

**LET'S PLAY A GAME.** Annie West '25, Alyssa Potter '25 and Mackenna Atkerson '25 play a game of cornhole at the Homecoming Dance. "I really enjoyed the dance. Everything looked so nice and I loved that they had activities to do like bean bag tosses and board games," Atkerson said. "All the activities really brought the dance together and made it an incredible night." **CAN YOU PLAY A SONG.** Gizelle Lodoza Orozco '23 and Ashleigh Rivera '23 ask Elmira Kunjundzic, science teacher, if she could play a song for them at the Homecoming Dance. With no DJ, chaperones like Kunjundzic had to step in to play music during their shift. "The best thing about being the dance DJ for the dance is when you play a song and everyone is dancing, it brings joy to my heart to see my students having fun," Kunjundzic said. photos by j.ripko



# IT JUST FEELS GOOD TO BE HOME SWEET HOME

# HOMECOMING

Homecoming Dance gets rescheduled for Nov. 6 after drive by threat

story by t.qualres & g.poliard  
design by z.stanley

CONTINUED FROM PAGES 052-053



**CROWD SURFING.** As "Fire Burning" by Sean Kingston plays through the speakers, Cesar Berjano Jr. '25 gets lifted up into the air by the crowd in the Bill Gamble Gymnasium during the Homecoming Dance on Nov. 6. "It all happened so fast. It was just a huge rush of adrenaline and then everyone started lifting me. My friends and I had the idea to join the moshpit, as we thought it would be fun. I never expected to basically crowd surf over everyone I go to school with," Berjano said. photo by j.ripko **STEADY HANDS.** Abraham Bujanos '23 sits down in the lobby challenging his girlfriend, Ruth, to a few rounds of the board game Operation. "I will tell you, I won multiple times playing against her. Even doing small things like playing games with her made my Homecoming this year much more memorable," Bujanos said. photo by z.stanley **PUMPING UP THE PARTY.** Madelin Beauman '25 dances to the beat to "Replay" by Iyaz out on the dance floor with her friends. "My friend Abby and I were dancing together and just going off each other's vibe. No one else wanted to dance with us, so we just danced together and had fun," Beauman said. photo by j.ripko **SWAYING TO THE BEAT.** Desirae Munoz '22 and boyfriend, Nathaniel Swearengin '22 slow dance to Ed Sheeran's "Thinking Out Loud." photo by z.stanley



**STUDENT GOVERNMENT SPENT THE ENTIRE DAY SATURDAY, OCT. 2 DECORATING FOR THE HOMECOMING DANCE.** With a spike of Covid-19 cases in Brighton, it meant moving the dance outside near the Auto Shop parking lot. While the group finished decorating the dance, a text message went out stating that the dance was canceled due to a drive-by shooting threat to the high school. Estella Martinez '22 left the parking lot that night knowing the hours of work she and the group putting up decorations would be taken down the following day.

better to do, and just have fun and enjoy the night," Martinez said. I was pretty sad, but at the same time, I didn't want me or my friends to risk any of the threats that were passing around. I felt a little bit better after making those plans."

At school the next week, Student Government met to set a new date and a new plan. With the new date being Nov. 6, this meant that the dance had to be inside and that they had to get creative as far as the budget.

"We had to replan and buy all the decorations, and unfortunately, this time, we didn't have enough money to make it as cool as it was going to be outside. We tried to make it as disco as possible. We added a lot of bright, vibrant colors and a lot of golds, blues and pinks, and then made a lot of DIY paper mache stuff to make it as full and as cool as possible without spending a lot of money," Cassiah Costigan '22 said.

With the event moved inside, Student Government decorated the hallway to have an outside feel where students could play cornhole or sit at tables playing different board games. Masks were required; however, not all students kept

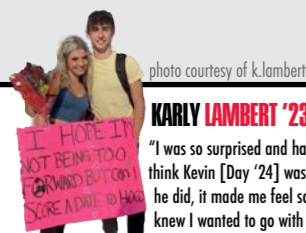


**I'LL TAKE YOUR SHOES.** Social studies teacher Matthew Williams collects the shoes of Alexandra Borgula '22 at the coat check table. **TICKET PLEASE.** Kaylie Drake '23 turns in her ticket stub to Student Government sponsor, Chemeine Huss, before entering the dance floor. "My favorite part about Homecoming was how much effort the Student Government put into the dance. They tried to make the best out of it despite this year's setbacks," Drake said. photos by r.weidemann

## DESIRAE MUNOZ '22

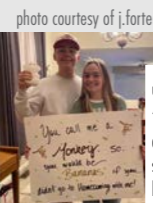
"Nate [Swearngen '22] and I couldn't help but smile when "Thinking Out Loud" by Ed Sheeran came on. That was the first song we've ever slow danced to in our four years of dating, so I consider it to be our song. Every time we dance to that song, I fall in love with him all over again."

### WHAT WAS YOUR HOMECOMING PROPOSAL?



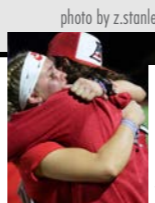
**KARLY LAMBERT '23**

"I was so surprised and happy. I really didn't think Kevin [Day '24] was going to do it. When he did, it made me feel so good, and I just knew I wanted to go with him."



**JAYCE FORTE '24**

"My girlfriend [Gabriella Poliard '24] asked me at my house with a poster. I call her Monkey so she wrote, "You call me Monkey, so you would be bananas, if you didn't go with me."



**BRANDON STRICKLIN '22**

"I proposed at the Powder Puff game. My girlfriend was playing so it was win or lose. So my poster said, "Win or lose, will you go to HOCO?" with Chick-fil-A cards."



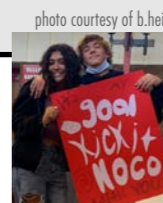
**LOGAN NEISWENDER '25**

"For mine, I asked Alayna Swarr ['25] in the cafeteria. What I did was take a box and filled it with candy and red roses, and wrote "HOCO?" inside of it."



**FAITH GARCIA '22**

"Jayden [Salazar '22] asked me in the student parking lot, and the poster was a play on words. It said, "I have faith you'll say yes." My name is Faith so it was funny."



**BRAADEN HEINZ '25**

"I asked Kamryn Villalobos '25 over by the school store in the CLC lobby. I asked her with a poster I made that said, "It's my goal to kick it @ hoco with you!"

AND THIS SHOULD CONVINCE YOU WE KNOW HOW TO HAVE FUN Homecoming Dance