offer, because very few students get to experience the history and culture that Central offers.

The student body of Central High should be proud of this school, its history, and the culture this building encapsulates. With that, always remember, once an Eagle always an Eagle.



Photo Courtesy of **Lydia Hernandez**

Hit The Books

Book recommendations for summer break

Isabella Smith
staff writer

As this school year comes to a close, many students will finally get some free time back after the stress of finals week—meaning that book slump might actually end. If this is your situation, here’s some book recommendations for the upcoming summer break.

Starting with some mystery novels, Holly Jackson’s “A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder” has been a personal favorite of mine for a few years now. The story follows Pip, a 17-year-old girl who is doing an end-of-the-year project on an infamous murder that took place in her town a few years prior, but someone doesn’t want her to find out the truth and will try anything to stop her.

This is a part of a trilogy which is currently being adapted into a Netflix show. The six-episode second season comes out May 27. If interested in that, this book, or series, could be a fun mind-boggling read. Aside from this, Jackson also has some other insanely good mystery and thriller novels such as “Five Survive,” and her most recent book, “Not Quite Dead Yet.”

Keeping with the murder mystery theme, “The Naturals” by Jennifer Lynn Barnes is the first book in a series anyone could enjoy. This is a read full of twists about a group of teenagers with extraordinary abilities who were recruited by the FBI to solve cold cases. If you like the show “Criminal Minds,” you’ll love this one.

Moving on to a lighter genre: rom-coms. One of my favorite authors for this category is Lynn Painter, who is based here in Omaha. Her book “Better Than the Movies” is a New York Times Bestseller about a girl named Liz who is a hopeless-romantic trying to find her

“happily-ever-after” with a longtime crush, Michael, all while enlisting the help of her so-called arch-nemesis, Wes. This book is also seeing a Netflix movie adaptation, as director Julia Hart confirmed earlier this month.

Now for some more miscellaneous books to anyone this summer. Suzanne Collins’ new prequel to “The Hunger Games” series, “Sunrise on the Reaping,” was my favorite read of 2025, and one I think everyone should read. If you haven’t already read “The Hunger Games,” (which if so, what are you doing?) start with the original trilogy and work your way here.

“Sunrise on the Reaping” follows a 16-year-old Haymitch Abernathy during the 50th Hunger Games, or the second Quarter Quell. The movie adaptation of this phenomenal book releases on Nov. 20. If you choose to read this book, make sure you have tissues on



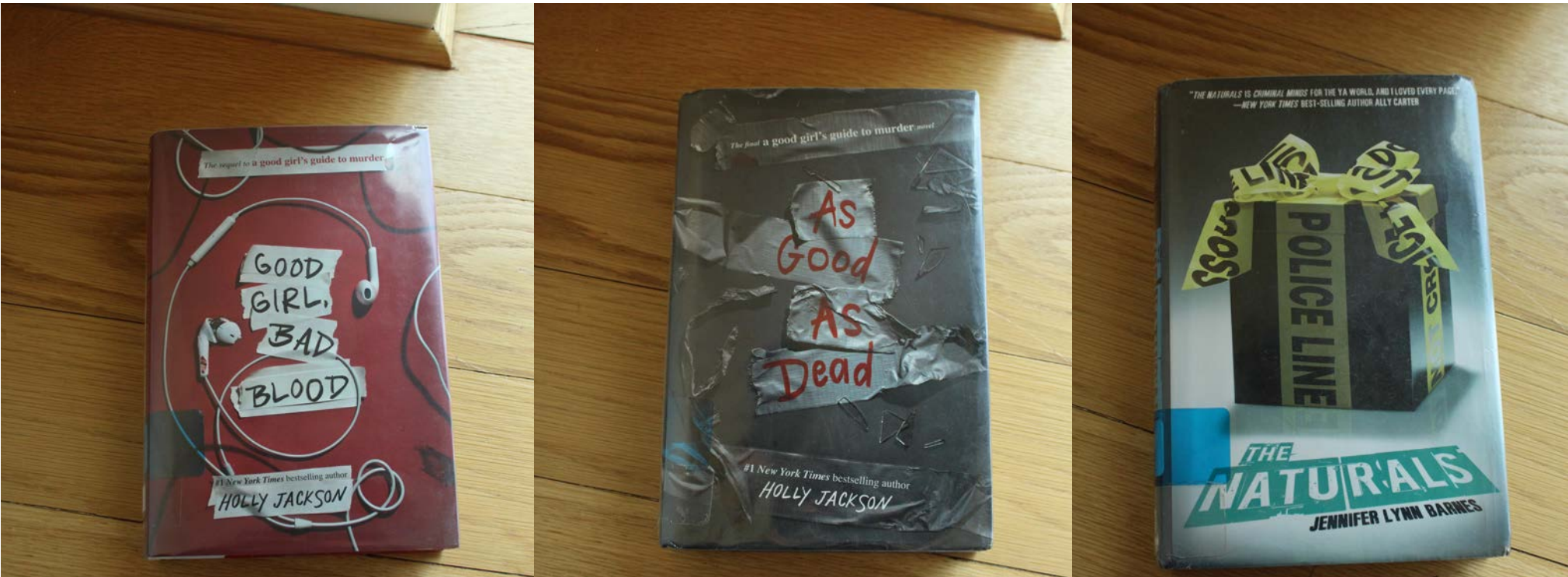
Books stacked on shelf in the library.

stand-by, as I cried about five separate times while reading.

Following the miscellaneous theme, any book ever published by Taylor Jenkins Reid is a must-read. Her most notable books are

Neveah Wilson | The Register

“Daisy Jones & The Six,” which also has its own Amazon Prime original series, and “The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo.” These are just a few of her insanely captivating novels. Everyone should read at least one of them sometime over the summer.



‘Hoppers’ is a box office hit

Jagger Hansen
contributing writer

Pixar movies have not done as well as they used too, some may even say they are flopping. But that is not the case with the movie “Hoppers.” This movie has one of Pixar’s highest ratings in nearly a decade, according to Rotten Tomatoes.

“Hoppers” has moments that make you feel nervous but overall, the film is very wholesome. With the main idea of the movie being “hopping” into animal bodies to save

the glade. The mayor was planning to destroy this glade and kill off the wildlife while doing so. Mabel, the main character, had to turn into a robotic beaver and meet with the animals to devise a plan to save the glade.

With the movie teaching the audience to care about what is happening in our wildlife care and the environment as a whole, the animals need to save the environment, not destroy it. The movie does a wonderful job of showing what happens when animals’ habitats and the side effects that come with this.

One reason I really liked this movie was

because the main character, Mabel, is very relatable. Mabel was the beacon of hope to save the glade in the most peaceful way possible even in the beginning she was mad at the mayor. The whole audience can relate to Mabel because we all try to act like her when as a community we want to change.

For the voice actors in this movie, we have Piper Curda as Mabel. She fits her so well because she has the voice of a teenage girl and a beaver. You can distinguish her voice from the rest of the actors very easily. Another voice actor is Jon Hamm who voices the

mayor. Although the mayor isn’t technically evil, this actor does a great job in sounding condescending when he talks about destroying the glade. In all, the voice actors for this animated film were cast perfectly.

Lastly, the graphics of this movie are the best I have seen in a while from Pixar. The movie is full of vibrant colors and not just white and basic colors. Also, the animation of the difference of species of animals is accurate and recognizable to what they are in real life. Hoppers is skill of color, life, and humor, not just another boring princess movie.

Abstract art deseverves a deeper look to find its meaning

| Connie Moennig
staff writer

Abstract art, contemporary art, and performance art: all three are genres that have been ruthlessly mocked and disregarded by a large number of people. Something I see far too often (especially online) is people pointing out a painting or sculpture that looks unconventional and saying something along the lines of, “This is so dumb.” “This doesn’t belong in a museum.” “I could have done this.” “A 4-year-old could have done this!”

It makes my blood boil every single time. Whether you like it or not, art is still art no matter what value the viewer places on it. No matter how “simple” or “pointless” it looks at a glance, it’s still art. I see people discrediting abstract and contemporary art far more than I would like to.

It’s not because they dislike something I like; it’s because they are so quick to jump to these judgements without even taking a closer look at what they’re referring to. Thinking deeper about art is an integral part of consuming it.

There’s more to it than just looking at a pretty painting, saying, “That’s pretty,” and moving on. Sure, in many cases a painting looking nice is the point of the painting, but in more cases it is not. Propaganda, activism and stories all use art as a vessel.

The piece “Untitled (Portrait of Ross in L.A.)” by Felix Gonzalez-Torres seems very nonsensical on the surface. Despite its name, it is not a portrait, at least not in the traditional sense. It’s a large pile of colorful hard candies that visitors are allowed to take from if they wish. The artwork is actually a tribute to the artist’s late partner.

It is a profound and meaningful piece, created during the AIDs crisis. The pile’s weight is ideally 175 pounds, which was the weight of Gonzalez’s partner before his diagnosis. The work was meant to display his deteriorating health, as the pile’s weight diminished with every candy that was taken.

There is nothing more subjective than art. A painting could have a billion different meanings, changing with every person who observes it.

That is a part of the beauty of it all. Art goes so much deeper than its visual aspects. Being able to understand that is an integral part of consuming any sort of media. Learning requires curiosity.



Above: "Nogaro" by Frank Stella on display on the second floor at The Joslyn. Below: "The Embrace (Reflection)" by Hank Willis Thomas outside The Joslyn. JULIUS WAKOLE | The Register

Drama students bring Greek mythology to OPS elementary schools

| Jackie Salgado
contributing writer

Drama students came together to create a play for different middle and elementary schools during March.

Central went to Lewis and Clark Middle School, Pine Elementary, Dundee Elementary and Catlin Elementary to perform the myths of the Greeks. The play was entirely based on ancient Greek mythology and included over 52 roles that required the actors to put in great effort, time,

and dedication into it. Senior Shin Younker and sophomore Maggie Howard were two students out of the 10 who had to take on four or more roles.

“Some of those roles did get cut and squashed into smaller roles. That way we could do this. There were so many roles,” Younker said. Many of these roles were not only gods, but animals and even smaller add-in parts. “I was Pridice, I was a psyche, I was a girl and then a woman, and I was an old king,” Howard said. Cronus, Eros, and Snake Walker are some of the other roles that went on, not

including all the other 47 that the other eight students had to memorize.

With all this dedication for the play also came education for the audience. Even though they gave the other students a performance and went to all those schools, it was a challenging state for the actors, having to remember four roles and over a hundred lines with only a month and a half wasn’t very easy on the actors, but they never took it for granted.

“I found it such an honor because I’m a sophomore and other than me, its juniors

and seniors in the class. So, I just felt really honored that I was able to be there,” Howard said. Students only had B days, and with a max of 90 minutes to work and perfect the play, but even with the stress piling up, the actors enjoyed building and putting this together for others and ended up creating great memories in the moment. “I loved going to the elementary schools, seeing all the little kids react because you could see where you were sparking the joy for the theatrics and so many kid,” Younker said.

Book club hosts poetry of place competition based on haikus

| Serenity Dawson
contributing writer

Central’s Book Club held its Poetry of Place contest, giving students the chance to combine photography and poetry through haikus.

Librarian Jennifer Kawecky runs the competition, which invited Central to write haikus based on photographs. Haikus were due by May 1. The goal was to capture small moments in peoples’ surroundings. Students could submit their entries by using a QR code on flyers posted around the school. The format was straightforward: just three lines that follow the haiku structure of five syllables, seven syllables and five syllables. “We wanted something that would be fair for everyone,” Kawecky said.

In the end, three people were chosen as winners. Sophomore Anna Lattison who won first place, social studies teacher Jay Landstrom was second place and freshman ZaLayna Starks won third place.

The contest is open to everyone, whether or not they had written poetry before.

The top three did win prizes, with first place receiving a \$50 gift certificate to Next Chapter Books, which is an independent bookstore that is female owned and right down the street from Central. Second place won \$25, and third place wins \$10, giving a few different chances to place. Judging was done by Central’s book club, which wented through each entry and look closely at how the poem and photo worked together.

They also looked for creativity and insight, especially since there were over 100

entries last year, so the strongest ones really had to stand out. “They spent a lot of time looking at poems and how they connected to the photographs,” Kawecky said.

A big part of that comes down to imagery. Kawecky explained that good imagery helps the reader actually feel the moment instead of just reading about it. That’s why even small details like a sound, a color, or a feeling can make a haiku more powerful and more prominent to be picked.

“Sometimes a strong haiku focuses on something really small and makes us notice it,” she said. At the same time, there are still rules to follow. One of the most common mistakes students make is messing up the syllable count, since a haiku should follow the five-seven-five format across three lines. For students who struggle with poetry, Kawecky

says the best thing to do is slow down and focus on the moment.

The contest wasn’t just about writing, though it is also about perspective. Kawecky said she hopes students start to notice things around them more and appreciate their environment. She wants students to gain “respect for our school’s beauty” and feel a stronger sense of belonging.

Part of what inspired her to create the contest was wanting students to actually enjoy poetry instead of seeing it as just another assignment.

“I wanted something that would be accessible to every single student,” she said. Even though haikus are short, they’re not always easy. “In some ways they’re tougher... you are so limited,” Kawecky said. “It takes me a long time to write a haiku.”

End of the Season

Reese leads soccer team for the 25-26 season from the goal

Arianna Detisch

Contributing writer

Senior goalie Audriana Reese looks to have a strong finish in her girls soccer high school career. Starting at just around age five, Reese has played club and school soccer. She started by playing field position, before focusing on goalie in seventh grade.

While every role on the field is tough, being the goalie has a big amount of pressure. Reese said it's pretty stressful in that position of organizing how the team is on the field, as well as stopping the ball from going in the net.

Reese said to help deal with nerves before a game she likes to eat to stay energized and listen to hype music to get ready for a game. "It just calms my nerves, and I don't have to really worry about anything," Reese said.

Reese has 160 saves for this season as of May 7th, and 266 saves in her career. During practices she makes it a priority to stay focused and give 100 percent, to stay productive during that time period.

Reese said some of the hardest parts of the game come with confidence. She said to really play at her best it's important to stay confident in the game and stay certain. If she

isn't 100 percent certain that's when mistakes can happen and the ball goes past her.

"I really have to be in the moment like really confident that I can get to the ball and I have the skills to be able to do that," Reese said.

Reese has been a captain since sophomore year and influences a strong leadership role for the whole team. As a captain, she helps strategize plans for games and team bonding time that helps create a strong environment for the whole team.

"I feel like I've really developed into the role," Reese said.

Freshman Jagger Hansen said Reese is a very influential leader. "She has a good way of talking to all the underclassmen and making us feel included and a part of the team," Hansen said.

This year Reese said the team's energy is really amazing and has made it easier to get through frustrating times.

"This season specifically I haven't really gotten into my head about a game and I'm not crying about a game, and I'm able to bounce back and smile," Reese said.



Senior Audriana Reese goes to block a penalty kick versus Westview on April 30.

BRADLEY SMITH | The Register

Cheer team to expand varsity to freshmen

Trixie Cox

contributing writer

The Omaha Central cheer team ended the 2025-2026 season with seven seniors. Some might think it would leave a hole in the team, but French teacher and junior varsity coach Elizabeth Steinauer believes that it's an opportunity for the incoming freshman to show up and show out. In the past, the coaches haven't allowed freshman onto the varsity team, but for the 2026-2027 season, they have decided to allow it.

With the seven seniors graduating and the new change, hopefully they will find freshman "to fill their shoes" Steinauer says. After try-outs, the JV team is mostly new names, and the varsity has another group of seniors ready to lead the team.

Steinauer hopes to have students who bring team spirit, and sportsmanship to the upcoming competition cheer team. Sophomore varsity cheerleader Londyn Brice is excited for the new season. She hopes for a bid to nation-

als, "hopefully we do make it and it's at Disney World, so even better." Brice says.

She also wants to "build more friendships and bonds" with her teammates. Another change that Steinauer and Brice mentioned was that the competition team is going to more local competitions, along with regionals and hopefully nationals later in the year. "We're trying to go to more competitions this year," Steinauer said. She hopes to strengthen their skills and get them ready for nationals.

Besides competition cheer, sideline cheer will also be going on. From football games in the fall, to basketball games in the winter, cheer will be attending every home game. They paint signs, and dress to the theme every time! Steinhaur says she's most excited for the home football games, loving the school spirit all the cheerleaders emit.

After the tryouts March 24th through the 27th, the coaches chose 10 students for junior varsity and 17 for varsity.

Spring sports wrap up with districts, state

Boys soccer's season ended with a heartbreaking shootout loss against Westside.

Although not making it to state, the team had a winning season with 11 wins and six losses, and making it to the district final.

"It was a really good team, and we had a really good year, we got some new coaching staff that were very helpful to our year," junior goalie Luke Farrington said.

Junior Zaakir Vance led the team with nine goals on the season, adding four assists. Senior Luqman Salad added seven goals. Gustave Johnson had three goals and six assists on the season.

"This season had a lot of components to it that you want to remember," head coach Nicholas Webster said.

Webster talked about how well the team got along this year and goals for next year.

"Next year we wanna get to state and win it," Webster said.

- Baseball

Central baseball ended its season with a 14-18 record. Senior Oscar Yuhas led in batting average with .302 and hits with 26. Junior Luke Neujahr led the team in runs with 35. Junior Silas Weber led the team in RBIs with 24, and right behind him was senior Julius Gentleman and junior Calix Pierce with 22. The Eagles' season ended with a loss

to Creighton Prep in the District -5 tournament.

- Track and Field

Track season will be close with the 2026 NSAA Class A State Championships being May 20 and 21. The boys team will be sending seven athletes to the state meet.

Senior Lance Nevels qualified in the long jump. Junior Menelaus Knoble qualified in the 400-meter and 800-meter races. Junior Martin Aringu qualified in the 800, 1,600 and 3,200-meter races. Junior Robert McDonald qualified in the 100-meter dash and the 4x100 relay with freshman Michael Kidd, sophomore Kah'Mad Powell and senior Russell Calloway.

The girls team will be taking four athletes to state. Sophomore Mariluna Reyes McGovern qualified in the 100, 200 and 4x400 with sophomore Reality Mapp, junior NiNi Bak and freshman Chaveah Brown. Mapp also qualified in the 100 and 200.

- Boys golf

Upcoming events for Golf include a meet at Bellevue East on May 13. The state championships are on May 27 and 28.

- Girls Tennis

Girls Tennis Championships will take place at Woods Tennis Center on May 21 and May 22.

- By Brianna Martinez and Noah Sipe

AP Lang en Red Cloud

Estudiantes de AP Lang visitan Red Cloud

Eduardo Torreblanca
escritor

Estudiantes de Advanced Placement English Language fueron al National Willa Cather Center en Red Cloud, Nebraska, en 8 de abril. Maestra de Advanced Placement English Language Kelsey Porter organizó el paseo y maestras y maestros de inglés Marcella Mahoney, Jonathan Flanagan y Jennifer Kawecki asistieron en el paseo como acompañantes.

Porter preparó los estudiantes con una presentación sobre Cather y dio sus estudiantes el libro “My Ántonia” como un antecedente para el paseo.

En Red Cloud, los estudiantes se les dio un tour dividido en dos partes, uno caminando y el otro manejando. Los estudiantes también fueron adentro el Burlington Depot, un banco viejo que fue convertido en un museo y archivos para el Cather Center, y un teatro lírico adentro el Center donde Cather fue a ver obras y representaciones. El último parte del tour de conducción fue la granja Pavelka.

A pesar de que Cather es una autora prominente de Nebraska, su lugar de nacimiento era en Back Creek, Virginia. Cuando Cather tenía 9 años, ella y su familia mudaron a rural Nebraska, y más luego a Red Cloud. Después de terminar la preparatoria, ella fue a la Universidad de Nebraska en Lincoln, originalmente a convertirse en doctora.

Después de graduarse de UNL y un cambio de mentalidad, ella se convirtió en una periodista y maestra, vivió en Pittsburgh y la ciudad de Nueva York, y se convirtió en editora gerenta para “McClure’s Magazine.” Después de publicar su primer libro, “Alexander’s Bridge,” Cather dejó su posición a enfocarse en siendo una autora.

Cather escribió “O Pioneers!”, “A Lost Lady,” y “Death Comes for the Archbishop,” entre otros. Ella recibió premios por sus obras como el premio Pulitzer por “One of Ours” y fue destacado en la revista “Time” en 1931. Cather falleció en 1947 y fue enterrado en Nuevo Hampshire.

Durante el tour de caminar, estudiantes entraron el hogar donde Cather se crio, el hogar Miner, y la iglesia Grace Episcopal. En ambos lugares, ellos vieron artefactos de ella y su familia, replicas históricamente preciso, y aprendieron como Cather lo uso en sus obras literarias.

“Aprendí mucho sobre de Willa Cather, como su conexión a Nebraska y



Estudiantes de AP Language y guías turísticas en frente de la Granja Pavelka.

como paso por su escritura,” dijo junior Ingrid Theophilus.

Junior Donato Cruz dijo que es agradecido a aprender las inspiraciones para sus obras literarias y su trasfondo, su hogar de infancia, y “ver donde nosotros vimos sus cuentos cobrar vida.”

Junior Jackeline Reza dijo que “fue muy divertido a estar con las otras clases cuando llegar a ver dónde como literalmente donde ella estaba y que ella escribía sobre”

Junior Jones Grot dijo, “pensé que fue muy educativo, y pensé que teniendo a ver dónde Cather crio y como ella vivió su niñez y ese tipo de ambiente fue muy útil en orden a completamente en visionar y pintar una foto cuando leyendo sus libros”

Porter dijo en un correo electrónico este paseo es la segunda vez que llevo estudiantes en un “peregrinaje literario a Red Cloud, Nebraska, el hogar del National Willa Cather Center. Creo que es un paseo valioso para estudiantes a poder a

aprender sobre Willa Cather pero también a estar en el mismo espacio como la novela que estamos leyendo. Una novela que tiene muchos temas pertinentes a hoy en día- memoria, llegada de madurez, inmigración, y que se significa a ser un Nebraskan.”

Junior George Marshall dijo el paseo era interesante.

“El viaje en bus fue bastante largo, pero pensé el viaje en bus fue algo así, creo que valió la pena para el paseo,” dijo Marshall.

Cruz dijo que el regresaría otra vez con su familia.

“Ya que soy un poco familiar con el lugar ahora que me fui, creo que sería divertido a mostrarles alrededor,” dijo Cruz.

Porter dijo que ella regresaría con estudiantes de AP Lang al Cather Center.

Marshall dijo que el recomendaría el paseo a futuros estudiantes de AP Lang.

“Siento que tu aprendes mucho sobre de lo, y es gratis, vale la pena, y si, es una

buena lección,” dijo el.

Cuando preguntado sobre sus pensamientos sobre el paseo ayudando a ver la influencia sobre las obras literarias de Cather, todos lo encontraron que les ayudo hasta impresionante.

“Me ayudó mucho porque yo pude a ver la conexión a su obra literaria por los lugares que visitamos y la relación que tenían,” dijo Theophilus.

Grot dijo que era impresionante que ella hizo mucho con Red Cloud y la cantidad de inspiración ella tomo de las Llanuras, Red Cloud, y gente es inspirante.

“Especialmente como un adolescente como cuando están inquietos y en cierto modo queriendo más,” dijo Grot.

Porter dijo el paseo era “memorable” porque Mahoney está jubilándose de Central.

“Era agradecida a pasar tiempo con ella en su último paseo. Fue también largo porque de los [dos] accidentes en I-80,” dijo Porter.

EDUARDO TORREBLANCA | El Registro

Maestro de Estudios Sociales asume el rol de nuevo decano

Jasmin Gutierrez Garcia
editora de traducción

El profesor de estudios sociales Peter Pham ha enseñado en Central High School durante 22 años. Pham será ascendido al papel de decano de los estudiantes para el siguiente año escolar. Espera poder hacer el trabajo necesario para ser decano después de la capacitación en el trabajo de seis meses.

Un decano tiene múltiples responsabilidades. “Ellos administran acciones disciplinarias utilizando el código de conducta”, dijo Pham. Pham dio un ejemplo inmediato de comprobar dónde deben estar los estudiantes cuando crean un entorno que distrae en los pasillos.

Después de dedicar muchos años de enseñanza en un aula, expresa entusiasmo por su nuevo papel.

“Es una gran oportunidad para mí de impactar la escuela fuera del aula”, dijo Pham.

Como profesor, define el éxito “dando a cada estudiante la capacidad de lograr el éxito”, dijo Pham. Pham hace esto proporcionando a los estudiantes el rigor necesario para tener éxito en el futuro.

Su habilidad principal que lo convierte en el mejor para este puesto es la comunicación, como la comunicación con los estudiantes, el personal, los padres y la orientación. “La comunicación en todos los aspectos de la vida es realmente importante”, dijo Pham.

Pham cree firmemente que su sistema inmunológico es un gran apoyo para su puesto como decano porque no se enferma fácilmente por los estudiantes.

“Mi primer papel como decano es tratar de conseguir intramural, una liga de baloncesto para Central”, dijo Pham.



Señor Pham.

CHRISHYRA MARION | El Registro