

# Streaming services become mainstream

By Brock Jones

Over the past decade, streaming services have gone from being a fringe niche to nothing short of mainstream, and a recent *Chronicles* poll of students found that almost 28 percent of Durant families subscribe to five or more streaming platforms, and over 60 percent subscribe to at least three.

According to the poll of 76 students, over 60 percent said that Netflix is their favorite streaming service, with the second, Disney Plus, piling in comparison with 11.8 percent.

Online streaming services such as Netflix, Hulu, or Disney Plus offer a large amount of content for a relatively modest price of only \$10 to \$20 per month, and according to the poll, almost 60 percent of students surveyed said that they don't believe Americans spend too much on streaming

services.

"Most streaming services are very justified for their price when compared to cable," said junior Logan Wolf.

Wolf also likes the options that streaming services provide and likes the fact that consumers can pick and choose what sort of content they want instead of being forced to purchase a bundle of channels similar to what many cable or satellite providers do.

However, junior Ben Orr believes that even though traditional TV providers are overpriced in his opinion, they still offer better value for your money.

"I think streaming value is for the most part worth less [than cable]. There really is not enough value for your money when it comes to most streaming services," he said.

Orr felt that streaming platforms did not offer enough quality programming.

"Their shows are just bad, like there's maybe one or two good shows per streaming platform," Orr said. "Don't even get me started on Netflix. Their shows are just terrible. It's just not worth the money."

Wolf said he feels there might be too many streaming platforms.

"Even though I like the options of being able to pick and choose, I still feel like there's too many streaming services, and it would be nice to see some mergers or cooperation," he said.

"Obviously you don't want a monopoly or anything like that, but it sucks when you have three different people in your family who all like different shows on different streaming platforms, and you have to pay for all of them."

This abundance of subscriptions is primarily caused by exclusive content, according to Wolf. For example, viewers who want to watch HBO shows cannot do so on Netflix.

Instead, they must purchase a separate subscription to Hulu or Amazon Prime Video, where HBO content is exclusive.

Thankfully some streaming services have started to come to agreements on content sharing. For example, *Grey's Anatomy*, the most popular show according to the survey of Durant students, was originally exclusively owned by Netflix.

In recent years, however, some seasons of *Grey's Anatomy* have finally made their way to Hulu as well.

*The Office*, a Peacock exclusive, came in second in the survey, and *All American* was the third most popular show.

# Wildcat sophomore juggles stage and arena

By Luke Abels

Sophomore Vanessa Saylor is devoted to dancing and horseback riding. She has won close to a hundred dance awards over the years and owns two horses as well.

She has been dancing since she was only two years old. She was helped a lot by her aunt Cassie Saylor Plum who was, and continues to be, a dance teacher. Her sister, Savanna, used to dance as well, though not as much anymore.

Saylor says that she has made many new friends from dancing over the years. Now, she participates on two dance teams.

"I'm on two teams actually, school dance [Durant] and then the River City All-Stars in Muscatine," she said.

This passion has led her to compete in about eight to nine dance competitions per year in different cities, including Chicago, St. Louis, Davenport, Bettendorf, and Dubuque.

Saylor says that at a typical competition, she will arrive around 6 a.m. and compete all day. However, she says that this has changed a lot recently.

"Usually, there would be a long break in between, but due to COVID, there has been block scheduling," she said. "The whole team is there for a few hours, then you go back to back to back, and after that, they clean everything up and you leave."

In November, Saylor did a solo routine at the Iowa State Dance Competition, though the day was cut short when she had to go into quarantine due to the pandemic.

She says that she will continue to pursue her passion for dance after high school.

"I would like to continue and maybe run a studio or something, but I don't think I would dance at a university," she said.

Saylor says that even though she has not received any injuries from dancing, she has had to push through some injuries while dancing.

Her favorite types of dance include jazz, tap, lyrical, and ballet. She spends up to 10 hours per week on dance.

"I would say about seven hours for studio dance and then three hours for school dance," she said.

The second of her biggest passions, horseback riding, also began at the age of two.

Saylor says that her love for horses comes from many of her family members.

"My cousins are trainers. My dad, aunt, and mom showed. The whole family, pretty much," she said.

Saylor has two horses of her own, A.J. and Mayhem. A.J. is 14 years old while Mayhem is much younger, only 6 years old.

"A.J. is my Western pleasure horse. He is my lazy one. I also have Mayhem, my faster ranch horse," she said.

Over the summer, she partakes in the hobby about every other day, typically for most of the day. In the winter, however, she is not able to do as much. Typically, all she does in the winter is clean out the stalls.

During the summer, she attends



Photo contributed by Vanessa Saylor

Sophomore Vanessa Saylor competes at a horse show in Linn County Aug. 30.

a horse camp where she has made a lot of friends. Through horse shows and competitions, she has been to many local places such as West Liberty, Cedar Rapids, the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines, and the Mississippi Valley Fair in Davenport.

She participates in many different classes of horseback riding as well. These include halter, showmanship, horsemanship, walk-trot, western pleasure, ranch riding, ranch walk-trot, English walk-trot, and English pleasure. Throughout all of these classes, Saylor has won numerous awards, like plaques and trophies, for her abilities. The awards take up a large bin in her grandma's basement.

Saylor says that she has never gotten any injuries from horse riding, though she has fallen off quite a bit.

About seven years ago, Saylor's great uncle, Mike Wilson, unfortunately passed away. This has led her family to host shows in his honor.

"We host a show for him every year," she said.

After high school, Saylor plans to continue this passion and keep doing shows for as long as she possibly can.

"There are open shows where you can show until you physically cannot anymore," she said. "There are some shows for 50-year-olds, so I'll be showing for a while."

# DHS seniors face time-consuming college scholarship season

By Timothy Junis

Scholarship season is in full bloom. The month of April is a very meticulous one for many seniors as they get closer to college or other post-secondary education.

Last month, the school announcements featured a list of 34 available scholarships.

The school gives out all the infor-

mation needed to apply for these scholarships, and there are certainly more scholarships to apply for than just those listed in the daily announcements.

Senior Justine Badtram has been spending some of her free time filling out scholarship applications.

In total, she has filled out five applications that are offered through Durant.

"[They] help lower the cost of my tuition, so I won't have to take out a bigger bank loan," she said.

Badtram plans to attend Loras College in Dubuque and says that scholarships are so much more important because she is going to a private school.

"At the start, my tuition was around \$40,000, and after filling out scholarships, as well as applying for grants through Loras, my tuition is down to \$23,000," said Badtram.

Since Badtram was a freshman, her mom, school counselor Mrs. Kristy Badtram, has instilled the idea that these scholarships are really important.

"Since I was a freshman, she has pressed how important it is to fill out schol-

arships and save money," said the senior.

Mrs. Badtram said that these scholarships give financial aid and support to families that can offset the cost of tuition. Without scholarships, some students may not achieve higher education.

At the end of the year, the school hosts a Senior Scholarship Night where it announces all the scholarships recipients from Durant High School.

Senior Abbey Rhoades has spent many hours filling out scholarships. In total, she has filled out around 15. Rhoades has already gotten four scholarships from Clarke University where she plans to attend.

These include an academic and athletic scholarship, a Campus Impact scholarship, and an Early Application scholarship.

In the future, Rhoades wants to go to both undergraduate and graduate school.

"It is important to fill out scholarship applications, so I will have less student debt when I get out of college," she said.

"Going to graduate school will also add to my debt. So the more scholarships I earn now, the less I will have to worry about when paying off undergraduate school."

Letters of recommendation are also very common around this time of year. Teachers get asked quite frequently to write these letters, and Spanish teacher Mr. Jeff Trask gets around ten requests each year but said it really depends on the class.

The letters contain information about what kind of activities the student has been in, community service they have done, and how the student performs in the classroom.

In each letter Mr. Trask writes, he tries to personalize the letter as much as he can.

"I do think it is a good send off, but it is also sad to know that their time in my classroom is coming to an end," he said.

"However, it is always neat to hear from students after they graduate to see what they are up to and what types of scholarships they ended up earning in the end."

Band instructor Mr. Kevin Mundt also agrees the letters are a nice way to send off the seniors "because I have had most of them for seven to eight years and have been able to get to know them and their families through the years."

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