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Louisville, NE
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LOUISVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

THE DEN 2025-2026

VOL. 77

Walsworth®

Above It ALL

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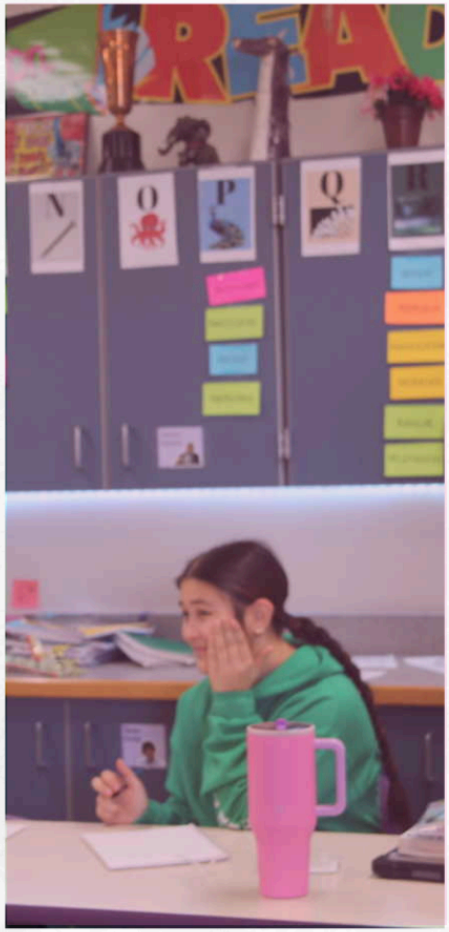
2026

Above It ALL

The Den
Volume 77
2025-2026

Louisville High School
202 West 3rd Street
Louisville, NE 68037

Phone: (402) 234-3586
Students: 217
Staff: 38



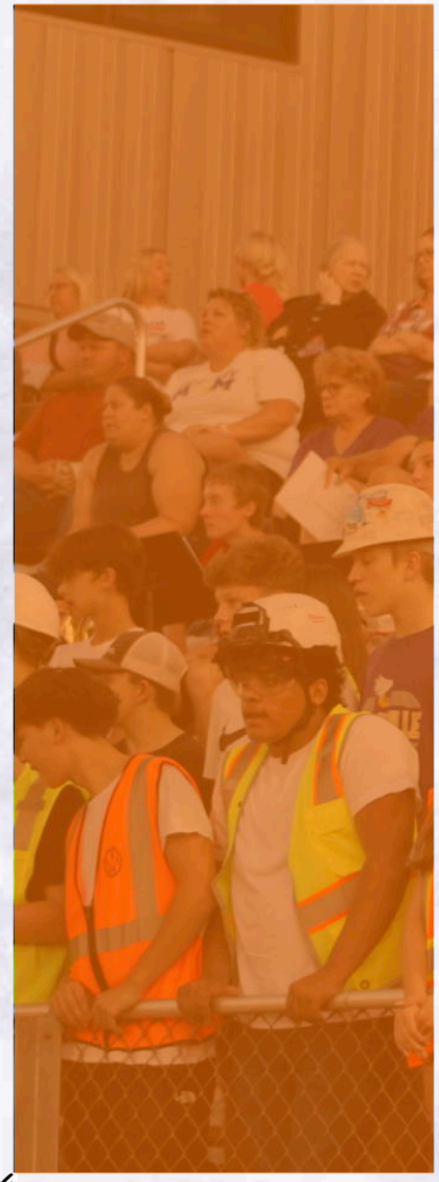
THIS CLASS, MAN. During 8th period, Sophomores Hudson Johns and Parker McCaulley are posing for the camera showing off their lascivious costume while Junior classmate Taylor Staben is seen questioning her classes well being.

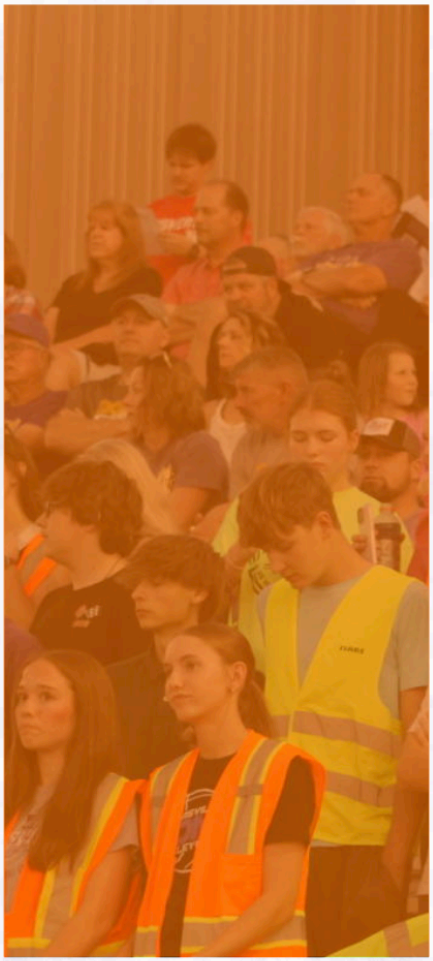
We fill the courts, the field, the stage, and the mats. We go above and beyond. But not just for sports. We also go above for classes. We hope to do something special and make a mark in the building where we walk the halls. All students are excited and eager to see what their seasons will bring, just hoping to get called to state.

We stress about the Mr. Bausch test, and about remembering our plays and routines. Mr. Rice has his recycling program that brings students in to help collect over 15 tons of material. The dance team placed 7th in the nation. Emotional senior nights, saying "thank you" and "goodbye" to those who spent countless hours in their activity, bringing tears as they hug their friends as they sign off. The girls' basketball team is going to districts for the first time since 2016. Students who show Mr. Bausch their new favorite needohs, which he enthusiastically laughs at the students. LA Lab had a sheep brought to class for "show and tell." One act traveling with a full piano and pool table. Classes watch state E-Sports instead of doing their work, and roar through the halls, "JACOB NOOOO!!!" Our community comes to support like no other, lining the streets with fireworks during a state send-off.

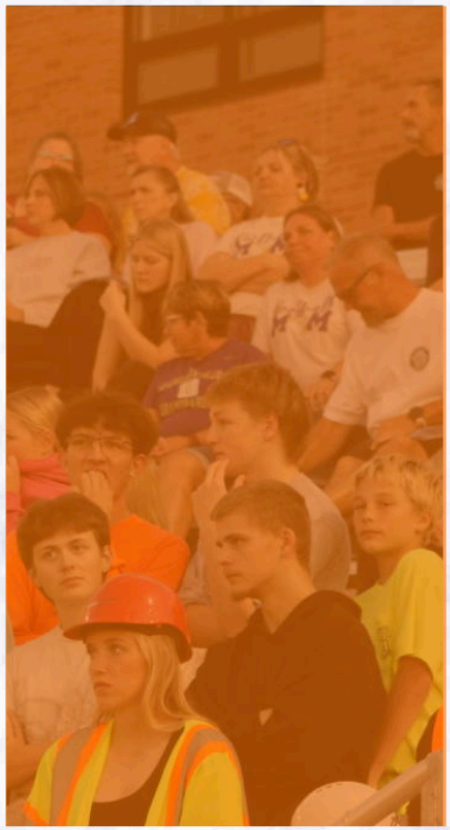
A community that brings everyone together, more than just classmates, but all sharing memories. But at the year ends like no other: a class will walk the stage saying goodbye, and athletes will hang up their jerseys or pom poms. The final message we hear from everyone is "we did it," but in this place, that means.... We are

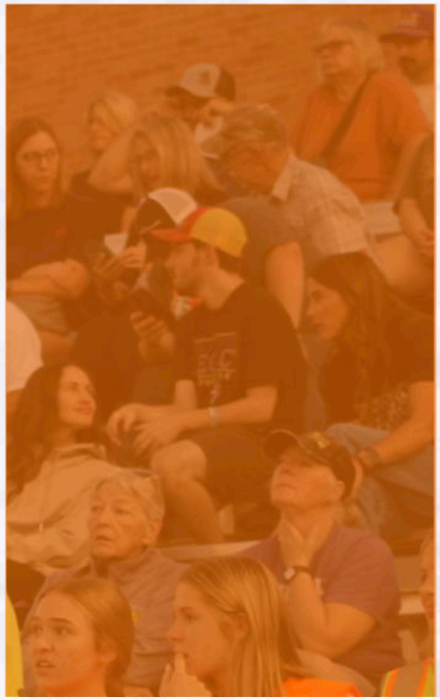
Above It ALL





ABOVE THE SCORE. Although the Lions football team finished with a record of 2-7, many students continued to show up and cheer from the stands for the entire season. Thanks to their support, the Lions were able to give it their all until the clock reached 0:00 in the final game on October 24th.





Fall

Page Design by Aubrey Barry

Fit to Page

A Week to Remember

LET'S GO. People often anticipate homecoming week for the royalty court, selected by each grade by survey. A tradition that dates back many years continues throughout Louisville as a crowd favorite.

CATCH THIS. Ironically, two polar opposite people were grouped together for a homecoming pep rally activity. Ms. Petersen was selected to compete with sophomore, Tucker Abbott, a well known rivalry within the school.

BRING THE SPIRIT. A part of student council's responsibilities is to help plan homecoming. Watching their plan become a success, juniors Taylor Staben, Brylee Peterson, and Lilly Bax observe from the sidelines of their entertaining games.

Cops vs. Robbers

SHAKE THE RUST. Eager to participate, middle school history teacher, Tyler Weatherholt, excites many as he plays in the huge game. Weatherholt proves to many that despite his years out of college, he still has ball.

WALK THE TALK. A once in a lifetime moment of entertainment takes place during homecoming's "Cops vs. Robbers" assembly, where seniors Dayton Carlson and Jase Ostblom take on roles as reffing the basketball game.

FRESHMAN DEBUT. Making a strong impact for the "robbers" team during the pep rally game, freshman Jillian Harvey shows off her talent. Harvey also plays for the high school team.

Page Design by Peyton Lutz

Hallway Hype:
A look at the Homecoming Decorating Tradition

By Aubrey Barry

When asked, most students would probably say that their favorite week out of the school year is Homecoming week. There are so many aspects that contribute to these seven days. From the parents' skit at the barbecue kickoff to the games during the Friday pep rally, there are so many fun traditions that Louisville has had in place for many years. One thing that most people forget about, though, is the hallways. Decorating the hallways adds spirit to the school days, creates an atmosphere for the theme, and even contributes to the competitive vibe of homecoming week.

Each grade is assigned its own hallway. Students from each grade then come together and figure out what supplies they need. Students then either go out and buy their own supplies or have their grade advisor help them. On the Sunday of the kickoff, students come in early and start setting up. Sophomore Agnes Dukat states, "A good chunk of students showed up, and we were very thankful for them." Participants have 4 hours to get their hallway decorated. Once that time is up, they have to step away and hope none of it gets torn down.

The homecoming theme for this year was Rhythms of Rio. For hallways, this meant paper flowers hung from the ceiling, balloons shaped to form tree-like structures, bird cutouts placed on lockers, and so much more.

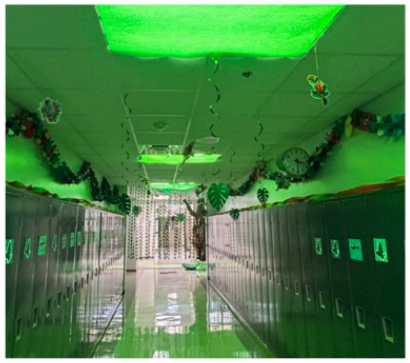
Junior Lilly Bax said, "I made name tags for everyone in our grade."

Also, decorating the hallways involved more students in homecoming week. Not every student is involved in a fall sport, so for some kids, it is hard to get into the spirit of such a week. Dukat states, "It's fun to connect with your peers and other students."

It is no surprise that competition is a main component of homecoming week. Whether it's football, volleyball, softball, or cross country, athletes' competitive feelings reached a peak during the week of September 7th. Decorating the hallways adds to this as well. At the end of the week, the high school class with the best decorated hallway (voted on by staff members) is revealed. This year, it was a win for the Junior Class of 2027.

Overall, hallway decorating is a fun tradition that helps this long, exhausting week go by a little faster for the students. By working together, high school students in Louisville can get more involved and compete for bragging rights.

"A good chunk of students showed up, and we were very thankful for them."
- Agnes Dukat



LET IT GLOW. Seniors worked hard to compete for their title of the best hallway. Although their hallway had a neat glow, the juniors pulled through with the bragging rights.

HOLD MY CROWN. Their final year of homecoming, seniors Dayton Carlson and Kelsey Haynes are elected King and Queen on the royalty court. Chosen by their peers, Carlson and Haynes represent the class of 2026 well.

What's the Trend 2025?

Wondering where to buy a dress from? The following options are where people purchased the most from!

29.5% *Windsor*
27.3% *Dillards*
20.5% *Online*

The top three favorite songs played at the dance (in order from least to most):

"Mr. Brightside"
"Golden"
"Doot Doot (6?)"

The most common dress colors were tied between blue and pink, followed by black. Frequently styled dresses included silk, sequin, and corset styles. However, a new style of dress has pearls or a simple flower designed with sequins.

DYNAMIC DUO. Often seen together in larger groups are two high school seniors whose friendship dates back many years. On their final homecoming of their high school career, seniors Mikayla Bauer and Beatrice Quam pause for a photo to recapture some memories.

It's a Lions 1st Down

GOODBYE, SENIORS. This year's 13 senior boys from the Class of 2026 walk the field one last time. Arm in arm as brothers, they walk towards the rest of their team before throwing their shoes to say goodbye.
Pictured: Jack Haecke, Jager Barnes, Carson Toelle, Houston Klein, Dayton Carlson, Brady Abbott, Mitchell Shelsta, Chez Vigil, Nathan Monahan, Hunter Gaebel, Tucker Buck, Drezik Ahlers, Coltyn Larson

Coaches' Final Message

Coach Bausch- "You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."--Jane Goodall
Coach Shelsta- "Bigger and Better, is coming your way. Use these lessons in adversity to propel your future. Working hard for what you want creates many opportunities. Thank you for all your efforts to make us better. Love you, guys."
Coach Rice- "I can honestly say that it has been a pleasure to coach you, teach you, and watch you grow into the fine young men that you have become. I am a better person because of the time I have spent with each of you. As you move forward in life, don't shy away from challenges. Let those challenges help shape you into the men you are destined to become. Be the best version of yourself!"

LISTENING. Coach Ryan tells defensive back sophomore Drew Carlson where he needs to go and how he needs to do it. Carlson is focused on what his coach is saying.

DOGGIE PILE! As the defensive line tackles the Ashland Greenwood offensive line, they end up in a pile. Wondering who has the ball, the Louisville crowd cheers very loud.

WATCHING. During the second quarter during the homecoming football game against the Concordia Mustangs, Louisville is down by 24 going into halftime. Junior Merreck France watches his team try to get the ball back from the Mustangs.

FIRST DOWN. The Lions get low for the first down at the 20-yard line against Ashland. The Lions end up handing the ball off to senior Brady Abbott.

Page Design by Addi Bevins

Bringing students to BW's: Louisville High School starts a new tradition
By Addi Bevins

Welcome to the start of something new.
This year, Louisville High School started new opportunity to bring students and families together after home football games for a "5th quarter." All students are encouraged to go down to BW's Pub & Grill, the new local restaurant.

The Den (LHS) offers all football players, cheerleaders, dance team members, and band students some free food and a time to relax with friends and family members. This is a way to encourage support of a local business and safety for any student.

Years prior, many students would drive into Omaha and get some food after football games, but due to it being late after the game, it has always brought some concern to the school and many parents. Also, many students didn't have a set group to go with or a way to get there.

> ***"Just being able to see everyone come together that are all Lions... whether you're a parent, a grandparent... a family member of some sort, come down there and hang out with our kids ." - Kaleb Walker***

Activities director Kaleb Walker wanted to start 5th Quarter after starting something similar at his previous school. He finally reached his goal of starting this at Louisville. He wanted to create a way to keep all the kids safe and to show appreciation for their hard work and dedication as a Lion.

Walker said, "Just being able to see everyone come together that are all Lions... whether you're a parent, a grandparent... a family member of some sort, come down there and hang out with our kids and get to talk to them about the game or talk to them about their performance... [It]has been really cool to see."

This whole event wouldn't be possible without the help of the owners of BW's Pub & Grill and the families that help fund it. Families' donations cover the cost of food and labor, as the restaurant closes early to get set up and remains open until almost midnight.been, bringing Lions together as one. been, bringing Lions together as one.

The entire season was funded within two hours of Walker's Facebook post asking for sponsors. Families and businesses that have funded these events are Haecke Farm and Fleet, Home Town Team, AJ KREATIONZ (Antonio Johnson), Western National Bank, and Justin Larsen and Family.

BW's Pub & Grill Co-owner and Louisville teacher Laurie Little said, "This is something Walker and I discussed for a while, but is only possible by the help of the families and their help to keep B&W's from losing a huge amount."

The whole environment helps many new students and players have somewhere to go with friends after the game and feel included.

Freshman Connor Rice, a new student at Louisville High School and a football player, has gone to every 5th Quarter so far with his coach and dad, Mr. Scott Rice, and his brothers, who also are on the football team.

Rice said, "It's something I can look forward to after a tough game. Even if we lose, it's a way we can all lighten up and have the chance to just eat some food and talk and get to be with my friends and teammates."

5th Quarter isn't going anywhere after the huge success it has been, bringing Lions together as one.

FAMILY. Sophomore Brandon Rice and Coach Rice work together as one after senior Hunter Gaebel's helmet broke during the game against Ashland Greenwood. Brandon volunteerd the part of his helmet for Gaebel.

FIRST GAME. Sophomore Drew Nuemann gets all lined up at the away game at Schuyler. The final score was 54-0.

BYE BYE ENERGY DRINKS

Every morning you see many tired students walking into school with an energy drink of some sort, but this year the football coaches decided NO MORE. All football players were banned from drinking any of these beverages during the season. After a few vomiting incidents during games and an increase in cramps, coaches noticed that players were not drinking enough water.

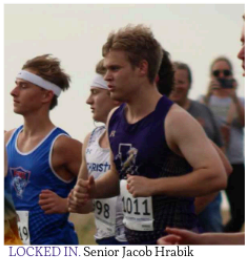
Head football coach Matthew Shelsta said,"We hope they can think about their consumption of drinks and food in a better way."

A senior, Coltyn Larson, reflected on his cutting of energy drinks and noted, "It makes me feel better, and even sometimes more energized."

But will this ban go to the other sports? Or will the athletes just know to drink some water? Since the ban, we haven't had another vomiting incident on the field.

Find the fun in the run

TEAM SMILES. The cross country team stands together for the last time of the season at districts located at the Cass County Fair Grounds,n the back row, Jack Kilton, Lincoln Heins, Keegan Witte, Jacob Hrabik, Gideon Bouse and Coach York,. Front row is Coach Olson, Jordan Trent, Kiara Trent. and Raymond Zimmer. People who are not pictured are Blake Beck, Jacob Heard, Kamdyn Olson, and Harper Chrisman. This was the final time they ran with their seniors.



LOCKED IN. Senior Jacob Hrabik focusing on running his last cross country race closing out the season. He was able to beat his personal record and ended the season with a time of 20:15.

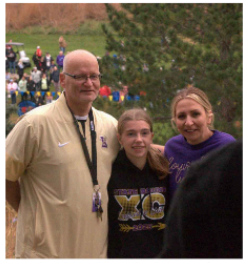
IN IT FOR THE LONG RUN. Senior Lincoln Heins running his last lap at districts. He kept up with everyone at the beginning of the race. He didn't place, but instead focused on finishing the race strong.

FINAL MEMORIES. The boys cross country team walks together to the starting line for their final district meet. There were six boys who ran this meet.

Page Design by Ollie Veenstra

STICKING TOGETHER. The cross country team starts off their race by walking the course. As they walk, they talk with each other to ease their nerves.

GOOD MOOD. Junior Kamdyn Olson smiles for a picture while running her last lap. She ran her hardest while everyone from Louisville cheered her on.



THE SEASON COMES TO AN END. Coaches Mr. York and Mrs. Olson pose with junior Kiara Trent after the state cross country meet. "I felt at peace with how I ran at state, and I felt joyful about how I did for the season." Trent stated.

Behind the scenes of the cross-country team

By Ollie Veenstra

Most people think cross country is just about setting up their own space and running on a white line, but there is so much more to the sport. Before the season starts, Louisville runners spend their summer training.

"I'm going to work on it next summer... Probably run 300 something miles, because I ran 283 this last summer," sophomore Jordan Trent stated.

Once the season starts, they run a 5k, five days a week. They run at the school or the Louisville Lakes for a change of scenery. At their meets, they will set up base and chat for a bit. Then it's off to the course to see where they're running. They all walk together and make jokes along the way to ease pre-running nerves. Most of the courses include hills, curves, or are just flat. During regular meets, they walk the course once and then run 2 laps. The girls go first.

Jordan Trent spoke on her pre-race routine. "I usually think about jokes before I run because I'm not really thinking about the race since I'm with my friends, and that helps. I don't want to be in that bad, negative frame of mind."

The teams all line up on the painted white line and start to warm up by running to a certain distance in front of them and walking back, or jumping in place. After a few times of doing this, before walking back the final time, they all gather together, either for a motivational speech or a little prayer. Then it's back to the starting line.

A man comes out in front of the runners and yells the instructions before pulling the 'starting gun' from his pocket, holds it up in the air, and pop! The race begins! Most runners will experience pain and begin to feel unmotivated to finish the race because running 3.1 miles can be hard on anyone. Some people finish their race within 15 minutes or up to an hour.

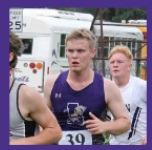
LAST TEAM BONDING. The boys cross country team rounds up for the last time. They would now have to say goodbye to their senior running buddies, Senior Jacob Hrabik and Lincoln Heins.

At the finish line, some people speed up to pass their opponents, while others maintain a steady pace. Once they cross the final white line, they're given a cup of ice and water to cool them down.

The biggest meet of the season is the state meet. This year, Louisville's sole state competitor was junior Kiara Trent. It starts earlier in the morning due to more teams and schools competing. They first walk the course, which is 3.1 miles instead of running the usual 2 laps. Then it's time for the final race of the season, where everyone meets at the starting line, circles up, and holds hands for a quick prayer. The fans and family who came to watch, standing behind the flagged barrier, are also quieter during this time. After the 'starting gun' goes off, they are challenged with making their way through the crowd of other participants to make it as close to the front as they can. Some people finish their run within 15 minutes, but others take around 30 to 45 minutes. Once everyone is done, they meet up at a small stage for an awards ceremony for the top 5 runners.

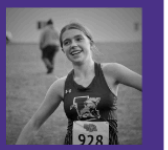
Now and Then

Times from the beginning of the season compared to the end.



Senior Jacob Hrabik started off his season with a time of 26:06. His best time during this season was at the end with a time of 20:15. Although he didn't struggle with anything, Jacob said that he just had to stay focused, and this was a great last season for him.

Junior Kiara Trent started off her season strong with a time of 23:19. Her best time was also during the beginning of the season, which was 21:39. Throughout the season she struggled with a knee injury but still finished out the season strong. Her time on her final race was 22:08 at state.



Freshman Jack Kilton started off his season with a time of 26:35, his best time during the season was 23:41, elminiating 3 minutes from the beginning of the season. His last race he ran a time of 24:51, which wasn't his personal best, but it's a shorter time since the start of the season.

Play ball

Memories that will last forever
by Kylie Gaston

Softball is like no other, but certain aspects of this sport have helped shape the season to be a better experience.

For sophomore Brooke Sorensen, her favorite memory was her first of three home runs this season.

"It was just amazing to see all my hardwork pay off as the ball was soaring over the fence," said Sorensen.

Sorensen worked hard in the batting cages all throughout the season.

The batting cages made some fun memories for the girls.

Sophomore Audrey Clark said, "My favorite memory was when I hit Watts with the ball while hitting in the cages. In Mr. Watts fashion he went 'OH MY GOSH!' while he crouched down. He then told his bestie coach Harvey and she laughed."

Although Mr. Watts got hit multiple times this season while throwing balls for the girls to hit, he said, "I loved watching these kids improve and grow this season, not just in the batting cages but the girls growing as people."

The girls had so much fun this year and they loved the team that has been created from the two schools.

DISREGARD. During senior night, junior Zoey Powles and sophomore Sailor Manske pose for the camera while waiting for the run-through. Powles does everything in her power to avoid the camera.

BE PROUD. Junior Shyann Smart waving her hand as the announcer calls her name. Shyann loves being a part of Wildcats softball team.

FLYING SOLO. The one and only senior, Faith Hillabrand, with her mom and dad walking out on senior night. In the background are her fellow teammates cheering her on. "I've watched girls on their senior night in years past, but now it's my turn," said Hillabrand.

Game Day Hair

The Bubble

"This hairstyle is so fun so I wanted to do it for our last game," sophomore Rylie Sorensen said.

The Double

"I do this hairstyle all the time. I love it!" said Conestoga player Morgan Stone.

The Dutch Braid

"Since it's our last game I wanted to do something fun," said freshman Preslee Kiss.

Page Design by Kylie Gaston

SENIOR APPRECIATION. On senior night, junior Kylie Gaston gives senior Faith Hillabrand her gift basket. "Next year is going to be different without her," said Kylie Gaston.

WARM UP. Getting ready to play the Monarchs, freshman Kayleigh-Ann Wedekind says "catch"as she's warming up for the game.

THAT'S A NEW ONE. As Sheyenne Kobler-Bragg is announced at senior night, teammates Rylie Sorensen and Sailor Manske started laughing because of how badly her last name was mispronounced.

ROCK ISLAND. Seniors Tucker Buck, Drezik Ahlers, Brady Abbott, Jase Ostblom, Jack Haecke; freshman Quinn Myers; and sophomore Alexis Clements starting the play off on a high note while on the train to River City, Iowa.

PICK A LITTLE TALK A LITTLE. The outgoing Pick A Littles all swooning over Harold Hill, played by senior Dayton Carlson. Freshman Quinn Myers, juniors Zoey Powles, Kamdyn Olson, freshman Kayci Wetterberg, junior Kylie Gaston, and sophomore Alexis Clements swarm Hill.

IT'S THE SHIPOOPI. Cast members striking the final pose of senior Jesse Reed's favorite dance, even after many judges advise, "just get ride of Shipoopi." Even with those comments, the cast still made this the most fun dance number of the show.

TROUBLE WITH TOMMY. Senior Dom Lipsys holding back sophomore Drew Carlson, while Coltyn Larson is lecturing and Dayton Carlson demanding to see his credentials after Harold Hill is a accused of his crimes.

"AND MY WIFE." The Spirit 76 Dancers and junior Emma Couron as Eulalie Shinn in her Lady Liberty outfit, while all are standing in town square for the town reading to start dancing to 76 Trombones.

CAST VS CREW

Two seniors are responsible for the chaos between cast and crew. Senior Jack Haecke came up with a new way to bring destruction.

Senior crew captain Kade Scholting and Haecke grew a chasing war after every One Act festival. These two chased each other through the grass or parking lots, which had senior Addison Bevins and sophomore Matilda Quam eager to watch the war.

Quam said, "I have never seen two of the most nonathletic people run so fast."

FAMILY. Senior Beatrice Quam, playing Mrs. Paroo, hugging one side of freshman Jack Kilton, playing Winthrop, and sophomore Micaiah Price, playing Marian. This happened during a heartwarming moment of Winthrop coming out of his shell.

Page Design by Addi Bevins

YOU GOT TROUBLE. The entire cast fills the stage to watch senior Dayton Carlson, as Harold Hill, tell the city of River City they have trouble. Everyone sang "You Got Trouble" before finishing the day with a first place finish at districts.

Oh we made State

One Show, One Family: A Theatre Experience
By Micaiah Price

High school one act. For some it may be a place to find family; a place to run to. To others, this extracurricular activity may seem like some big joke. What these students fail to realize, however, is just how important these theatre bonds are.

Senior Beatrice Quam loves one act because of the way, "It brings everybody together."

For Quam, one act has given her the opportunity to grow closer with her father, coach Erik Quam, and sisters, Matilda and Eva Quam, as well as helping her meet her current friend group.

"I feel like I wouldn't be talking to a lot of the people that I talk to today if it wasn't for one act," said Quam.

"I feel like I wouldn't be talking to a lot of the people that I talk to today if it wasn't for one act." - Beatrice Quam

This year, the one act team is performing the production *The Music Man*. Over 90 kids are helping in the making of this production, the most in school history. These are record numbers considering this is only the program's second year in executing a musical in just 30 minutes. Senior Jesse Reed, who plays Marcellus Washburn, feels that one act brings not only the actors together, but also the jocks, preps, nerds, and everyone in between. It is a common ground for all.

The Music Man at State!

This year started like any other, welcoming the new show to the stage. After 10 performances and a lot of hard work, the dedicated cast and crew of 83 got announced as this year's district B-2 champions, which sent *The Music Man* to STATE. This is a feat that hasn't occurred at Louisville since 2017.

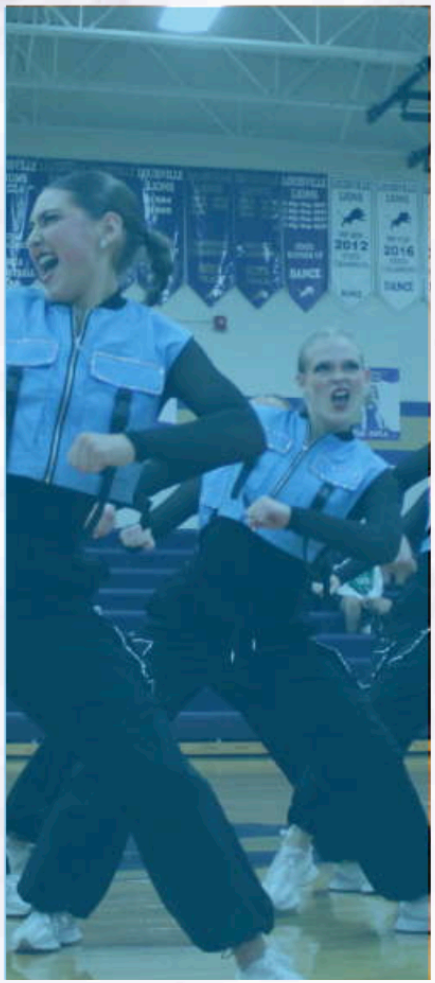
On the morning of competition, the team left Louisville with a fun send-off with fireworks, signs, and families lining the street.

In Norfolk, coaches Erik Quam, Jamion Biesterfeld, Maddie Bastian, Betty Colbert and Wil Muntz were all emotional as they watched the show being performed one last time.

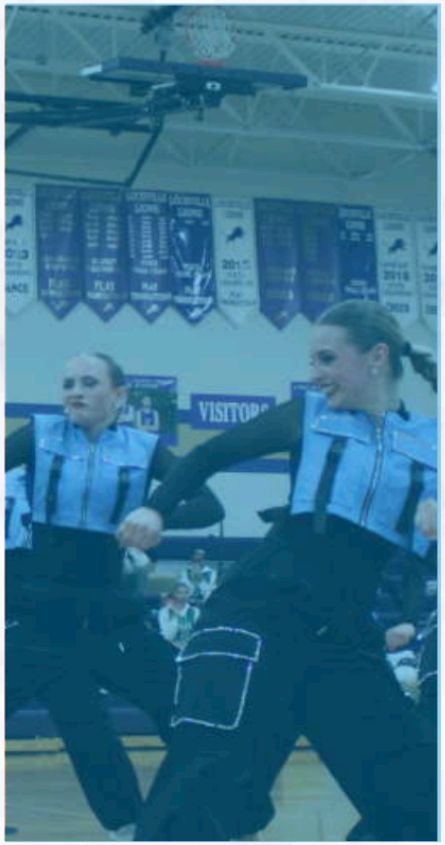
This year's team placed 2nd in Class B, which is a huge accomplishment. Senior Dayton Carlson was announced as Class B's overall outstanding actor.

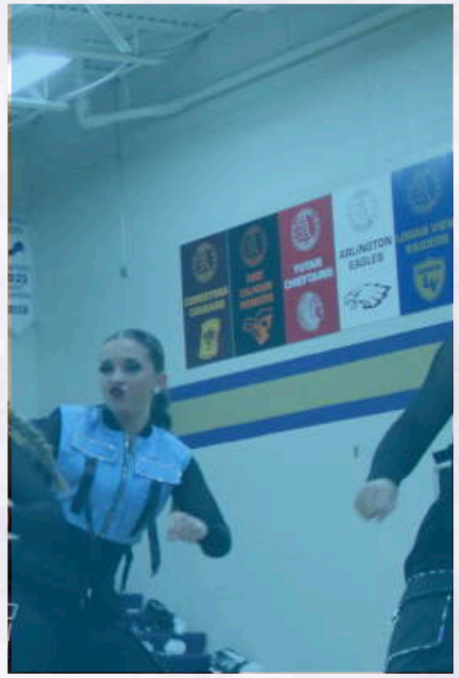
Sophomore Micaiah Price said, "After a close call the year before, it's something I won't forget, and the best part of my theater career."

STATE. This year's One Act team fills the stage as senior Dayton Carlson holds the trophy declaring them this years B-2 Runner Up.



RISING TO THE OCCASION. For the first time in school history, the Louisville dance team attended UDA Nationals in Orlando, Florida. Although the girls come from a small town, they accepted the challenge and were awarded 7th in the nation.





Winter