



Guardian Angels Central Catholic School Newsletter

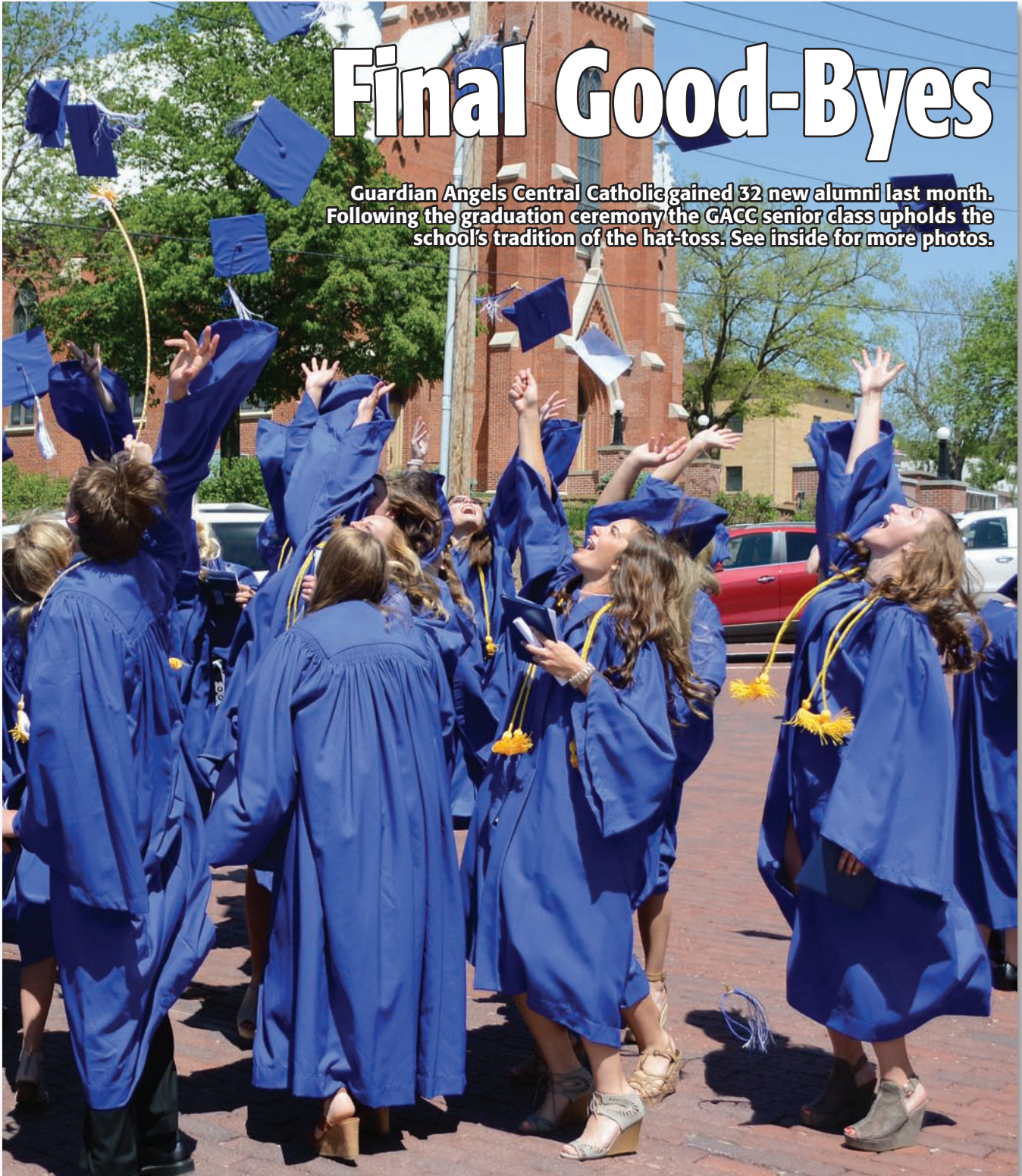
# NEWS FROM THE NEST

Summer Edition

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## Final Good-Byes

Guardian Angels Central Catholic gained 32 new alumni last month. Following the graduation ceremony the GACC senior class upholds the school's tradition of the hat-toss. See inside for more photos.





# GACC is NSAA Cup champ

The Nebraska School Activities Association has announced the final standings for the NSAA Cup, the NSAA All-Activities Award for Nebraska high schools.

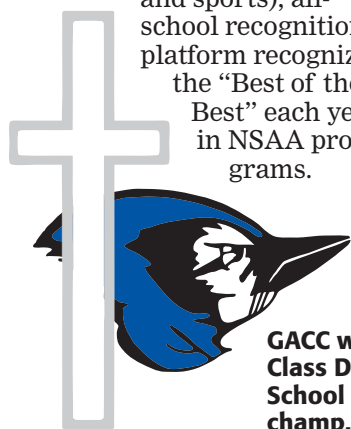
Guardian Angels Central Catholic was at the top of one of those lists as they were the NSAA Cup All-School champion for Class D.

As a school, GACC finished with 295 overall 'Cup Points.' Runner-up Dundy County-Stratton had 230.

In addition to the 'All-Class,' the NSAA had 'Girls/Boys' standings. GACC was in the Class D top 10 for both. The girls collected 155 points to finish 2nd and the boys were 6th with 150 points.

The annual awards program, which began in 2007 to recognize the state's most successful high school athletic and fine arts programs, is presented to the 12 Nebraska high schools that have earned the most points during the school year by participating in NSAA education-based activity programs.

This all-activities (fine arts and sports), all-school recognition platform recognizes the "Best of the Best" each year in NSAA programs.



**GACC was  
Class D All-  
School Cup  
champ.**



**Taylor Leffler, left, was ordained as Deacon Friday by Archbishop George J. Lucas at Saint Cecilia Cathedral in Omaha.**

## *Leffler ordained as Deacon; preaches first homily*

Taylor Leffler was ordained as Deacon Friday by Archbishop George J. Lucas at Saint Cecilia Cathedral in Omaha. He is the son of Dana and Diane Leffler of West Point and a 2009 graduate of Central Catholic High School.

Also ordained were two other seminarians, Patrick Edward Moser and Padraic Liam Stack.

The newly ordained deacons will spend the coming year preparing for ordination into the priesthood.

Taylor will gain parish experience this summer at St. Bernadette Parish in Bellevue where Rev. Harold Buse is Pastor.

He will return to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., in the fall.

"I'm especially excited to begin living as a spiritual father," Taylor said. "There is something really beautiful to be able to preach the good news in a concrete way, and to take another step forward into the priesthood."

He said the attendance at Friday's ordination in Omaha and Sunday at St. Mary's Church in West Point, where he assisted with Mass and preached his first homily, was especially moving.

"This weekend I realized how much this means to people," he said. "This was so much about the community, not just about me."

"So many people came together. It is powerful and beautiful to see the community rejoicing."

# *Final farewell to GACC seniors*



**Above left:** Hannah Hunke shares a laugh with fellow classmates in the GACC graduation ceremony.

**Above:** Jena Wimer walks across the stage to receive her high school diploma from GACC Principal Kate Hagemann.

**Left:** Jessica Hunke gives her dad, Bernie, a big hug as they proceed into the graduation ceremony. With them is Jessica's mom, Lisa Hunke.



# JayFest 2017

**Mike Debus paints GACC's logo at this year's JayFest event. The painting was auctioned off for \$4,000. Money raised went towards helping GACC School.**

Photo by Kylie Kai/  
K & Camera







Photo by Kylie Kai/K &amp; Camera

**JAYFEST MILESTONE** The confetti was falling during 7th annual JayFest event, which is a fundraiser for GACC School. JayFest officially hit 'one million' dollars raised. The bid that hit that milestone mark came from Al Meister on Green Bay Packers' tickets. Meister was presented with a 'gift package' for hitting this milestone. GACC Principal Kate Hagemann said, 'It is humbling to sit at JayFest and think that all of the people are there to support GACC and Catholic Education.'



## WEDDINGS

**Jeff O'Brien '10 & Samantha Borson:** married 5/26/17  
**Katie Ridder '08 & Jake Neujahr:** married 5/27/17

## DEATHS

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

**Clara Wiesen:** Date of death 5/19/17

**Marguerite Sucha:** Date of death 5/27/17

**Paul Knievel '43:** Date of death 5/31/17

**Arthur Luebbert '59:** Date of death 6/4/17



Photo courtesy of Mike Doyle

This is the future home for GACC's STEAM Lab, which will be ready for use this fall.

## 'We can never thank you enough'

The summer months are always an exciting time at schools. You may think that it is a down time in the buildings, but it is usually just the opposite.

In June, GACC hosted three different enrichment camps for students that included robotics, fishing, and art.

These camps are taught by GACC staff members.

In July GACC will host summer school for the second year in a row.

This time allows our elementary students to stay sharp on their reading and math skills. In addition, our staff members are also learning new skills at weekly technology workshops hosted by Tina Gentrup, our technology coordinator and elementary computer teacher.

In order to offer the best education possible, we have to continually strive to improve and acquire new skills and the summer months are a great opportunity to do just that.

The STEAM lab projects are also in full force. New windows are going in at CC, walls are moving, wiring is being completed, carpet is being laid, and fresh paint is going up on the walls. The transformation of the rooms will be remarkable when all of the projects are completed.

The addition of these labs in both the elementary

### GACC PRINCIPAL



Kate  
Hagemann



Photo by Kylie Kai/K &amp; Camera

Here were some of the appetizers found at GACC's 2017 JayFest, 'Havana Night.'

and high school buildings is a huge undertaking for a school our size. They will provide our students with knowledge, skills, and opportunities that are unique to this area.

Finally, Jayfest and the annual Alumni banquet bring an energy to the summer months. It is always great to see so many familiar faces at these events.

It was humbling to sit at Jayfest and think that all of these people are there to support GACC and Catholic education. Our school exists because of the generosity of others. We can never thank you enough.





**BLUEJAY GOLF** GACC qualified as a team for the Class D state golf meet held May 23-24 in North Platte. Members competing at state were, from left, Andrew Franzluebbbers, Sam Ulrich, Hannah Hunke, Damian Birchem and Nick Fischer. Hunke finished in a tie for 13th. "It's pretty special for a girl to win a state medal in a boy's tournament," Bluejay coach Mark Svec said.



**BLUEJAY TRACK** State track qualifiers/coaches at Omaha Burke for GACC in 2017 were, from left, coach Jason Minnick, head coach Matt Schlaebitz, Hanna Knobbe (pole vault), Maddie Knobbe (4x4 relay), Lauren Wobken (long jump, triple jump & 4x4 relay), Tessa Simonsen (shot put & discus), Gage Herbert (discus), Maddie Bracht (100 hurdles, 300 hurdles & 4x4 relay), Greta Vering (4x4 relay), coach Allan Lampli, coach Mark Knobbe and coach Kurt Bracht. Lauren Wobken was the lone medal winner. She placed 7th in Class C long jump.



Kevin Kreikemeier, right, during GACC girls' D1 title game.



John Kreikemeier following Bishop Neumann's C1 title game in March.

## Family continues its success

Within a week's time, two members of the Kreikemeier family had won high school basketball championships.

Long-time assistant Kevin Kreikemeier helped Guardian Angels Central Catholic capture the Class D1 girls state title.

A week later, his son John Kreikemeier, coached Bishop Neumann to the Class C1 crown at the boys state tourney. He is an assistant for the Cavaliers.

"The most gratifying thing about winning a championship is just the culmination of all the hard work that is put into a season," John said. "It's a cherry on top for the team that comes together and plays its best at the end of the year."

For the Kreikemeier family, whether it's coaching or playing, they have been a part of many successful teams who certainly knew how to play their best when it mattered most.

Since 1999, the Kreikemeier family has been a part of 15 different high school state championship teams as either a coach or player.

"We were so blessed," Kevin said. "Way back when (our son) John was a kindergartner, we wanted our kids to have an opportunity to play at the state tournament and, if they were fortunate enough, to maybe win a state championship."

Both daughters, Jenna and Mary, captured a pair of state titles in volleyball and two more in basketball, while John earned one championship in basketball.

John has four other titles as an assistant coach for Bishop Neumann. Kevin was assistant coach for all six of GACC's girls state titles.

"You don't really realize it's been that many until you stop and think about it," Cherie Kreikemeier said about the family's many championship moments.

The Kreikemeiers also have seven total runner-up finishes, which includes Cherie's runner-up finish for West Point High's volleyball team back in the late '70's.

GACC girls basketball has had a winning culture for 20-plus years now, and it's because of the foundation that Kevin and Cherie have established with the youth program.

Player development is the reason GACC has established itself as an elite basketball program. To be elite, a program must win a lot. But for John, when it comes to youth sports, player development trumps winning. Winning is nice, but it isn't a priority.

He explained himself by saying, "When you're developing a youth program, the important thing is you have to get kids ready to play,

and not necessarily ready to win. You can have the best two players in junior high, and win the game, but no one else on the team touches the ball. That doesn't prepare them for success in high school."

### MAKING THEIR MARK

The imprint that Kevin and Cherie Kreikemeier have left on the GACC girls basketball program is remarkable.

Since the birth of the program in 1986-87, Kevin and Cherie have been involved with the development of the program, and it all started as junior high coaches.

"It's just something Cherie and I have done together for 30 years," Kevin said. "It was just an opportunity for us to make kids the best they can be."

After the first junior high season, Kevin and Cherie hosted a free basketball clinic for 4th-6th graders. Four kids showed up. The next year, four kids showed up again.

There was discussion about whether that basketball clinic was worth it.

"I said if we want to develop the program, we have to keep it going. Even if it's just for one kid, it's worth doing," Kevin said.

It didn't take long at all, and that four-player clinic grew to 30 kids,



## FAMILY: Success

FROM PAGE 8

and then to 50 kids. And it's been that commitment and dedication to the youth program that has made GACC basketball flourish.

Kevin said the type of kids at the school, and their parents, are another big reason for the success.

"It's just their work ethic here. The kids at GACC have the culture of being busy. They aren't afraid to volunteer, to help, to do things," Kevin said. "They are always doing something, and their parents help them to get involved. They're always encouraging them."

For the past 15 years, a lot of success stems from the cohesion of Kevin and Bluejay head coach Jerry Stracke. They've provided consistency and a drive to develop players.

"Jerry doesn't always get the credit he deserves. He is so involved," Kevin said. "He comes with us to junior high tournaments. He does an unbelievable job."

Preparing kids for success is the reason why Kevin and Cherie got involved with the youth basketball program. And that remains their goal to this day.

"We want to prepare them to succeed by teaching them how to do things the right way," Kevin said. "I really like to see the kids become the best they can be. Not only on the basketball court, but in life. I have talks about making good decisions. Those good decisions will help you in life and anything you do."

And while wins and titles are special to Kevin and the Kreike-meier family, it's the actions of players who go through this program that they cherish deeply as well.

"It was an honor to watch this year's state championship basketball team. They never complained to officials. They just continued to play," Kevin said. "It's just such a thrill to watch how classy they are. It's very rewarding."



### *'Do You Wanna Dance'*

Emily Reeson and Noah Hass share a dance in the joint high school musical with GACC and WP-B. This year's musical was called, "Do You Wanna Dance."



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**JayFest June 8, 2018**

**Alumni Banquet June 9, 2018**

**JayFest May 31, 2019**

**Alumni Banquet June 1, 2019**



# GACC alumni banquet 2017

**By Delores Meister**

The GACC 2017 alumni banquet at the Nielsen Center Saturday night (June 10) was once again an evening of memories shared with friends who grew up together pursuing the goals of high school graduation. Two hundred and fifty were in attendance.

MC Deb Brunsing Bailey ('91) introduced speakers. Father Steve Emanuel led the prayer.

Emily Reeson ('17) welcomed the Blue-jay fans. Reeson spoke of the emphasis of the call to serve others and the necessity of Faith in daily living. Reeson said, "With Faith, all things are possible."

The class of 70 years ago (1947) was well represented. Of the 21 living members, eight were present.

Bernard Ortmeier of 1952 introduced Leroy Ulrich and Donald Burger, the only other classmate attendees of sixty years ago.

"Forward ever, backward never," was the motto of the Class of 1957, according to spokeswoman Dorothy Sellentin Anderson. Her memories were of starting first grade with Sister Augustine, Wally Rose as a first lay teacher, and a football team that was challenged to play six man, eight man and 11 man all in one season. They could drive Main with a gallon gas costing 24 cents.

Twelve classmates out of the 1962 class of 38 were present. Joan Harstick Wolken said they were taught by nuns and priests, with the introduction of a lay teacher, Mrs. Ruth Wortman.

After school it was off to Sass's drug store for five cent cokes or cones. The drive-in theatre and Snyder wedding dances were popular entertainment.

The 50 year talk was presented by Dan Wortman. He reported on the 62 members of the class of 1967. "Thirty-seven members are here tonight, 24 still live here," Wortman said.

Tom Bracht told of the 1977 class with 80 graduates.

Sheila Meiergerd Sindelar said the



## *At the top of their class*

**Graduating at the top of the Guardian Angels Central Catholic Class of 2017 were valedictorian Emily Reeson, left, and salutatorian Hannah Kreikemeier. Thirty-two seniors earned their diplomas.**





## Neiman assisting on the stage

**By Delores Meister**

Isaac Neiman ('13) is assistant stage manager with the Nebraska Shakespeare Theatre this summer for their two summer productions of Shakespeare on the Lawn at Omaha's Elmwood Park.

"Rehearsals are going along very well," Creighton student Isaac said. In high school at GACC, Isaac was in plays, but he had no visions of theatre productions and Shakespeare, but "life brought me back," he said.

*King Lear* will be presented in the park June 22-25, and July 5, 6, and 8. *King Lear* is a tragedy, on the darker side with some death scenes happening on stage.

On the contrary, *Merry Wives of Windsor* is a very funny comedy where the main character, Falstaff, tries to woo two married women, who have fun turning the tables on him.

*Merry Wives* will be on the park stage June 29 to July 2, and July 7 and 9.

Food vendors will be at the park. Sound will be carried across the park. Parking is on UNO parking lots.

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## Musical talent on display at GACC

Playing in the high school band during Guardian Angels Central Catholic Spring Music concert at the GACC Activity Center this spring was, from left, front: Grace Neiman, Jena Wimer, Evelyn Wooldrik, Gabrielle Goeden; back: Anna Wooldrik and Xavier Steffensmeier.

## ALUMNI: GACC 2017 banquet

FROM PAGE 10A

Class of 1987 had their hopes and dreams and plans for the future in place. Then came the future with the happenings that were not in the plans.

She said our foundations started with our families and our faith. Our children are blest to see the successful marriages of their parents and grandparents.

Of the 37 graduates, seven were present. Twenty-four live in Nebraska five are out of the state.

Sindelar's parting words were "A reminder, Steve Jobs said, 'Live each day as if it were the last day of your life.'"

Jill Ortmeier Montgomery asked, "Does it seem like West Point is the center of the universe? In some ways, maybe it

is. People are kind, friendly, full of faith through many generations." She gave a personal thank you to the community.

Mandy Slagle Moore, 1997 class reporter said, "I feel and act like I'm 22 most of the time. Today's GACC principal was running around as a freshman when I graduated. The priest was here 20 years ago. So why is a reunion necessary?"

Cameron Klitz ('07): "I have experienced the support system present here, and I thank you."

Earlier in the afternoon, tours were given of the schools, gyms, and the old public grade school building, which is being converted into luxury living apartments.

Alumni event organizers were Deanne Wieneke ('73), Deb Brunsing Bailey ('91) and Chris Kreikemeier ('00).



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