

# LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL SIOUX FALLS, SD Statesman

DECEMBER 13, 2013

“THE BEST WAY TO PREDICT YOUR FUTURE IS TO CREATE IT.” -ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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## LHS students stand for their rights as Americans Pledge of Allegiance implemented in district high schools

BY MADDIE SCHULTZ AND  
MADDY RYAN

On Dec. 2, the recitation of the pledge of allegiance was implemented in all Sioux Falls School District high schools after a school board meeting unanimously voted to require all schools, district-wide, to recite the Pledge of Allegiance daily.

After weeks of deliberation in late fall, the school board's policy to require all elementary and middle schools in the district to recite the pledge daily was implemented. The local news station, Keloland Television reported on the topic at hand, in a way that made the policy seem as if they banned the pledge in the high schools. The news report caught national attention, receiving news coverage by major networks.

Radicals from across the nation were calling local school board member Todd Thaelke. Thaelke is the father of two LHS students, senior Paige Thaelke, and freshman Emma Thaelke. Their family received multiple threatening letters and voicemails from citizens with strong beliefs on the topic, including many veterans.

“We received threats saying that our family should be eliminated and that we should go back home to Mexico, but that doesn't even make sense. We are part Cuban,” said freshman Emma Thaelke. The anonymous callers found Thaelke's phone number online on the school board's website next to their home

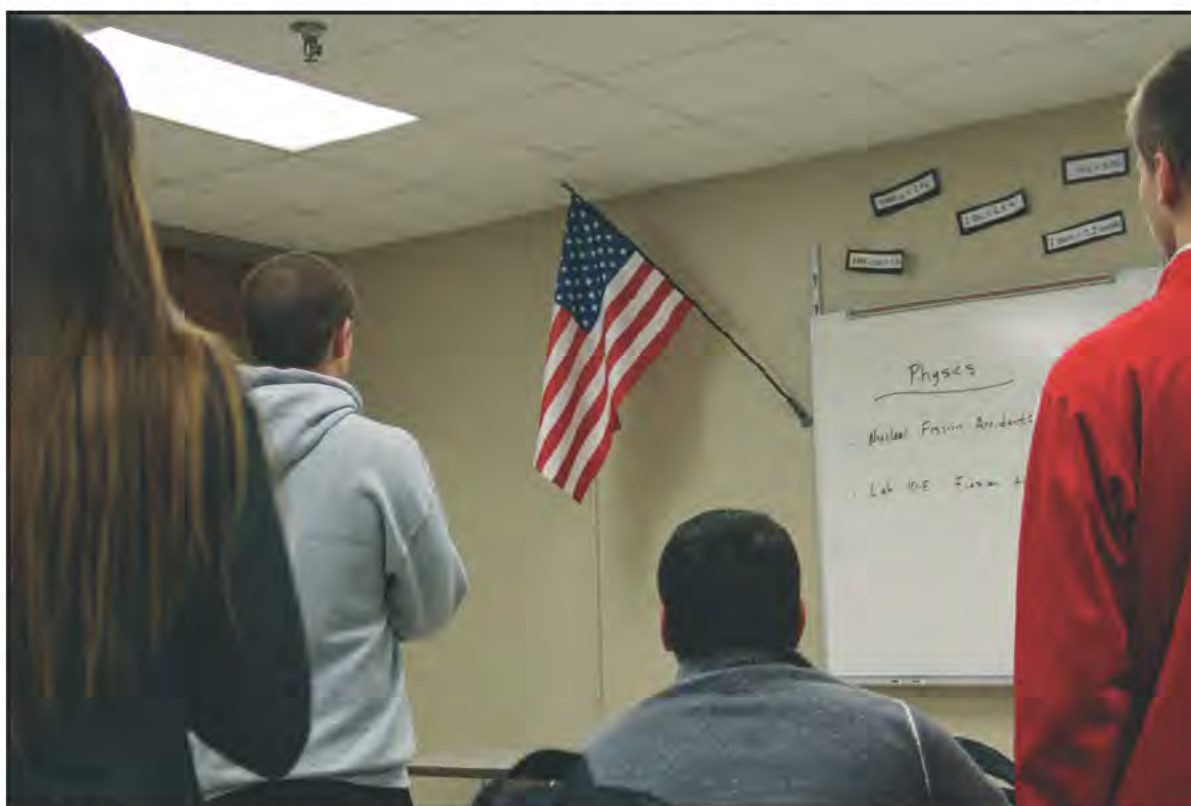


PHOTO BY MADDIE SCHULTZ

At the beginning of first period, principal Val Fox recites the pledge of allegiance over the school-wide intercom. The pledge was implemented after parents in the district were given a survey, and 70 percent of the parents agreed that the pledge should be a requirement in all schools.

address which was soon removed by administrators.

Along with the many citizens from around the country complaining, multitudes of local citizens and parents of high school children made personal complaints also. With the pressure of parents' complaints, the school board met again and revised the policy to require all schools in the district to recite the pledge every morning. The first Monday it was

announced, many teachers explained that the pledge was not mandatory. With the option to the discretion of the students, many chose to stand and say the pledge or politely sit. LHS junior, Grant Wunder, is very vocal in his beliefs in his constitutional rights.

“[Saying the pledge] is not a requirement,” said Wunder. “If it was a requirement, that would oppose my First Amendment rights under

compulsory unification of opinion, which was ruled unconstitutional in 1943 in *W.Va. State Board of Education v. Barnette*.”

Wunder is not the only student who does not participate in the pledge, but unlike many students who understand that it is optional, and do not participate because they are lazy, Wunder has reasoning.

“I think it is fine that people want to say it; it is their decision,” said

Wunder. “But I think people say it and then go against what it means just seconds later. I'm not going to conform to their hypocrisy and “guided nationalism” if you will.”

Many other students do not see the pledge as an inconvenience, senior Hannah Mendel sees the pledge as an opportunity to show our respect for those who are or have fought for our country.

“Some people say that we never have time, but in reality we have 30 minutes of opportune time to say the pledge in ad room,” said Mendel. “It is respectful to the kids at LHS who have family members in the military; it shows that we appreciate all that they have risked, fighting for our country.”

**Do you know the  
Pledge of Allegiance?**

*I pledge allegiance,  
to the Flag,  
of the United States  
of America,  
and to the  
Republic,  
for which it stands,  
one Nation,  
under God,  
indivisible,  
with liberty,  
and justice for all.*

## Statesman staff travels to Boston after receiving nomination

BY ALEXA ANKRUM

Earlier this year, the LHS *Statesman* was recognized as one of the best high school newspapers in the country when it was selected as a finalist for a Pacemaker Award. Pacemaker Awards are presented to high school newspapers that demonstrate excellence and are unofficially known as the "Pulitzer Prizes of high school journalism." The staff members of the *Statesman* were invited to the JEA/NSPA Fall National High School Journalism Convention in Boston to accept the nomination and learn from professional journalists. Journalism coordinator Katie Kroeze and staff members Pranam Dey, Kaylie Ericson, Maggi Ibis and Maddy Ryan attended the convention.

"We flew to Boston on Wednesday, and the convention lasted from Thursday to Saturday. The convention opened with a keynote speaker, Juliette N. Kayyem, a former columnist for *The Boston Globe*," said LHS senior and *Statesman* opinion editor, Maggi Ibis.

Kayyem is one of the most influential members of the journalism community. Kayyem became a Pulitzer Prize finalist



PHOTO PROVIDED BY KATIE KROEZE

Staff members Pranam Dey, Kaylie Ericson, Maggi Ibis and Maddy Ryan with adviser Katie Kroeze and chaperone Matt Kroeze in Boston.

for journalism after only a year of writing for the *Boston Globe*. She and other successful editors, photographers and journalists attended the convention to pass on their knowledge of media.

"We listened to a lot of speakers. They were all so intelligent and passionate about what they do that they kept me interested in what they were saying," said Ibis.

The members of the *Statesman* staff were able to listen to different speakers give advice during lectures that students could sign up for.

"There were hour-long timeslots for classes [a student journalist] could take. In the journalism category there were sports writing, opinion writing and editing classes. I took a lot of [the

speakers'] advice. I found a new way to format editorials. I took a lot from the experience."

During the convention, there were 'swap shops' where students read newspapers from other schools.

"A lot of people liked our layout. They thought it was really colorful, and they liked our pictures. The big thing I did notice is the schools that were more successful were ones that covered more controversial topics. We are a conservative school, so it is harder for us to print stories about things like gun control," said Ibis.

Although the *Statesman* did not win first place for a Pacemaker, they were finalists, which is still a major accomplishment.

"The biggest thing I think we need to work on is writing about deeper topics and making our writing even more professional," said Ibis.

Overall, the convention proved beneficial for the members of *Statesman*.

"Being there was an amazing experience. It really inspired me to pursue my passions. I would recommend going [to one of these conventions]," said Ibis.

## LHS students assist organization in city-wide project

BY CARLY HOHMAN

Seven years ago, 20 kids and three adults came together and made 100 tie blankets to donate to homeless children in Sioux Falls. This group has now expanded to hundreds of kids, teenagers and adults alike and evolved into an organization called Project Warm-Up.

When Tracy Vik's daughter, Kaitlin, was a junior at LHS in 2006, she wanted to start a service project and came up with the idea of tying blankets for homeless children. Even after her daughter went off to college, Tracy kept the project going.

Last year, over 1,000 children were identified as homeless. Throughout the past seven years, over 6,500 blankets have been tied and donated all across Sioux Falls through Project Warm-Up.

"Our goal every year is to make 1,000 blankets and we have met that goal for the past four years," said Vik. Last year, there were a total of 1,483 blankets made.

The giving does not stop at the homeless; Project Warm-Up helps anyone in need. They gave a care package that included a blanket and much more to a boy who was battling cancer and another one to a family whose house burned down.

"A mom who received blankets came in, and cried because that is all she could give her kids at Christmas," said Vik recalling a moment when the blankets touched someone's life.

Project Warm-Up is not limited to the winter season. Throughout the year, students can donate money, fleece or already made blankets. School counselors and social workers box up the blankets and put them in delivery trucks to be distributed to children and families in need.

"It is absolutely wonderful to see the generosity of students," said Vik. "This would not happen without help."

People all across Sioux Falls are con-



PHOTO BY BROCK GILMER

Throughout the past seven years, over 6,500 blankets have been tied and donated all across Sioux Falls through Project Warm-Up.

tributing their time to Project Warm-Up. Youth groups, Patrick Henry Middle School, Canton schools, City Bank and various other groups and clubs are making blankets to donate to the people in Sioux Falls who need

them most. LHS has also made a generous contribution. A total of \$1,384 has been raised through adrooms and Mrs. Slowey's interior design classes. They have made huge contributions by constructing blankets.

## Statesman

The *Statesman* is a student newspaper created at Lincoln High School, Sioux Falls Public Schools, 2900 S. Cliff Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57105. The *Statesman* office is located in room A400. The phone number is 605-367-7998.

The *Statesman's* purpose is to inform and entertain with an honest and accurate approach. The opinions of students, staff members and faculty are expressed in a tasteful manner. The *Statesman* is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association, the Columbia Scholastic Press Association and is a winner of the George H. Gallup award for "...distinctive achievements in scholastic journalism." The *Statesman* was awarded a Pacemaker in 2007 and was a finalist in the 2012-2013 year. The editors and adviser take responsibility for the content of the *Statesman*.

Follow the *Statesman* on Twitter @lhsstatesman and "like" the LHS Statesman Facebook page.  
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# As Filipinos recover, Caldwell reflects on childhood and plans for future

BY MAGGI IBIS

Senior Katie Caldwell is among very few students at LHS whose only exposure to American public high school was via *“Mean Girls”* and *“High School Musical,”* and she is also among the few who were born in America yet grew up in a foreign country. Her unique story is foreign to many, but up until about two years ago, that is all she has ever known.

Caldwell’s parents are missionaries, and they have spent a combined total of 24 years in the Philippines, a group of over 7,000 islands located off the coast of Southeast Asia. She has spent nearly her entire life there (from three months old until the age of 16), attending an international private school among students from all over the world with missionary parents.

When Typhoon Haiyan tore through the Philippines on Nov. 8 and destroyed 1.1 million homes, affected 9.9 million civilians and killed more than 5,000, the news truly hit home for Caldwell. The natural disaster, which primarily affected the eastern seaboard and the city of Tacloban, Leyte, was considered among the worst in history in terms of the number of deaths and destruction, measuring to be more than 3.5 times more fierce than Hurricane Katrina, according to CNN.

“The Philippines is a third-world country, so the sewer systems and roads aren’t very well-built,”



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MCT CAMPUS

Surrounded by devastation after the typhoon, two young Filipino children sit as they wait for help to arrive.

said Caldwell. “We get typhoons all the time, but because the wind was so strong, it totally devastated everything.”

Because of the immense devastation and com-

plete destruction of the infrastructure of the islands, Caldwell did not hear about the aftermath of the typhoon until days later. She was able to reach friends in the area, and although they were

mostly unaffected because they live on the mainland of the Philippines, the school of one friend, in particular, lost its roof, and the buildings surrounding it were completely flattened.

“I was upset and shocked a typhoon could cause so much damage, but I was also impressed with the spirit of the Filipinos,” said Caldwell. “They endure so much, because we have typhoons all the time during rainy season, yet they rebuild their houses, they keep going, and they smile through it all.”

With a brother working as a social worker in New Zealand and a sister in the Peace Corps in South Africa, it seems living overseas is in Caldwell’s blood. In fact, she has plans to return to her hometown in the Philippines Jan. 3 to graduate with the class she went to school with previously. While she has plans to return to America for college, Caldwell hopes a life overseas is in the cards for her in the future.

For now, Caldwell and her parents are donating money through online relief websites to help those who have suffered from Typhoon Haiyan’s destruction of the thousands of homes and business in the Philippines.

“Although it hasn’t really affected my life at this point, it’s my homeland, and I feel for the people who are struggling there right now,” said Caldwell.

## DECA is more than just chocolate bar sales

BY MIKAELA NEUBAUER, JOURNALISM STUDENT

DECA is a word students hear around school quite often, whether it is in the school store, on the announcements or associated with a box of chocolate. But, does anyone know what they really do?

DECA is an organization started in 1946 to prepare students for the world of business. With a focus on careers like marketing, hospitality, finance and management, DECA gives students valuable skills for later in life such as analytical thinking and a strong sense of leadership. Over 190,000 students worldwide are involved in DECA at the high school level with 50 of those students belonging to the LHS chapter. Members travel to competitions and conferences to show off their problem solving skills or learn from renowned speakers.

“DECA is an association of marketing students, but we do much more than that,” said Michael Jones, Personal Finance teacher at LHS.

DECA not only deals with participating in competitions, but also concentrating on serving their community. Members spend their free



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MCT CAMPUS

For this year’s Regional Leadership Conference, LHS DECA traveled to Milwaukee Wisc.

time doing everything from running the school store to volunteering at the Humane Society. There are also ways other than volunteering that DECA can contribute to. Money made from jars in the store or hosting activities goes to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, who are partners with DECA.

“We are heavily focused on community in-

volvement and awareness,” said Jones.

DECA is also a way for students to find their place in the world. By testing out one or two of the 50+ business categories, students can test the waters and see what career fields interest them. Students can dabble in a range of careers with anything from sports managing to the hospital-ity industry.

“It allows [students] to get out of their comfort zone, to experience and partake in something they don’t know much about,” said Jones.

Though balancing extracurricular activities can be hard, DECA tries to make it fit into the schedule of their member’s busy lives.

“We give the students the latitude to participate in other clubs at LHS as well,” said Jones.

With DECA also comes a chance to travel. Competitions and conferences are located all over the country, the most awaited being the International conference in May. This year’s conference will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, featuring DECA chapters from all 50 states and 6 other countries. Last week, DECA traveled to Milwaukee, IL for a competition.

“It allows students the opportunity to travel, especially if they wouldn’t normally have the means to do so,” said Jones.

DECA is far more than what it seems. It leaves an impact on its participants from the moment they sign up. By exposing students to the different features of business DECA builds experience, skills and friendships.

# City of Minneapolis looks to improve Target Center

By ELLIE BRECHT

As many people know, the Target Center, in Minneapolis, Minn., is a very popular venue for events brought in from all over the country. Not only does it host concerts, children's shows and other highly accumulated performances, but it is also home to Minnesota's very own NBA and WNBA teams; the Minnesota Timberwolves and the Minnesota Lynx.

Recently, the Minnesota City Council teamed up with both professional teams and other corporate businesses to come to the agreement that they would follow through with the \$97 million renovation plan for the 23-year-old venue. The city of Minneapolis itself will be giving about half of the money needed to fulfill this process, and the professional teams along with a few other private businesses will be giving the other half to make this renovation possible.

Although news of the renovation is recent, renovating the Target Center has been a topic of conversation for the past decade.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MCT CAMPUS

The current Target Center will get a facelift after the Timberwolves' 2013-14 season.

Not only has it been talked about, but there has also been a renovation plan around for

the past 10 years. Many people wonder, why has nothing happened until now? This is an

expensive project, so instead of just diving in and doing the whole project at once, Minnesotans, in the past, have agreed to doing small projects, one at a time, until now.

For people attending an event at the Target Center, or even for people who are just in the downtown Minneapolis area, traffic flow can be a very frustrating part of being in that vicinity. That is why "improving traffic flow" is a big part of the renovation plan that will be taking place after the Timberwolves' 2013-14 season. Not only does the city plan include an improvement of traffic, but also a re-design of the exterior of the building, along with added clubs and business space.

Most of the people who live in Minn. and the Midwest area are looking forward to the renovation of the Target Center, the 28th busiest building in the country, because not only will it benefit them, but also the players and performers who call this venue their home whether it is for one night, or a whole season.

## Cutting up Colorado

By JEB COOPER

Colorado's rural counties have been split on the issue of seceding from Colorado forming a 51st state, "North Colorado." Five counties including Washington, Phillips, Yuma, Kit Carson and Cheyenne voted in favor of secession. Another 6 counties including Weld, Logan, Sedewick, Elbert, Lincoln and Carson rejected the secession movement. The thought of this movement came about after the most recent law implemented, S.B. 252, a new law



PHOTO BY MADDY RYAN

The five counties attempting to secede from the state plan to start their own government system.

high-profile state secession movements include Arizona, California, Minnesota, Michigan, Virginia and Vermont. These states and counties have all tried to secede in the past 40 years.

None of these movements have been victorious in their efforts to secede, and Colorado's movement will be no different.

The counties that voted for secession in Colorado cannot automatically break free from the rest of Colorado.

Before the state can legally split into two separate states, the

states legislature as well as Congress must approve it. A lot of hard work and determination would be needed by the five counties in order for secession to happen, which is why the idea of seceding has only been an idea, and never been fully carried out.

## The college waiting game

By CARLY HOHMAN

One minute it is the first day of our freshman year, and it seems the next it is time to start applying to colleges and figuring out what is in store for the next four years. There is only a handful of senior students who have an idea of where they want to attend college or have even started applying. The question is, what should students do after they submit their application and are waiting to hear if they were accepted or not?

After applying, the work is far from over. The time-span a student may have to wait to hear if they were accepted depends on the college, as every college has a different approach to the admission process. During the months it may take to hear back from a college, students should start to research and apply for scholarships.

"Students often overlook the scholarships sent to the building, which can be found on the counselor's website, [www.lhscounseling.com](http://www.lhscounseling.com)," said LHS counselor David Meyers. "There is also a senior blog that has a wealth of information, such as scholarships and college visiting dates."

There are countless resources students can, and should utilize to find scholarships.

SDMyLife is a very accessible and credible website provided by the school district that offers an endless inventory of scholarships and financial aid across the country.

"When it comes to scholarships, students sometimes get lazy when they see the word 'essay,'" said Meyers. "They don't take the time to look at the amount of money the scholarship is worth, which can sometimes pay for a semester of books."

If students also explore the websites of the colleges they are interested in, there is bound to be information available about scholarships the school offers. Even if a student has not yet been accepted to a college, he or she can still apply for financial aid through that school.

"Students should put together a list of schools and consider what options they have," said Meyers. "Talking to the admission people when they visit during lunch is also a great resource to get questions answered."

Do not wait until the last minute to apply for scholarships because in most cases there is a limit on how many students may receive the aid. The more proactive a student can be, the easier their life will be in the long run.

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# What is happening to the English language?

BY MAGGI IBIS, OPINION EDITOR

Some call me a “grammar Nazi,” but I prefer to go by the title of “girl with common knowledge of the English language.”

Scrolling through my Twitter feed the other day, I came across a post from @CBSNews reporting a rather monumental change in the English language—the word “selfie” earned the recognition of being the Oxford Dictionaries’ 2013 Word of the Year. Students at LHS use the slang “selfie” to refer to one taking a picture of oneself on a cell phone or portable device with the intent of uploading said photo on a social media site. The derived term has indeed become immensely popular among people of all ages in the U.S. within the past year, but it truly never occurred to me this lingo, most likely invented by a 13-year-old girl from Ohio with braces and a camera phone, would be approved by the dictionary’s standards.

Now, I am questioning the direction in which the English language—once a dignified and upheld means of communication and artistic expression—is headed, and whether or not we should be worried about its recent development (or lack thereof).

## Police officers are not pigs

BY MAKAYLA DISBURG, STAFF WRITER

Browsing through various social media sites and walking through the hallways of LHS, I’ve started to notice disrespectful names some teenagers are using to address police officers. What really bothers me is hearing someone refer to an officer as a “pig.”

Growing up with a mother who works at 911 Metro Communications and a father who is a sergeant for the police department, I’ve had the privilege to know and befriend many police officers and their families. Over the years, I’ve heard many stories and witnessed some of the situations they deal with every day, and I have also become familiar with what is respectful in terms of addressing an officer.



*“Teens are often critical of adults who impose rules, but the criticism brought to the police isn’t necessary.”*

Teens are often critical of adults who impose rules, but the criticism brought to the police isn’t necessary. I’ve noticed the insulting names are generally thrown around after a teenager has gotten caught engaging in an illegal activity. Breaking the law and being caught in the act is a person’s own fault. Some teens are unable to hold themselves accountable for their actions

It is true, of course, our generation is growing up in a fast-paced culture seeping with technological advancements capable of alleviating the “difficulties” of everyday life. The innovations the world has witnessed since the turn of the century, along with the rate at which these innovations are being created, likely would have been impossible to fathom just 20 years ago.



*“Conversations these days are as shallow as ever.”*

But with this rapid progress comes a wave of abbreviations, emoticons and an ignorance of the increasingly more frequent presence of grammatical errors. In other words, that tweet you posted 26 minutes ago saying “Your jus jelous my best-friend is greater then you’re” not only contains

and instead wrongfully blame police officers. While a speeding ticket may seem like a nuisance to some individuals, enforcing the speed limit might prevent a fatal car accident from happening later on. Breaking up a house party and giving tickets for underage drinking may prevent someone from risking lives and driving home drunk that night. A curfew ticket might help a teenager stay away from dangerous places at night. Police enforce laws to protect lives and preserve property, and many are disrespected and discredited for doing their job correctly.

When I think of a pig, I think of a dirty barn animal, not someone who ensures safety and keeps the city in order. Although teenagers intend for the name calling to be directed towards officers, when I hear the insult, I personally feel disrespected. I think of the great man who raised me and everything he has sacrificed over the last 20 years for his job and community. I think of all of the great men and women I’ve met through my dad, people anyone would be lucky to have the chance to meet. Their jobs are not easy, and if today’s youth took the time to think about it, they would realize how much the police really do for us.

Teenagers tend to forget police officers protect our city. They are there when we need them to be at our rescue, and they risk their lives for citizens every day. Teens need to open their eyes and realize all of the stress, commitment and hardship officers go through to help others. Police are not pigs, they are good people who have very hard jobs. Show some respect and call them by the appropriate title.

more mistakes than I have fingers on one hand, it’s a testament to the mounting concern I have for the future of our society’s level of intelligence.

Even big businesses and institutions are becoming careless where overlooked typos are concerned. A while back, I received a postcard in the mail from South Dakota State University claiming “Friday’s are fun here,” and I am confident my shocked reaction was minor in comparison to the SDSU marketing team’s horror when they found out this mistake was sent to hundreds of homes in the area.

I am not solely concerned with the unnoticed errors. For me, it is also about the quality of the topics of discussion I find myself immersed in on a daily basis. Why is it that the number of “likes” so-and-so received on an Instagram “selfie” is more talked about than the tornadoes that tore through entire communities in the Midwest last month? Conversations these days are as shallow as ever, and don’t seem to contain substance of any real merit. At this rate, I fear we will soon retreat to caveman grunts and subtle hand gestures in a matter of decades.

Finally, I dread the day our society lacks the spirit

## Why “Mark the Spot?”

BY ELLIE BRECHT, STAFF WRITER

Most people who either live in or have driven through our state have noticed the “X Marks the Spot” signs that occupy a fair amount of the street’s sides or highway road ditches. People have mixed emotions about these signs that remember those who have passed away in a fatal car or bike accident. Although these signs require the families’ permission to be put up, many think the signs are an unpleasant sight for travelers, while others think they are a reminder for drivers to be careful and smart on the road.



*“Although these signs require the families’ permission to be put up, many think the signs are an unpleasant sight for travelers.”*

I can see both points of view, but I believe the signs that read either “Why Die?” or “Think!” are not exactly necessary to remind people of the tragic deaths that have taken place in particular spots, but are rather a harsh and sickening reminder of an unpleasant incident that took place there. Every time I drive by one of those signs, I do indeed think of the unfortunate fatalities that happen on the road, but I also wonder why we, as a community, feel the need to broadcast the deaths of those who have passed away

and capability to create beautiful, imaginative and above all, meaningful writing. English is more valuable than we realize, and if we become so lazy as to let the quality of the language slip from our grasp and turn to only abbreviated phrases and “trending” lingo to communicate with others, we will lose the beauty of a language that has the power to persuade, to move and to inspire.

So how do we deal with this issue? The good news is, I have found that all hope has not vanished just yet. Musicians are still writing passionate lyrics, CNN still knows how to cover a breaking news story professionally and effectively, and I am still following accounts on Twitter producing ideas more profound than the typical shocked complaints along the lines of “is it seriously Monday again?” Nevertheless, I am not the only “girl with common knowledge of the English language,” in fact, I believe we have the power to overcome this oppression of grammatical insufficiency that has the potential to dominate the culture of our language for generations to come. All we need is a reminder of the importance of our language in society, and use it to its full scholastic potential.

in car accidents.

When I imagine myself as a tourist, I imagine how I would feel if I saw one of those signs. If I were traveling in South Dakota for the first time I would feel a sense of discomfort and sadness, and I would wonder why anyone would want to be driving along on the road and randomly come across, what is basically, a tombstone for an innocent driver. As a community, I think we should think more about what kind of message these signs are sending to the people in our area, as opposed to the message to drive safely. Driving safely is a very important thing, and I agree that we need to put the message out there, but I also believe we could get it across in a way other than physically marking the deaths of drivers on the streets and interstates of our state.

The real question is: Do the signs reduce the number of accidents? The simple fact is that these signs will only evoke painful memories in the minds of those who see them. It could be just the fact of seeing that someone died there, or it could even make a person think of personal experiences that relate to the signs in some way. Either way, these signs do not bring positive emotion to our community. I believe the signs should come down. Let families and friends grieve in a private way rather than leave the tourists or citizens steeped in dark thought about what happened where the “X Marks the Spot.”



# Blogs can heal with words: Worth a read

BY ALEXA ANKRUM, STAFF WRITER

Throughout history, the written word has been used to harm and to heal. But as computers and social-networking continue to grow, cyber-bullying and other forms of anonymous harassment on the Internet make words seem increasingly more menacing. However, words can also be a tool for coping with life, or making sense of it. This is shown in the growing trend of bloggers, chronicling difficult experiences they face in their lives online.

The blog "Dis-ease Diary", records the day-to-day life of Bruce Kramer, a man who was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease in 2010. The disease is degenerative and terminal. The "Dis-ease Diary" follows the journey of a man

who thinks about his past as he tries to live whatever life he has left to the fullest. Kramer skillfully describes the pain and pleasure that



*"Kramer's blog is one of the many stories that have used the power of words to inspire people."*

comes with knowing how valuable life truly is. Kramer writes about a wide range of subjects, from his favorite music to the meaning of life, with humor and insight. The "Dis-ease Diary"

has gained great popularity in the blogosphere throughout its three-year existence. Many people have posted encouraging statements on his blog as well as stories of their own struggles with disease. Although no one can cure Kramer's illness, Kramer has found a new understanding of life while writing his blog.

Kramer's blog is one of the many stories that have used the power of words to inspire people. Last July, the writers of Healthline.com made a list of blogs whose authors have degenerative diseases, namely Crohn's disease. Healthline.com made another list of blogs that cover the recovery of people struggling with eating disorders. As more people become involved in the blogosphere, the popularity of these kinds of

thought-provoking blogs grows. The popularity growth of these blogs are not just because they are well-written, but because they contain poignant messages about what it means to live with adversity, and experience happiness while doing it.

It is true; words can be extremely harmful, especially online. But even now, as some choose to use the anonymity and protection of a computer screen to spread pain, others choose to take the painful experiences they have had in their lives, and use it to connect with others who feel the same, and to inspire the people who do not. Like Kramer said in his last blog post when his disease started to take a turn for the worst, "J'avais des rêves pourtant," French for, "I had dreams yet."

# Classical literature controversy

## Classics: Not always effective

BY PRANAM DEY, MANAGING EDITOR

When was the last time you used Sparknotes? When was the last time an assigned novel left you wondering why you were reading about old dead people or struggling to understand 17th century syntax and colloquialisms? We've all had that experience sometime in our high school careers, an experience that soured our opinion of classic literature or even our view of reading itself. To paraphrase Cassius from Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," the fault dear student, is not in your stars, it is in the books.



*"To paraphrase Cassius from Shakespeare's 'Julius Caesar,' the fault dear student, is not in your stars, it is in the books."*

Teachers argue, and argue correctly, that the classics are classics for a reason. These works have survived the test of time because they shed light on the nature of the human condition, the innate human nature that has not changed since the time of Sophocles. We may never have to decide between burying a brother and betraying the kingdom as Sophocles' Antigone does in the eponymous play, but we may very well face crises of conscience where there are no clear cut answers. The essential questions of

identity and ethics remain unsolved, and literature provides us a lens into how others overcame similar struggles to those we face now.

Yet this entire argument is based on the supposition that students will actually read the works. If a student has to spend five minutes to get through a page of "The Scarlet Letter," it's safe to assume the student is not grasping Hawthorne's analysis of sin and redemption. Practically speaking, the student will, after a few frustrating minutes, turn to the Internet for answers. The only one who benefits when teachers assign the classics is Sparknotes, which sees its advertisement revenue keep growing.

If a student wants to read a challenging older work, more power to them. But if the student doesn't, there are plenty of solutions that don't turn reading into a miserable experience. Despite high school syllabi's indications to the contrary, there is plenty of quality literature written in the 20th and 21st century, works that often have more approachable language. The goal of English class should not be to untangle convoluted syntax and esoteric diction. Modern novels have just as much literary merit as those written a few centuries earlier, and if students find them more appealing, why not give them a larger role in the classroom? Is it really a problem if a student prefers Barbara Kingsolver to Charlotte Brontë? If anything, teachers should be happy students are actually reading the entire book rather than asking their friends what questions were on the pop quiz.

## Old books can teach new tricks

BY ELLEN KOESTER, STAFF WRITER

Many pieces of classical literature pop up in contemporary works. Disney's "The Lion King" is actually based on a Shakespeare play "Hamlet" and current TV shows like Netflix's "Arrested Development" has many parallels with the play. Making a new adaptation of old stories is the oldest money-making gimmick in the book. No matter what students think, the classical literature they are reading for English is still very relevant to our culture.



*"No matter what students think, the classical literature they are reading for English is still very relevant to our culture."*

"You will see the bones of classics in modern stories," said Susan Bull, LHS AP English Literature and Composition teacher. "A classic is a book with universal themes that stand the test of time. They express the human condition regardless of the time period. They do not cater to contemporary topics. Reading classics helps develop critical reading skills that can be transferred to any other educational task."

Bull's students are currently reading Shakespeare's "Hamlet" and have just finished the Greek tragedy "Oedipus the King." Bull ex-

plained that most of her students like the classics they study in class, although she acknowledges that reading and analyzing classics is not easy.

"[To read a classic, a student has to have] a willingness to do the work; a willingness to endure discomfort to achieve a goal. It is not immediate gratification. It requires maturity and attention. I hope some students will revisit [a book we studied] in 20 years. The things they could not identify with initially will become relatable later on," said Bull.

Many students also advocate for reading classics.

"Good literature [like a classic] puts a reader into a story. It doesn't tell a story," said LHS senior Hannah Lamberty. "I have seen people fall in love with classics. There have been books I have hated and ones that I loved. But [I feel] the same with modern texts."

Reading classical literature can improve a student's vocabulary, writing ability and speaking ability. It also boosts creativity and broadens students' views past their social media sites. If the only thing a student is reading outside of school is a Tweet, a few minutes away from the screen cannot hurt. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "Sherlock Holmes" series uses surprisingly modern language and simple vocabulary. The series is a good starting point for new classical readers as is most of the literature from the early 20th century. Once a reader gets used to the upper-level syntax and vocabulary, older novels are easier to read.

# PDA in school is becoming a serious problem

By LUCAS MICHAELS, STAFF WRITER

Walking through the halls of LHS, it's easy to tell love is in the air. As teenagers in high school, dating is a huge part of our everyday lives. But there comes a point where it is just too much. Public displays of affection, or PDA in the hallways of LHS have become a serious problem.



*"Why do students feel it is necessary to show affection for each other?"*

In my opinion, PDA has become an issue because of pop culture. Every time there is a TV show or movie set in a high school, there is always PDA. Even if the main characters aren't

doing it, you can always find a couple in the background or on center stage with their lips locked. This may relay a message to students that showing their love for their significant other in school is perfectly okay to do; they think that if Miley Cyrus and Zac Efron do it, they should too.

Don't get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with showing affection for your companion, but there is a time and a place for it. In front of my locker a minute before class starts is not the time, nor the place. Also, PDA in the hallways disrupts the logistics and flow in the hallways. Students have six minutes to get to class and often it takes all six minutes to get there. The last thing those students need is to be slowed down by a couple having a boxing match with each other's tongues in the middle of the hallway.

I might not be so incredibly opposed to PDA if the ways that certain LHS students show their affection wasn't so extreme. A short hug or maybe even holding hands wouldn't be

that bad. But there are lines that get crossed that turn me off completely from all PDA. For example, while walking to my first period class a few weeks ago, I noticed a couple next to a drinking fountain. He had his arms around her and she had her back against the wall while he was pushed against her while they whispered in each other's ears. If someone were to imagine what that looks like, they should not be surprised if their gag reflexes kick in.

I have to wonder: why? Why do students feel it is necessary to show affection for each other? It is simply childish and immature. If students think they are mature enough to have an adult relationship, then they should be able to act like an adult and save their affection for a time where they are alone and not surrounded by their peers. Showing PDA almost shows that students are claiming their significant other as their own, which isn't necessary to do, and frankly, who cares? Anyone who cares knows that those couples are dating.

Finally, I often hear students talking to each other about how annoying or how much they hate seeing PDA in the hallways; so for the most part students are against it. The majority of the student body at LHS completely despises PDA and often talks about how much they really do hate it. If this is true, then how come no one does anything about it? If the students of LHS could just tell the couples to break it up, it would be less likely that to happen as frequently as it does.

For students showing PDA in the hallways, it is time to stop. You're disrupting everyone around you and making a bad image for yourself. When you're showing PDA in the halls it shows an extremely lack of maturity and makes your fellow peers judge you. For the students who it bothers, including me, we should step up and tell them to stop, and together we can make disturbing and over-excessive PDA in school a thing of the past.

## #WhiteGirlProblems

By KAYLIE ERICSON, STAFF WRITER

"OMG Starbucks!"

"Which filter looks best, Valencia or Earlybird?"

"I literally, like, love my iPhone."

"TBH you're so pretty, but we don't hang out enough, let's change that <3"

"Leggings are DEFINITELY pants."

"2K13, turn up!"

"you're\*"

Chances are the above phrases are a part of many teenage girls' everyday life, whether we see them on Twitter, hear them in the hallways or use them ourselves. They basically define the "common white girl" of our generation.

I love infinity scarves, Ryan Gosling and iPhone emojis. Most people would call me "basic" or a "common white girl" and put me into a category in which I don't necessarily belong, which seems to be the case when it comes to the majority of teenage girls. But where in the "common white girl" status does it leave room for my fantasy football team, my refusal to wear Ugg boots or my inability to properly paint my nails or apply makeup? The stereotype is a huge generalization that can carry negative connotations and give "white girls" nothing more than a glance and a harsh

judgment from others. There is so much more to each and every teenage girl than pumpkin spice latte addictions and closets full of crew necks and yoga pants, but we aren't given a chance to prove that we are not as superficial and "basic" as our stereotype suggests. Not all of us have unrealistic expectations to date Harry Styles and have a relationship like the one in *"The Notebook."* Who even is Harry Styles?



*"Most people would call me 'basic' or a 'common white girl' and put me into a category in which I don't necessarily belong."*

Ladies, it's okay to love Nutella and be able to quote every word of *"Mean Girls,"* but find something else within yourself that doesn't fall into the "common white girl" category, and embrace that unique aspect. If you don't fall under the stereotype, stop passing harsh judgments upon those who appear stereotypical on the surface, because the negative generalization is getting old.

## NCAA exploits student-athletes

By JOE HIATT, STAFF WRITER

The NCAA makes hundreds of millions of dollars each year across all the collegiate sports that it sponsors, but despite all the money the NCAA brings in annually, there are still major areas of concerns in the way student-athletes are treated.



*"The NCAA is clearly making money off students like Manziel."*

In the 2011-2012 season, the NCAA made over 870 million dollars. Most of this money came from the NCAA's agreement with Turner Broadcasting and CBS Sports for the rights to broadcast the men's basketball tournament, better known as March Madness. Also a good portion of that revenue comes from football bowl games and the College World Series.

All these events that the NCAA makes money off of would not be possible without the student-athletes. While many student-athletes are receiving the benefit of an education thanks

to the scholarship they earn, they are severely limited when it comes to earning money to live off of during college, unlike students who are not participating in collegiate sports.

Prior to this current football season, Heisman trophy winner and Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel got into trouble with the NCAA for reportedly receiving a "five-figure flat fee" for signing autographs on memorabilia featuring his number and likeness. Because of this, Manziel faced a possible suspension. While this was a violation of current NCAA rules, it raises a bigger question about the fair treatment of student athletes.

If you went to NCAA.com right now and searched for Texas A&M, you would see that Johnny Manziel's jersey would show up first. The NCAA is clearly making money off students like Manziel. Yet student-athletes will see none of that money either now or after they've completed their eligibility.

Although I don't think student-athletes should get paid for playing the game they are a part of, is it fair to ask why the NCAA can make money off of them while many student-athletes struggle to earn a fair wage during their school years?



# Sioux Falls coffeehouse options create competition

By CARLY HOHMAN

With the cold weather getting worse as the weeks drag deeper into December, many LHS students and teachers alike find warmth in a piping hot cup of joe. There are three major coffee shops in Sioux Falls that compete for customers' loyalty: Starbucks, Caribou Coffee and Scooter's Coffee and Yogurt.

Starbucks is the largest non-franchise coffee chain and likely the most popular of

the three coffee shops with six locations in Sioux Falls, four of them located in Hy-Vee stores. There never seems to be a shortage of Starbucks cups floating throughout the LHS halls. Madison Olafson, a senior at LHS, gets a coffee from Starbucks almost every day.

"My favorite drinks are their white chocolate mocha and Pikes Place coffee," said Olafson. "I like Starbucks coffee more than Caribou, Scooter's or store bought coffee, like

Folgers, because it simply tastes better."

Starbucks also has food on their menu including paninis, salads, sandwiches and yogurts. They also make summer drinks like smoothies and iced tea.

Although Caribou is not preferred by as many students, and is a little more expensive, it still provides quality coffee. Caribou also sells breakfast sandwiches and oatmeal. There are three locations, one on Minne-

sota Avenue, one in The Empire Mall, and one inside Hy-Vee on Cliff Avenue and 57th Street.

There are only two Scooter's locations in Sioux Falls. Scooter's has the cheapest coffee of the three places, and their menu also has pastries such as cinnamon rolls, muffins and scones. Scooter's is also the only place with a stand alone drive through and is local to the Midwest area.



PHOTOS BY BROCK GILMER

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# Dobson: Seventeen and already on top of the world

By ELLEN KOESTER

Thanksgiving break offered a stress-free, long weekend for many students. Some students chose to stay home and gorge themselves on turkey. Others went on a trip to join family members for the holidays. LHS junior Tyler Dobson climbed Mount Kilimanjaro.

"Every night and two hours into the hike every day, I felt like I was going to die," said Dobson. "The last two hours of the climb I got into a mechanical rhythm and just put one step in front of other until I couldn't do it anymore."

Mount Kilimanjaro is the tallest mountain in Africa and the tallest free-standing mountain in the world. It usually takes four days to climb to the top and two to return to the base. Since Dobson was pressed for time, he and his family did not quite reach the peak. Nevertheless, he, his uncle and his brother spent around four days climbing up.

"I couldn't take a picture [at the top] because it was 3 a.m.," said Dobson. "I could see different shades of black, but there were no distinguishable characteristics. Starting on day three we couldn't see the ground because of the cloud cover. When we could, it just looked flat."

Dobson had some trouble climbing the mountain. He received a broken oxygen tank for the climb.

"An oxygen tank isn't needed [for the climb]; however, not getting oxygen to muscles is like doing three times the work while holding your breath. Even when we were resting, I still had to fight to breathe normally," said Dobson.

The Dobson family did not climb up by themselves. For the three of them, they had one main guide, one assistant guide, four assistant porters (someone paid to carry gear) and fourteen regular porters.

"My favorite porter was always happy and smiling. One day, we asked him about his personal life. He was a marathon runner and has participated in the Mount Kilimanjaro marathon," said Dobson. "He was one of the guys who helped carry me on a stretcher [when my oxygen tank malfunctioned]."

Although Dobson was in Tanzania, he felt welcomed by the people. The weather, however, was unfriendly.

"The weather was unpredictable. We would have an hour of warm weather. Then, as soon as the clouds covered the sun, we needed three



PHOTO PROVIDED BY TYLER DOBSON

layers of clothing," said Dobson. "When it rained, it was the worst experience ever. When it is raining at that altitude, it meant we were in a cloud, so it was dark too."

Some of the climb was miserable. Some of it was breathtaking. "[When we got back to the base] it was relaxing; I could breathe easier," said Dobson. "I would go back to Africa again. I have to conquer the mountain sometime."

Some of the climb was miserable. Some of it was breathtaking. "[When we got back to the base] it was relaxing; I could breathe easier," said Dobson. "I would go back to Africa again. I have to conquer the mountain sometime."

# Yaqoub-Mohammed: African refugee survivor

By BAILEY MONSON

LHS senior Muna Yaqoub-Mohammed is an immigrant/refugee from the Sudan via Chad in Africa. She moved from Sudan as a five-year-old to an incredibly dangerous and poverty-stricken refugee camp in Chad. Yaqoub-Mohammed saw many things she wishes she could forget after walking for four days with her nine siblings, mother and father.

"My dad had problems in the government, and he was in danger in Chad, so we were picked to come here. I was 13 when I left the refugee camp. One of my sisters did not come with us because she was married at the age of 15," said Yaqoub-Mohammed.

Yaqoub-Mohammed was in the midst of a vast shooting in Sudan, when she saw her father drop to the ground. Believing that he had been shot, she ran away. For 12 days Yaqoub-Mohammed followed others on their journey to Chad, without her siblings or parents. Finally she went to Red Cross (a place where mothers waited to find lost children) to find the rest of her family.

"Life in Chad was difficult, because we did not have an education. It was also hard for mom and dad to find things like clothes or shoes or a notebook. A lot of people died there in front of

me," said Yaqoub-Mohammed.

Moving to the U.S. has been a mostly positive experience for Yaqoub-Mohammed. She is appreciative for the opportunity to be educated and to have freedom. Although she is happy, there are small problems that cause everyday hassles for her large family.

"We are a big family, and the only problem we have here is our house. We can't find a house. My mom is always sad because she has to sleep in the living room. She can't find room because we have too many people, and we only have four rooms," said Yaqoub-Mohammed.

Yaqoub-Mohammed does not forget the hard times she has been through, and although it was many years ago, she still wishes the best of luck for the people she once knew and loved back in Africa. She hopes to see them one day and she also hopes to be reunited with her sister one day.

Yaqoub-Mohammed has been through more than one can ever imagine, and she displays an immense amount of strength because of her journeys alone and with her family. She has had difficult experiences, yet she has brighter outlook on life because of the experiences she has endured and fought through.



PHOTO BY BROCK GILMER

Yaqoub-Mohammed smiles as she thinks about the happy moments that have happened in her life, yet she remembers to be aware of the people that are still in Africa and she continues to wish the best for them.

## Caleb Anderson & Paul Thanel

INTERVIEW BY ELLIE BRECHT

**What do you know about your "bro" that no one else would know?**

PT: Most people think he is a tough guy because of how big and strong he is, but I know how tender his heart is.

CA: I can't tell!

**What was the biggest fight you have ever gotten in with each other?**

PT: We wrestled once...

CA: One night I wouldn't let him pick what we wanted to watch on TV and

he got really mad.

**How far would you go for your "bro?"**

PT: I would catch a grenade for him.

CA: I would do anything for him, to save him or to make him happy.

**When did you realize your bromance was real?**

PT: When he was gone for a really long hockey tournament and I yearned for his presence.

CA: When he started getting serious with football and my time with him became minimal.

**What do you appreciate most about your "bro?"**

PT: I most appreciate his ability to listen when I need someone to talk to.

CA: I most appreciate his super-soft hair that I get to tousle every once in a while.

## Mato Standing Soldier & Mason Nelson

INTERVIEW BY KADE WALKER

**When did your bromance start?**

MS: We became friends in 7th grade, but we became a lot closer after lifting in football.

MN: Our bromance started [at Patrick Henry Middle School] in Mrs. Reck's pro-time, and in Mrs. Kallas' social studies class.

**What do you appreciate most about your "bro?"**

MS: He is a good guy who I can always come to for advice or when I'm feeling down. We have a good time eating food together.

MN: Definitely his sense of humor. No one can make me laugh like Mato.

**Has your bromance ever interfered with your romance?**

MS: Mason has a girlfriend, who he hangs out with. He has ditched me before, but I'm not salty about it.

MN: Not that I'm aware of.

**How do you express your affection?**

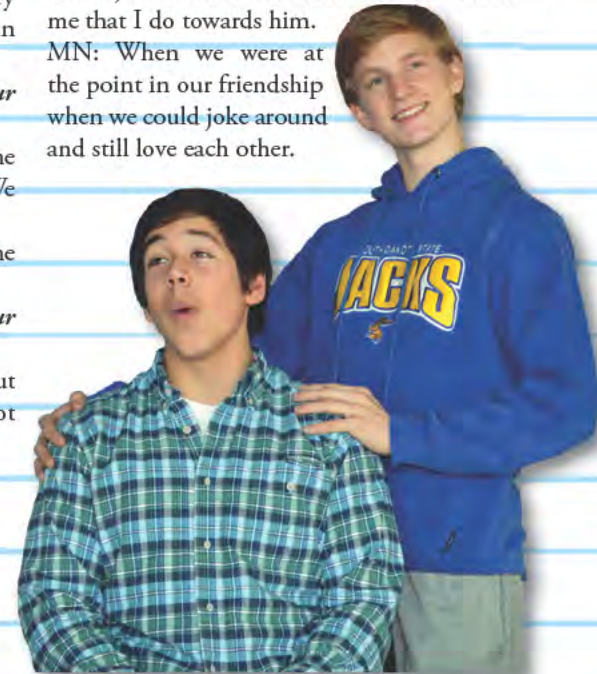
MS: We hold hands and cuddle.

MN: We joke around with each other.

**When did you realize your bromance was real?**

MS: When I look into his eyes and I know he shares just as much love and affection towards me that I do towards him.

MN: When we were at the point in our friendship when we could joke around and still love each other.



# Bromance

The *Statesman* takes a glance at the "bromances" shared between LHS' closest guy friends.

## Trent Naasz & Eric Looby

INTERVIEW BY LUKE MICHAELS

**What do you love about your "bro?"**

TN: I love Eric because he is a goon. Whenever we are together we are always laughing and having a good time.

EL: We can have serious talks about girls and stuff, but we can always goof around together.

**What do you appreciate about your "bro?"**

TN: He drives me everywhere and takes me to fast food restaurants. EL: He lets me talk to his really cool dad.

**Has your bromance ever interfered with your romance?**

TN: No, it is more like we ruin our other friends' relationships together. You could say it's a bonding experience.

EL: Well, Trent never gets girls, so it is never really a problem.

**What makes your friendship different from other friendships?**

TN: Half of the things we say are inside jokes. We even have three different handshakes.

EL: We just know more about each other than most friends do.

**What do you know about your "bro" that no one else would know?**

TN: I know he doesn't know how to change his mirrors in his car, that's for sure.

EL: He puts ketchup on everything—even corn. Who does that?

## Caleb Rector & Levi Foss

INTERVIEW BY JOE HIATT

**When did you realize your bromance was real?**

CR: Freshman year.

LF: When I looked into his eyes the first day of freshman year.

**How do people react to your bromance?**

CR: They judge us a lot.

LF: They don't like it, but they have to accept it.

**What was the biggest fight you have ever gotten in with each other?**

CR: Sometimes I make crude jokes about him and his mom and he does not like it.

LF: When I talk about his sister, Meg, all the time.

**Have you ever been in another bromance?**

CR: Quincy Score and I have a pretty good bromance going on.

LF: Yes, Ethan DeCosse [former LHS student].

**Has your bromance ever interfered with your romance?**

CR: Yes, sometimes I make plans with Levi after I already made plans with Maggie and I have to do what Maggie is doing.

LF: Yes, all the time.



LOVE XOXO

# MYTHS YOUR MOM TOLD YOU

By MARIECLAIRE CHRISTENSON AND CARLY HOHMAN

1) An apple a day keeps the doctor away.



Apples may be a healthy snack, but blueberries are a healthier choice. Rich in antioxidants and fiber, blueberries are a more effective food to eat to keep the doctor away.

2) Gum stays in your stomach for seven years.



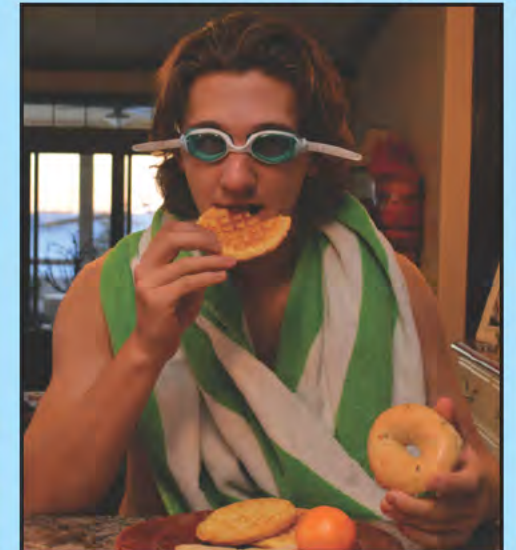
It is proven that gum is digested at the same rate as any other food, but swallowing too much over a short period of time can lead to "taffy-like" fecal matter.

3) If you cross your eyes, they will stay that way.



When a person crosses his or her eyes for a long period of time, it may cause a strain in the eye muscles, but there is no medical evidence proving that if a person crosses his or her eyes, they stick.

4) You should not swim for an hour after eating.



The only danger with swimming after eating is a minor cramp due to the decrease in blood flow toward the arm and leg muscles while the flow increases toward the digestive system.

PHOTOS BY MARIECLAIRE CHRISTENSON

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## The true spirit of Christmas

By **LUCAS MICHAELS**

The holiday season is a great time for friends, family and even strangers to come together and spread a little cheer. For LHS sophomore Emma Heckel, the holidays are more than just a special time of year.

"I do my best to be as happy as possible; sometimes a smile can make someone's day, and that is definitely the true meaning of the holidays. After all, nobody likes a Scrooge. It's so much more fun to get into the holidays than to be grumpy and mad at the people who are having fun around you," said Heckel.

Heckel goes above and beyond to achieve what she calls the "true" spirit of Christmas. She believes that giving is truly better than receiving.

"Nothing beats the feeling that I get when I see someone's face light up after receiving a present I have given them. I've also learned it's not the size or price of the gift that makes it special, it's the meaning and thought put into it. It's usually the homemade, heartfelt presents that people remember," said Heckel.

Heckel enjoys sharing the holidays and spreading her joy with her family



PHOTO BY BROCK GILMER

LHS sophomore Emma Heckel spends countless hours preparing for the holiday season.

and friends. She especially enjoys the traditions her family has made over the years.

"The day after Thanksgiving, our tree goes up, and we always decorate the tree and listen to carols. My dad makes it his job to make sure we have the biggest tree in the state of S.D., and we always end up having to chop off the tip of the tree so that it fits under the ceiling. But decorating the tree with my family, snuggling around the fire, watching Christmas movies and sipping hot chocolate is

the ideal way to spend my Christmas break," said Heckel.

As much as she loves the holidays, she equally hates when they are over.

"Jan. 2 is my least favorite day of the year. The tree comes down, the ornaments get put away and the happy Christmas spirit gets put away with them. School starts, and all that wonderful snow just becomes a nuisance to walk through. So I'll probably be in denial along with the rest of the world, knowing the holidays are over" said Heckel.

## Childhood Holiday

By **KAYLIE ERICSON**

With the holidays right around the corner, the Christmas trees, gift wrap and mistletoe have come out and the wish lists for Santa are in the minds of children everywhere. While attitudes toward the holidays have a funny way of evolving as we age, family traditions and childhood memories remain with us for years.

"As a kid, I always loved getting presents.

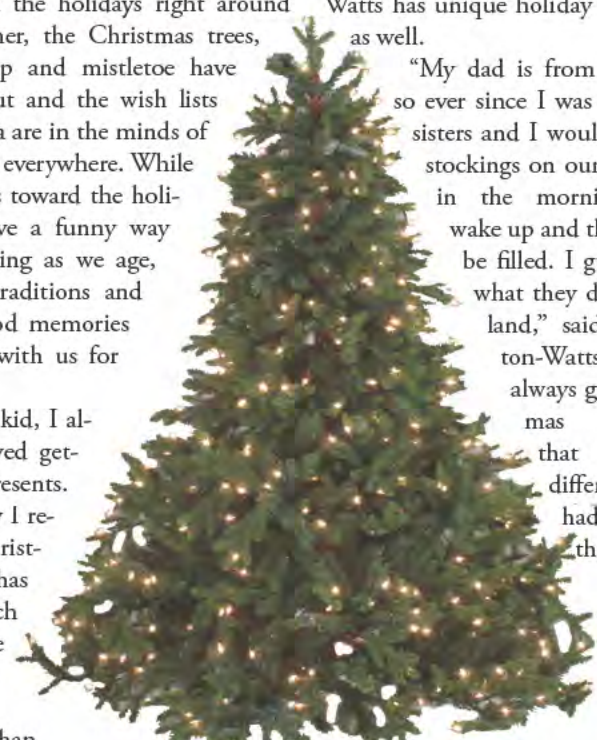
But now I realize Christmas has so much more meaning to it than

that," said LHS senior Kayla Hanson. "Every Christmas, my mom's side of the family gets together and makes Christmas cookies, and my cousins and I exchange gifts with each other."

LHS junior Maizie Middleton-Watts has unique holiday traditions as well.

"My dad is from England, so ever since I was born, my sisters and I would put our stockings on our feet and, in the morning, we'd wake up and they would be filled. I guess that's what they do in England," said Middleton-Watts. "We also always got Christmas pajamas that were all different but had the same theme."

Whether it is making Christmas cookies, counting down with a chocolate-filled Advent calendar or spending each holiday break in a tropical paradise, traditions make holidays more exciting and can create memories that stick with us for years to come.



## Significant other holiday gift ideas

By **BAILEY MONSON**

This Christmas, you may be pondering what to give your significant other. Let's face it: Boyfriends and girlfriends are not the easiest to shop for. But there is no need to fear; the

borderline gift-decider is here

Thoughtful is a small, kind gift for a friend or significant other. Thoughtful gifts are received in a one to six month relationship time frame.

Charming is a cute homemade gift for a non-materialistic person. Often given to friends or co-workers.

Romantic gifts are given in relationships lasting eight months or more. These presents are more ex-

pensive than average gift.

Ridiculous and Borderline Ridiculous gifts are more for the couples who are married or have been together for more than a year.



**Thoughtful**  
Knitted scarf

Homemade CDs



Framed picture

**Charming**  
Candy or chocolate



Flowers  
Homemade card

**Romantic**  
Jewelry

Perfume/Cologne

Shoes



**Nonsensical**  
Promise ring

Camera



Tickets to a sporting event

**Ridiculous**  
Kitten or puppy



Laptop  
Vacation

# Digital dependency

## To this LHS student, life is but a game

BY SARA JANE TEAL

There are many allures to video games that make them appealing to mainly male audiences. The violence, fast-paced movement and graphics can draw in anyone. Although most gamers can step away from it, some choose not to. Some effects of an obsession with video games can include: not doing homework, losing sleep and, ladies watch out for this one, neglecting girlfriends.

LHS senior Jimmy Keating is not one to hold back on his gaming addiction when it comes to his favorite games, "Call of Duty," and "Fifa 14."

"I play for about two hours almost every night. I've even stayed up until two in the morning once. I don't always do my homework because I would say it's more fun than doing AP Calculus homework," said Keating.

With the advancement of technology, gamers are able to "play live" and connect with friends or strangers around the world. Games are connected over the internet, and players can communicate over headsets in multi-player mode.

"I would say playing live is one of the most addicting things about video games. I can goof around with my friends and not pay attention to my phone or the things around me. Sometimes my mom gets mad about it, but she never makes me stop," said Keating.

Gaming could be classified as a distraction when playing, if it affects life outside of the basement; while others may disagree, saying

the so called "obsession" is just a game. "Sometimes when a new game comes out, all I think about is going home and get online and play with friends," said Keating.



PHOTO BY MADIE SCHULTZ

## Toeing the line with online shopping

BY LUCAS MICHAELS

Everyone loves shopping. Whether it is for the new pair of Air Jordans, the latest video game or some new clothes, shopping is a huge part of today's culture. For one LHS student, shopping is more than just a hobby. Junior Kristina Sullivan takes shopping to the next level.

"I shop online every day,

probably three times a day, and each time I go online I am there for at least a half an hour. I don't always buy clothes, I just love looking at them and putting outfits together. I love shopping in general. I'm probably at the mall once a week, but I prefer online shopping. It's faster, more convenient and since Sioux Falls doesn't have all the stores I want to shop at, I can shop at any store I want," said Sullivan.

If someone has a shopping addiction, it can come with a price, literally.

"The most I've ever spent online is about \$300; I bought a few dresses and some jewelry from Brandi Melville. But on average, I probably spend around \$75. Shopping online is nice because usually they have better sales, so I can save money. Most stores have exclusive clothes that are just sold on the online store," said Sullivan.

Sullivan admits that she does shop online maybe a little bit too much, but she does not see it as a serious problem.

"My parents say I need to find a limit to my shopping, but that is hard when I have my friends standing over me telling me to buy everything," said Sullivan.

## LHS students: Watch out for TV and Netflix addictions

BY BAILEY MONSON AND ELLEN KOESTER

Netflix and TV show addictions are very common among high school students. "Must-watch-shows" are very easy to come across and even easier to get addicted to. The weekly airings of TV series can pile up on any devoted student's watchlist. Netflix allows anyone to watch almost any show at any time and "binge-watching" has become very common. There is always something to watch on the popular website and the possibilities are endless. No one knows this better than two of our very own LHS students.

Freshman Zac Chase watches an average of three hours of Netflix or TV a day.

"When I don't have anything else to do, I watch TV. I split (the three hours) up. Usually I watch one or two episodes at a time and then take a break to read or do homework," said Chase.

Chase enjoys watching "Walking Dead," "Game of Thrones," "Firefly," "Dr. Who," the "Stargate" franchise and many other sci-fi

shows. He watches them on both Netflix and live TV.

"I don't have an addiction because I don't spend every hour, minute and second watching these series. I read a lot, but I also love these shows. It's hard to say 'no' to them," said Chase.

LHS junior, Michael Greenfield is another TV fanatic. He used to watch several series on Netflix, but he has slowed his TV mania since the school year started.

"Some of my favorite shows are 'Friday Night Lights,' 'Harpers Island' and 'Breaking Bad.' I did watch 'Pretty Little Liars.' I'm not going to deny it. It was an average show, but I quit watching it because all the girls on my Twitter timeline said who 'A' was and it ruined the show. This summer, I watched two or three episodes of a series a day. My friends may have thought I had an addiction, but I don't think what I had was an addiction," said Greenfield.

When Greenfield does not know what to do with friends or family, he used Netflix as a way

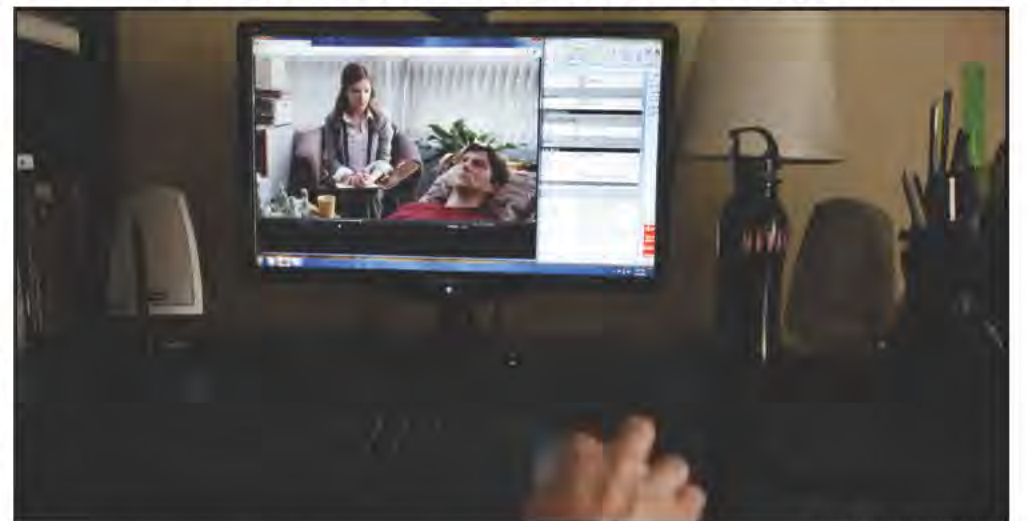


PHOTO PROVIDED BY MCT CAMPUS

to make less of an awkward situation and used his addiction as an unusual bonding time.

"My brother and I used to watch a lot of the same shows together. I also had an exchange student this summer, so when we didn't have

anything to do, we watched Netflix together," said Greenfield.

Although TV and Netflix addictions can get the best of us sometimes, a little devotion to the screen never hurts as long as reality prevails.

# Timeless style or fashion flop?

By MADDIE SCHULTZ  
AND ERIN DAUGHERTY

We have all looked at pictures of our parents when they were our age and asked, "What were you thinking?" We laugh at the clothes they pull from drawers in your attic you did not even know you had, and

joke about their crimped hair pulled into tight side ponies held by sparkly scrunchies.

But if we think about the trends now, our kids will probably laugh at us for the same reasons. Just like technology evolves into the next big thing, leaving Walkmans, CD play-

ers, and portable DVD players to lie as artifacts or clutter in landfills, styles will die with the time, leaving us with memories to make fun of. Are we going to regret wearing our short shorts, Uggs and crop tops as our children tease us as they run off with their iPhone 4? If you think

about it, we really have no reason to make fun of our parents' bug-eyed glasses that almost touch their finely combed mustaches, because we think our hipster glasses go so well with our perfectly 'ombre'd' hair.

Here are some things that we may look back on and shake our heads

at. But wear the trends well, because the trends that go with our time will be just as good of memories as the state championships. Laughing at pictures of ourselves in yoga pants at our retirement homes will be a lot more fun than being timeless.



Yoga pants

Jeggings/leggings

Chiffon shirts

Ombre hair

Gages

Short-shorts

Crop-tops

Animal prints

Brotanks



Uggs

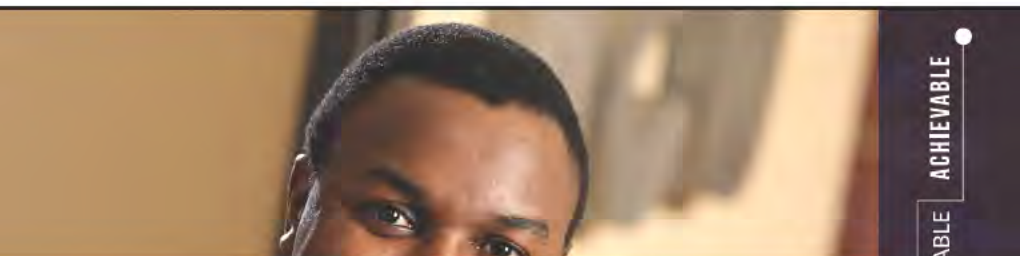
PHOTOS BY MADDIE SCHULTZ

Hipster glasses

Combat Boots



Vera Bradley



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## JROTC

By BAILEY MONSON

JROTC is a class and a program ran by Sargent Major Scott Bakken and Major Leo Campbell. Together the two instructors raise their students to high expectations. The class is designed to teach leadership, to raise self-esteem and improve discipline. Both teachers lead students in drills and increase physical stamina. I got the opportunity to spend a day with JROTC during drill day, which is every Monday, and it was a very eye-opening experience.

An important requirement of JROTC is wearing a uniform every Wednesday. Wearing a uniform in JROTC is one-third of a student's grade in the class. Another third of their grade involves tests and quizzes much like any other class. The final one-third grade is how students behave outside of class. For instance, if a student gets a detention for insubordination, they get ten points off JROTC for that section of their grade for that week. The class requires self-discipline throughout the year.

Going into the JROTC drill line was one of the most challenging things I have ever experienced. Little did I know, I was not supposed to wear heels on drill day. As I entered the gym during drill day, two groups of students were marching. Both groups were advanced JROTC students, and anyone could tell that they have all put in a lot of practice and they were experienced cadets.

LHS senior, Shania Williams has been in JROTC for four years. Sargent Major picked her specifically out of the group so she could teach me some of the beginners' drills. She taught me everything I was capable to know in a short amount of time. As easy as they might seem, they were incredibly difficult and took a lot of patience.

The most intimidating experience that happened to me while I was learning about JROTC was when I was learning to stand at attention. I had to stand shoulders back, chest out, stomach sucked in, feet at a 45 degree angle and thumbs on my pant seams, and that was the easy part. I then had to look directly ahead as Sargent Bakken walked past me. I was not to make eye contact, I was not to smile and I was not to move. Everyone made sure I had the full experience of a real JROTC student.

I feel as a student body we do not give the JROTC program as much credit as it deserves. Each individual student that is involved in JROTC has an immense amount of patience, discipline and self-respect and I am very glad I got a chance to see that first hand.



## Gymnastics

By SARA JANE TEAL

Blisters, bruises and burns might as well be the anthem of a gymnast. Walking into the LHS gymnastics gym, I had a mix of anxiousness and excitement. I was not sure what I had gotten myself into. I was frightened by broken wrists or ankles, or even the thought of breaking my neck and being paralyzed. I reigned my confidence when I realized I would not be doing three back tucks in a row. I became excited because I was stepping outside my life of dance and entering the realm of gymnastics.

Les Fredrick and Rebecca Mager are the coach and assistant coach, respectively, of the LHS' gymnastics team. Although it is a high school sport, the team also welcomes 7<sup>th</sup>-graders and 8<sup>th</sup>-graders who make up the Junior Varsity (JV) team.

The gymnasts start off practice with laps around the mat and a deep stretch to make sure their muscles are warmed up and ready to go. This was something I was used to having danced all my life, so this was the easy part of practice. Once finished stretching, the varsity and JV teams split, the varsity gymnasts at vault and JV girls on the beam.

As I stood on the corner of the mat, taking a break from the springboard and front handsprings; that, may I add, I had slightly mastered by the end of practice, I watched the girls leap off the other springboard and flip over the vault. I could not help but clutch my chest and worry that the girls would land on their heads.

My next task was to try out my skills on the uneven bars. I tried to keep it professional by putting the hand grips and chalk on. I swung onto to the bars and tried to use my power and abs to attempt some beginner level tricks. I soon realized that it takes a lot more strength than what these gymnasts are given credit for.

Being a gymnast requires much more than the sparkly uniforms. Walking out of the gym, I could feel the physical pains of bruises and floor burns all over my body. Although gymnasts make everything they do look flawless and easy, it is no surprise that up close it takes way more strength than expected. If it is one thing that I learned for sure, it is that a gymnast cannot be afraid of getting a little chalk on their clothes, using their core and taking a risk.



## Oral I

By JEB

Laughing, crying, yelling and whispering of Oral Interp.

I spent two class periods getting familiar with an interper must have to be successful. A week to practice before presenting it.

After practicing my piece, I realized how really takes. Forming characters was a fun. After a while, you start to form a become a part of you. Along with putting are many rules one must follow to performing the script while performing, the presentation must be eight to ten minutes judged and given a score out of 30 special categories such as confidence level, character.

My experience performing was something being more nervous than I have ever been. Confidence after the first couple lines. The presentation spent, and being able to make a class presentation laughing made me overjoyed.

The overall message I got from participating in oral interpers put in just as much work as such as basketball, volleyball and football. Students form a strong bond with each other, a bond like this that makes high school students are looking for a class to completely highly recommend taking the novice class up on the varsity team someday.



# A day in the life...



## Interp

COOPER

...ing are all incorporated into the art

...iliar with the terminology and presence  
... then was given a humor piece and had  
... in front of the Statesman staff.

... how much time and effort oral interp  
... very long process, but was also a lot of  
... bond with your piece. The characters  
... ing in the time to master a piece, there  
... form. Some of these rules include: not  
... the intro must be memorized and the  
... tes long. In competition an interper is  
... aker points. Speaker points include sub  
... racters, voice and presence.

... something I will never forget. I went from  
... een, to being overwhelmed with confi-  
... ractice I put in was definitely time well  
... oom of high school students burst out

...cicipating in this activity was that varsity  
... k, if not more than other varsity sports,  
... tball. Like with any sport, oral interp  
... other throughout the season, and it is  
... a fun and memorable time If students  
... be themselves and have fun, I would  
... nterp class. Who knows, you may end



## Basketball

BY KADE WALKER

What does it take to be a state champion? How much do you have to give to earn a trophy? The LHS Girls basketball team is coming off of a state championship, and they certainly know what it takes. I was honored to have the chance to practice with the team and see how hard they really worked.

With new coach Matt Daly, the Patriots found themselves before an uncertain future. Coming off a great season last year, it was yet unknown how the new teammates would be under new coaching. After just one day of a grueling, yet uplifting and inspiring practice, I can see that the Patriot girls are in good hands.

The two hour practice started off with a simple enough task, stretching, but even the little tasks have big meaning. Daly took this time to motivate and to inspire his athletes. No time was wasted, even the water breaks were done with speed. Everything was done so that they would get maximum reps out of the two hours.

During stretching, he announced in honor of me, that it was time for a couple figure-eight. I had no clue what that entailed, but judging by the groans from the athletes, it was hard. The drill consisted of back peddling, shuffling and sprinting, all basic things I do in other sports, but it was the pace and the amount of reps the team did that truly got to me. On the last set I caught myself slipping, and it was not the shoes, I was gassed.

The beginning drills tested me in all aspects of the game: Shooting, dribbling and everything in between. But not one part was done without hustle. Giving your 100 percent was the only accepted amount of effort here. I ran with them, but they did not run for themselves, they ran for their teammates. They ran so that in March they can be the ones with the trophy raised high and once again adding their mark of history to the banner.

I came into this practice thinking that it would not be so hard, just a bit of running, maybe taking a few shots. Boy was I wrong, or rather, girl was I wrong. I was more tired in the first five minutes then I thought I would be the whole practice. It was an environment where everything had a purpose.

The girls basketball team is out there working for a championship; it is clear they're not playing to be second. They want back-to-back, and they will claw tooth and nail to take another championship back to LHS. They know what it takes, and that is what they are doing, what it takes and more.



## Theatre

BY MAKAYLA DISBURG

There have been few times when my heart has pounded loud enough for others to hear, but auditioning for the LHS One Act play was definitely one of those times.

With tryouts at 3:15 p.m., my seventh period consisted of attempting to memorize the monologue I was auditioning with and wondering how the time was speeding by so fast. I have auditioned for musicals in the past, but they never required anything but singing and dancing. There are times when I go into my bathroom and act out made-up scenes in front of the mirror for fun, and with that being the most acting experience I had prior to my audition, I had no idea what to expect.

To start off, we all sat down in the little theater and listened to the theatre adviser, Lance DeRoos, introduce us to his idea of what the play would be about. After that, he had groups of five or six people go on stage and stand in a line. Everyone introduced themselves with their name, grade and their favorite class of the day, and when introductions were done, we started reading the monologues.

It was comforting to know that even the regular theatre people were feeling some nerves. I never managed to memorize the monologue I picked, so I was even more scared to recite my lines. We presented by grade, and to my luck the unfortunate freshmen got to go first. When it was my turn to go, I grabbed the script to read off and headed into the spotlight.

Standing on stage, trying to stay calm and keep my voice from cracking, was probably the most nerve racking thing I have done all year. I have secretly always wanted to be in theater, but I never realized how hard it would be to be a performer. There is so much to think about when you are on stage, and getting into character is really challenging. It takes a lot of guts to act, especially in front of a full auditorium. Theater kids deserve a lot more credit than they are given.

This years One Act play is called "Plus" and will be about the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Although it is more of a serious topic, the theatre department hopes to portray the struggles and bring attention to the problems caused by the virus.



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## Winter accessories: Fashionable and functional

BY SARA JANE TEAL

It is the time of year when the weather starts to change, and students pack up and put away the high waisted shorts and gladiator sandals. With the wintery weather setting in, LHS students are bundling up in sweaters and scarves. Alongside the main articles of clothing such as dresses and blouses, accessories are the important addition to the perfect outfit.

When the cold weather sets in, a beanie is the best way to go. Not only does it keep a person warm, but beanies are convenient for a "lazy day," hair style. A beanie is a unisex accessory that can help anyone on a bad hair day. Not only have many celebrities, such as Zac Efron, have taken a liking to them, but many LHS students, including Robert Stocker and Hannah Asfeldt, also sport them outside of school.

Another way to stay warm is by wearing knit, infinity scarves. A neutral-colored scarf can match any shirt. Although most purchase their infinity scarves, it is becoming more and more popular to knit one's own as a DIY project.

Patterned tights are still a trend for girls this winter. While wearing skirts or dresses, having bare legs is not the way to go in S.D.'s cold weather. Wearing regular black or brown tights can be a little boring, but a way to mix things up is to try on some patterned tights to add contrast



PHOTO BY BROCK GILMER

Hannah Asfeldt shows off her winter fashion sense in an orange beanie.

to an outfit.

Although most fashion trends are focused toward girls, there are many trends for guys too. Some of these trends include khaki pants and crew necks. These styles are worn by many LHS males.

Other states may think S.D. is behind on the popular trends, but they are wrong. With popular social network sites like Pinterest and Instagram, it is easy to keep up with the winter fashion. LHS students are stylish and can be seen rocking fashion forward trends.

## "The Sound of Music Live!": A unique TV experience

BY ALEXA ANKRUM

The magic of Broadway was brought to NBC Thursday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, during the presentation of "The Sound of Music Live!." For the first time in 50 years, a musical created specifically for television was broadcasted on live television.

The cast did not use headset microphones, so their singing was fairly muffled in the beginning, but as the performance continued, the lyrics became much clearer. The sets were reminiscent of a Broadway stage, but the camera crew's shooting at different angles gave an impression of watching a movie. This combination of the different styles of two mediums of entertainment, enhanced the unique experience of watching "The Sound of Music Live!."

Country music star, Carrie Underwood gave a good performance as the sweet, but untamable, Maria. With Underwood's sweet-looking demeanor, she gave a decent interpretation of a kind, simple girl, whose life is taking her in unexpected directions. The Tony and Grammy Award-winner Audra McDonald made great

use of her singing talent playing the role of the Mother Abbess. Her voice was the first one heard as the nuns opened the performance by singing "Preludium," as they were walking through the Abbey. The different facets of Mother Abbess' personality were revealed as the 'reverent' mother playfully sang "My Favorite Things" with Maria, and when she gave Maria advice in the song "Climb Ev'ry Mountain." McDonald portrays Mother Abbess as a strong-willed, but open-minded person, in such a way that can only be praised. Although McDonald is clearly captured the wisdom and strength of the character.

All of the actors portrayed their characters well, especially some of the minor characters. Christian Borle played the role of the self-centered Max Detweiler with a deftness that absorbed the attention of the viewer. From top to bottom, the cast knew how to keep the viewer's attention. The only unusual part of the cast was the ages of some of the actors. Many of them looked significantly older than their characters were supposed to be, most notably Michael Campayno,



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MCT CAMPUS

Carrie Underwood, as the entertainment world has never seen her before, as Maria von Trapp of "The Sound of Music".

who played Rolf Gruber. Other than that, the performers did well.

"The Sound of Music Live!" was a unique undertaking on the part of cast and crew, and it was interesting for those who watched it. It is difficult to compare this performance with its counterpart from 1965 due to the fact that the former was a movie and the new version was on live TV, however, it was a presentation worth watching.

## 2013 Slang

BY BELLA THOME

**2k13** 2013 "Summer 2k13 was the best summer ever."

**About to go hard** About to do something crazy "Playing dodgeball, about to go hard."

**Bae** Before Anyone Else "I am cool because I had Vera Bradley bae."

**Cha Boi** A male friend that you are fond of "I was hanging out with cha boi this weekend."

**Cheesy** Something funny or goofy "He took her on a cheesy date to Chuck E. Cheese."

**Dope** Cool, sick, awesome "That kid is so dope."

**Finna** Going to or fixing to "I am finna go to McDonalds."

**Hater** One who hates "He didn't like my UGGs. What a hater."

**Lawlz** Lazy form of "lol."

**Obvi** Obviously "It's obvi cold outside since girls are wearing scarves."

**Ooh Kill' em** To dominate a task or opponent "Everyone was screaming ooh kill' em at the game."

**S'cute** So cute "Hannah Montana is s'cute"

**Steady Mobbini'** Going to place with "swagger" "We are steady mobbin' to Hy-Vee."

**Swag** Cool "I have so much swag."

**TBH** To be honest "TBH, you're cray-cray."

**Thee Man** A really cool guy "He is thee man."

**Totes** Totally "Maddie is totes weird."

**Trill** Chill, True and real combine "There is no one more trill than Mrs. Fox."

**Turn down for what?** Don't stop partying "Going to a party, turn down for what?"

**Turn up** Get crazy, excited, or do something fun "There's a party tonight, so it's time to turn up."

**YOLO**-You only live once "I'm going to go swim in a polluted river, YOLO."

## Dance Gallery's "The Nutcracker" wows audiences of all ages

BY SARA JANE TEAL

For those LHS students who enjoy the holiday season, "The Nutcracker" is a great way to get into the spirit. It is no surprise why Dance Gallery puts on

eight shows spanning two weekends; tickets sell out fast. Not only were students able to see a beautifully performed show, but the ballet features some of their LHS peers. LHS students Lizzie Archer, Ellie Leach,

Chloe Litzen, Haley Baker, LaShae Prins, Sean and Joe Weaver, Kolbe Donnell, Erin Schrader and Raeann VanDrongelen are all part of this year's production.

"The Nutcracker" centers around a child character Clara, who receives a nutcracker on Christmas Eve from her uncle Drosselmeyer. At night, Clara is soon whisked away in her dreams and meets the Nutcracker Prince and the Sugar Plum Fairy. Clara also meets all the dancers in "The Land of Sweets." These scenes included the Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Chinese and flower dancers. It also includes performers dressed as cupcakes and angels.

Archer, who played the Sugar Plum Fairy, performed a solo with her partner Joe Weaver which included multiple lifts and turns. Archer and Weaver make dancing look effortless on stage. Leach plays the lead Snow Queen along side of Litzen who plays the lead Flower.

Performed all in ballet with soloists all on

pointe, Dance Gallery does not disappoint when it comes to the dancers technique, stage performance and choreography. Not only do they keep up with their dancing, but they have excel-

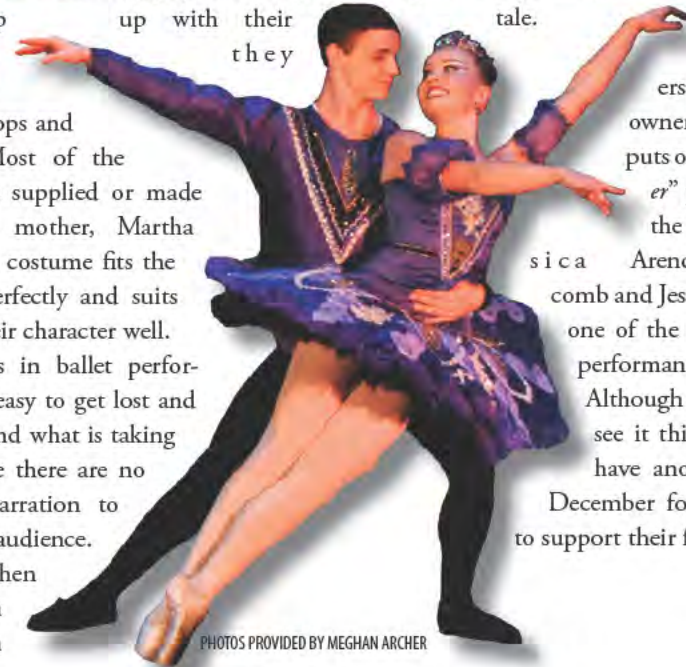
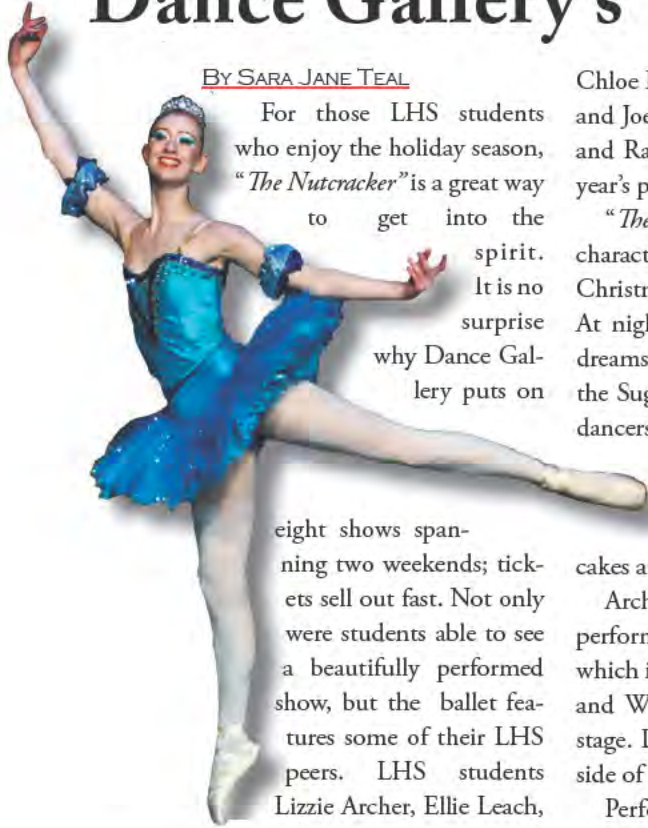
lent stage props and costumes. Most of the costumes are supplied or made by Archer's mother, Martha Archer. Each costume fits the performer perfectly and suits them and their character well.

Sometimes in ballet performances it is easy to get lost and not understand what is taking place because there are no scripts or narration to guide the audience.

Often when there was a blackout on

stage, I would zone out, but once the classical music started up and the action took place again I was pulled back into the fairy tale.

Jackie Pederson-Kriens, the owner of the studio, puts on "The Nutcracker" production with the help from Jessica Arends, Robyn Holcomb and Jessica Rooney. It is one of the best Nutcracker performances I have seen. Although it is too late to see it this year, they will have another show next December for LHS students to support their fellow peers.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MEGHAN ARCHER

## LHS theatre department presents "The Great Gatsby"

BY ELLEN KOESTER

F. Scott Fitzgerald's 1925 novel "The Great Gatsby" has had many adaptations since its publication. There have been six movie adaptations including a new movie released last May. The LHS theatre department put on a stage adaptation of the book in November and was well-received by audiences. For those into theater, "The Great Gatsby" was a great experience.

"We practiced seven days a week. Towards the last two weeks of practice, I didn't get home before 9:45 p.m.," said LHS senior Leviathan DeGross.

DeGross played the production's title character, Jay Gatsby. The iconic character was pulled off with a rich-man strut and a Southern-ish accent. DeGross used method acting to give more life to his character.

"It was very hard to take a character that is so big and well-known and make him real. I pulled emotions from myself and put them in my character. We all feel the same emotions although our motivations are different. It is called method acting," said DeGross. "I feel a strong sympathy for Gatsby. He is one of the few char-

acters who tries to be a good person, but his naivety is ultimately his downfall."

The book was adapted for the stage by Simon Levy and kept true to the source material. A few new scenes were added, but only served to enhance the characters and themes of the play. The set was made using a lot of green and yellow colors which were symbolic in Fitzgerald's book. Beautiful stained glass windows were shown on a screen behind the actors to depict scene changes and Gatsby's famous yellow car.

The students who most benefitted from the play were not those in the audience, but those on stage. LHS freshman Becca Johnson was a member of the technical crew for the production and took away many fun memories.

"I did not know what 'The Great Gatsby' was at first," said Johnson. "I helped build things like couches and I liked the oculist sign. I really liked the play. I never got to see it from the audience, but I got to hear the whole thing [from backstage]."

The LHS Theatre's next production will be a one act called "Plus" which will be performed later this winter.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MARY SCHULTZ

LHS seniors Greta Schultz and Leviathan DeGross star in "The Great Gatsby" as Daisy Buchanan and Jay Gatsby respectively.

## Ron Burgundy

### An entertaining insult to journalism

By ELLEN KOESTER

The new "Anchorman" book was written for a very specific purpose: to make money. After 2004's blockbuster "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy" was a hit, a sequel was unavoidable. Now, nine years later, a sequel is set to premiere later this month. As if that were not enough, there is also a new book at which fans can throw their money. This is not a bad idea. Any student who is hyped up for the movie release should consider checking out the main character's tell-all memoir.

"Let Me Off at the Top: My Classy Life & Other Musings" is exactly what it should be: silly, trite and crude. The text's supposed author is the fictional Ron Burgundy. There is no way a reader could miss this since both he and his moustache are prominently displayed on the book's cover. Burgundy is also incredibly narcissistic. The entire second chapter is dedicated to only describing Burgundy's hair. He also loves to praise his "accomplishments" in journalism.

At many points in the book he mentions how sure he is that the book will win a Pulitzer Prize. That is never going to happen. Burgundy will, sadly, never win a literary award for this

particular novel. Why? The biggest conflict in the book revolves around whether Burgundy's neighbor will return his leaf blower or not.

Although the novel is not ground-breaking, it is funny. Some memorable chapters include a chapter about how to survive a prison riot and a short, incredibly misguided, history of Mexico. The humor in the book follows the humor in the movie very closely. Funny jokes are, unfortunately, closely followed by crude, sexist or racist ones. Readers may either enjoy this formula or find it distracting.

A running gag of the book is that Burgundy claims it is complete nonfiction. That is not true. Burgundy makes this clear the second he mentions his high school; he claims he went to a Catholic school called Our Lady Queen of Chewbacca.

As long as a reader keeps in mind the book is complete fiction, he or she will enjoy the book. Although it is crude and offensive at times, it is entertaining; especially if a student reads the book in the "Anchorman" voice. Enjoy.

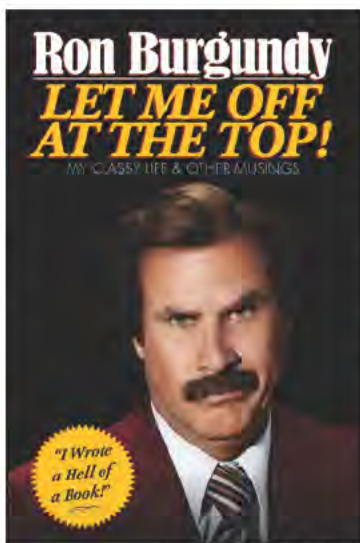


PHOTO PROVIDED BY MCT CAMPUS

## Prof expands fan base

### Minnesota rapper takes the Sioux Empire

By JEB COOPER

Minnesota native and rapper Prof decided to pursue a career in music after doing a show in high school. From there he went on to making mixtapes with his group of friends, and eventually produced multiple albums. The name Prof was a basketball nickname from high school that the artist carried over into his rap career. Once his music career took off, Prof went on tour doing shows mainly in the Midwest.

"I quickly learned that the tour life, while very fun, is a lot of hard work," said Prof. "I enjoy doing shows and seeing people get excited to hear my music, but I don't like the travel. It is also very hard to stay healthy =going hard every night."

His latest album "King Gampo" was not inspired by anything in general. The flow of this album is different from any other album out there. His witty rhymes and unique sound is what has made Prof such a success in the Minneapolis hip-hop scene. In the music industry,

setbacks are common. Prof has managed to overcome those difficulties with the help of friends, and his own personal desire to succeed in the industry.

"The process of making an album consists of getting beats, writing lyrics to those beats and then recording, mixing and mastering them," said Prof. "I have encountered a few setbacks in my career, but I have overcome them by not stopping and never giving up."

Prof has chosen this lifestyle through the ups and downs because of the passion he has for making music and entertaining people.

His onstage presence at shows keeps people on edge and entertained because of his wild personality and enthusiastic music. The artist has plans for the future but has not yet revealed

them to the public. Prof fans will have to wait and see.

"The moves I'm making now cannot yet be announced," said Prof.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY PROF

## Brown disappoints fans due to rehabilitation

By BAILEY MONSON

Even though Chris Brown told the Breakfast Club radio crew in Los Angeles that his new album, "X" was "definitely" coming out this November, it was pushed back to Dec. 3. Once again, Chris Brown has pushed back the debut of his record. Although Brown has been consistent with his inconsistencies, he understands how some fans may be upset. Because Brown is so understanding, he released a five-song mix tape with "X" files included, on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

Although the constant pushing back of his album is making some fans irritable, Brown does have a good excuse for the delay. He recently has been put into rehab for anger management therapy. As of right now, "X" does not

have a release date. All his audience knows is that the album will drop sometime in 2014, despite his original date, set for Jul. 16, 2013. Oddly enough, "X" could be coming out on the one-year anniversary of its original release date.

Brown is supposedly set to be in the rehabilitation center for three months. It is clear he is upset about his album being delayed once again. He is trying his hardest to pull through therapy and release his album for his anxious fans. Yes, Brown is selfish for his constant delay of "X," but devoted fans understand problems occur, and Brown is trying to work through his anger in order to be there for his fans. His R&B suave will leave any girl willing to wait for his new CD.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MCT CAMPUS

Although Brown has delayed his album release, his fans still support him in his career by purchasing his art and apparel merchandise from his line, Black Pyramid.

# "Catching Fire" catches audience's attention

BY ERIN DAUGHERTY AND KADE WALKER

Millions of people all across America waited in line for hours to see the newest movie in the "The Hunger Games" trilogy. The long wait proved to be worth it. "Catching Fire" visually and emotionally captivated audiences throughout the nation.

"Catching Fire," the second book in Suzanne Collins' bestselling "The Hunger Games" series, follows the life of Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) as she is forced back into the Hunger Games for their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary after having won them the year before. This time the games are different. The competitors are winners from past years, and there is no chance for both Katniss and her partner, Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson), to come out alive.

"Catching Fire" had suspense, plot twists, romance and remorse all wrapped into 146 minutes. Leading lady Jennifer Lawrence captured viewers' hearts, and the supporting cast grabbed viewers' attention, especially Prim (Willow Shields), Katniss's younger sister, and Finnick Odair (Sam Claflin), the tribute from District 4.

The film pleased readers by following the plot of the story, although director Francis Lawrence (no relationship to Jennifer) did cut some scenes. Of particular note was the absence of Gale Hawthorne (Liam Hemsworth) and Katniss's encounter with runaways hoping to find refuge in the supposedly destroyed District 13.

Books are generally known to be better than the movies, but "Catching Fire" seems to be different. Most fans preferred the movie to the novel; the book was slow in some parts and lacked the overall suspense of the first book. The movie's focus on the actual games rather than the outside world of Panem, however, kept viewers the edge of their seats. With an 8.2 out of 10 star rating on IMDB, the movie has been received well amongst all viewers.

The success of "Catching Fire" will excite fans for the third and final part of the "Hunger Games" series, which will be split into two parts. "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1" will release Nov. 21, 2014, and "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2" will release Nov. 20, 2015.

## Come to the island of Catan

BY BROCK GILMER

When students were children, popular board games such as The Game of Life, Candy Land and Mouse Trap littered the floors of almost every American household. Although board games continue to be pushed out of the picture by mobile and console gaming, some board games continue to challenge players reasoning and strategy skills. Games such as Risk and Ticket to Ride put a competitive spin onto board games, making time playing with friends much more rewarding. A game on the rise that continues to divide households and break up some of the most solid friendships, The Settlers of Catan is well worth the conflicts.

Catan, as it is informally known, is published by Mayfair Games, a company based out of Chicago, Ill. In order to become the "top dog" of Catan, players collect resources including wool, brick, wood, wheat and ore. Players collect these ever-important resources by placing settlements and cities on the hexes of the gameboard. These resources then can be used to build roads, cities and settlements. After a player has gathered 10 victory points by obtaining development cards, building settlements and cities, he or she is crowned the victor and is often considered a target for the next

game. Strategy comes in when players decide where to place roads and settlements and how to cut off grandma from her steady flow of wheat. This family game seems to be fun and exciting, but more often than not, relationships become torn.

Hitting the production line in 1995, The Settlers of Catan has had astonishing success. Catan has received numerous awards including the 1995 Deutscher Spiele Preis, the 2005 Gra Roku Game of the Year and the 2005 Games Magazine Hall of Fame. Although the group of students who how to play the game is relatively small, many people continue to learn the game, and the fan base continues to grow.



PHOTO BY BROCK GILMER

Frequent players of the game suggest all strategic-minded people should try The Settlers of Catan.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MCT CAMPUS

Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson, left) and Katniss Everdeen (Academy Award winner Jennifer Lawrence, right) arrive at the training center to prepare for the 75th Hunger Games.

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Ethan Gette and Sidney Theis



Hannah Lubben and Kolebe Johnson



Josh Westley and Atiyah Leise



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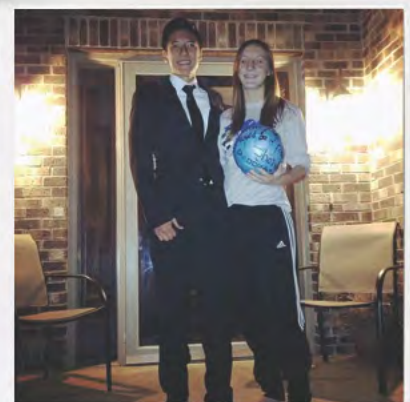
Courtney Anderson and Taylor Ochsner



Grace Fjellanger and Nate Bodger



Jadiah Thamerert and Dylan Bartow



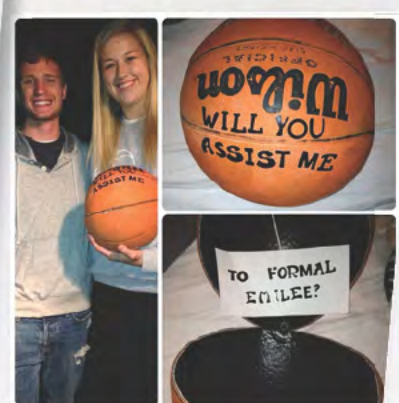
Shota Oshimo and Julie Teslow



Carter Kerber and Nondra Valdivinos



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Nolan Burchill and Meg Restor

# Sports

LHS STATESMAN

DECEMBER 13, 2013

## By the Numbers

YARDS BY CADEN  
QUINTANILLA  
IN HIS HIGH  
SCHOOL VAR-  
SITY CAREER

**3,733**

NUMBER OF ALL-  
STATE FOOTBALL  
PLAYERS FROM  
LHS

**9**

MEETS INTO THE SEA-  
SON FOR THE LHS  
GYMNASTICS TEAM

**3**

DAYS UNTIL THE FIRST  
BOYS AND GIRLS BAS-  
KETBALL GAMES

**0**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friday, December 13**  
Varsity Girls Basketball vs. RC Central  
@ LHS 6:00 p.m.

**Friday, December 13**  
Varsity Boys Basketball vs. RC Central  
@ LHS 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, December 14**  
Varsity gymnastics in Aberdeen  
@ Aberdeen 12:00 a.m.



PHOTO BY BROCK GILMER

## Football state championship: Perfect end to the perfect season

By MAKAYLA DISBURG

The LHS football team made history by completing an undefeated season. The Pats sealed their season with a 47-24 win over RHS in the state championship game on Nov. 16.

“Going into the championship game, I was confident but nervous at the same time,” said senior Taylor Salava. “I knew it was going to be a game that I would remember for the rest of my life.”

Leading up to the state championship, the team prepared for the big game with focused practices and film.

“We knew we had to have a great week of prac-

tice and play at a high level during the week, so it would transfer to the game,” said senior Caden Quintanilla. “I believe we had the best practices that week since my career started at LHS.”

With starting quarterback, senior Connor Burchill, on the sideline due to an ACL injury in the previous game, junior Isaiah Roach started the game.

“I was nervous because I was playing in the dome, and it was a big stage I’ve never played on before. It took a little while for it to all sink in,” said Roach.

Although the team was unprepared for Burchill’s

injury, the players were determined to keep up the momentum and not let anything affect their game.

“We were confident in each other and with Connor out, we really had to make sure Isaiah knew we were confident in him,” said Salava.

Despite going down 10-0 early in the first quarter, the team did not let the shaky first minutes affect their game, but continued to pick each other up. The players did not look back, and the LHS football team came out on top.

See **Football**: pg. 28

## Standing Pat Just how bright is the future of the NBA?

By KADE WALKER

The best NBA draft classes in history were in 2003, 1984, and 2014? NBA analysts have already deemed the 2014 class the next great generation of NBA players, headlined by Kansas Jayhawk Andrew Wiggins, Kentucky Wildcat Julius Randle and Duke Blue Devil Jabari Parker.

This upcoming NBA class will be a complete slug-out for the first overall pick, with three players who would be number one picks in any other NBA class; this class had NBA general managers drooling over the first pick. According to the Bleacher Report, a popular sport coverage website, one anonymous GM has already admitted to purposely tanking this season.

“Our team isn’t good enough to win, and we know it,” said an anonymous source. “So this season, we want to develop and evaluate our young

players, let them learn from their mistakes—and get us in position to grab a great player. The best way for us to do that is to lose a lot of games.”

The NBA is a league driven by superstars, and for a team to be competitive, it must have great talent on the roster. It’s as simple as that. No NBA team has ever won a championship without the help of an all-star, and in a draft that potentially has the next Jordan, O’Neal or James, what struggling team wouldn’t want a slice?

Early comparisons already compare Wiggins to hall of famer Scottie Pippen, Parker to Carmelo Anthony and Randle to Kevin Garnett. Keep in mind that these potential NBA prospects are no more than freshmen in college and have a huge ceiling above them. With guys like this there is no doubt that some of the NBA’s worst teams could make a huge comeback.

With some of the best shooters, defenders and players in the world stepping up to the biggest stage, many people are wondering if they will be able to live up to the hype. Don’t forget Darko Milicic went second in 2003. On average he scored a grand total of 0 points last year for the Boston Celtics. Not all prospects live up to the hype.

Jordan, Stockton and Olajuwon were some of the few NBA stars headlining the 1984 then James, Anthony and Wade this now superstars who took the 2003 draft by storm, now, Wiggins, Parker, and Randle in 2014? This class definitely has the talent it takes, but it all depends on them landing in the right spot. Jordan would not have been the greatest ever if it wasn’t for him having the great Phil Jackson as a coach. This class could be the greatest ever; it all depends on what they put in.



# Girls basketball: Practice intensity increases

By KAYLIE ERICSON

The LHS girls basketball team is in good shape for the 2013-14 season under a promising new head coach and team leadership.

While the state title-holding team only has three players left from last season, head coach Matt Daly has faith in both the veterans and the new members of the team. The three team captains are seniors Emilee Pierson and Lexi Hamiel and junior Ellie Brecht.

"All the girls have a great work ethic," said Daly. "They have great basketball I.Q.'s, so they are a very coachable group of girls. We typically start off practice with high-speed agility drills that require their focus and their energy, and require them to get something accomplished as a team."

Last season, the LHS girls won the state championship for the first time in school history, which, according to Daly, set a standard for this season.

"I think it really gives the girls a sense

of optimism, and they know that if they keep working hard and playing their best basketball through the end of the year, anything is possible," said Daly. "The motivating factor for them is just wanting to get back into that state tournament and to repeat being state champions."

Daly foresees the biggest competition this season to be WHS, RHS and OGHS, as well as Harrisburg, who will be playing in the AA Division for the first time. Despite the high rankings of the competition, the LHS girls are expected to enter and finish the season strong.

"A lot of the motivation from these girls comes from within; they're motivated to get better every day. When you combine athleticism with a willingness to learn, you'll have a pretty good team by the end of the year," said Daly.

The 2013-14 team's debut will be Dec. 13 in their home gym. The Pats will be facing the Cobblers of Rapid City Central High School.



PHOTO BY BROCK GILMER

Sophomore Jill Ricke catches a pass while working on a fast break play at practice.

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## Boys basketball: Seniors focus on recovery

By DYLAN HALL

LHS is drawing closer to the beginning of the 2013-14 boys basketball season, and where one player is excited to be back, one is going to have to fight through a tough year.

LHS senior Cameron Burgard will be back on the court for the first time in over a year, after suffering an ACL tear during football season last year. Burgard decided to not play football this year so he could focus on recovering and getting ready for basketball season. His teammate, senior Connor Burchill, will be forced to sit out for most of the year after enduring the same injury in a football game earlier this fall.

"I cannot wait to get back out on the court and contribute to the team. I feel strong and ready for the upcoming season. It was so hard to have to sit on the bench and cheer my team on instead of being out there playing," said Burgard.

A torn ACL is one of the worst injuries an athlete can have, as it takes a long time

to recover from. The road to recovery is very challenging, but in most cases, the recovering athlete comes back stronger and better than they were before the injury.

"When I first got hurt, I was in shock because I never thought that it would happen to me, it made me realize that it can happen to anyone," said Burgard. "It was very stressful and painful knowing that there isn't anything I can do to make my recovery faster. I knew that I would be ready to go by this year, but it was tough having to go through so much to get back."

Playing two sports can be very tough. Many athletes do it at the high school level, but once players get into college, they usually decide to narrow it to one sport. The reason for this is that the risk of an injury is too high. Football is a sport in which it is very easy to get injured, and basketball season starts right after football is over. If an athlete suffers a significant injury during football season, it could keep him out for basketball



PHOTO BY BROCK GILMER

Senior Cameron Burgard (33) wears a supportive knee brace for every practice, game and tournament.

season as well. This is what happened to both Burgard and Burchill.

"It's really tough to play both basketball and football. The time in between the two seasons is really short and the risk of an injury

is higher. It gets really hard to get focused in such a short amount of time before the season starts, where players who just play one sport have been getting ready for a while," said Burgard.

## Wrestling: Castilleja aims for the podium

By PRANAM DEY

Dedication. That one simple word sums up LHS junior Skyler Castilleja's approach to wrestling. Since his father was a wrestler, Castilleja learned about the sport from a young age. He was only three years old when he started wrestling for fun with his father on the living room floor. He quickly outpaced those at-home lessons and began working with a coach at age seven. For Castilleja, wrestling gives him an opportunity to shine in front of his peers.

"It's the winning that appeals," said Castilleja. "You're proving yourself in front of others."

Castilleja credits his intense workout regimen and the support of his coach for helping him improve over the past years.

"I wake up at six in the morning and go run for two to three miles, every day, regardless of the weather. At practice, I like the live wrestling. It's basically just a practice match,



PHOTO BY BROCK GILMER

LHS junior Skyler Castilleja prepares for his next season in the wrestling room.

and I give it my all. I go to any tournaments I can, and I go to a lot of wrestling camps in

the summer. On weekends, I practice at Legends Gold in Beresford to get more individual practice," said Castilleja. "My coach helps me

with my stance and gets me fired up when I'm down."

These efforts have clearly paid off. He earned fourth place at the state wrestling tournament last year and competed at Super 32 Wrestling, a national wrestling tournament over the past summer. Though he could only get to the second round at Super 32, he is aiming for the top, especially at state this year.

"Losing at state last year made me a little sad, but it made me want to win it this year. I definitely learned that I need to put in more time if I want to achieve my goals. I'm taking it more seriously this year," said Castilleja.

If Castilleja wins state this year or even next year, he hopes to earn a wrestling scholarship to college, preferably out-of-state where he can wrestle against different opponents. Judging by the time and effort he puts in, the captain of the LHS wrestling team is well placed to achieve his goals.

This should not be your birth control method Saturday night.



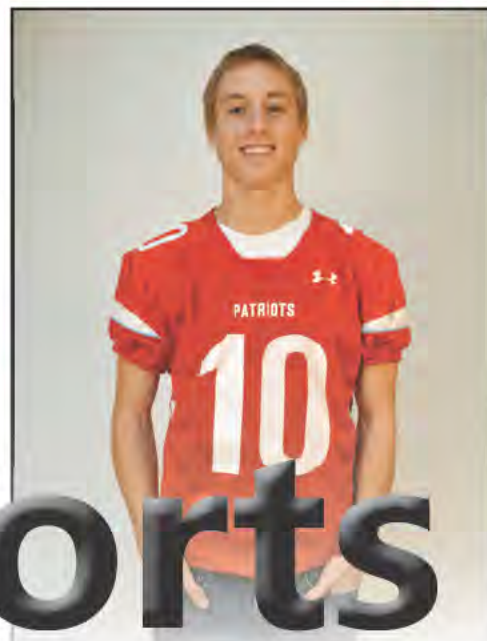
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PHOTOS BY MARIECLAIRE CHRISTENSON

# Life

# after sports

## Weber

BY MARIECLAIRE CHRISTENSON

Part of growing up is letting go. For LHS senior Cole Weber, 14 years of playing soccer are coming to a close at the end of this year.

"It's almost a letdown after playing soccer for so many years," said Weber. "I've been with the same group of guys for seven or eight years, and it will be different not seeing them every week."

Through the years of playing soccer, Weber has realized hard work pays off. The effort a player puts into the offseason shows during the season. Weber has learned to be more persistent whether it was on the field or in the classroom. As Weber looks back, he sees being elected captain as one of his greatest accomplishments while playing the game.

"Every year the team votes for captains, and I thought it was really cool to be elected as captain and see the respect from all the guys," said Weber.

Along with playing varsity soccer for LHS, Weber also plays on a Dakota Alliance U18 club soccer team with other guys from Sioux Falls. He has many years invested in the sport.

"When I look back on my time playing soccer, I think I'll be satisfied," said Weber. "This was a good year to go out on. It was fun winning the state championship with the LHS team."

Although Weber will not continue to play soccer on a college team, the idea of fully letting go of the sport has never crossed his mind.

"I'll play in the future," said Weber. "Maybe I'll play adult co-ed, college intramurals or even start coaching."

As Weber starts to wrap up his soccer career, he advises the underclassman players to try their best and work hard in the offseason. Weber has no regrets about his time playing soccer. He has given it his all, and the sport will always be a major part of his life whether or not he continues playing.

## Huwe

BY DYLAN HALL

After playing a sport for the majority of one's life, it may be hard to say goodbye to the pastime that he or she came to know and love. But for others, over a decade of practices, games and tournaments, it may feel like it is time to branch off.

Many high school athletes decide not to play sports beyond high school. This was the case with LHS senior Brennan Huwe, who, after 14 years of playing softball, has decided to stop and focus on other priorities.

"I've been playing for so long, and it started to take time away from other things. I want to be able to spend more time with friends and study for school," said Huwe.

Softball was a big part of Huwe's career, and there are many things she learned through playing that she will be able to use the rest of her life. She also made many good friends.

"I just loved spending time and bonding with my teammates. The more we played together, the better friends we became. It's going to be tough to leave them behind and not be able to wear the LHS jersey when I leave for college," said Huwe.

Huwe is giving up softball to not only spend more time with friends and family, but also to focus on academic studies as well.

"I want to major in Biology and stay in the sports industry doing something with sports medicine," said Huwe. "Sports is a big part of my life, and I want to continue it. That's just not going to happen by continuing to play. 14 years is a long time, and I'm ready to move on and focus on my future career."

Huwe hopes to continue with sports but in a different fashion. When she was not playing softball, Huwe was in the gym or on the field working as a student-athletic trainer. This experience will be a good foundation as she hopes to continue into sports medicine.

## Breukelman

BY MARIECLAIRE CHRISTENSON

It is the moment when the final whistle blows. When the years of hard work come to an end.

LHS senior Lily Breukelman started playing soccer at age six and played her final game on Oct. 19 at age 18.

"I'm kind of sad it's over, but I've played soccer for a long time, so it's nice to be done with it. I'm excited to do something new next year, but I hope this year does not go too fast," said Breukelman.

Breukelman played for Dakota Alliance Soccer Club up until her junior year, but her fondest memories occurred during her four years playing for LHS.

Many key LHS players graduated after the 2012-13 season causing the younger girls to have to step up to fill the spots in the 2013-14 season. Breukelman was initially nervous to play center back at the beginning of the season, but with help from junior Katie Gillette, Breukelman was motivated to reach her full potential.

"Although she is younger than me, Katie Gillette inspired me this year. She also played center back, and it was nice to have someone to trust and help me throughout the season," said Breukelman. "She was my inspiration to be better and work harder."

Breukelman's final season did not end the way she hoped after the LHS team earned second place in the state tournament for the third time, but her hard work showed throughout the season as she earned honorable mention for All-State Soccer.

Despite Breukelman's road as a soccer player coming to an end, her future is bright with the help of the lessons she learned and skills she gained from playing the game.

"Soccer has taught me to be a team player, and that as long as I work toward something, I can do anything," said Breukelman.

## Foss

BY DYLAN HALL

There are 500,000 students in the country who currently play high school football. Of those, only a few thousand will go on to play in college. LHS senior Levi Foss is one of the many athletes who has decided not to play football beyond high school.

Foss played a big part in helping LHS capture its second state title this year. He has been a key part of the team for a few years now and has the talent to play at the collegiate level, but he has decided not to continue playing so he can focus on other areas of interest.

"Playing football takes too much commitment. You have to spend a lot of time in practicing and preparing for each game, which makes it harder to concentrate on other things," said Foss. "I want to be able to spend more time studying and focusing on my school work, while also having more free time to just hang out."

Foss wants to stay in state for college, he is most likely going to USD. He is an exceptional student, and he wants to be able to focus more on academics, which is a big reason why he made the decision not to play football in college.

"I'm not completely sure what I want to do after school yet, but I'm thinking about being a veterinarian. I want to major in pre-vet. It would be easier to focus on my studies if I didn't play football," said Foss.

Even though Foss will not play football next year, he will never forget his times playing at LHS.

"I had many great times playing football at LHS. I built so many friendships with teammates, and we feel like brothers. That's what I'll miss the most about playing," said Foss. "My best memory from playing had to be this year when we won state. It was the first time our school has ever been undefeated through the entire season, and we ended it with an amazing game. I'll never forget that."

# Team bonding shows athletes there is strength in brotherhood

By MAGGI IBIS

A football program with an undefeated record and a state championship title typically possesses a simple combination of skilled players, a strong, experienced coaching staff and a shared dedication to the sport. What sets apart the LHS football team from most, though, is the powerful bond each and every player shares with one another— a bond many players describe as one much closer than any friendship.

LHS football players credit various team-bonding activities planned throughout the year to the team's closeness, such as a weekly team dinner, a trip to Inspiration Hills Camp and Retreat Center near Inwood, IA at the start of the season was notably one of the most effective ways in achieving a strong connection between players and coaches. The team participated in various activities, such as obstacle courses to promote communication, and the "Leap of Faith" which encouraged players to develop a level of trust with one another. Senior Reid West, an All-City, All-Conference and All-State defensive end, stressed the importance of this experience to the overall dynamic of the Patriot football team.

"[At Inspiration Hills] we got to meet all the new players and we grew closer. That made us better as a team because it was easier to communicate when we all knew each other," said West. "If you want to be a good football team, you have to know your team well. I knew they had my back."

## Football:

Continued from pg. 24

"I just kept telling myself, 'you're going to have the best game of your life.' I was freaking out but I kept praying," said Quintanilla.

Upperclassmen helped lead the team to victory by scoring the points. Seniors Trevor Naasz and Dylan Bartow each scored a touchdown. Quintanilla ran in four touchdowns and junior Teren Schuster kicked in two field goals. In the final minute of the fourth quarter with the LHS crowd chanting his name, Burchill went in to take the final two snaps to complete the first perfect season at LHS.

"It was a big relief to have all the hard work we did in the season pay off," said Burchill. "Having the state title shows that our team was dedicated to becoming an elite team in the state."



PHOTO BY BROCK GILMER

Even after the season has ended, many players wear the necklaces they earned during the team bonding target practice around their necks proudly.

These activities, while successful in establishing friendships within the football program, were also able to refocus the goals of a team eager to return to the field after a mediocre 2012 season and come out with a championship win in 2013. All-Conference senior linebacker Taylor Salava viewed the most recent season as an opportunity for the team to zero in on the state title goal that was well within the grasp of LHS football.

"We knew we were going to get a lot more

accomplished if we all had the same goals in mind," said Salava. "We came to practice focused every day because we didn't want to come up short of what we had worked for all year, and we all were able to come together and achieve those goals."

It seemed as though the time spent at Inspiration Hills did more than just improve the program's teamwork skills; in fact, it caused somewhat of a chain reaction within individual athletes that contributed to the overall success

of the team.

"Knowing my teammates had more confidence in me gave me more confidence. If one of us made a mistake, we knew the guy next to us would pick us back up and not put anyone down on the team," said Salava. "That was the biggest difference. Last year we were not very close-knit, but this year we are, and that won us a state championship."

If it was not apparent enough how close the LHS football team became this year, a more obvious indicator is found in the necklaces seen around the necks of many varsity players, which were given out at Inspiration Hills. Each necklace has an empty bullet shell on it, a token from the shooting range activities athletes participated in during the retreat.

It is clear LHS football players strongly valued the opportunities given to them by the coaching staff to come together as a unit with a shared goal in mind, but perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the team was the presence of a fraternal bond of brotherhood seen and heard from individuals humbled to be a part of the tradition of Patriot football.

"The greatest part of this season was playing with my brothers. There is not one person I don't know on the football team because of this experience," said West. "The satisfaction of winning State brought us even closer at the end of the season, and we will remember that accomplishment for the rest of our lives."



PHOTOS BY BROCK GILMER

Clockwise: Quintanilla (25) breaks the tackle and rushes for a touchdown. Rozeboom (66) sets the block against the RHS defense. Senior quarterback, Burchill (14), is put in during the last play to take a knee. Foss (10) raises a fist in victory after the clock runs down. The Lincoln Crazyies traveled 61 miles to Vermillion, S.D. to cheer on the Pats. Senior captains receive the trophy during the ceremony after the game ended. Bartow (4) runs down the field during the starting lineup before the game.

# The COST of SPORTS

By MADDIE SCHULTZ

Our grandparents and in some instances even our parents, have told us how movies used to be a dime a piece. But a trip to the theatre is not the only activity seeing inflation. The cost of playing sports has risen exponentially over the years. From the time our parents were in high school, there was barely any cost to participating in extra and co-curricular activities. But for current athletes and participants, that is not the case. Participation fees have risen with the times, reaching up to thousands of dollars to compete, not to mention the endless travel fees, money spent on necessary equipment and various other investments.

The real question, after the thousands of dollars spent on seasons alone, is the future cost worth it? During high school seasons, many athletes trade in time spent at jobs for time practicing. This deficit means most of the expenses are coming straight from parents' pockets. Many competitors' careers end after high school with only memories and an empty wallet in hand, and while a select few go on to collegiate competition, the 'full-ride' scholarship our parents were familiar with, is practically inexistent. All this leads to one question: is the cost of sports worth it?

## Is it worth it?

"Spending money on hockey is worth it because playing games, especially the state tournament, is the greatest feeling in the world."  
-Caleb Anderson, 11

"Showing horses is a hobby that combines competition, friends, and horses, which makes it well worth it."  
-Aimee McCoy, 12

"Cheerleading is worth the cost because it helps girls gain respect, skills to work as a team and an extended family."  
-Morgan Shelton, 9

### Competitive Cheer

Total Cost  
\$6,000-8,000

Travel  
\$6,000

Uniforms  
\$300

Participation  
\$2,000



### Horse Showing

Total Cost  
\$9,000-12,000

Entry Fees  
\$2,500

Horse  
\$7,000

Equipment  
\$200



### Hockey

Total Cost  
\$13,000-15,000

Travel  
\$600 each  
tournament

Ice Skates  
\$800

Sticks  
\$1,250 (five  
per season)



## ALL STATE CHORUS

**Hannah Lamberty, 12****What musician are you most like?**

Your mom

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Corbin Bleu

**Childhood ambition:** I wanted to be a carpenter/rapper.**Kate McCoy, 12****What musician are you most like?**

Kanye West- I am a God.

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Spirit (the horse)

**Childhood ambition:** To be like my amazing cousin Micah McCoy**Mary Engfelt, 12****What musician are you most like?**

Eminem

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Morgan Freeman

**Childhood ambition:** To play Ode to Joy on the piano (success)**Sean Calhoun, 12****What musician are you most like?**

Adele

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Leonardo DiCaprio

**Childhood ambition:** To be a Harvard-educated professional baseball player**Alex Meyer, 12****What musician are you most like?**

Miley Cyrus, obviously

**Who would play you in a movie?**

The man in "Late for Meeting"

**Childhood ambition:** To become a grocery store clerk**Abbi Freese, 11****What musician are you most like?**

JC Chasez

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Vanessa Hudgens

**Childhood ambition:** To be an astronaut ballerina**Alex Weiland, 11****What musician are you most like?**

Beyoncé

**Who would play you in a movie?**

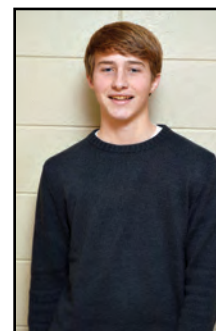
Miley Cyrus

**Childhood ambition:** To be a member of the Pussy Cat Dolls**Hope Downey, 11****What musician are you most like?**

My dad used to compare me to Colbie Caillat

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Ariana Grande (fake ginger)

**Childhood ambition:** To be a Disney star/nurse**Sam Venjohn, 11****What musician are you most like?**

Madonna

**Who would play you in a movie?** A penguin**Childhood ambition:** To fall in love with a corn plant and name my kids Ear and Stalk**Branch Fjellanger, 11****What musician are you most like?**

Froggy Fresh

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Zac Efron

**Childhood ambition:** To catch all the Pokemon**London Lambert, 11****What musician are you most like?**

A combination of Shaggy and the old Hannah Montana

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Vanessa Hudgens (with Branch)

**Childhood ambition:** Make dinosaurs**Daniel Bergeson, 11****What musician are you most like?**

According to Seth Brick, Justin Bieber

**Who would play you in a movie?**

The director, I want to go to film school

**Childhood ambition:** I wanted to be a fire fighter**Annie Deutscher, 11****What musician are you most like?**

I don't know... but I hope not Miley Cyrus...

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Definitely Jennifer Lawrence

**Childhood ambition:** Marry Jesse McCartney and be rich and famous**Tucker Hammer, 11****What musician are you most like?**

Christina AGUILERA

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Danny Bergeson

**Childhood ambition:** I wanted to be Christopher Robin**Michael Lange, 11****What musician are you most like?**

Beyonce

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Tara Reid from Sharknado

**Childhood ambition:** Become a Priest

## BAND



### Henry Wei, 12

**Instrument name:** Schwarz

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Jet Li

**Childhood ambition:** Skydive from space in a wingsuit



### Mariah Dooley, 12

**Instrument name:** Harold

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Katie Holmes

**Childhood ambition:** To be an actress



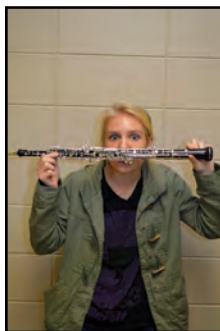
### Kaylie Ericson, 12

**Instrument name:** The Golden One

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Ellen Page, because she always plays someone sassy

**Childhood ambition:** To marry Jesse McCartney... sorry, not sorry



### Hannah Asfeldt, 12

**Instrument name:** My oboe is named Jean Valjean, and my sax is named Aaron Bartz.

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Micah McCoy

**Childhood ambition:** World domination



### Aaron Bartz, 12

**Instrument name:** Hannah Asfeldt

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Nicholas Cage

**Childhood ambition:** Become Boggy Anton



### Kelsey Stotz, 12

**Instrument name:** Fantasia

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Emma Watson (I wish)

**Childhood ambition:** to be a marine biologist, astronaut, doctor, musician, artist, and actress...all at the same time



### Alec Beard, 12

**Instrument name:** "Tuubaaa"

**Who would play you in a movie?** A tuba player

**Childhood ambition:** Food



### Jared Bitz, 11

**Instrument name:** Seabiscuit

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Iron Man

**Childhood ambition:** To be president of the United States



### Zach Schmitz, 11

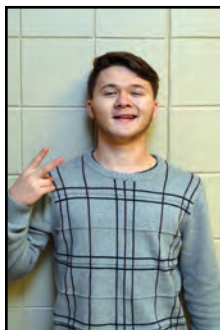
**Instrument name:** Mordecai

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Will Smith

**Childhood ambition:** To be more like Jaws

## ORCHESTRA



### Karl Henry, 11

**Instrument name:** Daniil Shafran

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Nic Cage

**Childhood ambition:** To be a musician



### Ryan Doerr, 11

**Instrument name:** Rostropovich

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Johnny Depp

**Childhood ambition:** To go to space



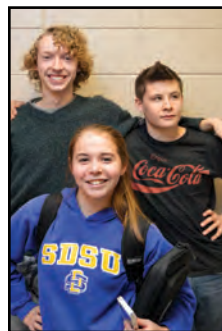
### Brigitta Bogue, 11

**Instrument name:** Karl Henry

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Karl Henry

**Childhood ambition:** Karl Henry



### Hunter Friesen, 11

**Instrument name:** Robert Plant of Led Zeppelin

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Marilyn Monroe

**Childhood ambition:** I wanted to be the very best, like no one ever was.



### Hanna Bankers, 11

**Instrument name:** Renie

**Who would play you in a movie?**

Morgan Freeman

**Childhood ambition:** To go to Hogwarts



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