



March Edition

Guardian Angels Central Catholic School Newsletter

NEWS FROM THE NEST

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‘A lot of God moments’

GACC embraces entire March for Life trip, snow storm included

How do you make a trip of a lifetime even more memorable? Have a blizzard dump 20-some inches of snow on top of you.

That did the trick for the 18 students and two chaperones from Guardian Angels Central Catholic High School, who recently attended the March for Life event in Washington, D.C.

A cold and snowy March for Life didn't deter thousands of people from showing their support at the 43rd annual Pro-Life rally, commemorating Roe v. Wade.

Guardian Angels Central Catholic senior Sarah Arduser was among those who didn't think twice about braving the elements.

“It was really eye-opening seeing all the people there, all for the same reason. You don't see that a lot,” Arduser said.

Joining together with so many people who have one goal in mind, ending abortion, is the reason she has now attended the March three times.

But this, by far, was the most memorable for her. An East Coast snowstorm had plenty to do with that.

The trip home was an adventure, to say the least.

While heading back to West Point, the bus transporting the GACC students, like many other vehicles and busses, got stranded on the Pennsylvania Turnpike, thus beginning a 22-hour period of being stuck in the snow.

“My first thought was, ‘Oh, great.’ But actually, it brought us all closer together to be honest,” GACC senior Jordan Fischer said. “This is the first year I got to know every single person on our bus. We



The streets were crowded with supporters at the 2016 March for Life event held January 22 in Washington, D.C.

just tried to make the most of the situation.”

And for the 18 kids, they certainly did just that.

Like Arduser, this was Fischer's third time attending the March, and she too said this one was the best.

“This was definitely a trip to remember. If this doesn't get the March the publicity it needs, I don't know what will,” Fischer added.

While stranded, there was plenty of bonding over ‘a lot’ of card

games and playing in the snow. It also gave them time for Mass in the middle of a snow storm.

Hundreds of kids, approximately 500, on buses returning from the March for Life event, gathered together for an outdoor, middle-of-a-blizzard Mass.

Kids piled up snow to build an altar, sticks were used to make a cross, and priests were on hand to officiate.

“It made you forget everything.

Hass commits to be Husker walk-on

After a rocky recruiting trail, Tanner Hass received the best news possible since starting this process.

While at school Friday afternoon, Hass was informed that the Nebraska football program had a spot for him to walk-on as an athlete.

"I've been smiling from ear-to-ear since I found out. I'm just so excited," Hass said. "It's a dream come true."

Hass had an offer from University of South Dakota, but a change in coaching staff altered those plans.

Hass will begin his career at running back, but could be moved to safety or linebacker. As a senior, Hass piled up 1,778 rushing yards and 35 rushing touchdowns.

Hass was just one of nine preferred walk-ons for the Huskers in 2016.

"If I walked-on anywhere, it was going to be Nebraska," Hass said. "There's no better tradition than Nebraska football."

"I have a great deal of respect for coach [Dave] Ridder, and everything he's done for me. He knows what the walk-on program is all about. None of this would have been possible without him and coach [Matt] Schlaebitz."

Tanner, a senior at Guardian Angels Central Catholic, is the son of Brian and Julie Hass of West Point.



GACC senior Tanner Hass made his pledge to play for the Nebraska Cornhuskers official on February 3 when he signed his letter of intent to walk-on.



GOD MOMENTS: GACC embraces return from D.C.

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It was snowing, but you completely forgot about it because you were just in the moment," Arduser said.

Even people that weren't among those returning home from the March for Life event left their vehicle to join the Mass.

"Our faith is more than just in a church and in our community," said GACC Robert Schmaderer, who attended the March. "Our faith is spread all over the world. Our faith can be celebrated on the side of an Interstate if it has to be."

When it came time to dig out the bus, hands, feet, trash cans, signs and pizza boxes were used to dig out the bus.

Shortly after praying the rosary, the bus started to move and the journey home began.

"There were a lot of 'God' moments like that on this trip," Arduser said.

For Schmaderer, this trip delivered the true meaning of a pilgrimage.

"You had to make sacrifices," he said. "It was definitely not a regrettable trip. I'd go back in a heartbeat. If I go on another trip

like this in college, it'd be hard to top this one, ever."

Students from GACC attending the 2016 March for Life were: Sarah Arduser, Damian Birchem, Leah Bracht, Regan Dorsey, Braden Dvorak, Jordan Fischer, Andrew Franzluebbbers, Elizabeth Franzluebbbers, Marci Franzluebbbers, Stephanie Hagedorn, Mitchell Hass, Angela Jansen, Hannah Kreikemeier, Alisen Niewohner, Karly Niewohner, Monica Reeson, Robert Schmaderer and Justin Watson

Chaperones were Matt Jansen and Nicole Watson.



GACC closed out the Class C2 girls state basketball tourney with a runner-up finish. Team members bringing home hardware were, from left, front: Kate Knobbe, Katey Brown, Morgan Bracht, Breanne Kreike-meier, Katie Steuter, Sara Wordenkemper; back: Makayla Tomka, Hannah Hunke, Lexis Haase, Maddie Knobbe, Emily Reeson, Lauren Wobken, Allie Knobbe and Maddie Bracht.



GACC players had to dig deep to find any smiles following their heart-breaking loss in the championship finals March 5.

Not meant to be

GACC edged in title game, finish as C2 runners-up

Not every storybook season has a fairy tale ending. Top-seeded Guardian Angels Central Catholic found that out the hard way as the Bluejays fell to Crofton 46-43 in the Class C2 girls state basketball championship game March 5 at Pinnacle Bank Arena.

"Give our girls a lot of credit. They wanted this game. They gave it everything they had, and left everything they had out on the court," Bluejay head coach Jerry Stracke said.

"We had some missed opportunities that we didn't take advantage of, but I'm very proud of these girls and how far they came."

The major concern heading into the championship finals was having to beat a good team three times in

one season. That concern proved to be real.

Earlier this season, GACC had posted a pair of wins over the Warriors, once in the regular season and once in the Mid-State Conference title game.

But in the game that mattered most, Central Catholic came up a little short as they settled for a Class C2 runner-up finish.

"It's hard to beat a team like Crofton three times in a row. Offensively, we struggled to execute," Stracke said.

With the loss, GACC ends the season with a 27-2 record. This also marked the final game for six Bluejay seniors.

GACC earned a spot in the finals with a 56-34 win over Stanton, and a 71-39 win over Superior.

Leffler serves Mass with Pope

Spencer Leffler, a 2012 graduate of GACC, was blessed with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in December as he served Midnight Mass in Rome with Pope Francis.

"It was beautiful. I cannot believe all the beautiful graces that God has blessed me with in my life," Leffler said. "This was probably the best Christmas present I will ever have."

Leffler had the opportunity to greet the Pope during the Mass.

"I was the last to greet him and when he looked at me and shook my hand, I was sporting probably the biggest smile I ever smiled," Leffler said.

Leffler was in charge of holding the bowl at offertory time so another seminarian could wash the Pope's hands.

"I was struck with a deep sense of humility as I bowed to the Vicar of Christ. I have never been so amazed by the Church as I was that night," Leffler said.

Leffler is currently studying at



GACC graduate Spencer Leffler greets Pope Francis during Midnight Mass at Rome.

St. John Vianney Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.

"These past few years have been wonderful, and they have formed me into the man God desires me

to be," Leffler said. "I encourage any man who really wants to know God's will to consider the seminary; it will change your life like nothing else could."



Grant allows for GACC greenhouse

The GACC Plant and Science class applied for and received a grant from Farm Credit Services of America this semester. That grant is allowing the class to build a greenhouse. GACC students in that class will grow plants year-round, and it will be a self-sufficient process. Involved with the grant for the GACC greenhouse are, from left, front: Robert Schmaderer, Justin Watson, Thomas Del Ben, Josue Antonio; back: Katie Steuter, Brad Slaughter, Breanne Kreikemeier, Brandon Carda, LuAnn Ortmeier, Colin Wooldrik, Noah Kreikemeier, Braden Dvorak, Georg Schuette and Damian Birchem.

Dates set for JayFest, banquet

The 2016 GACC Alumni Banquet will be held Saturday, June 11 at the Nielsen Center. School tours will be from 3:00-4:15 p.m. Mass (St. Mary's) is at 4:30 with a social hour to follow. Class pictures will be taken at 6 p.m., and dinner will be served once photos are finished.

JayFest will be Friday, June 10, also at the Nielsen Center. Those attending will "rock around the clock" with a '50's dinner and auction. A social hour and silent auction begin at 6 p.m.. Dinner is at 7:00 with a live auction to follow.

Ridder closes out career as Husker

For so many young boys in the state of Nebraska, being a Husker football player is a dream come true. That wasn't exactly the case for Anthony Ridder.

Ridder wasn't overly interested in football at a young age. As he aged, his interest in the sport, and the Huskers, increased. Meeting former Husker head coach Frank Solich spiked that interest.

But in 2003, his fandom for Nebraska football soured. That is when the University of Nebraska-Lincoln fired Solich after a 9-3 season.

Football went south (literally) for Ridder following the Solich firing.

"When he got fired, that triggered something in my head. I stopped caring about Husker football," Ridder said. "I actually became a Sooner fan."

As it turns out, Ridder's heart wasn't completely closed to Nebraska football. When the recruiting trail began during Ridder's high school career, Nebraska eventually popped up on the radar.

Ridder, a 2011 graduate of Guardian Angels Central Catholic, received scholarship offers from Augustana and Wayne State.

Instead, the West Point native followed in the footsteps of his dad and uncle, and he became a walk-on for the Nebraska football program.

"It was actually a hard decision. I just pulled the trigger on it. It was just the best opportunity for me," Ridder said. "I figured if I was going to play college football, I might as well go big."

For a state that eats, sleeps and breathes football, the Husker program is as big as it gets. And Ridder was well aware of that.

Anthony's father, Dave ('79), played defensive end for the Huskers in the early 1980's. Dave was a three-year letter winner, including his senior season in 1983. His uncle, Tom Ridder ('74), played for Nebraska in the 1970's.

Having that family connection to



GACC graduate Anthony Ridder takes the field for his final home game last month against Iowa. Ridder suited up for his final game as a Husker in the Foster Farms Bowl on December 26.

the program was important. But Ridder knew it was a new era, and he was excited about embarking upon his own Husker journey.

Ridder began his college career in 2011, and what a transition it was after closing out his high school football career on top of the world.

With his Dad as head coach,

Anthony guided GACC to the program's first-ever state football championship in the 2010 Class D1 finals. He was also named the D1 All-State offensive honorary captain.

So when Ridder stepped foot on campus, it instantly became a

RIDDER: Closes out career with Husker football program

FROM PAGE 5

whole new world.

"Once you're there, you just get tossed into the fire," Ridder said. "It's a whirlwind. You just question yourself, 'what am I doing here?'"

Ridder quickly found out what Division I football was all about, and the type of grind that it requires.

Physically it was a grind. But the mental aspect was just as taxing. Whenever the mental grind began to pile up, Ridder always had someone to turn to.

"Friends and family have played a huge impact on my career. I've had a great support system," Ridder said. "They've always kept me up when I questioned whether I wanted to do this anymore."

Ridder remained committed to Nebraska for five seasons. And when Nebraska defeated UCLA in the Foster Farms Bowl on Saturday, that marked Ridder's final game as a Husker.

Reaching that finish line was a moment of satisfaction, not only for Anthony, but for the entire Ridder family, especially parents Dave and Terri.

"It was a rollercoaster ride for him. Never seeing the field was frustrating, but we're proud of him for finishing what he started," Dave said. "That will help him down the road to have that attitude. Even though it's frustrating, you'll see the rewards at the end."

CHANGE IS CONSTANT

If there is one thing Anthony Ridder got used to during his football career, it was change. His football career has been flooded with change, and it began in high school.

After playing 11-man football, GACC dropped to 8-man ball during his senior season. That proved to be a significant change, but one he and his Bluejay teammates certainly figured out.

Change followed Ridder into his



Husker senior Anthony Ridder shares a moment with head coach Mike Riley prior to taking the field for Nebraska's football game against Iowa Nov. 26 at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln.

collegiate career as well. Position changes were constant for Anthony. Ridder started out his career at linebacker. He was then moved to the other side of the ball at quarterback and wide receiver.

Following some time on offense, Ridder was flipped back to defense. When that change was made, he found a home in the secondary.

Ridder said ideally, he would have liked to play linebacker throughout his career, but was never able to keep enough weight on to play that position.

Another big change came heading into Ridder's final season. Following four years of playing under coach Bo Pelini, Ridder had to brace himself for a new coach.

Pelini was fired and Mike Riley was brought in as the new head coach. The change wasn't popular at the time, but Ridder and fellow players knew it was up to them to make the best of the situation.

"The coaching change turned out to be extremely positive. Everyone has really embraced the change.

Was everyone happy at first? No. But everyone realized, why dwell on it," Ridder said. "You just have to take things positively to achieve the goals you are striving for."

PRIDE OF BIG RED

While life as a Husker has had its bright moments for Ridder, he is ready for the next chapter in his life. Still, it's hard for him to truly believe how fast time flew by.

Like most veteran players, Ridder said one of the biggest on-field changes for him was how much the game slowed down. Ridder added that being able to share his experience with his dad, and vice versa, was a big part of his career.

A huge memory that Ridder will never forget is taking part in a tradition that is deemed highly prestigious in this state, the Tunnel Walk.

"Going out of the tunnel is one of the most eye-opening things I've been through in my life," Ridder said. "When you go out of the tunnel, the first thing you see is the student section. Then you come out a little farther and there's just people everywhere. It's real eye-opening."

And as Ridder's career has come to a close, his respect for Nebraska football and all it stands for has strengthened.

"Now that I'm older, it's easier to appreciate the prestige of the Husker program," Ridder said. "It's a lot of hard work, but you really realize how many people want to be in your shoes."

Ridder said the biggest thing he will take away is the friends and relationships he has developed over the years.

And while his time as a player has concluded, he feels proud of how he left the Husker football program.

"I took pride in doing things the right way. I always did what was expected of me and hoped that rubbed off on the younger players, who are the future of the program," Ridder said.

BIRTHS**NEW TO THE NEST**

Craig '01 & Melissa (Smeal) '01 Schmaderer: daughter Elena Faye born 10/17/14

Jessica (Cihacek) '05 & Cody Gill: daughter Cecilia Louise & son Sullivan Swede born 12/10/15

Matt '00 & Erin Ridder: son Henry Patrick born 12/10/14

Kate (Reeson) '00 & Bill Hagemann: daughter Brynn Elizabeth born 12/16/15

Sara (Hagedorn) '05 & Jeff Bradfield: daughter Kennedy Marie born 11/9/15

Laura '99 (Heimann) & Jeremy Ritter: son Jase Paul born 8/4/15

Julie '01 (Hunke) & Timothy Landwehr: daughter Cora Lillian born 2/2/16

Loren '01 & Kim Kreikemeier: son Noah Thomas born 2/3/16

Molly '01 (Ernesti) & Ben Bishop: daughter Sophie Marsaia born 2/4/16

Emily (Steffen) '11 & Jack Arterburn: son Cogan Roley born 11/2/15

Michael '04 & Nicole O'Brien: son Corbin Michael born 10/19/14

Daniel & Kayla Woodbury: son Elam Anthony born 8/14/15

Allyn '06 & Heather Knobbe: daughter Kansas Saige born 3/31/15

Kyle '03 & Brittany Kreikemeier: son Luca Ryen born 1/7/16

Aaron '06 & Rachel (Wortman) '05 Prinz: son Henry James born

2/5/16

Tim '86 & Sarah Rolf: daughter Aliesia Sarah born 6/8/15

David '01 & Amanda (McAuliffe) '04 Diekemper: son Jack Leo born 1/16/16

Brody '10 & Nicky Schmaderer: daughter Noelia Nicole born 10/18/15

Katie (Hunke) '11 & Dustin Schrad: daughter Kinsley Joan born 8/7/15

Kevin '02 & Jenna (Slagle) '04 Stratman: daughter Emma Catherine born 4/06/15

John '99 & Jill Kelly: son Jack Everett born 3/20/15

Jennifer (Kreikemeier) '03 & Lucas Haag: son Anthony Francis born 3/25/15

Todd '03 & Amber (Schlecht) '04 Hugo: daughter Sawyer Jean born 1/27/15

Jacob '01 & Alicia Olson: son Archer Jacob born 5/26/15

Briana Olson '00 & Matthew Dick: daughter Makenzie Rose born 8/31/15

Brian '00 & Jen Hunke: daughter Kaizley J. born 5/9/14

James '00 & Stacy Kreikemeier: daughter Josephine Lynn born 6/10/15

Jeremy '96 & Jill Kreikemeier: daughter Lexi Nicole adopted 11/21/15

Jeremy '96 & Jill Kreikemeier: daughter Lucy Ann born 11/30/15

Dustin '99 & Jessie Wiechman: daughter Bentley Dakota born 11/10/15

DEATHS

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

Irvin Hagedorn '57: Date of death was 12/10/15

Robert Schuetze '61: Date of death was 10/8/15

Mildred (Uhing) Prinz '45: Date of death was 9/18/15

Richard Guenther Sr. '57: Date of death was 9/12/15

Mark McMahon '78: Date of death was 4/17/15

WEDDINGS

Brian '00 & Jen Hunke: Couple was married on 7/11/15

Loren '01 & Kim Kreikemeier: Couple was married on 1/10/15

Katie (Hunke) '11 & Dustin Schrad: Couple was married on 5/2/15

Jenna (Kampschneider) '07 & Mark Johnson: Couple was married on 5/30/15

Kylie (Kreikemeier) '10 & Brenn Kai: Couple was married on 7/3/15

Amanda (Gould) '04 & Eric Doescher '94: Couple was married on 7/18/15

Elizabeth (Graybeal) '04 & Aaron Hofeling: Couple was married on 7/25/15

Teresa (Ulrich) '07 & John Goebel: Couple was married on 8/8/15

Scott '99 & Stephanie Nebuda: Couple was married on 9/5/15

Nate '08 & Katherine Strehle: Couple was married on 9/19/15

Anthony '06 & Austinn Wagner: Couple was married on 9/19/15

Andrew '08 & Kelly Wiechman: Couple was married on 10/3/15

Jessica (Strehle) '09 & Scott Heiser: Couple was married on 10/16/15

Olivia (Brichacek) '09 & Nolan Persson: Couple was married on 11/14/15

Nathan '11 & Shelby Ulrich: Couple was married on 11/21/15

Melissa (Otte) '10 & Dylan Smith: Couple was married on 11/28/15

Emily (Steffen) '11 & Jack Arterburn: Couple was married on 1/2/16





New water fountains at GACC

Mike Doyle, maintenance man at GACC, recently installed this water fountain the Activity Center. These new ezH2O bottle stations are also being installed at the elementary and high school thanks to money raised from the \$5.00 per year Alumni Drive. GACC would like to thank everyone who generously donated.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Stay connected to GACC

Welcome to the new look of the GACC School Newsletter — News from the Nest.


We understand there will be an adjustment period, for some, going from print to digital, but as a whole, we are excited about the potential that will be created with this change.

As you may notice, not only will digital issues have colored images, but the news content has increased. We no longer have to limit news, and that's important. We want you to be informed.

GACC strives to create a family atmosphere, and we want to keep everyone involved with GACC as informed as possible. We want parents, future parents, students, faculty, alumni and supporters all to be connected with this school.

We are still in the process of collecting as many emails as possible to distribute newsletters. We are pushing for everyone's email address. But in the meantime, if you know someone who isn't receiving this publication, feel free to pass it along to them.

And if they wish to continue receiving the newsletter, have them submit their email address to: ranaeobrien1@gmail.com



**GUARDIAN ANGELS
CENTRAL CATHOLIC**

*Learning, and Leading
Through Christ.*






Photo courtesy of Sr. Elizabeth Benvie/GACC teacher

Showing appreciation during CSW

Bobbie Ortmeier and Jessa Luebbert (dad-Roger Luebbert '85) create cards for the GACC teachers during Catholic Schools Week held January 31 - February 6. More photos from CSW can be found on page 10.

Why they chose GACC?

Going to Catholic school has taught me how to be thankful for little things, how to become a better Catholic and respect everything on earth.

— Maddie

It is important to have a Catholic education to remind us to use our God-given talents and to give God the glory in our lives.

— Brandon

I love teaching at a Catholic school because I am able to teach the whole child! We get to help the children grow into the child God called them to be.

— Mollie Brunasing

Please share in GACC's tradition

Hello Alumni,

I hope the March edition of our E-Edition alumni newsletter finds you doing well. Most importantly I hope it finds you!

We are continually looking for ways to improve upon our practices and changing our newsletter to an e-edition is one way we hope to reach more alumni and supporters of GACC.

**GACC
PRINCIPAL**



**Kate
Hagemann**

Please keep us updated on your current contact information including your email address. Spread the word to all your former schoolmates too! We want to be able to share all the great things that are happening at GACC with all of you.

As alumni sometimes you may catch yourself wondering what your former school is like these days. As we continually strive to find ways to improve I can assure you the tradition of quality students, staff, and education are constants that still remain.

As a proud 2000 graduate of GACC I never hesitate to boast of the school that I was blessed to attend. Now I am lucky enough

to be able to work in that same school. Our students excel in the classroom, in service to our community, and in a wide variety of activities that they participate in throughout the year.

This fall we celebrated 130 years of learning and leading through Christ. Wow — 130 years of a school to be proud of. I encourage all of you as alumni of GACC to become active in your school. Attend an event, come for a visit, ask questions, offer suggestions, be a part of the tradition that makes GACC a special place to be.

Sincerely,

Kate Hagemann



2016 Catholic Schools Week

Right: Emma Cohee and Madilyn Brichacek (dad-Justin Brichacek '02) are filling Blessing Bags for the less fortunate. They put bottled water, snacks, hand warmers, rosaries into the bags.

Below: Emily & Monica Reeson (dad-Mike Reeson '74)

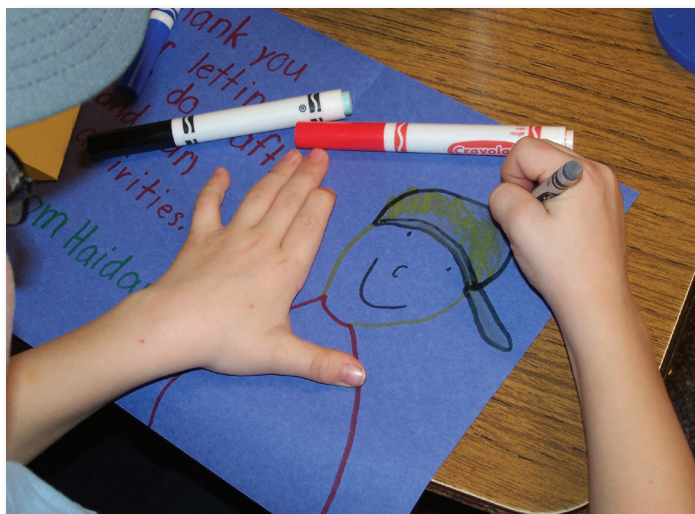


Top left: Andrew Franzluebbbers (dad-Jim Franzluebbbers '78) and Elijah Steffensmeier.

Above: Logan and Paige Rolf (dad-Tim Rolf '86)

Below: A student makes a thank you card for the GACC teachers.

Photos courtesy of Sr. Elizabeth Benvie/GACC teacher



Edge has place to finally call home

Finally, youth ministry in West Point has a place they can call home. And they could not be more thrilled about it.

That new home, formerly the St. Mary Parish convent building, is now called the St. Francis Center. The building will house the parish's youth ministry program, Edge.

"We are very grateful. We don't want people to think we are taking this for granted. We've been praying for this for years now," St. Mary Parish Pastoral Minister Lisa Hunke said.

"We want to express our gratitude to everyone who has been so supportive. There's just been tons of support at all levels. We're just very grateful. It's proof that when there is a work to be done, God will provide everything that is needed for that ministry to be fruitful."

The Edge program is entering its 9th year, and never before have they had a permanent meeting spot.

"We've been very blessed to have

temporary spaces we could use, but the whole time we've been praying for a space that we could call our own," Hunke said.

"We're just really excited to have a place for youth ministry where we don't have to pack up and haul everything we need for meetings. It all will be set up right here in our own space. It has felt very welcoming here."

Hunke said having a place to call home is something that will be awfully beneficial to this program. And the St. Francis Center will certainly provide plenty of room to meet all their needs.

The building will have meeting rooms, a kitchen, a chapel, rooms for small group meetings and a spot designated specifically as the Edge room.

"The main part of youth ministry is relational ministry, which means developing healthy relationships with other kids," Hunke said. "Kids feeling at home is important. If they feel cared about when they are here, then they will want to

come back."

Hunke said she's been impressed by how supportive the West Point community has been of youth ministry. And it takes that kind of support for a youth group to be truly successful, she added.

"I personally feel that we need to reach out to young people when they're younger. It's important for them to become grounded in their faith at a young age," Hunke said.

"Statistics support that young Catholics today go off to college and leave their faith. It used to be they'd leave their faith for a period of time, and once they have a family of their own, they'd come back. But statistics show that isn't happening anymore. They are leaving their faith, and they're not coming back.

"You hear a lot of people say the youth is our church of tomorrow. I have a little different perspective on that. I feel the youth are our church of today. If we wait until tomorrow for our youth to be our church, it's too late."

MOVE MEANT TO BE

Nuns have been a part of the West Point community since 1885. In that year, the doors opened at Guardian Angels School, and four Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity arrived from Manitowoc, Wisc.

Since then, nuns have been a part of the Guardian Angels school system. In 1960, construction on the former convent was complete and a total of 19 Franciscan Sisters were housed in the building. That was the highest number of nuns to live in that building. Those numbers have drastically declined, and now in 2016, only four nuns remain.

This year, the nuns moved just across the alley to their new location (the former residence of Bob and Sherri Wortman), which provides a more suitable place to live.

With the old convent building being vacant, it only made sense to utilize that space. And the move ended up being a win-win for everyone involved.



Plenty of bean bag chairs can be found in the new Edge room located in the basement of St. Francis Center. Sitting in a small group are Edge members, (clockwise) Isabelle Kaup, Sarahi Perez, Hayley Ortmeier, Paige Rolf and Cassidee Stratman (far right).

Bluejay football, softball & volleyball compete at state



For a 13th consecutive season, the GACC football qualified for the state playoffs. Members of the Bluejay football team are, from left, front: manager Bryce Bailey, manager Braeden Steffen, Connor Klitz, Tyson Snodgrass, Will Kreikemeier, Jared Minnick, Dylan Duhsman, Andrew Franzluebbbers, Ross Klitz, Liam Gnad, Derek Petz; 2nd row: coach Mike Bailey, manager Cade Bailey, Cole Kreikemeier, Blake Guenther, Thomas Del Ben, Josh Baumert, Eric Klitz, Jordan Peatrowsky, Justin Watson, Robert Schmaderer, Colin Wooldrik, Michael Baumert, head coach Dave Ridder; standing: coach Allan Lamml, Nolan Plagge, Jaden Rahn, Andrew Guenther, Damian Bircherm, Conner Buss, Sheldon Disher, Tanner Hass, Austin Duhsman, Luke Gnad, Tanner Ortmeier, Brandon Hass, Noah Kreikemeier, Zach Kaup, Georg Schuette, Kobe Slaughter, Gage Herbert, Danny Wordekemper, Mitch Hass, Jacob Yosten, coach Zach Wietfeld and coach Matt Schlaebitz. Not pictured is Nathan Yosten.



GACC went 1-2 at the Class C State softball tourney in Hastings. Team members are, from left, front: manager Jenna Schinstock, Jordan Fischer, Elizabeth Franzluebbbers, Katey Brown Carolyn Fraher, Ashley Minnick, manager Brooke Meister; back: head coach Allan Kreikemeier, Regan Dorcey, Hannah Hunke, Marci Franzluebbbers, Lauren Wobken, Lexis Haase, Makayla Tomka, Mariah Hunke, Josie Dvorak and coach Bruce Schlecht.



GACC captured a 3rd-place finish at the Class C2 state volleyball tourney. Team members are, from left, front: Katie Steuter, Sara Wordekemper, Morgan Bracht, Sarah Arduser, Kate Knobbe, Breanne Kreikemeier, Leah Bracht; back: coach Michelle Ulrich, head coach Kate Hagemann, Ally Plagge, Tessa Simonsen, Maddie, Jamie Plagge, Kali Stratman, Allie Knobbe and coach Mary Lueshen.

GACC represented at state wrestling

For the first time since 2012, the GACC wrestling program was represented at the state tourney. Bluejay sophomore Jaden Rahn qualified for the 2016 Class D state tourney at 220 pounds.



Jaden Rahn

Rahn posted a 1-2 record at the state meet.

Another first-in-a-long-time moment came when GACC hosted a dual

against Winnebago this winter. It marked the first time since January 20, 2012 that the GACC program has hosted a wrestling dual.

For Bluejay head coach Joe Brown, both Rahn qualifying for state and the school hosting a dual are big steps forward for a program that ceased to exist not that long ago.

"We really want to shed light on the program. We want kids to get excited about wrestling here. We are headed in the right direction," Brown said.

Leap Year Baby celebrates b-day

Bryan and Lisa (Kaup) '98 Pekny of Omaha were recently featured in the Omaha World-Herald on Monday, February 29, 2016.

Bryan and Lisa's son, Alex, is a Leap Year Baby and celebrates only his "second birthday" this year, even though he is eight years old. Alex is currently a second-grader at St. Wenceslaus School.

Rogers receives national music award

Linda Rogers, a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music and an independent piano instructor from Norfolk, Nebraska, was recently named the MTNA Foundation Fellow at the Nebraska Music Teachers Association (NMTA) Conference in Kearney.

This is a prestigious award bestowed on a deserving individual by peers who contribute a minimum of \$1,000 to the national foundation in the recipient's name. Funds from the MTNA Foundation are then used for music scholarships and special programs.

Linda (Gralheer) Rogers ('65) is a graduate of West Point Central Catholic and holds bachelors degrees in both music and education from the College of St. Mary in Omaha.

For over 45 years she has taught piano in her private studio. She has been a member of NMTA/MTNA since 1989 and has served its Board of Directors for more than 22 years in various positions, namely, Membership Chair, Foundation Chair, Junior Competitions Chair, and currently as District Festival Chair for northeast Nebraska.



Linda Rogers

In 2006 she received the Nebraska Music Teachers' Outstanding Service Award.

For more than 50 years Linda has served as accompanist for the parishes to which she has belonged in the Omaha Archdiocese, and

currently for St. Mary's Parish in Norfolk.

She has served as accompanist for a variety of school and community groups in Northeast Nebraska as well as The Cuming Choraliers, where her father was a longtime member.

She is secretary for the Norfolk Area Concert Association. She holds membership in women's groups of PEO and Delphians (current president), is a charter member of The National Women's History Museum, and is a lifetime member of Girl Scouts.

She has served on the Osmond Hospital Foundation Board and numerous community and youth organizations. She and her husband, retired District Judge Patrick G Rogers, live in Norfolk, Nebraska. They have four children: Julie (and Russell Bartholow), Michael (and Jill Thomsen), Teresa (and Erick Arens), and Elizabeth (and Nicolas Oustlant) and seven grandchildren.

Linda will be recognized as a Foundation Fellow from Nebraska and receive the award at the Music Teachers' National Conference in San Antonio in April.

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