

2026

chase county high school

imperial, nebraska

longhorn

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longhorn

it continues...

A Year in the Making...



people
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Laughing on the football field, senior **Hayley Rusher** is waiting for the grade school to walk towards her. "I was so nervous to have the little kids look up to me as a senior. I think the kindergarten and senior walk is a fun tradition and was happy to be a part of it," Rusher said. (Photo by: Alayna Smith)



summer
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Holding tight onto her horses reigns, junior **Ali Reeves** is competing at the Chase County 4H barrel racing event. "The only time I really barrel race is around fair time. My friends and I travel to a few competitions but not that many." (Photo by: Paige Nickless)



fall
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Carrying a football down the field, junior **Tate Hubbard** is running toward the end zone after receiving a pass from a fellow teammate. "Playing football this year was fun. It was sad to watch most of my teammates get hurt though," Hubbard said. (Photo by: Miranda Spady)



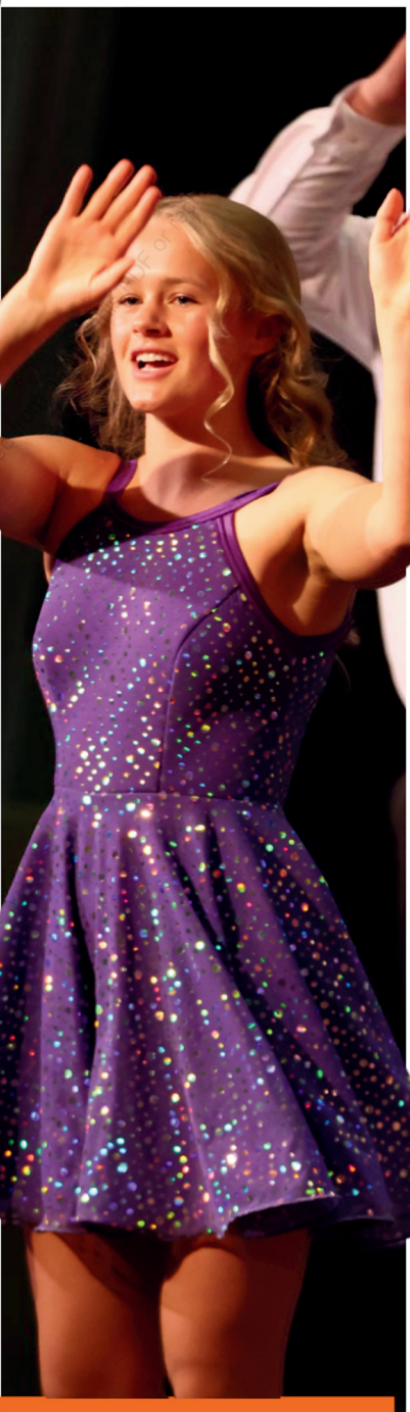
winter
page 54

Acting as a maid on stage, junior **Kadence Wallin** is singing during the musical, *The Sound of Music*. "This musical was definitely my favorite. I enjoyed the plot and the seniors did a good job acting," Mollendor said. (Photo by: Paige Nickless)



spring
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Swinging his club in the air, junior **Braxton Chubb** is hitting off of the tea off at the Chase County Country Club "I would say golfing is fun but takes a lot of practice," Chubb said. (Photo by: Paige Nickless)



all season
page 86

Sharing her passion for music, junior **Aria McNair** is singing under the lights with the 9th Street Singers. "I absolutely love doing show choir with my friends on stage. It is so much fun and I would recommend it very highly," McNair said. (Photo by: Paige Nickless)

The last day of one-hundred-degree heat has arrived, and the public swimming pool is now closed while the water drains. We all said farewell to the seniors, and now we walk through the school doors as if they were never there. By the time the leaves turn orange, we barely even remember what summer felt like. Pumpkin patches open, then close. We notice that every year the kids in the Halloween costume parade seem to get smaller and smaller. When the first snowflake finally falls, we realize that half the year has passed. Spring wind blows through our lives, and we hear, "It would be such a nice day if it weren't so windy," echoing through the town. And then, after what feels like an eternity and also a second, finally, school is out for the summer, and the cycle starts again.

Sharing a pivotal moment on stage, senior Paige Nickless and sophomore Cadence Lambert portray factory workers discussing the challenges of life in a World War II munitions plant. "It really showed how strong women had to be during that time," Lambert said. (Photo by: [Photographer Name])



We may pause or leave. However, it continues. But what is "it"? It is everything. It's the feeling you get when you don't want to wake up before school. It is the tardy slip that the office gives you, which teachers immediately throw away. It is the excitement of homecoming week and the sadness that follows a loss. It's buying the perfect dress, only for it to rip, so you have to use a mini sewing kit to fix it. It's going to the gym to shoot hoops, only to find all the balls flat. It isn't just sadness or happiness, anger or fear. It is what drives us. It is what we love. It is life. It is time. And it will continue.

In Chase County, we know one another by name, through family trees, or through relationships with friends. People will say, "You've got your father's nose," and we just shrug, not knowing whether to take it as a compliment. When times get hard, we step in and lift each other up. In times of mourning or celebration, we come together to appreciate the lives of those who've touched ours. In a community like ours, how could we not?

During the spring, our community comes together as we visit loved ones at the Imperial Manor, clean out our garages, or unite to paint murals on bare business walls. We share in the delight of one another's company and it makes simple tasks memorable. In the summer, our community tosses sweets onto Broadway during the county fair parade. Together, we laugh as the Volunteer Fire Department sprays cold water from their trucks and the seniors throw colorful water balloons from their float.

During the fall, we fundraise for school clubs and spread cheer through the neighborhoods with each basket of FFA fruit and box of FBLA Krispy Kreme doughnuts. And then in the winter, we huddle on the sides of Broadway once again, sipping hot cider and tossing popcorn into our mouths as we watch the Parade of Lights. The brightly illuminated floats pass by to be greeted by waving hands and cold, red noses.

When new faces arrive, and we take the time to welcome them into the community. We haul boxes for newcomers into their homes or we give them a tour of the school. Although people come and go, their memories and connections remain with us. In this town, we build moments with each other. We create something we are proud to call our own. We create a home. So, through troubled times, times of celebration, and through all the seasons of our lives, our community continues and still will once we've moved on.

PEOPLE

Kneeling on the grass of the football field, Senior **Destry Russell** exchanges bracelets with a Kindergartener during the Senior Kindergarten Meet-Up. "The fear of regret is worse than the fear of failure," said Russell. (Photo by: Aaron Sinclair.)



TALLEST

PRO: Being able to see in the back of a concert

CON : My pants are always too short



Eddie Rusher

Two freshman share the pros and cons of their heights

shortest

PRO: My clothes are cheaper because I fit in kids sizes

CON: I can't see above anybody



Maria Adle

Timothy May
Kimberly Medrano
Sharon Montes Perez
Areli Moreno



Ricardo Moreno
Evanglin Ocho
Truman Olsen
Lila O'Neil



Tesslyn Pankonin
Nathan Pump
Dietrich Pursley
Edward Rusher



Sawyer Sauder
Ginny Siverson
Jordyn Stafford
Taya Stromberger



Edisyn Teply
Chantal Vlasin
Kacen Wenzlick
Jazlynn Westfahl



Antonio White
Grady Wilson
Hayden Worth

WE WISH WE KNEW

Freshman share the things they wish they knew before entering highschool

Timothy May

"One thing I wish I knew before getting into high school, is how much harder the work is."



"I wish someone would have told me that the friends I had in middle school wouldn't stay through high school."

Avery Jantz



Summer rolls around every year. When the bell sounds at 3:30 on the last day of school, it is summer as far as students are concerned. However, for the year 2025, summer officially began on June 20th. With the start of the season, we ask the question: what comes to mind when CCS students think of summer? Summer is when we spend Friday nights at the movie theater and gaze at the deserted main street after the movie concludes. We make waves when riding jet skis at Enders, and we purchase snacks at the local shop, Laker's. We cruise down the streets of small town Imperial that we know like the back of our own hands. We swing through the green courses at the Country Club trying to golf all nine holes. Some of us work through our summer at the local Hill's Family Foods or Sweden Creme. We work long hours all to build up enough funds to eventually frivolously spend, given the next opportunity. We know it's summer when we're gathered around the fire, roasting marshmallows -the sweet, smoky flavor that *is* the taste of summer. There are those who camp in sheer tents and sleep beneath the stars. When at the swimming pool, you will see daring kids work up the courage to do a trick from the diving board, but end up doing a belly-flop instead. There are those who love to bake in the summer's sun, all to achieve a darker tan. As soon as the school bell rings, Summer offers students with opportunities to make memories.

However, when over-sized loads of semis role into town, strapped with vendors and carnival rides for the Chase County Fair, students know to savor their summer, because it is coming to an end. During fair week, we chow down on the greasiest food and beg our friends not to ride those rides at the fair, because we're guaranteed to puke. Other students participate in 4-H competitions or spend their night screaming along to the lyrics at an ear deafening concert. Then before we realize, the luxury of our free summer days quietly fizzles away come the end of the week. Returning to another year of school is often described as the end of the world but, as we'll come to understand through this yearbook, it continues. We switch our tactics by gearing up for football, and, as a team, we take charge. We slide into the season of softball by stealing bases and making the throw. We dive for the save in volleyball, and take on the extra laps for cross country, because this is our summer taking on a new form. We display our school spirit by dressing up for game themes, and even more so during homecoming week. Whether it's with thick face paint or frilly tutus, students are proud to be a CCS Longhorn. As we grow to accept our class schedules and after school practices, the thought of summer slips from our minds. This year, the last day of summer fell on Saturday the 20th, a day after the Homecoming dance. But what's important is that the memories remain, and we know another summer will soon come again.

Yelling from the school bleachers, sophomore **Cigi Schaufenbuel** encourages the football team to make a touchdown during the first home game. The theme for the football game was Camping Out in the End Zone. "I like sophomore year, because it's in the middle. It's not stressful, I'm just chilling," said Schaufenbuel. [Photo by Miranda Speddy]

SUMMER...





Three CCHS students live their dreams

"I've been wanting to skydive for ages. I would say since the age of 15 or 16, I always told my

These three seniors stepped out of their comfort zones, and achieved amazing things.





FALL.

carving faces into the gourds and others paint them.
This is fall.

Fall sports quickly arrive and senior athletes are presented with their yard signs. Then, before you know it, the season concludes leaving seniors teary eyed and reminiscent of the memories they've made: just like the ones made during the Halloween Parade of Costumes. Every year, there are new aspiring faces who dress up as trendy characters or dawn inflatable dinosaurs. However, just as the kids before them, they continue a tradition of Chase County by walking around the gym and sharing their spirit. This is fall.

We fear the moment the last autumn leaf falls, because we know the season is over. But with time, we will learn to trust that fall will come again soon.

all about the GROWTH

The girls Cross Country team continues to succeed

It was a hot day on the University of Kearney campus when the Lady Longhorn Cross Country Team had one of the most important meets of the year. The UNK invite, otherwise known as "mini state" is one of, if not the most challenging race of the year.

"It is a more competitive environment, which is a huge switch up from our regular meets," senior **Paige Nickless** said, "At our normal meets there is a max of 40 other runners, but in Kearney there is around 200-300 other runners."

The team placed 2nd in the Class C division, upsetting their predicted position of 3rd. Addison Hauxwell placed 9th, making her standings in the state 9th as well.

"I was scared at first because there weren't as many hills at previous courses," freshman **Addison Hauxwell** said, "It felt good to finish 9th because I was

ranked 9th, but I thought I could have ran better."

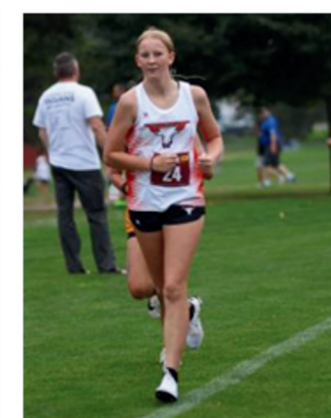
The Lady Longhorns went into districts with a very good chance to win as a team. They were successful, and took first in the district, with Hauxwell placing 5th, sophomore **Alayna Smith** placing 8th, senior **Tessa Smith** placing 9th, and junior **Liz Hanna** placing 15th.

State Cross Country took place October 24th, 2025, at Kearney Country Club. It was a cold day, perfect for the occasion.

The Lady Longhorns took home first, making them State Champions, and making school history as the first Chase County team to do so. Hauxwell took 4th, while T. Smith, A. Smith, and Hanna all placed in the top 35. Other members included Nickless, and freshman **Zoey Kelley**.



Sprinting ahead of the competition, freshman **Addison Hauxwell** takes the lead into 1st. "When you run in your home town you run the best," Hauxwell said, "I feel like its longer but the people around me make it better." (Photo by: Miranda Spady)



Facing herself at the home Cross Country meet, freshman **Zoey Kelley** takes another stride. "I am going to miss the seniors graduating this year," Kelley said, "But I think we have a really good chance of doing something good next year." (Photo by: Miranda Spady)



Accelerating her speed, sophomore **Alayna Smith** attempts to pass an opponent. It was a cloudy day, with cold wind, and a slight mist. "The weather was cold enough that my legs went numb," Smith said. "That made it so I couldn't feel the pain." (Photo by: Miranda Spady)



Running in one of her first Cross Country meets, junior **Liz Hanna** follows the white line. Hanna joined the team, summer of 2025. "It's a completely different environment, and there are a lot less people," Hanna said. "I love being able to go outside everyday." (Photo by: Miranda Spady)

MAKING



HISTORY

Race day fit

Senior Paige Nickless shares about her race day attire

"I also wear a Garmin watch to track how fast, and long I have been running. I like the black jerseys better, because the white jerseys fit weird, and I love the new warm ups, besides the pants, they do no stretch very well. I wear the same socks every time, because they are comfortable, and the back is higher up so they don't give me blisters."



Focusing on finishing the race, junior **Kate Colson** looks ahead. "I decided to do Cross Country because I wanted to be more involved," Colson said. (Photo by: Miranda Spady)



STAND TOGETHER

What unites the girls Cross Country team

"We suffer through everything together, and I would say we spend a ton of time together. It is a really tight nit group, and we really feed off each other. That's what unites us."

- Senior **Tessa Smith**



Looking ahead, senior **Krayton Paisley** is getting ready to throw the ball to a teammate. "The hardest part of being quarterback is keeping a calm head when running away from the defensive line." [Photo by Aidan Vlasin]

A football player in a black jersey with the number 38 and the name LONGHOUSES on the back, wearing a black helmet with a red 'T' logo, is seen from behind on a field.

"Touchdown by Shoreline Mafia, because the beat and the lyrics hype my up"

- Freshman Levy Jurado



"Welcome to the Jungle
guns and roses because i
just gets you going"

- Junior Conner
Stromberger

Paige Nickless, Miranda Spady, and Annabelle Kimble - Chase County High School
Yearbook Theme Development

1. Cover
2. Front Endsheets
3. Opening Spread
4. People Divider
5. Freshmen Spread #2 of 2
6. Summer Divider
7. Summer Spread #1 of 2
8. Fall Divider
9. Girls Cross Country
10. Football

Our theme, “it continues...” is our way of saying that life and time keep moving, no matter what. No matter how many good days, bad days, endings, or new beginnings we go through, everything keeps going, and the cycle begins all over again. It’s a reminder that even when moments feel overwhelming or uncertain, time does not stand still. It carries us forward, quietly and steadily, into whatever comes next.