

LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL SIOUX FALLS, SD

Statesman

MARCH 7, 2014

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

VOL. 48, No. 5

Sweeter family takes on Haiti

By MIKAELA NEUBAUER

“Did you do anything interesting over break?” your teacher asks. Some of us caught up on homework while others binged on Netflix, but one student and her mother did the extraordinary.

Over Presidents’ Day break, LHS sophomore Sydney Sweeter and her mother, Amy Sweeter, who many may recognize from the school store and office, took a seven-day mission trip to Haiti. The duo went with a group from their church, Abiding Savior Free Lutheran, located in Sioux Falls. The church coordinated the trip through an organization called Mission Haiti.

“Mission Haiti has teams come in throughout the year to do mission work. My church started sending teams a year ago. We sponsored the school on top of a mountain in Toussaint, Haiti, where they sent us,” said Amy Sweeter.

Eight

of the 12 members of the team who went were parent-child pairs, and it was a great opportunity for the students of the congregation. For Sydney Sweeter, it had been an experience she had heard about through her church and youth group. This built-up interest prompted Sydney Sweeter to ask her mother about the possibility of traveling to another country to engage in mission work.

“I’ve wanted to go since I was in 6th grade when the earthquake happened, because they needed so much help. When I heard my church was going, and they were taking students with, I asked my mom if I could go and make a difference in those kids’ lives,” said Sydney Sweeter.

Once the arrangements for the trip were set in motion, there was a lot of planning to be done. The main assignment for the group was to teach vacation Bible school to more than 280 children. This included teaching stories and songs, doing crafts and providing a snack for the kids, all of which needed preparation beforehand. Sydney Sweeter was in charge of gathering and planning all of the crafts while Amy Sweeter was given the task of teaching the younger kids and preparing their lessons.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SYDNEY SWEETER

LHS sophomore Sydney Sweeter and the children she met on her mission trip to Haiti bonded throughout her time spent at their school.

“Everything we needed, material wise, we had to hike up the mountain with us, and we had to pack the supplies in suitcases to bring on the plane with us, because they had nothing there,” said Amy Sweeter.

After the Sweeter duo flew into Port Au Prince, an already long trip, they took a six hour bus ride to a village called Ti-Riviere where they stayed at the Mission Haiti headquarters, their “base-camp” for the week. The next day they hiked up to the top of the mountain, where Toussaint and the school were located. This was where they worked throughout the trip. While there, they mingled with the kids, taught vacation Bible school and in-

teracted with the locals. Of course, even with the best preparation, plans can go wrong.

“We taught them two or three songs in Haitian-Creole, so we had to have that interpreted here, and we had to learn the songs... [When we got there] we learned from the interpreters that we were singing it wrong. Luckily, they fixed it for us the next day,” said Amy Sweeter.

For both of the Sweeters the best experience was just being around the children. After teaching every day, Sydney Sweeter got to relax and play soccer with the kids. Despite the language barrier, the strong relations built were something they will never forget.

“I think a lot of the kids thought we knew Creole, because they would ramble on, and we would have no idea what they were saying, so we would just smile and nod. I’ll always remember how happy the kids were to see us there, and how grateful they were that we were there to help them,” said Sydney Sweeter.

Sydney and Amy Sweeter also had the opportunity to see just how much poverty has affected the people of Haiti. While on their trip they visited the homes of some of the people of Toussaint and brought them care packages and blankets. On another day they got to visit an orphanage in Ti-Riviere and play with the kids.

See Sweeter: pg. 4

Athletes experience dangers while in Sochi

By PRANAM DEY

The biggest surprise of the Sochi Winter Olympics remains the location. Despite all the medals won and records broken, the mere fact that the Olympics, the biggest event in sports, were held in Sochi seems unbelievable. Sochi is near the turbulent Caucasus region that was home to the Tsarnaev brothers, who carried out the Boston bombing attacks in April 2013. In the months and weeks leading up to the Olympics, insurgents carried out terrorist attacks in Pyatigorsk and Volgograd, two cities near Sochi, and killed dozens. The State Department issued an official Travel Alert for tourists traveling to Sochi, and some Olympic athletes were hesitant to take family members to the games.

To counter the threats, Russian President Vladimir Putin took a draconian approach to security. The Russian government required all tourists to apply for special passports. Any cars without Sochi license plates were not allowed in the city, and in a city of under 400,000 residents, over 100,000 security personnel were employed to ensure security. Missile batteries filled the surrounding mountains, speed boats monitored the beaches, drones watched the air and the Russian 58th Army was deployed to defend the southern border. With a budget of over \$50 billion, the Sochi Games are already the most expensive Olympics in history, and rising security expenses have increased the already sky-high costs.

The U.S. government clearly believed the Sochi Games could have turned into a disas-



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MCT CAMPUS

Drinking glasses show yellow-colored water poured from a bathroom faucet at a Sochi, Russia, hotel on Tuesday morning.

Despite tense relations between Russia and the U.S., the Pentagon worked closely with its Russian counterpart to make sure American tourists were safe. As an added precaution, two U.S. Navy warships remained on station in the Black Sea, ready to evacuate Americans in Sochi in case of danger.

Security concerns, however, were hardly the only concern in Sochi. Russia's new anti-gay propaganda law drew widespread condemnation from the U.S. and much of Western Europe, and Putin's continued support of Syrian dictator Bashar Al-Assad and, more recently,

Putin's denunciations of pro-Europe protestors in Ukraine have driven further wedges in an already fractured relationship. While it is normally typical for foreign leaders to travel to the Olympics, President Obama, as well the leaders of Canada, Great Britain, France and Germany, did not travel to Sochi. Sochi seems likely to be remembered for security concerns and political tensions more than athletic achievements. Remember the 2010 Vancouver Olympics when the biggest concern was Canada beating the U.S. in hockey? In retrospect, Vancouver never looked so good.

GM's faulty ignition switches linked to 13 deaths

By ALEXA ANKRUM

General Motors is in the middle of one of the most serious recalls in its history. Over 770,000 of its 2005-07 Chevrolet Cobalt and 2007 Pontiac G5 compacts were recalled in North America earlier this year because of a flaw in the ignition. Now 2003-2007 Saturn Ions, 2006-2007 Chevrolet HHRs, 2006-2007 Pontiac Solstice and 2007 Saturn Sky models have also been recalled for the same reason. Approximately 1,367,146 cars in the U.S. and 253,519 cars in Mexico and Canada have been affected by this malfunction. According to a report posted by GM on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's website, the accidents occurred when cars ran off the road, and the movement apparently deactivated the ignition and might have

prevented the airbags from deploying as well. Also, the key rings to these cars are heavy and might have caused the switch devices in the vehicles to change gears. So far, GM knows of 13 people who have died because of the faulty ignition switches in their compact vehicles. There have been 31 frontal crashes as a result of the malfunction.

This debacle followed other recalls that have occurred in recent months. Roughly 370,000 recall letters have been sent for 2014 Chevy Silverado and GMC Sierra 1500 pickup trucks since January. These models did not have a problem with ignition, but instead had a malfunction with the software that causes exhaust to overheat and start fires. According to The Christian Science Monitor, the software is called "Active Fuel Management"

by GM and is used to conserve fuel when it is not required, but instead of using only two cylinders while idling, the glitch in the software causes the trucks to use most of them. There have not been any deaths reported as a result of the fires. During another recall last October, new 2014 Chevrolet Silverados and GMC Sierra 1500s were recalled because their seats might have proven ineffective if hit from behind. 21,721 full-sized trucks were recalled in all, 19,000 of them were shipped to the U.S.

These recalls are difficult for GM because the government no longer owns any of its stocks and the company has been trying to rebuild its image. Now GM is more preoccupied with locating the faulty ignition switches and regaining the company's credibility.

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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Diagon Alley will be open to muggles this coming summer

By MAKAYLA DISBURG

For all the Harry Potter fans planning to visit the Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Studios in Orlando, Fla., it might be wise to wait a few months. This summer, Universal Studios will reveal its expansion of Diagon Alley and "London." Diagon Alley, where young "wizards" and their families go to shop for wands, owls, books and other supplies to help prepare before each new term at the wizarding school, Hogwarts, is currently under construction and nearing completion. The new attraction also includes a brief look at some of the London shops and experiences featured in the books and films. Fans are eager to experience the entertaining adventures the new addition has to offer and are especially excited for the "Harry Potter and the Escape from Gringott's" ride which will include a major attraction in the theme park.

The only downside of the Harry Potter addition to Universal's park is the location of the new attraction. The Wizarding World of Harry

Potter currently includes the village of Hogsmeade, Hogwarts and three rollercoasters: the "Dragon Challenge," "Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey" and a children's rollercoaster called "Flight of the Hippogriff."

Universal Orlando is split up into two different parks, Islands of Adventure and Universal Studios. The Wizarding World of Harry Potter features in Islands of Adventure, and the new addition to the park is being built in Universal Studios. In order to be able to visit Hogwarts, Hogsmeade and Diagon Alley, visitors will have to purchase tickets to both theme parks. For the convenience and satisfaction of Harry Potter fans, Universal is building the Hogwarts Express. The Hogwarts Express is the train that takes wizards from "London's" train station to Hogwarts, and the train will be available for tourists to travel between the two attractions.

Diagon Alley will open for travelers to experience and enjoy this summer. Along with a recreation of the Harry Potter experiences, the attraction will include various restaurants and shops.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MCT CAMPUS

Diagon Alley will open up around June 20 next summer. Any muggle or wizard who pays the admission price is welcome to enjoy the magic of the world-renowned Harry Potter series come to life for the second time.

The new and improved YMCA

By ELLIE BRECHT

After many years of successfully giving to the community, providing an elite workout facility for members and "empowering young people," the YMCA of downtown Sioux Falls has decided to renovate more than half of the building for the betterment of its members.

It is no small project that is in the making. The construction project will transform the entire YMCA into a more modern and up-to-date facility that will house those in need of affordable living. As of right now, the double gymnasium and a majority of that side of the building is closed off to non-workers, and is in the process of being made into a more desirable area for members to play basketball, and racquetball. A completely renovated cardio fitness room is being added that will cater to both the wants and needs of the members.

In numerous YMCA board-directed meetings, a variety of things were discussed, such as to do with or without the currently unattainable swimming pool. At this point in time it is looking as though the underused pool feature will be demolished.

The entire North side of the building is being updated so much, that it will change the physical presence of what is already there, and it will also contain a new entrance that members will be using. While the North side of the building is being updated to enhance the quality of the facilities in the YMCA, the South side is being completely renovated to create affordable living apartments. This is a very important addition to the building, because a major part of their objective is to serve the community, and the new housing complex will do just that.

After months of making decisions, the YMCA is looking to become a facility where achieving their goals will be attainable and pleasing their members will be at the forefront.

The new portion of the YMCA is scheduled to be completed in early March. The YMCA has been a part of the Sioux Empire community since 1886 and will continue to serve the children and adults of our community and they will carry on their motto, "YMCA's strength is in the people they bring together."

1/4 pg STI Special ad

Nine LHS students nominated to become Presidential Scholars

By ELLEN KOESTER

On Jan. 25, LHS senior Hannah Mendel learned that she is among the nine LHS students who are nominated for the Presidential Scholars Program. Only the top 20 girls and top 20 boys from each state chosen for their ACT or SAT scores are recognized with this honor. There are about 3,000 presidential scholar nominees across the country.

"I didn't know what a presidential scholar was at first," said Mendel. "I thought it was a scam. Then I looked it up online and felt really proud. All my hard work has paid off, and it reaffirms that hard work leads to success."

After a student is nominated, there is a rigorous application process in order to become a finalist. Every year, there are up to 141 Presidential Scholars chosen from the 3,000 nominees.

"Next, I have to fill out forms about myself like where I live and what activities and volunteer work I have done [for the application pro-



PHOTO BY BROCK GILMER

The nine LHS students nominated to be presidential scholars are, (left to right) Hannah Mendel, Hannah Asfeldt, Hannah Lamberty, Shelley Feng, Sean Calhoun, Pujan Patel, Colten Fisher, Pranam Dey and Ryan Patrick.

Debate and Oral Interp make way to Nationals

By ERIN DAUGHERTY

Many students on the Debate and Oral Interp teams are becoming more anxious and excited as Nationals come closer and closer this upcoming year. Both the Oral Interp and Debate teams will have their National Forensic League National tournament (NFL) at the same time and place, June 15-20th in Kansas City, Missouri. The teams also have another important competition together called the National Catholic Forensics League (NCFL), which will be held Memorial Day weekend in Chicago, Illinois.

LHS English teacher Amanda Nelson coaches the LHS Oral Interp team and LHS English teacher Ashley Griese coaches for the Debate team. Both teams have relatively new coaches, with this being both teachers' second year at LHS.

"Last year was my first year as an Interp coach here at Lincoln, and I attended both Nationals with the team," said Nelson.

But that only gives hope for an even stronger team than before. There are even more reasons for high hopes with all of the practice both teams have put towards the competition.

"We wrap up Nationals at the end of June, take July off to read scripts and relax a bit and have our Jump Start Week [preseason] the first week in August. Setting goals, finding pieces, cuttings, character work, research... the list goes on and on. Interpers work very hard week

to week to prepare not just for Nationals, but for each time they perform," said Nelson.

Not only has the Oral Interp team been heavily preparing for the upcoming Nationals, but the Debate team has also been taking every opportunity to get in as much practice as they can.

"This year we have had the opportunity to go out of state for a couple of extra tournaments, which is helpful to teach us adaptation

and have an opportunity to see some excellent debates. Otherwise, we have practice rounds as frequently as possible and work to improve both our speaking and evidence," said Griese.

The Debate and Oral Interp teams hope to do well at Nationals this year by bringing as many competitors as they can. The Oral Interp team plans on bringing eight members, while the Debate team plans on bringing two members with them to Nationals.



PHOTO BY BROCK GILMER

Junior Grace Fjellanger receives her award for qualifying for the National Oral Interp tournament in Kansas City later this summer.

cess to become a finalist]," said Mendel. "Then I have to write seven mini-essays and choose a teacher who influenced my academic career. If I become a Presidential Scholar, then I get an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. for three days. I think there is a convention where I meet the other scholars and I get a medal."

Every year, LHS has many students nominated for this honor. However, no LHS students has become a finalist.

"It would be a bummer if I don't get in, although I think being recognized and being able to apply for it itself is a good experience," said Mendel.

In the Sioux Falls School District, 13 students were nominated. Out of these, one goes to RHS, three go to WHS, and the remaining nine go to LHS. Hannah Asfeldt, Sean Calhoun, Pranam Dey, Shelley Feng, Colten Fisher, Hannah Lamberty, Hannah Mendel, Pujan Patel and Ryan Patrick are all LHS students who are nominated.

Sweeter:

Continued from pg. 1

"One of my favorite parts was going on the home visits because we got to see how they lived. It made it real for me. I saw how little they had and the struggles they go through in their daily lives," said Sydney Sweeter.

These visits and the trip combined changed the way the Sweeters see things. The people of Haiti live a drastically different life from ours in the U.S. Some of the simple things we look over on a daily basis we are extremely lucky to have, and the Sweeters experienced that firsthand.

"They have nothing materialistically, but they are so joyful. I think sometimes here in the states, for the most part, we have it well off, but people don't always seem very joyful. I'm going to remember how extremely blessed we are here in the U.S. I'm going to try to not take the conveniences that we have here for granted," said Amy Sweeter.

Both Sydney and Amy Sweeter would like to go back to Haiti if they had the means necessary. The experience was unforgettable, and the feeling that came with helping others was unmatched.

"Even if you can't go to Haiti, just go to places in the United States," said Sydney Sweeter, "A mission trip is something everyone should experience at one point. It definitely opened our eyes to the world around us."

WANTED: SENIOR BABES! CLASS OF 2014

Every year the *Statesman* creates a special issue dedicated to the senior class. Part of this issue includes a section of Senior Babes. Parents: If you want your senior to be part of this section, send the following to *Statesman*:

- A personal message
- A special baby picture
- A self-addressed stamped envelope
- A \$20 check made out to the LHS *Statesman*



Questions?

Contact the *Statesman* office:
katie.kroeze@k12.sd.us ~ 367-7998



#WherelsMurphy

Help us find our friend Murphy!

Murphy will be hiding in every issue of the *Statesman* this year. When you find him, take a picture and tweet it with the hashtag,

#WherelsMurphy

One random entry will be chosen each month to win a **PRIZE** provided by the senior class parents.

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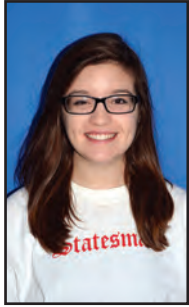
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Is piracy truly a victimless crime?

By MAGGI IBIS, OPINION EDITOR

These days, movies and music are more accessible than ever thanks to media giants such as Netflix, Hulu Plus and Spotify. These services require a subscription, and despite their great success, the looming issue of piracy is still quite prevalent in society with the rapid advances in technology. It certainly has become easier to illegally download media files from the Internet, and the tendency for students to do so has gained popularity in recent years.



"There is a fine line between the extent of what is appropriate and what is out of control regarding illegal downloading."

Some argue piracy is harmful to these industries because it damages sales figures and the overall income of companies. If less revenue comes in annually, wouldn't that loss lead to a reduction in movie budgets or limit funding available to produce an album?

On the other hand, those who view piracy as a harmless act argue they wouldn't have spent their money on the media in the first place. So,

if they can obtain the media for free, those who illegally download files can still promote the movie or artist and contribute indirect publicity for the work even if it was acquired illegally. In this way, piracy can actually do more good than harm to production companies.

Is it possible that after the numbers are tallied, taking into account both sides of the effects of the crime, the industry breaks even in the end? Piracy does have its advantages to society, allowing for media to have a higher exposure to societal America and also giving it a chance to reach the most viewers. This form of theft also undoubtedly has the potential to get out of hand and lead students to develop poor habits and a greedy mindset in other aspects of life.

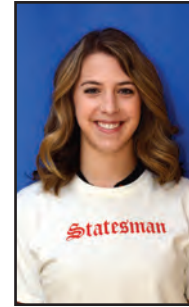
There is a fine line between the extent of what is appropriate and what is out of control regarding illegal downloading. I think students should focus on doing what they can to avoid piracy, because it does have the potential to hurt the celebrities and artists we love to see in the spotlight.

It may be difficult to fork over the cash for that new album now when it is tempting to convert the file from a YouTube video, but the stimulation of spending comes full circle in the end. Most importantly, it's the right thing to do.

Underclassmen: appreciate the present

By CARLY HOHMAN, STAFF WRITER

I have noticed that as I have gotten older, time seems to move faster, and I can't keep up. Sure, individual weeks feel like they last forever, but looking back as a whole, it felt like 2013 went by in the blink of an eye.



"Why rush time when life is just going to get harder?"

Students complain about not liking school but it isn't going to go away in the near future, especially if one decides to go to college. I constantly overhear people, especially seniors, say, "I can't wait to go to college and get out of here," or "I cannot wait to be 18, or 21, so I can be an adult."

Remember when we were kids and all we had to worry about was if our friend could play that day? In middle school the only worry came from getting a simple worksheet done by tomorrow. In high school, worry

shifted to writing papers and studying for tests, whereas in college, we are going to have exams to take that have the potential to determine our future.

Why are teens so eager to enter adulthood, where we will have bills to pay, responsibilities to uphold and work to go to every day? Why rush time when life is just going to get harder?

One way students can start taking advantage of the time they have as high schoolers is to look up from their phones and participate in a real social activity. Instead of constantly checking Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat, talk to the people you're spending time with. You can't make memories when you aren't engaged in the world around you.

Students need to learn to appreciate the time they have as kids before it's too late and they are wishing they were teenagers again. I hope freshmen are thankful for, and take advantage of the three more years they have in high school, no matter how dreadful it may seem at times. As for seniors, our time will come, eventually, to grow up; but right now, we should cherish that we are still young, which is something nobody can take away from us.

Patriot Views

How do you think piracy affects companies and do you think it should be illegal?



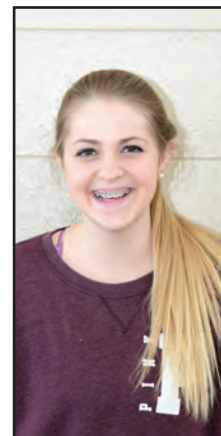
"It affects revenue, and it should be illegal."

-Gabe Josko, 9



"It affects companies that spent time and money into making the movies and music. They put a price on it, and they should get that profit. It definitely should be illegal."

-Kelsey Berger, 10



"It affects the companies by lowering the amount of profit. It should be illegal."

-Miranda Nagel, 11



"Big name rappers boasting about all the money they have should have to put their money where their mouth is."

-Jerriq Wingert, 12

Zoo hullabaloo is long overdue

BY ELLEN KOESTER, STAFF WRITER

Can we please take a moment and think about how amazing zoos are?

Zoos offer the experience of standing a few feet from some of the world's most amazing creatures. American visitors can come face to face with Asian cats and African wildlife. They can see animals they would never have the opportunity to see otherwise.



"Our Great Plains Zoo is actually a very good zoo."

Here is the best part: zoo-goers can come within striking distance of a Grizzly bear or Amur tiger and *not* get eaten. Visitors can marvel at the teeth of Black bears and the nimble hands of monkeys that can tear human faces off. (Yes, they do that). Zoo-goers can do this without fear, thanks to fences, which are the

unsung heroes of the zoo. (Nobody says anything when the fences do their job, but when a lion or tiger breaks out, suddenly everybody is interested). Everyone from thrill-seekers to three-year-olds can come face to face with a Red wolf.

I think the animals like being in a zoo as well. When I mentioned this to one of my co-workers, he pointed out that the animals are not in their natural habitat and are being ogled at all hours of the day. Let me put this in perspective. The animals get free food which requires no work, and they can sleep all day. (Is there a place I can sign up?) Our Great Plains Zoo is actually a very good zoo. The animals are in enclosures that mirror their natural habitat as closely as possible. And they get free food.

However, the only reason most people go to the zoo (myself included) is because most of the animals, let's be honest, are adorable. Many zoo goers can be found oohing and ahing at all varieties of animals, excluding the emus. I have never met anyone who has gone to the zoo and not felt the tiniest urge to leave with a penguin tucked under their arm or a red panda smuggled in their purse.

The zoo is a place to go on a boring day.

Do we really think about what is most important to us?

BY ALEXA ANKRUM, STAFF WRITER

If you ask people what it is they care most about in life, they would probably say things like their family, their friends or their future. But do these people really think about those things when they wake up in the morning or drive their commute to work? Are these the things that they worry about when they walk in the halls between classes? Teenagers are constantly worrying about things like extracurricular activities, Instagram captions and what clothes to wear, but if we had to cut out a piece of our lives, would these things be at the top, or the bottom of the list?

Teenagers live in a strange sort of purgatory; we know we are going to have to grow up soon, but we do not want to let go of all of the childish things in our lives. We know we have a lot of important things to deal with, but sometimes we just want to be carefree. We want to enjoy our youth while we still have it, so it makes sense that we focus so much on things like Instagram and other trends, because those things usually do not require a lot of thought. They give us a light-hearted way to spend our

free time, distracting us from the bigger and sometimes more troubling parts of life, like thinking about the future.

Thinking about frivolous things is alright in moderation, but when we spend most of our time caring



"How sad would it be to live our lives and forget what really matters?"

about things like Pinterest, we start to take for granted other parts of our lives, parts that cannot be taken down and easily recreated, like a selfie. When we constantly focus on what other people are thinking about, we do not have much time to find the things we like and what we want to pursue. If someone really wants to learn how to make movies because they want to become a director, that person should do it

Too many things to do in too little time

BY ERIN DAUGHERTY, STAFF WRITER

There are so many choices, almost too many choices. From the classes that we have to take to the classes that we should take, there is no time to take the classes we want. How are we supposed to know if we are going down the right career path if we can't take classes that interest us? If we have to spend all our time taking specific math, english and science classes how are we supposed to even know what we will want to go to college for? We spend so much time learning things that we will never use. Teachers always say that it will help us in later career paths, but what if we know that no career we will pursue later in life is going to have anything to do with what we are forced to learn right now? Will I really need to know how to be able to calculate tangential velocity of planets in the future?

This year when I was choosing my classes, I was so excited to sign up for classes that I was actually looking forward to enrolling in, but then when I realized there were too many classes that were required, I had to sacrifice some of the classes that actually would have gotten me more excited for school.

Many students find it hard to look forward to school when they don't enjoy very many of their classes. There are about seven hours in the school day. That is over a fourth of our 24 hour day: shouldn't it be spent not being forced to partake in things we despise for the required credits? It is so hard to put in a full effort when we don't even want to be in some required courses.



"How are we supposed to know if we are going down the right career path if we can't take classes that interest us?"

What I suggest to other students is to take a class that interests them, and one they will actually enjoy. It might not impress the most prestigious colleges in the future, but it will make for a happier life right now.

and not let small distractions get in the way. If someone wants to become the president of the United States, that person should think about ways to use social media to further his/her career, not just how to find the funniest tweets. Consider this: twenty years from now, whose tweets will people be more interested in reading, some random person on the internet or the president of the United States?

Our lives are important and they should not be taken for granted. We need to remember our goals and stick to them. It may seem like we have our whole lives to do things we are interested in, but a lifetime can go by pretty quickly. The only way to achieve the futures we want is to work toward them in the present. If teenagers do not take themselves or their lives seriously now, when will we take them seriously?

Also, friends are great, but when was the last time any of us have really *talked* to anyone in our family, in a conversation that does not include the phrase, "Do you know where my ____ is?" Not everyone has a good relationship with their family, but there is usually one per-

son in an extended family that someone can count on if they need help. The truth is many of the friends we make in high school will not be in touch with us 10 years from now, but our families will always be there, so they should

"As teenagers, now more than ever we have to remember what is most important to us and to hold on to those things for as long as we can."

not be taken for granted. We have to keep the things we care about close to us.

It is alright to think about new trends, but we should not let them become the dominating forces in our lives. As teenagers, now more than ever we have to remember what is most important to us and to hold on to those things for as long as we can. After all, how sad would it be to live our lives and forget what really matters?

Let's keep it classy on social media

BY LUCAS MICHAELS, STAFF WRITER

As a society, we are aware the media gives people serious self-image problems; however, most people think of this problem only for girls. The stereotype is that males and pop culture objectify females and make them feel as if they are not good enough. I will admit, this does happen. There are some people that make girls feel as if they are undesirable. The clothing industry, for one, is guilty of this. Popular clothing stores like Urban Outfitters almost exclusively sell tight-fitting, small sized clothing. Another



"...guys AND girls are guilty of objectifying each other."

problem is what teenage girls are seeing on the internet and on TV. Events like the Victoria Secret fashion shows make girls think that to be beautiful, they need to be a size '00', which of course, isn't true.

For those who aren't familiar with these

School bathrooms stink, literally and figuratively

BY MAKAYLA DISBURG, STAFF WRITER

Since we were young children, we have been taught that the best way to be sanitary and prevent illness from spreading is by washing our hands with soap and warm water. We were also taught to wash our hands consistently, especially after we use the restroom. With around 2,000 students roaming the halls of LHS, it is not hard to spread and contaminate others. School officials are always encouraging students to get flu shots, to cover their mouths when they cough and to constantly wash their hands, especially during the flu and cold seasons in the winter. The problem is, some students prefer to skip washing their hands and sometimes avoid even using the bathroom at all due to the bathrooms' current conditions. There is no beating around the bush with this one; our school bathrooms need help.

The first problem with the school bathrooms is the sinks. The majority of the sinks at LHS only run for about a second or two. Not only do the sinks rarely keep the freezing wa-

trends, on Instagram and Twitter teenagers have recently been posting a picture on Monday of an attractive male, and captioning it "#ManCandyMonday." A popular trend for guys is to post a picture of an attractive girl with a "#WomenCandyWednesday" caption. When it first started a few months ago, it was fairly innocent. People would post a picture of their significant other or their friend, no harm done. Then, like practically everything teenagers do, it got really weird, really fast. Now it seems like every Monday and Wednesday my Twitter and Instagram feed is infested with photo collages of shirtless pictures of Zac Efron. While scrolling through the countless number of awkward pictures, I realized that there was a bigger problem here than the annoying amount pictures.

Although it is not the normal stereotype, I do think girls and the media also objectify men more than they do women. The thought may sound ridiculous, but it's fairly accurate. Think of it from my perspective: I'm a very average guy. I'm 5'9, I don't play sports and I don't have anything close to abs. Not to mention I'm fairly pale and I have acne. It's safe to say, I am far from perfect. The average guy at LHS shares the same problems



"There is no beating around the bush with this one; our school bathrooms need help."

The repulsive color scheme is the second problem with the restrooms. While evaluating the women's bathrooms of LHS, I no-

as me. The guys at LHS are not ugly by any means, but most of us are just average. Now imagine how we feel when we see girls constantly posting pictures of their #ManCandy

"I know you love Zac Efron, but I'd rather you keep the half-naked pictures of him to yourself."

all the time. It's practically half of what I see on Twitter and Instagram. The guys in their pictures are almost exclusively tall, athletic guys, with a perfect face and killer abs. The majority of guys at LHS look nothing like that. When we see the girls at our school posting pictures of this, it can make us feel like we are not good enough.

It's not that I hate all #ManCandyMonday's or #WomenCandyWednesday's; in fact, I think they are perfectly fine within reason. My only problem is that people are practically posting nude pictures on their social media sites, I just find it strange. Instead of posting these terribly crude photos, it

ted the bathrooms had a theme of washed out pink and yellow. Some may say the color of the bathrooms may be unimportant, but I disagree. The first thing people see when they walk into the bathrooms is the color, and when the color is not easy on the eyes, it can start off the visit negatively. Not only is it unfortunate for students and teachers to look at, but don't we want to impress our guests with how great and high quality our school is? If the answer is yes, let's just hope they do not have to use our current restrooms while they are visiting.

Even though automatic hand dryers were a step up from paper towels, it would be nice if the dryers functioned properly. The school's dryers have a problem with shutting off while students are in the middle of drying their wet hands, and it takes forever for the hand dryers to start back up again. Another issue with the dryers is there are not enough available for the amount of people who use the bathroom at one time. Many waste their time waiting

would be much better if both girls and guys went back to when the #ManCandyMonday and #WomenCandyMonday trend first began. Or better yet, go back to the time where people didn't post their awkward celebrity crushes on the Internet.

So both guys AND girls are guilty of objectifying each other. It doesn't really make anyone look good. Actually, I find it annoying when people are constantly posting about "perfect" guys or girls. So ladies, I know you love Zac Efron, but I'd rather you keep the half-naked pictures of him to yourself. And fellas, I am very much aware of how incredibly attractive Kate Upton is, but posting pictures from her latest bikini photo shoot with the caption "I'm in love <3" just makes you look like a pig. There is nothing wrong with being attracted to the opposite gender, but people need to keep it under control when it comes to posting about it on their social media. Perhaps the world would be a better place if both males and females stopped posting these pictures. On social media it is best to follow the golden rule of posting pictures, or anything for that matter: If your mother saw what you posted, would she be okay with it? If the answer is no, it's best not to post it.

for the dryers, or end up going to class with soaked hands.

It is clear our school could use an update in the bathrooms. The most useful renova-

"The sinks either attack students with a violent spray or barely trickle any water out."

tion would be to install automatic sinks and toilets. This would be beneficial to all members of LHS, because not only would they no longer have to struggle holding down the faucets, but it would take less time. Updating the bathrooms would be an effective step in keeping the school's population healthy and although it could be costly, updating the restrooms would definitely be worth the money.

Ad Room reading a small relaxation to your hectic day

BY BAILEY MONSON, STAFF WRITER

For as long as I can remember, my mom has told me that sometimes, I just have to conform to the rules of society. Although I may not always conform, when I do, I question before I agree with something. As one might imagine, that has led me to question many things in my life. One of these rules being the required 15 minutes of reading in Ad Room.

I had the urge to constantly rebel against



"I believe that reading during Ad Room is one of these rules set for beneficial reasons."

this rule set over 20 years ago, because I simply just did not understand the importance. I was disgruntled because I thought teachers set the rule and enforced it just to make students mad. After asking my Ad Room teacher many times why I had to read, you can only imagine the

tension between us. I will admit to getting in trouble for not bringing a book in general, and basically refusing to read. After enough tension in my Ad Room, I decided to take it to the head of our school, Principal Val Fox.

"Our reading scores of our kids have always been very high. Is there a direct correlation between our reading scores and our test scores? Maybe not necessarily, but it helps contribute to it," said Fox.

Obviously, there will be statistics for why students should read because of "blah, blah, blah" reasons. Generally, students are not worried about the statistics, and if they don't like reading, they could care less about them, because they have their own opinion for their view point of disagreement. Students question society, and the motivation of others, especially teachers.

Fox made it very clear that she understood where all of her questioning students were coming from. Fox knows students rebel against the rules being set because they believe they create a jail-cell feeling in an already claustrophobic school.

As the youth and new generation of our so-

ciety, it is our job to question boundaries, while respecting rules set for obvious beneficial reasons. I believe that reading during Ad Room is one of these rules we must accept.

Many students, just like I used to, ask ques-

"Students rebel against the rules being set because they believe they create a jail-cell feeling in an already claustrophobic school."

tions about the 15 minutes of reading. The principals and staff members do not look at this time as a sanctum of torture to thrive off of their students' frustration. They believe that this is not only a time to become more intellectual, but also to find just a small amount of relaxation in our hectic day.

"We are finding that our upper-level of high school reading scores are not lowering, but the reading scores of the students coming in from the middle-schools are lower than usual," said

Fox.

Clearly, that proves that it is not LHS that is doing something wrong with their academic performance. Does that mean, though, that the middle schools are lacking in reading and writing? Does it mean that Ad Room reading is benefiting high school reading scores? As students, staff and parents, we cannot assume anything. But we can come together and realize that students have been living with this rule for 20 years, and we are to be held to no different expectations.

All in all, students need to stop looking at teachers as the 'bad guys' especially in this circumstance. Understand the honest urge that your teachers have to make your day better.

Fox even decided to take steps into making Ad Room reading more enjoyable by allowing students to pick any choice of literature, such as magazines, novels or comics. Students can finally pick something that they enjoy to take 15 minutes of relaxation.

My advice for the student body? Put on your big boy pants, because this rule isn't made to make you mad, and it is not going away.

Society's addiction to smartphones must stop

BY JEB COOPER, STAFF WRITER

According to the *Chicago Tribune*, 43 percent of iPhone users would rather go shoeless for a week than be detached from their phone. iPhones came out in 2007, and since then many other touch screen phones have been made. While these devices have made life much easier and faster to connect to things such as email, online banking and of course social media sites, I fear society is becoming much too reliant on their smartphones. Socializing has gone from everyone meeting in person to hang out to group chats, snap chats and tweeting each other.

The fact that I see children as young as five years old with an iPhone just disgusts me. People wonder why childhood obesity has become a bigger problem in recent years; it is partly because of smartphones. Kids now enjoy their free time playing games on their phones as opposed to going outside to play cops and robbers or football. Gaining XP (experience points) on a kid's favorite game has now become more important than interacting with friends or family. Personally, I spend more

time watching my mom and dad email at dinner than talking to them about their day.

Smartphones do have advantages. They have made getting in contact with people much easier along with connecting with distant friends. However, I believe society has become overly reliant on smartphones to the extent that addictions have set in. When I'm at work, at Parker's Bistro, I see at least 10 tables



"The fact that I see children as young as five years old with an iPhone just disgusts me."

a night with people sitting across from each other not talking, not making eye contact, but just looking down at their phones in their own little world. The fact that people pay a lot of money to eat out and then sit on their phones the whole time just goes to show how society's

socializing has gone from personal interaction to cyber interaction. I'm not saying cut yourself off from smartphones, but don't let your phone come before friends and family. Smartphones are not going anywhere, but you could lose a close friend or family member at any time so don't take that for granted.

Since I started noticing students, family and friends' addiction to iPhones, I have begun to try distracting them from their smartphones. Some easy ways are by simply saying 'I have something really important to tell you' and my personal favorite, making fun of the person. I would encourage anyone who gets annoyed of coming after a cell phone in conversation to start pointing out the person's addictiveness.

Not only have smartphones taken valuable personal time with our friends and family, but it has also made society more reliant on technology than being self reliant. I would go as far as to say smartphones have made people much more lazy than they already were. Playing games has become easier than it already was for children and young adults, so instead

"Socializing has gone from everyone meeting in person to hang out to group chats, snap chats and tweeting each other."

of being active they choose to bury their face to a screen for hours on end. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy the occasional game of Flappy Bird or Hot Donut, but people must realize that phones are just dispensable objects. They need to realize that technology will always be there, but fun nights with friends come and go. Making memories with friends and family should be more important than looking at other people's memories on social media sites.

I would like everyone to know that the amount of 'likes' you get on a picture or tweet does not reflect the amount of true friends you have. People need to stop caring so much about their smartphones and care more about living in the moment with friends and family.

LHS choir students take a bite out of the Big Apple

By JOE HIATT

LHS senior Jade Gunnarson and junior Annie Deuschter recently traveled to New York City for the Honors Performance Series, held at the famous Carnegie Hall for choir students.

To attend this event, Gunnarson and Deuschter had to audition by singing a traditional solo piece.

"We had to make a recording singing a solo for two or three minutes, sing some scales and we also had an application to fill out," said Deuschter.

Gunnarson and Deuschter were directed by Dr. Lynn Gackle, who is the choral professor at Baylor University.

"I have worked with Gackle before when she conducted Honor Choir one year when I was there, and she is great. It was fun to get to work with her again," said Gunnarson.

Neither Gunnarson nor Deuschter had ever been to NYC before this trip.

"I liked how fast paced it was. It was much



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JADE GUNNARSON

Junior Annie Deuschter and senior Jade Gunnarson sing at Carnegie Hall after their acceptance into the Honors Performance Series.

faster than Sioux Falls, and it seemed as if there was always something going on. I really liked just being in a big city. I also enjoyed all of the cool buildings," said Gunnarson.

For every first-time traveler to NYC, there is always so much to see and experience in the great city.

"I did a lot of shopping at a four story Forever 21. We went to the 9/11 memorial, which was amazing. We also ate at a lot of really good

places and walked down Wall Street," said Deuschter.

Gunnarson and Deuschter had the opportunity to sing at Carnegie Hall where many famous music greats have performed before.

"It was super cool to perform at Carnegie Hall. They had really awesome acoustics there, and it was really pretty because all the seats were red velvet and the walls were white. It was made in the late 1800s, so there were gold ac-

cents everywhere," said Gunnarson.

Both Gunnarson and Deuschter plan on singing after they graduate high school and both say that this experience has made them better singers and are happy for their opportunity to sing in NYC.

"Every opportunity students get to sing with choir makes them a better singer because it's more experience. This has absolutely made me a better singer," said Deuschter.

Mastering the techniques of 2D AP Design

By BROCK GILMER

Art is more than a hobby, it is way of life for the five students in 2D AP Design. The class is composed of seniors Zach North, Ashley Lortscher, Creighton Cowels and juniors Alyssa Micke and Jordan Schimdt. Students are allowed to use drawing, painting and photography to complete all pieces of art. AP Design is a year long class with the first semester displaying a student's ability to master the techniques of their medium as well as the composition of pieces. The second semester is a series of twelve pieces of art that revolve around one specific theme set by the student and the pieces are created in any which way the student may choose to portray the theme. Below are pieces created by students that take art as a way of life, not just a way to escape from the world.



Jordan Schimdt, 11



Ashley Lortscher, 12



Alyssa Micke, 11



Zach North, 12

Berens recreates and redesigns her artistic talent

BY BAILEY MONSON

Whitney Berens, a junior at LHS, has been pursuing art ever since she was a child. With the art opportunity that LHS brings, Berens has been able to mature her “craftiness” into pieces of art.

By taking Photo I, Drawing I and 3D Design I, Berens has been able to experience all kinds of art. She also has won awards for her work. Berens received an honorable mention for her photo, “A Million Pieces of Sunshine” at Augustana College.

“My very favorite pieces of art that I have created is my photo, ‘A Million Pieces of Sunshine,’ and an old bench my grandparents once had recreated, with a quote on it,” said Berens.

Through LHS art classes, Berens has learned and developed new skills to help her with her own designing behind the scenes. Although she



PHOTO BY BROCK GILMER

LHS junior Whitney Berens recreates and redesigns worn out objects and makes them into art.

may take these classes and follow the rules by day, she takes a different toll on art by night.

In her free time, Berens goes “thrifting” to find decorations or furniture to recreate and redesign. Berens loves to find an edge to everything she creates, and she has been doing this creative adventure for about three years now. Berens is now considering selling some of her pieces online.

“I generally go with my friends or my mom to buy things that have potential to be recreated. The things that I redesign are generally pieces of art that people might put into their room or hang up on the wall,” said Berens.

Berens could very well pursue a future in art, but she wishes to start nursing school instead. Although she will not be going to college for art, she does see herself continuing to be “crafty” and “thrifty” in the future.

ARTISTS OF LHS

Johnson sculpts her future after LHS

BY MIKAELA NEUBAUER

The number of creative souls hiding in the halls of LHS is too high to count and thankfully our school has diverse opportunities to express this artistic talent. The art classes available here at LHS gave senior Emma Johnson her start.

“My sophomore year I took Exploring Visual Arts. It had been a really long time since I had done art, so I just continued taking the classes. After that, I got into 3D Design and it got me interested in that realm of art,” said Johnson.

Throughout the years, Johnson has taken a total of six art classes: Exploring Visual Arts, 3D Design I and II, Photography I and Advanced Studio Art I and II, which she is currently in. While Johnson does take time in class to work on her projects, the hobby takes quite a bit of extracurricular effort. Johnson acknowledges that most of her projects, like pottery and sculptures, cannot be completed within the span of a regular school session.

“I go to class, but I also put in a lot of time outside of class because it is a time consuming



PHOTO BY BROCK GILMER

LHS senior Emma Johnson plans her future through the work of art and sculpting.

thing that you can't always finish in 50 minutes,” said Johnson.

Now that she has dipped her toes in 3D design, clay is her favorite medium to work with.

The fresh techniques Johnson learns in class opens her to new freedoms as an artist.

“I always enjoy the medium of clay because it is very versatile, and I can do whatever I want

with it,” said Johnson.

Johnson's passion for art has also prompted her to think about her future a little more. In her opinion, securing an occupation where art is the main focus may prove challenging, but if it is something that she loves to do, it will not matter.

“I want to go to school for art next year, but I'm not sure where it's going to lead me. Finding a career in art is going to be difficult, although I'd like to do it,” said Johnson.

Some of Johnson's work was recently featured in the High School Invitational Art Exhibit at Augustana College here in Sioux Falls. Like other students, Johnson's teachers requested that she make and enter a piece to be displayed. The work Johnson chose: a series of SpongeBob plates that she said portrays her sense of humor.

“I like art because it's a way to express my thoughts and feelings about the world around me and pop culture. Having a creative outlet is always important,” said Johnson.

Resource officers making a difference at LHS

By JEB COOPER

According to the Sioux Falls Police Department (SFPD), Sioux Falls was rated one of the best places to live in the U.S. The SFPD takes pride in making the city a safe and comfortable place to raise a family or enjoy the single life. The city has been in constant expansion for over 30 years. However, with expansion comes crime. Jason Larsen and Robert Draeger, the school resource officers at LHS, have been working on the force for a combined total of 26 years with experience in traffic case investigation, night patrol and morning patrol. Officers Larsen and Draeger have been put in many situations throughout their years of service that most Sioux Falls citizens could never dream was happening in their little Midwest town.

"The toughest thing I've had to do while on duty was when I responded to a house fire. There were three children inside which a fellow firefighter and I had to carry out. The little boy kept slipping my grip because his skin was so burnt, it was peeling off. The SFPD along with every other public safety department has a soft spot for calls involving children," said Larsen.

For Draeger, the hardest experience on the force came while he was on patrol in the traffic



PHOTO BY BROCK GILMER

LHS officers Draeger and Larsen are proud of the safe city that SFPD has made. investigation division.

"While I was on the traffic case investigation, I responded to a car crash involving a three year old child and his mom. The child died in the accident and I had to inform the mother about the tragedy," said Draeger.

Officers Larsen and Draeger are both in

their first year of being a school resource officer here at LHS and are enjoying the job a lot more than being on the streets. School resource officers are tasked with the duty of preventing bad things from happening in the school before they have a chance to happen. This job is very different from regular street patrol in

Sioux Falls.

"The biggest difference between being on patrol and working in the school is the age difference. Other than that, we generate a lot of our own work, along with what the administration comes to us about," said Larsen.

Larsen and Draeger's main purpose here at LHS is keeping the students and staff safe. They do this by always staying aware of what is going on around the school.

"Working at LHS, we are more proactive as opposed to being reactive on the streets. This means at LHS, we find our own work to do and on the streets, dispatchers tell us where we need to be," said Draeger.

There is no doubt Sioux Falls has grown in size over the past five years, and this has led to high crime rates as well. Thanks to the SFPD, however, Sioux Falls still maintains a town-like feel, although crime is happening and increasing.

"Sioux Falls is not a small town anymore. There are very real threats of violent crimes and random crimes at that. We have the normal amount of crime for a town this size. However, Sioux Falls is growing, and with growth comes crime growth," said Larsen.

Overheard Hallway Conversations

By BELLA THOME

Have you ever overheard something at school, and you have to do a double take because it was a little strange? Whether it is in the locker room, the cafeteria, the school store or the hallway, crazy conversations are everywhere. These are some of the "interesting" conversations that have been overheard here at LHS:

"This guy asked me what my favorite color was, and then he wore that color three days in a row."



"I think he was like a second year senior and he wanted to fight me, because I guess I was dating his sister."



"I'm pregnant on Mondays, you're pregnant on Tuesdays and she is pregnant every other day."



"I pushed my mom into the table and threw a pan at her, because she took away my phone last night."



Be careful what you say, because there is always someone listening.

Thome's blind date: Surprisingly smooth

By BELLA THOME

Awkward. Blind dates can be somewhat excruciating, but it can also be an amazing experience.

I got the chance to experience a blind date myself. I went to lunch at Bracco with fellow LHS sophomore Kaleb Harris.

Before a blind date, the anticipation is extreme. Not knowing who will be meeting at the restaurant or who you will be going with is difficult, because all you want to do is find out who your date is. The suspense of the whole ordeal is overwhelming. The day of, all I could think about was who I would be going on a date with. I could hardly stand the thought of not knowing. This was by far the worst part of the ordeal.

After I arrived at Bracco and waited for Harris to arrive, it became less stressful and a lot more fun. Since I already knew Harris, it was an enjoyable experience. One of my worst fears was that the date would be awkward, but luckily I got a talkative and funny date. We talked about the shared interest of a class we have together, which is Intramural Sports. Conversation flowed smoothly with Harris, and we did not find it hard to keep up a good conversation. Overall, it was an interesting ex-



PHOTO BY BROCK GILMER

LHS sophmores Bella Thome and Kaleb Harris enjoy a nice meal at Bracco after they were setup on a blind date together by the Statesman staff. Because Thome and Harris knew each other from a previous gym class at LHS, it was minimally awkward and a great time.

After the date was over, I was relieved and glad that it was such a fun time. I realized after

the date, that all of the worrying was unnecessary. It was a lot more fun and exciting than I expected.

THINKING ABOUT GOING ON A BLIND DATE? HERE IS MY ADVICE:

- Make sure you trust the people who are setting it up.
- The date should last around an hour or hour and a half.
- The date should be in a public place, where the two of you can talk.
- The conversation should not be too personal.
- Be yourself.
- Try to stay away from controversial topics.
- Keep conversation going; no awkward silence.

Taste, style and colors made into a prime LHS teen crib

By BAILEY MONSON

Everyone has their own taste, style, color preferences and hobbies, but when they all come together to form into one's room, it can be either a disaster or a masterpiece. LHS junior Faith Moat has brought her own taste, and her friends help to make several memories in her "teen crib."

It all started 8th grade year on her 14th birthday. All of her friends gathered up paint, ready to splatter the walls uncontrollably. After her mother saw it, she basically said that there was no turning back now. Since then, Moat and her friends have been adding to the masterpiece.

"Every time someone comes into my room, I give them a marker and say, basically, leave your mark. One time someone punched a hole into the wall and I just said 'OK,' because you know how people leave marks in your life? Well, I want people to make marks in my room to remember them by," said Moat.

Along with all of her memories, writing and holes, Moat also has her guitars in the corner

of her room, along with dressers like any other room. What makes Moat's room so much different from anyone else's, is that it is personalized and made with the creative energy of her, and her friends. Of course though, Moat understands that her room may not exist forever, and she accepts that.

"I know that when I move out, my parents are going to have to paint over the walls and make it into a normal room, so we are going to cut out pieces and put them into frames," said Moat.

Although Moat does accept that her room will not last forever, she does live in the moment and has everyone who enters her life and her room mark themselves distinctly with who they were to her. With that said, Moat definitely deserves the award for the best "teen crib" at LHS, because of her unique out-take on life and her room.

"I'm thankful for an experience I will never forget. My friends will keep adding on to my room, just like they keep adding memories to my life," said Moat.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY FAITH MOAT

Junior Faith Moat and sophomore Sarah Liben play guitar and sing in Moat's room.

Elliott begins dance career early on East Coast

BY SARA JANE TEAL

Imagine leaving high school for college two years earlier than planned. Imagine picking up your life and moving to a state on the other side of the U.S. This is what LHS sophomore Madison Elliott plans to do with the rest of her high school career.

For Elliott, this seems to be a dream come true. She will be attending the University of North Carolina for Performing Arts High School, located in the Piedmont Triad region of North Carolina.

Although Elliott is not going to college early, it may seem like it because the performing arts high school is directly connected to the University of North Carolina.

"Just like college, I won't be living with any of my family, but in dorms and I'll be leaving my friends behind," said Elliott. "Basically I'm moving where I have no connections with anyone and it will be scary at first, but I hope to make new ties, meet new people and start

over."

Elliott will be spending most of her day dancing, but she will have to fit in her main core classes as well.

"I'll be taking dance classes as extracurriculars and have only three main classes that I have to take along with five dance classes," said Elliott. "So basically, instead of having to go to school for eight hours and then dance for two hours, I'll have class for three hours and dance classes for five, and that doesn't include rehearsal times after school."

Elliott will be taking the initiative to start her career early and start to broaden her dance education in North Carolina for her junior and senior years.

"I just noticed I was behind a lot of the girls at the East Coast camps I attended, so I decided to reach out and learn new technique," said Elliott. "I was becoming bored with my daily routine and I wanted to really push myself to a place where I wasn't comfortable."



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MADISON ELLIOTT

LHS sophomore Madison Elliott continues to practice to help prepare herself for dance school in North Carolina.

Two LHS seniors are embracing dance in college

BY SARA JANE TEAL

Almost every student at LHS is familiar with athletes who have committed to colleges for sports, but how many students know people who are committing to dance in college? LHS seniors Chloe Litzen and Alayna Dutcher

are going to continue to dance in college, just as any other athlete would continue a sport throughout their college years.

Like any athlete or artist, Litzen and Dutcher have had to start somewhere.

"I started dance at age six, because like many

girls, my mom signed me up for classes, but unlike some, I continued dancing throughout my life," said Litzen.

Many think that to become a good dancer, one must start at a young age, but this is not true for Dutcher who did not start dancing until high school.

"Raena Rasmussen came to our gymnastics gym, All American, and taught us ballet because my coach thought we needed more grace, which I knew I did. I started to fall in love with it then," said Dutcher. "I thought Raena was so crazy and passionate. I started to go to Ballet-raena and really didn't start dancing until my freshman year when I received all the opportunities that I had been given."

With college right around the corner, Litzen and Dutcher have to start sorting out what they will do with their dance careers once they leave LHS and their dance studios behind.

"I want to combine my dance degree with my pre-med degree and be a doctor specifically for dancers, because it is important for them to know how their bodies work," said Dutcher.

Yes, going to college or any type of institution for a sport is a big deal, but oftentimes the arts get brushed aside, especially dance. To go to college for any reason is an accomplishment for anyone, but to be accepted into college for

dance is a big achievement.

"Some people overlook art forms and don't realize how much talent and hard work is put into them. Artists really don't get enough credit even though they work endlessly to perfect their skills," said Litzen.

Dance has been around for several years even if the recognition is not always there. Students love to train for a variety of reasons.

"I love dance because it's physically and mentally a challenge. There is always something new, and I will never repeat a dance exactly," said Dutcher. "It's been around for so long and now it's become so much more than just purely dance. It's at concerts, dinners and in the middle of the street. Dance is also so entwined with other art forms. You can't have dance without the music to follow along with it."

Dance is an art people can pick up, and with practice, become good at, just like any sport. It can also teach someone many qualities and life skills in the real world.

"Being a dancer has taught me to be both a team player and independent. Group performances require attentiveness, while ultimately it is up to me to work as hard as I can to become my best," said Litzen. "Honestly, after spending so much of my life dancing, I could never imagine my world without it."



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ALAYNA DUTCHER

LHS senior Alayna Dutcher's passion for dancing has influenced her to continue to dance in college.

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Denver airport

By ELLIE BRECHT

As most Americans know, conspiracy theories and their so-called “evidence” haunt people all over the Internet, on YouTube videos and in tabloids. Many do not believe in them, but there are people out there who are convinced by the countless resources of “proof,” that conspiracy theories are true. The Denver International Airport conspiracy theory is centered around the idea that a government is plotting to take over the world using the airport as its center base.

It has been said that employees who work in the Denver Airport will not talk about it, or even respond when asked about it. Well here is the evidence.

All over the airport, there are said to be large, satanic-looking murals that depict things such as the end of world peace, mass destructions by soldiers in gas masks and mothers and children fleeing from harm. This concern led to more

investigations that resulted in the findings of many more mysterious features that hold true at the Denver Airport itself. It is said that when the airport was built, there was already a well-run airport in Denver, so there was really no point in building another one. The runways are said to be formed in the shape of the well-known Nazi symbol, the swastika, (but if you take a look at the entire structure from a bird's-eye view, it has five legs instead of only four). This referral to the Nazi's similarly leads to the mysterious shower sprinklers that are all over the underground tunnels beneath the airport where only workers are allowed. Many wonder, why would there need to be any sort of an underground area in the airport. Another portion of the airport that concerns people are the inward-facing barbed wire fences that resemble those of a concentration camp. Along with the sprinklers and swastika shaped runway, there seems to be a pattern forming.

Besides the numerous questionable features in the airport, there are also many features that people think are especially scary because they are normally overlooked, such as the fact that it may be the headquarters for the New World Order (New Nazi Party), which is another conspiracy about a group that is supposedly on the verge of taking control of the world. The reason theorists think this is a possibility is because of not only the threatening murals, but also the random statue that says AuAg, leading one to think of the chemical symbols for gold and silver, but the abbreviation can also be used for the name of a deadly plague that spread across Europe.

Along with the murals depicting mass destruction and the underground sprinkler system, it could possibly be foreshadowing a deadly sickness that the New World Order has in store.



Conspiracy

Marilyn Monroe

charming personality, so it is no wonder that both President John F. Kennedy and his brother, Robert Kennedy, allegedly had an affair with her. It is believed that Monroe had information on the Kennedy brothers, along with an obsession of becoming the First Lady. When both JFK and his brother pushed her aside, Monroe was outraged and contacted the brothers with letters and phone calls, threatening to go public with their relationships.

Although Monroe had drug prescriptions, skeptics are reluctant to believe an overdose was the end of her life. The first officer at the scene of her death, Jack Clemmons stated that he felt as if he were walking into a murder scene. To Clemmons, it looked like her body had been arranged and posed in a perfect position, unlike the other suicide scenes he had observed where bodies looked distorted due to pain before a person passed out. After stating his opinion on what he witnessed, Clemmons was replaced and ordered to keep quiet, or so some

conspiracy theorists believe.

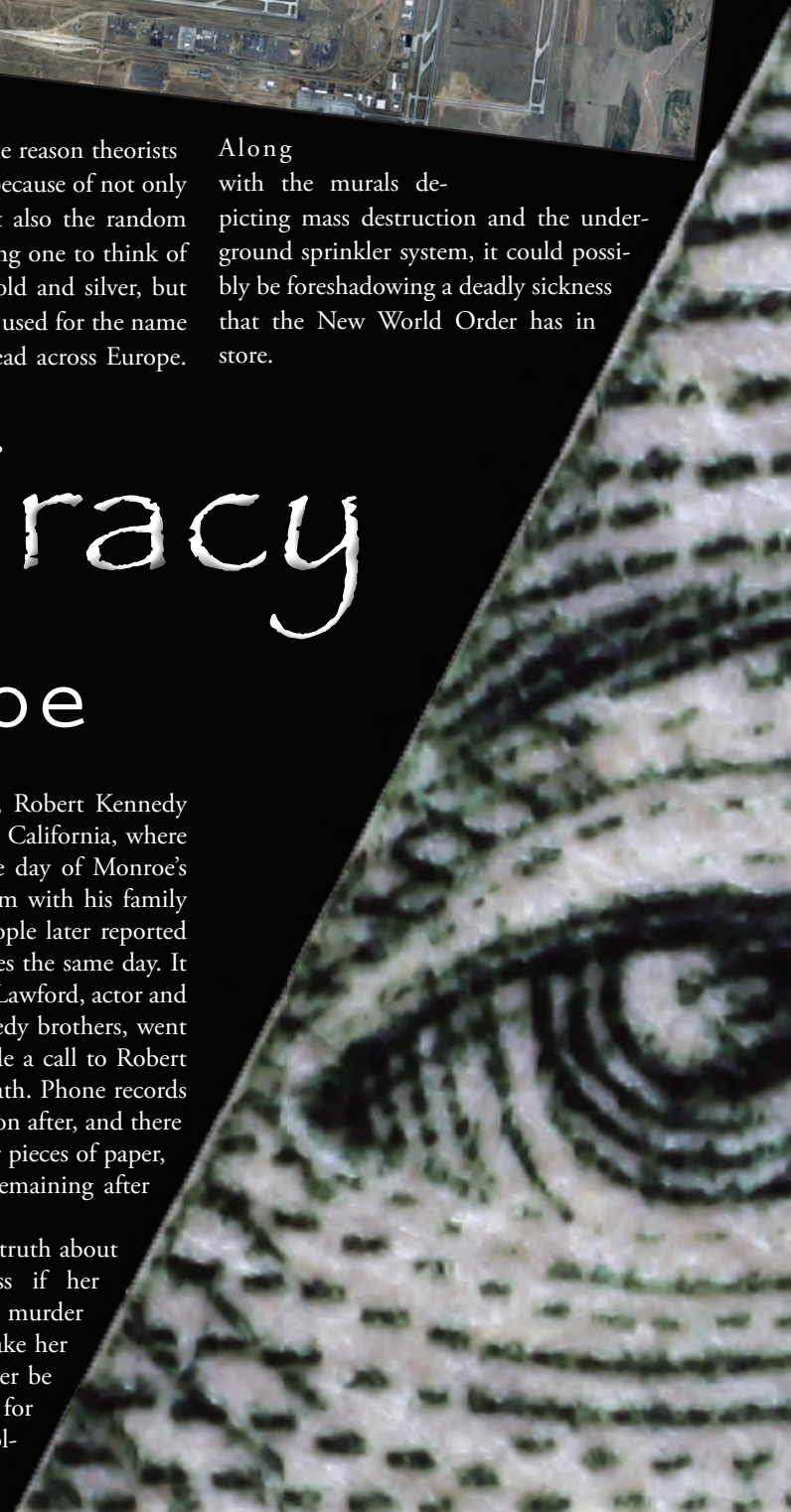
To add to the suspicion, Robert Kennedy claimed to be nowhere near California, where the “suicide” took place the day of Monroe's death, but witnesses saw him with his family in San Francisco. Many people later reported that he flew into Los Angeles the same day. It was also reported that Peter Lawford, actor and brother-in-law to the Kennedy brothers, went to Monroe's house and made a call to Robert Kennedy to confirm her death. Phone records were said to be destroyed soon after, and there were no personal journals or pieces of paper, including Monroe's diary, remaining after her death.

We may never know the truth about Monroe's death. Regardless if her death was a suicide-staged murder or if she really decided to take her own life, Monroe will forever be remembered and idolized for her beauty and success in Hollywood.

By MAKAYLA DISBURG

Many assume that the death of Marilyn Monroe was a suicide caused by drug overdose. With Monroe's high-profile status and her history of abusing drugs, it is not hard to believe such an assumption. Although an overdose seems convincing because of Monroe's previous suicide attempts in hopes of attention, there are other clues that lead to the possibility that suicide was not the cause of the actress's death.

Monroe was known for her good looks and



JFK assassination

By MAGGI IBIS

For 50 years, Americans have speculated about perhaps the most talked-about event in our nation's history: the sudden and world-altering assassination of President John F. Kennedy. That dreadful afternoon on Nov. 22, 1963 showed America even the most successful and charismatic leaders are not secure from evil, and from that day forward the country has never been the same.

It seems as though the dust never settled following the murder that caused an entire population to weep. Last November, the entire week before the 50th anniversary of Kennedy's death was spent re-addressing questions left unanswered half a century later. Perhaps the biggest question remains today: Was assassin Lee Harvey Oswald a one-man show, or were others working with him and left unpunished?

Photos and videos taken of Kennedy and his brigade that day have been pored over and scrutinized to the point of obsession, as nearly every

figure in every frame has been questioned as possibly having involvement in the assassination. *The New York Times* published a miniature documentary on the "Umbrella Man," a mysterious spectator shown in the background of a series of photographs of the shooting wearing a black suit and holding an open black umbrella on the particularly sunny day in Dallas.

Suspicious arose around the man, who was later identified as Louie Steven Witt, and many wondered if he served as a signaler of some sort to notify Oswald when to shoot. Others reached farther and claimed the umbrella may have been used to fire a dart to immobilize Kennedy, thus making him an easier target. Witt came forward in 1978, testifying he carried an umbrella that day to represent British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, who appeased Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party during World War II. Kennedy's father, who served as the British Ambassador for the U.S. during that time, was a supporter of Chamberlain, whose trademark was to often have a black umbrella on hand, and Witt merely sought to publicly

criticize the Kennedy family.

Hundreds of theories surround Kennedy's assassination in addition to the suspicions regarding Witt. There was the question of bullets coming from multiple directions, and a decoy hearse taking his body elsewhere to alter his wounds to appear as though he was only shot from behind. Many speculate the government made an attempt to cover up details of the assassination as well, and other theories suggest foreign governments such as Cuba and Israel played a part in President Kennedy's death.

Unfortunately, the opportunity to fill in the blanks was destroyed when Jack Ruby shot Oswald, the sole source of information and the country's only hope for answers, outside Dallas Police headquarters just days after the assas-

sination. Despite the countless theories about the who, how and why of this world-famous murder case, the ultimate truth will never be discovered simply because of a man who sought to avenge the death of the President. Ruby ended up committing one of the most unforgivable crimes in history in an attempt to become a national hero.

Now, as we look back on the tragic death of one of the most influential men our nation has ever seen, we must put the conspiracy theories to rest and remember a driven, intelligent man who respected his country and sought to bring change to the American people.



Theories

Selling your soul

By JEB COOPER

For centuries, a secret society known as the Illuminati has been allegedly infusing its thoughts and ideas into music and works of art. As the tale goes, if one were to sell one's soul and make a deal with the devil, he or she would have 20 years of fame and fortune in their area of work. There are allegedly many different ways to make a deal with the devil, ranging from sitting alone in a bedroom and saying the words "Satan, I summon you. I have a quality soul to sell if the price is right" to meeting Satan on the bridge on Rose Lane, Mossley Hill in Liverpool, England. Along with many other people, a young man in his early 20's named John Len-

non allegedly sold his soul to the devil on this bridge.

In December 1960, after hearing stories of men and women who had sold their soul to the devil on Rose Lane Bridge, better known as "the Devil's Bridge," in

exchange for fame and fortune, Lennon became obsessed with the idea of making a deal with the devil. Lennon and his band, The Beatles, became the biggest thing since Elvis Presley, who was also thought to have sold his soul. Lennon enjoyed 20 years of fame and fortune while simultaneously etching his name into music history. As it goes, Lennon's 20 year pact with Satan was fulfilled when Lennon was brutally murdered on Dec. 8, 1980. John Lennon is one of very many other famous artists to have allegedly made this deal.

Along with Lennon, Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan and Katy Perry have also "admitted" to exchanging their soul for superstardom, and there are numerous others who are thought to have made a deal with Satan.

Whether or not selling a soul can be achieved, curious fans, family and even some scientists have been doing research into the lives of music legends, trying to figure out if the devil was the key to their success.



“The Walking Dead” returns to AMC

By ELLIE BRECHT

American horror drama television series, “The Walking Dead,” is very popular amongst not only teens, but the general population of “of age” citizens. On Feb. 9, 2014, AMC’s “The Walking Dead” returned with its mid-season premiere, which was expected to be something well worth the wait. Viewers did not seem to have the same viewpoint on the premiere after it showed. It could have been the unrealistic buildup that caused viewers’ expectations to not be reached once they viewed the show on the night of the premiere, or possibly the abrupt ending to the mid-season finale that had fanatics eagerly awaiting what seemed, in the debut of the next series of shows, a bit of a letdown.

Although the premiere was not all that it was made up to be, online reviews said that the second episode, which aired just one week later, made up for the lack of interest that was in the premiere.

Both the premiere and the following episode



AMC’s “Walking Dead” cast attempts to keep walkers out of the prison.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY MCT CAMPUS

featured the surviving characters who had been left unknown in the finale with the exception of a few. Both of the episodes answered questions that had been lingering amidst the thoughts of “The Walking Dead” fanatics for nearly four months. Fans of the show did not have to wait long to see what would happen next, as the following episode came just one week later.

In the second episode, which aired on Feb. 16, 2014, many flashbacks occurred, reminiscing on the first findings of the prison, which could possibly be an attempt by the producers to assist the returning viewers on recalling everything that had happened in the previous seasons to create for a better understanding, or to give new viewers a bit of background knowledge on what has gone on in the previous seasons.

Despite the slow start on the “beginning” of the season, viewers know there is much more to come, and viewers will need to stay on their toes.

Late Night entertainment gets facelift

By JOE HIATT

The faces of Late Night are changing, especially at NBC. As Jay Leno retires, Jimmy Fallon takes over “The Tonight Show,” and Seth Meyers gets a show of his own.

After 22 years of “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno,” Leno was forced into retirement. Leno has ‘retired’ once before in May of 2009, but soon returned the following year and “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno” made its second debut. Which begs the question: is he really gone for good? Well, we think so; his official retirement was Feb. 7, 2014.

Taking Leno’s spotlight is “Saturday Night Live” alum Jimmy Fallon, whose Late Night show “Late Night with Jimmy Fallon” is all anyone has really been talking about. Fallon’s success on “SNL” made him a great candidate when he got the job back in 2009. Fallon is going nowhere but up, as he steps into “The Tonight Show.” There will be more changes than just the tag team of comedians, “The Tonight Show” will get a location change as well. The show has always been filmed in California, in fact, it has been that way since 1972, but now it will be filmed in New York where Fallon does his show.

With Fallon taking over for Leno, that leaves

a spot open for “Late Night,” and who is better deserving than recently retired “SNL” star Seth Meyers? Meyers’ hilarious portrayal as a news anchor on the popular “SNL” skit “Weekend Update,” which also happens to be Fallon’s old role, has made Meyers more popular than ever. Everyone is excited to see what this funny comedian can do with his own show and how he will step into this role.

Although many are sad to see Leno leave, there is a lot of excitement to see these two great “SNL” alums bring all they have to these two widely viewed shows. There is no doubt in my mind that they will not let us down.

Fallon’s show kicked off Feb. 17 and it was a great show. It featured movie star Will Smith and rock band U2 performing on top of a building. Fallon has definitely proven himself deserving as the new face of “The Tonight Show.”

Meyers’ first show consisted of former co-star Amy Poehler on “SNL.” Meyers has a lot of support from his famous friends and they believe in him to do this new position justice.

Tune in to see two of the funniest men on TV do their thing on NBC Late Night. Fallon airs weeknights at 10:35 p.m. Central Time. Meyers goes on an hour after Fallon.



Jay Leno and Jimmy Fallon backstage at the 70th Annual Golden Globe show on Jan. 13, 2014.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY MCT CAMPUS

“Two Thumbs Up” for James’ “Life Itself”

BY MADDY RYAN

It is not too often that Sioux Falls gets a visit from a film director who has had many of his films shown at the Sundance Film Festival. So when I was given the opportunity to go to a viewing of the film “Life Itself,” and meet the Sundance award-winning director, Steve James, I could not resist. Thanks to the local independent and foreign film screening company Cinema Falls, this was an opportunity of a lifetime.

“Life Itself” follows the story of the acclaimed movie critic, Roger Ebert in his final weeks of life. In this time, Ebert could no longer physically speak because cancer in his salivary glands had caused damage to both his vocal cords and lower jaw (which was removed due to fear of infection). The film guides the viewers through Ebert’s life experiences, from winning his Pulitzer Prize for criticism during his time at the Chicago Sun-Times, to his struggle with alcoholism and to his time spent as a TV host and movie critic on “Siskel and Ebert.”

The entire 112 minutes of the movie continues to keep the viewers intrigued in what

struggles and triumphs Ebert experienced throughout his life as a movie critic. One of Ebert’s most famous positive critiques to give a film was “Two Thumbs Up,” and there is no doubt that “Life Itself” is “Two Thumbs Up” and a must-see.

Having the director in attendance was an added bonus to the event. At the end of the film’s showing, he opened up the floor to a Q&A with the audience. James’ responses made the film experience even more personal, sharing special moments he had with Ebert while filming. James is best known for directing the award-winning films, “Hoop Dreams” and “The Interpreters.”

With the help of Cinema Falls, Sioux Falls has received many opportunities similar to this particular event that showcase quality independent and foreign films. Cinema Falls’ top priority is to “screen films that are not available on demand, downloadable or on rentable DVD.” Cinema Falls followed through with their top priority with this event because this film was shown in Sioux Falls before hundreds of movie markets nationwide ever received it.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CINEMA FALLS

Director Steve James takes questions from the audience after his film’s showing.

Cinema Falls has plenty of great opportunities for students and their families to view independent films earlier than most. The next film

scheduled to be shown is “Particle Fever- The Story of the Hadron Collider” on March 16 at Icon Lounge.

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From the page to the big screen

Statesman reviews the most anticipated films of 2014 adapted from America's biggest novels

“Wild” journeys to captivating flick The next “Hunger Games”

By ALEXA ANKRUM

A life-endangering journey and a deep inner battle occur in the memoir, “*Wild: From Lost To Found on the Pacific Crest Trail*” by Cheryl Strayed. Strayed recounts her experiences as she trekked 1,100 miles of the mountains and deserts of the Pacific Coast Trail (PCT) alone, with no prior backpacking experience. The novel reveals the physical and emotional battles of someone who is lost in more ways than one and who found her way back.

At age 26, Strayed chose to take a pilgrimage along the West Coast after a series of losses. Her mother died of cancer four years before, she got a divorce from her husband and she had been living through a downward spiral of self-destructive behavior, including the use of heroin, for years. Strayed had just chosen her current last name during

divorce because its definition is “move away aimlessly.” Strayed thought somehow the journey up the PCT would be what she needed in order to move forward with her life.

Strayed described her adventures along the trail with humor and insight, describing the beauty and peril of the terrain around her, as well as

the quirkiness of the people she met along the trail. She recounts the physical rigors of the journey with excruciating detail, as well as the road blocks she encountered along the way. Strayed fascinates the reader with her own story of how she faced isolation, the elements and exhaustion, but still stayed on course. With a no-holds-barred style, Strayed reveals everything she thought and felt during the difficult journey as she tried to find a way to move on from the tragedy of her past. Although she was primarily focused on simply surviving the trail, along the PCT, Strayed began to forgive herself for her past mistakes and to let the past be.

This book is exceptional, and it is scheduled to become a movie later this year. Reese Witherspoon has bought the movie rights to Strayed's book, and she will play the part of in the film version.

By CARLY HOHMAN

Readers of the increasingly popular trilogy are raving over the upcoming movie “*Divergent*,” which is dated to premiere on March 21 of this year. The part sci-fi/fantasy, part romance book, which was released in April, 2011, has had readers wondering and waiting for years for it to be made into a movie. With the anticipation building, the outcome is likely to be as popular as “*The Hunger Games*.”

Veronica Roth is the author of the “*Divergent*” trilogy, which is followed by the second book, “*Insurgent*,” released in May, 2012, and the third book “*Allegiant*,” which was published in October, 2013.

The story is set in the future, where a society inside the confines of the city of Chicago, are broken up into four different types of people called factions. Each faction dedicates their lives to one merit; Candor is honesty, Amity is peacefulness, Abne-

gation is selflessness and Dauntless is bravery. At the age of 16 everyone must choose a faction to live in for the rest of their lives. The main character, Beatrice Prior, is very unique and has a tough decision to make. The penalty for not being able to live among a faction is considered worse than death.

Along with an intriguing storyline, the trailer for the movie showed some famous faces who will portray a few of the main characters. Shailene Woodley is cast as the main character Beatrice Prior, Theo James portrays Four and Kate Winslet will be playing Jeanine Mathew.

From the looks of the trailer, it seems the movie will have a main focus on the action, with a little romance on the side. The director is Neil Burger, who also directed “*Limitless*,” “*The Lucky Ones*” and “*The Illusionist*.”

O f

course there is worry that the movie will inadequately translate the book to the big screen. Especially with millions of people already having read the book and are expecting it to be perfect, there is no promise for 100 percent satisfaction.

The second movie “*Insurgent*,” is in the pre-production stage and is estimated to be released

in 2015.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MCT CAMPUS

No fault in “*The Fault in Our Stars*”

By MIKAELA NEUBAUER

Out of all the book to movie adaptations coming out in the year to come, I have the highest hopes for “*The Fault in Our Stars*,” a film based on the best-selling young adult novel by author and YouTube personality John Green.

As an already flawless book, abounding in true, touching beauty and pure wit, the movie is going to be hard to mess up. The cast, including Shailene Woodley, Ansel Elgort and Nat Wolff, is any reader's dream, being down-to-earth, beyond talented and sure to add tremendous depth to the movie. Green also worked closely with the director Josh Boone throughout production to assure his and his read-

er's vision played out perfectly on the big screen. All of this is sure to add together to be a great film when it finally comes out on June 6, 2014.

16-year-old Hazel Grace Lancaster, played by Woodley, who has dealt with stage 4 Thyroid metastatic cancer since age 13, narrates the story. Her adventure starts when her parents force her to go to a cancer support group where, thanks to her nearly blind friend Isaac, played by Wolff, she stumbles upon Augustus “Gus” Waters, played by Elgort, an interesting guy in remission from osteosarcoma, or bone cancer. The once monotonous life of Hazel Grace flips upside down when this philosophical boy with a prosthetic leg comes in. As they grow

closer, the two discover the spectacular warmth of love along with the neverending disappointment of mortality. Within their little infinity of time together, Hazel and Gus go on adventures, doing everything from traveling to Amsterdam to meet a fiercely disagreeable author, to egging a car, and they enjoy every minute of it.

It has been said that the production is only as good as its actors and if that is true, there is no doubt that this movie is going to be great. Green cast Woodley, best known for her work in “*The Secret Life of an American Teenager*,” because he thought her “love for the book and her understanding of Hazel” was perfect for the lead role. After

filming for her other role in “*Divergent*,” Woodley chopped off her hair and became the down to earth girl fans cannot wait to see as Hazel. Elgort, on the other hand, is a bit new to the film scene. He recently took a secondary role in the remake of Stephen King's “*Carrie*,” and will also star in the “*Divergent*” movie alongside Woodley (as her on-screen brother as opposed to lover).

Labeled as a “romantic comedy-drama,” it is just that. The storyline, filled with realistic love and devastating heartbreak perfectly balanced with the right amount of well-timed levity, shows the melancholy nature of love and life. This movie is one to take time to see (but bring Kleenex). Okay? Okay.

Brick by brick, “*Lego Movie*” gets laughs from movie goers

BY ELLEN KOESTER

Contrary to popular belief, Hollywood is not running out of marketable products to make into movies. Yes, there are movies such as “*Battleship*”, and yes, most new movies are sequels no matter how popular the original. Legos are not a new and original subject matter but it is the closest Hollywood has come in a while.

How come it has taken so long for Legos to become the main concept of a major motion picture? The script practically writes itself. Round up some celebrity voices and crank out a predictable plot and quicker than someone can say “Did the dog eat the one of the 2x2 bricks?” a blockbuster is born.

This movie is more than a potential cash cow; it is a good, if generic, movie. The major plot points can be anticipated, but the filmmakers hid the predictable behind humor. The jokes never cease. From dark humor to kid humor and pop-culture references to good ol’ puns, this movie covers everything and guarantees a laugh from anyone from a preschooler to a high school student.

The directors, Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, have had similar success in taking a relatively dumb concept and making a funny movie. These are the directors of “*Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*” and “*Cloudy with a*

Chance of Meatballs 2” which were incredibly well received by movie critics. Based on a children’s book, these movies had the potential to make the directors into laughingstocks. The “*Cloudy*” franchise, just as “*Lego Movie*” did, had audiences laughing with the directors instead of at them.

The biggest thing that keeps the laughs coming is the characters, including Batman, cameos that made by other superheroes and a few cameos even come from a galaxy far far away. Every character gets a few laughs. The villain, Lord Business, is very funny, thanks to Will Ferrell’s voice acting and the character’s dark and twisted humor. However, some face-erasing scenes with Lord Business are a little scary for some small children and even certain high school journalists. The two split-personality characters, Good Cop/Bad Cop and Unikitty, should get their own spinoff CBS sitcom. Although the focus on the characters stays on the marketable cameos, the main character, Emmet, has many funny lines. The purpose of his character is that he is the least special Lego figure in the universe and the movie shows this but somehow, he is fun to watch.

Another one of the movie’s odd accomplishments is that the movie stays as true to the subject matter as it can. Legos, in their essence are about creativity and building gi-



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MCT CAMPUS

ant spaceships to defeat any bad guy who rears his cylindrical head. It is about ignoring the instructions and building something original. This theme is well worked into the plot. The beginning of the movie takes place in a “utopian society” where all the little Lego people followed the instructions. The heroes, called

“Master Builders,” build willy-nilly. There is a decent twist at the end that sums up how awesome creativity is and has some more laughs in store for the audience.

“*Lego Movie*” contains all the fun of playing with Legos without the danger of accidentally stepping on one.

“*The Monuments Men*”: A slow movie worth watching

BY PRANAM DEY

So yes, it is not “*The Avengers*” or even “*Saving Private Ryan*.” For a war movie, there is hardly a single action scene; the only green screen is the forest in the background. But somehow, it works. “*The Monuments Men*” shows the details, the intricacies, the small, human stories too often and too easily glossed over as the years and decades pass. The WWII flick follows the real-life story of a group of art scholars and historians who worked to save priceless works of art from the Nazis in the last few years of the war. Producer, director and writer George Clooney stars as Frank Stokes, an art historian who leads the Monuments Men onto the front lines to save Europe’s cultural heritage from imminent destruction. As Stokes tries to convince Allied commanders that he should be allowed to tell them “what they can and cannot blow up,” Clooney convinces us of the importance of his cause.

An all-star cast supports Clooney and helps cover up some plot weaknesses. Matt Damon plays James Granger, the curator of New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art, Cate Blanchett plays Claire Simon, a French woman who pro-



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MCT CAMPUS

vides vital information about the Nazi plans and Jean Dujardin, who won an Oscar for “*The Artist*,” plays Jean Claude Clermont, a French soldier who helps the others travel through occupied France. The real-life Monuments Men

group actually had dozens of men from a number of countries, but the writers took some artistic liberties to simplify the narrative.

Unfortunately, the slimmed-down storyline contains a few too many scenes of characters

aimlessly walking or driving around, and the plot lacks urgency. Clooney clearly believes that virtually every problem can be solved by people sitting down and talking, and his characters spend most of the time doing exactly that. Perhaps some problems are indeed better solved with words than with guns, but it does seem a little incongruous that the Monuments Men, despite traveling all over the Western Front, never get into a real firefight.

Whenever the plot stalls, Clooney’s character, Frank Stokes, has to jump in with impromptu, yet stirring, monologues to push the story along. With the real events of the war providing plentiful material to work with, it is surprising how dependent the film is on melodramatic, canned speeches to keep audiences engaged.

If you want an exciting action movie, well, this is far from it. With a 34 percent on Rotten Tomatoes and a 6.7 out of 10 on IMDb, critics clearly panned the movie. Slower-paced films have their own charms though, and when every new movie seems to be trying to ape “*Iron Man*,” seeing something completely different is surprisingly refreshing.

Michele “Cannonballs” into solo career

BY CARLY HOHMAN

Most people do not know what they want to be before the age of 10 or what their purpose in life may be. Lea Michele, however, was born to be in the spotlight. When she was eight-years-old, Michele landed the role of Young Cosette in the Broadway musical “*Les Misérables*” and found her calling in music. She then performed in the Broadway plays “*Ragtime*” and “*Fiddler on the Roof*” in 1998 and 2004, respectively.

Entering adulthood, Michele then starred as the lead role of Wendla in the Broadway rock musical “*Spring Awakening*” in 2006. In 2009 at the age of 24, Michele turned away from Broadway and entered the Hollywood industry as Rachel Berry in the musical comedy show “*Glee*.” After four successful seasons of “*Glee*,” unsuspected tragedy struck the cast and crew. On July 13, 2013 Cory Monteith, who starred in “*Glee*” as Finn Hudson and was Michele’s boyfriend, on and off the screen, died from a drug overdose.

Monteith’s death may have taken a toll on Michele, but in an interview from “*Teen Vogue*” with Jonathan Groff, Michele revealed, “I somehow feel the insane love Cory and I had for each other morphed into this strength that I have right now.”

That strength pushed Michele to record her first solo album “*Louder*,” released on March 4, 2014. This marks her start in an independent singing career. Michele’s voice is filled with passion in every song she sings, and her first single called “*Cannonball*,” released on Dec. 10, is not an exception. On the other hand, the beautiful ballad “*Battlefield*” is clearly a tribute to Monteith that has emotion dripping from every word. The 11 track album is bound to be filled with songs of heartbreak, finding the power to rise from the ashes, and of course, quality music that many people will be able to relate to.

The sixth and final season of “*Glee*” premiered on Fox on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MCT CAMPUS

Lea Michele (center) performing at Super Bowl XLV in 2010. Since then, Michele has gone through a rough patch in life with the recent death of her boyfriend, Cory Monteith. Michele has now turned her life around by starting a solo career.

Students would be “Daft” not to listen

BY LUCAS MICHAELS

To the casual music listener, 2013 might have been the first time they had heard of the French electronic music duo Daft Punk. Their song “*Get Lucky*” topped charts all summer long and is still a very popular song on the radio. For listeners who constantly listen to 104.7, it probably just sounded like the average pop song. To those familiar with electronic music, Daft Punk is not a new name. Daft Punk has been making electronic dance music, or EDM, since the late 90s, when they released their first album, “*Homework*.” Most EDM fans will agree that Daft Punk revolutionized electronic music. Their top songs include “*Da Funk*,” “*Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger*,” and “*Around the World*.”

Whether someone is a longtime fan, just heard of Daft Punk or has never heard a song from them, everyone seems to have the same question: What is up with the helmets? To someone who is not familiar with the duo, Daft Punk might just seem like two bizarre, grown men in costumes. There are many people who think there is not really a reason other than it looks cool. It is really so much more than that. Wearing helmets may be the smartest wardrobe choice a band has ever thought of.

One obvious reason is animosity. The gen-

eral public has no idea what Daft Punk looks like. They have not been seen without their helmets since the 90s, which was before they started wearing the helmets. Often people forget that beneath all the fame that celebrities have, they are all regular people. Everyone needs some time to themselves, and since underneath the helmets Daft Punk are just



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MCT CAMPUS

Daft Punk recently won four Grammy awards including Record of the Year.

ordinary people, they are no exception. They can go out in public without being harassed or glorified by the paparazzi. This means that they can be the great performers they are on stage with the helmets and still have a normal, functioning life off-stage without the helmets.

Daft Punk might also choose to wear

helmets because it is incredibly unique. Before they started the trend, no one had ever thought of that idea. Now, any time an artist tries to pull off the robot look they are disregarded because they are “copying Daft Punk.” They look and sound completely different than any other artist. People are fascinated by the mysteries of who is behind the masks and how they make such strange music. It is all a part of what makes Daft Punk so unique.

Another way Daft Punk is different than the rest of today’s artists is their lack of sexual innuendos. It seems like today’s popular music centers around one thing, sex. Practically every song has some sort of explicit lyrics. Not to mention, almost all popular artists are attractive, young people who show off their good looks. These artists rely on sex appeal and dirty lyrics as a crutch for not having creative and unique ideas. Daft Punk is different because there is nothing sexual about them (unless you find robot masks attractive, of course). Their songs consist of few words, and the songs that do have words usually have nothing to do with anything sexual.

Whether or not one is a fan, it is impossible to argue that Daft Punk is not unique. For those who might not have heard of them and are interested, I highly recommend giving Daft Punk a listen.



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Sports

LHS STATESMAN

MARCH 7, 2014

By the Numbers

78 NUMBER OF DAYS
UNTIL STATE TRACK

26 POINTS SCORED BY
GIRLS BASKETBALL
PLAYER JUNIOR ELLIE
BRECHT AGAINST RC
STEVENS

8.5 TEAM HIGH IN
REBOUNDS PER
GAME BY JUNIOR
ADDISON PARK IN
BOYS BASKETBALL

1 JUNIOR SKYLAR
CASTILLEJA'S RANK
GOING INTO STATE
WRESTLING

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 13-15
SDHSAA State Girls Basketball Tournament
@ Brookings

Tuesday, March 18
Varsity/JV Track Meet
@ USD 4:00 p.m.

March 20-22
SDHSAA State Boys Basketball Tournament
@ Rapid City

Six LHS seniors take football to the next level



PHOTO BY BROCK GILMER

Left to right: Van Veldhuizen, Quintanilla, Wagner, Naasz, Salava and Rozeboom celebrate National Signing day, Feb. 6, by showing off their state champion rings minutes after signing their contracts to play football at the collegiate level.

By DYLAN HALL

National signing day is a huge event for everyone in the college football community. While most people focus on the top recruits who go to the top schools, sports fans in Sioux Falls focus on the top local players and where they are going.

Six of the top seniors at LHS signed their national letters of intent, officially determining which college they will be attending. Of the six players, four of them, Trevor Naasz, Caden Quintanilla, Matt Wagner and Mike Van Veldhuizen, chose to attend and play for Augustana College. The other two players are Levi Rozeboom, who signed with the University of Sioux Falls, and Taylor Salava, who signed with Concordia College, which is located in Moorhead, MN.

Naasz, Quintanilla, Wagner and Van Veldhuizen top a huge signing class for Augustana, which hopes to contend for a championship in the near future. The four players wanted to stay together while also playing close to home, and Augustana was the perfect fit.

"Augie has great school academics and athletics. They did a great job communicating with us, and I

had a great time visiting the school," said Wagner. "I know that I'll get a great education, and I'll have fun playing football with the same four guys I've been playing with the last four years."

Rozeboom decided to stray away from the pack, choosing to go to Augie's cross town rival, USF. Rozeboom also wanted to stay in town, but decided that USF was a better fit. He will bring a big presence to USF's offensive line, as it struggled this past year. He is a huge part of USF's recruiting class that hopes to have a big season next year.

"I felt that USF was a good fit for me. I was most comfortable going there. That's why I decided to make that choice," said Rozeboom. "I expect it to be a lot of fun. I think I'll have a good time, and I can't wait to take my game to the next level."

The final player who signed was linebacker Taylor Salava, who was the only one that chose to leave the state, deciding to go to Concordia in Minnesota, instead of the two hometown teams. Concordia is approximately three hours away from Sioux Falls.

"Concordia is a ways away from Sioux Falls, and I'm excited for what it has to offer. Things didn't

work out at Augie, and I wanted to be away from home," said Salava. "It's going to be a lot different. It's going to be tough being so far away from home. It should be interesting, but I can't wait to get there."

The six players have been a part of LHS football's success since the moment they arrived their freshman year. They played a key role in bringing LHS its first undefeated season in school history, along with getting the school its second ever state championship. The six players accomplished so much in four years at LHS, and head coach Aaron Beavers could not be more proud.

"It's great for the players. It's all about them. It took a lot of years of hard work for them to get an opportunity to play in college and pay for their education. This is one of those things that proves that when they're freshman, sophomores or juniors and work hard in the weight room, it pays off," said Beavers. "It's just awesome to see six guys continue on with a great financial package to go on and play at great institutes. Hopefully we did our job to prepare them to enter the next level."

Sam:

By KADE WALKER

Five years ago, a gay NFL player

would be an oxymoron or a very unrealistic thought at best. Now, with the announcement that SEC defensive player of the year, Michael Sam is gay, the league is scrambling to see how the idea of an openly gay man in a NFL locker room would affect the dynamic of any NFL team.

Sam, in some ways, could be considered a modern-day Jackie Robinson. It is no secret that the Gay Rights Movement is in full swing in the U.S., in some



A modern day Jackie Robinson

ways like the Civil Rights Movement was back when Robinson made his debut into professional baseball. Sam is facing one of the most daunting challenges of any prospect or player in the NFL: changing the league and the primarily manly-man-sports-loving society's views on gay stereotypes. Sam is no stranger to adversity though. He has said that he had a very rough childhood at many times. In an interview with ESPN, he was quoted as saying:

"I endured so much in my past: seeing my older brother killed from a gunshot wound, not knowing that my oldest sister died when she was a baby and I never got the chance to meet her. My second oldest brother went missing in 1998, and my little sister and I were the last

ones to see him...my other two brothers have been in and out of jail since 8th grade, and are currently both in jail. Telling the world I'm gay is nothing compared to that."

Sam has lived a tough life and is truly an inspirational person, but let's look past his sexual orientation and his upbringing and start to look at him as a standout defensive player from Missouri, playing in one of the hardest college football conferences out there. Sam showed NFL scouts what he could do in every game, putting up impressive numbers along the way. He has also been said to have one of the best work ethics in all of football and is a kid who can really grow into a star. For any NFL team to say no to him because he happens to prefer men, is flat out stupid. This athlete can play. It's about what he is doing on the field, not off

the field.

At the end of the day, Sam is changing the world as we know it, but we have to keep in mind that this is still football, one of the greatest games on earth. Talent and work ethic are required to make it in this league, not someone's sexual orientation. Sam is something greater than a player. He is a world changer, but overall, it still comes down to talent on the football field. Sam is an excellent prospect, one who just so happens to be gay. He will face adversity, and he must overcome it to stay in the league but more importantly aid the gay rights movement. He is a role model for kids regardless of sexual orientation and creeds across the world. Sam is the future, not only of the NFL, but also of America, he is a modern day Jackie Robinson.

NBA's best take center stage in New Orleans

By DYLAN HALL

Every year, the halfway point of the NBA's season is marked by one of the most star-studded events of the year. This year's All-Star game took place in New Orleans, LA for the second time in the last eight years. The teams set multiple scoring records, and the East came out on top 163-155.

There were many records set in the game. It was the highest scoring All-Star game in history, as the two teams combined to score 318 points, breaking the record by 15. The 163 points scored by the East was a record for points by one team. There were also 100 3-pointers attempted, which is 29 more than any other All-Star game. The two teams went back and forth

all night. There were not any major personal records set, although Kevin Durant and Blake Griffin, both from the West, scored 38 points, which is just four shy of the All-Star record for points in a game.

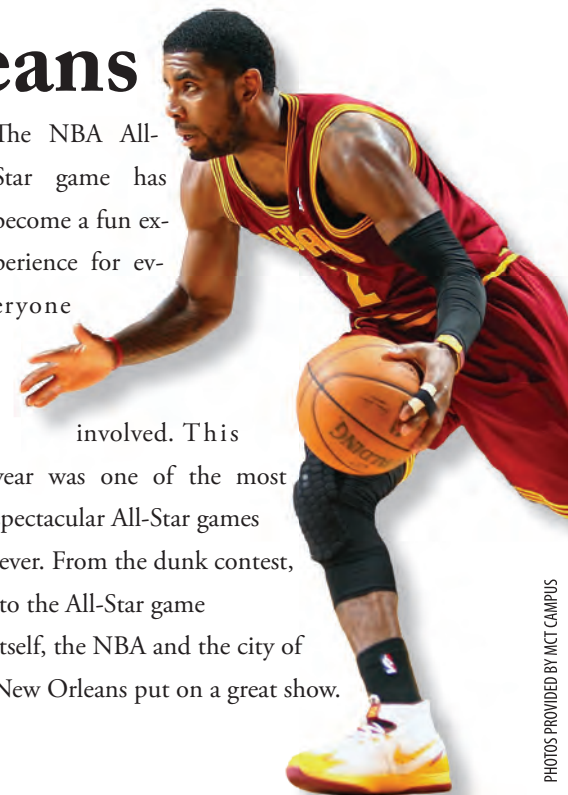
Going into the game, everyone thought it would be highlighted by the match-up between Durant and LeBron James. Durant and James are quite possibly the NBA's best players, and it was clear they both wanted to win the game. It reached a peak when Durant called out James, saying that at some point in the game he wanted to take James one-on-one. While that one-on-one battle never happened, both players played a huge part for their team. Durant made six 3-pointers, and scored a game of high 38

points. James was able to score 22 points, despite missing all seven of his 3-point attempts.

The NBA All-Star game is notorious for its lack of defense. Nobody wants to risk an injury, and all players want to put on a good show. The game is mostly filled with exciting dunks and open 3-pointers. This year's game was no different other than the fact that there were more points scored than ever. The West was able to take an early lead and build on it. For the East, Carmelo Anthony and Kyrie Irving came alive in the fourth quarter. Irving would finish the game with 31 points and 14 assists, while also winning the game's MVP award, while Anthony would finish with 30 points and an All-Star record eight 3-pointers made.

The NBA All-Star game has become a fun experience for everyone

involved. This year was one of the most spectacular All-Star games ever. From the dunk contest, to the All-Star game itself, the NBA and the city of New Orleans put on a great show.



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SANFORD
HEALTH

Freshman Neff finds new hobbies after accident

By JOE HIATT

This past summer LHS freshman Amanda Neff was involved in a very serious accident, Neff had been riding on a golf cart with friends around her neighborhood when the cart spun out of control and tipped over causing Neff's foot to be caught between the cart and the road, injuring the top of her foot and leg severely.

Due to the seriousness of the injury, the recovery process has been long and tiresome.

"I've had five surgeries on my foot and will probably have a couple more coming up, which has caused me to be in a boot or a wheelchair for this entire year," said Neff.

Neff is very athletic and active in sports, but due to her injury it has forced her to experience a change she is not use to.

"I couldn't run cross-country this year or play basketball," said Neff. "My injury just refuses to recover, and the doctors aren't really sure what to do."

Along with playing basketball and running cross-country, Neff is also a skier at Catfish Bay during the summer. But her true passion is basketball.

"It's been hard to be away from basketball,



PHOTO BY BROCK GILMER

Freshman Amanda Neff has found many new activities to keep her busy.

but I've also found a lot of other things I enjoy. I started taking guitar lessons to fill some

of my time," said Neff. "I do hope to get back out on the court someday, but it really depends

on what doctor you ask because about half the doctors say 'yes' and half say 'no.'"

Not being able to play basketball this year is a big change for Neff as she has always been the one running up and down the court instead of just being able to watch her teammates play.

"It was hard at first, but it really encourages me to keep working hard when I go to rehab and always listening to what my doctors say so that I can get out there again," said Neff.

Neff is involved in several things outside of athletics, she sings in the LHS choir, she plays piano and guitar, she's involved with her church and hangs out with her friends more often now that she has more time. During this recovery process family and friends have helped her through a lot of it.

"My parents have been really nice to me, well, they're always nice to me and so have my friends. They've been really great and helpful," said Neff. "My friends brought me stuff while I was in the hospital and have made things a lot easier for me."

Billion dollar offer draws excitement for March Madness

By DYLAN HALL

February has come to a close, and that can only mean one thing, March Madness. People all over the country will try to fill out the perfect bracket, and this year Warren Buffett has decided to give \$1 billion to whoever can pick a perfect bracket.

Quicken Loans and Berkshire Hathaway, a company run by Warren Buffett, have teamed up to offer \$1 billion to anyone who predicts all 63 games of the NCAA tournament correctly. The chances of actually picking every game right are one in 9.2 quintillion, so it is pretty safe to say Warren Buffett probably will not have to pay out the large sum of money. However, they will also give \$100,000 to the 20 people that come the closest to a perfect bracket. Picking every game right can be very hard, especially if someone does not know very much about college basketball. For everyone who does not know too much about the sport, here are some tips to help pick the best bracket possible.

The top teams in the NCAA this year have been Syracuse, Arizona and Florida. Syracuse is currently 25-2 and ranked No. 4 in the country. Syracuse has had a relatively easy time this

year, although they have suffered a couple of tough losses against Duke and Boston College. Arizona and Florida have been at the top all year. Florida is ranked No. 1 and is currently on a 20 game winning streak, while Arizona has been No. 1 for most of the year, but recently has suffered a few tough losses.

Michigan State, Wichita State and Kansas are the next best teams, and they all have a great chance at winning the championship this year. Wichita State is currently 30-0 and ranked #2 in the country. They are the only unbeaten team left, but the big problem is that Wichita State has not played any high caliber teams this year. Wichita State started the year with many close games, but has improved with each game all year.

Kansas is the final team that will be a contender at the seasons end. The Jayhawks are 21-6 and ranked No. 5 in the country. Led by freshman Andrew Wiggins and Joel Embiid, Kansas has been one of the top teams all year. There are many other great teams in the Big 12 this year, but Kansas clinched the regular season conference championship by beating Oklahoma on Feb. 24.

There are many teams that have shown im-



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MCT CAMPUS

Dukes Jabaari Parker hustles for a loose ball in a matchup vs. former No. 1 Syracuse. Duke split the season series with the Orange, a matchup that could be very key come tournament time.

mense talent this year, but in the end, only one can win. After looking at all the teams, I would suggest that when picking brackets, people should choose Michigan State to win it all. The Spartans have shown that they can beat anyone

in the country, and they also have a great coach who has gotten them there before. The final, and biggest reason why Michigan State will win the national title: They are much more experienced than any other team in the country.

Crossfit: A innovative and relentless workout regimen

By **KADE WALKER**

Every day since the start of high school, I have driven by a business called CrossFit and never thought twice about what happened inside. I knew crossfit was a style of fitness that emphasizes on high repetition and whole body workouts. My understanding of crossfit was very limited up until I was given the chance to go to CrossFit and work out using crossfits unique workout system. The trainers took me in as if I was a long-time member and quickly gave me constructive advice and treated me like a friend.

Like any other gym out there, the workout started off with a warm-up, but there was a catch, these were warm-ups meant to stretch the participants out and work on their form.

My major mistake coming into this workout was thinking that it would be similar to other workouts I had previously done. This was like nothing I have ever expienced before, and I stretched muscles that have not been used in years. I had to use all my focus to have the best form possible.

The workout of the day happened to be



PHOTO BY BROCK GILMER

Sophomore Kade Walker gets a quick lesson on lifting from a CrossFit Trainer. Crossfit gyms can be found accross the Sioux Empire, including one just miles away from LHS.

lifting 150 wall balls, roughly an eight minute task, that had drained the life out of my legs and turned my shirt into a ball of sweat. I made the fatal mistake of taking a bigger ball

than I should have for my first workout. The workout was also made much harder because I was lifting my arms up too high, which I was told, added a great amount of fatigue to my

already beat down body. Halfway through the session, I thought there was no way I would ever want to do this again because it was one of the hardest workouts I had ever faced, and I was more than ready to be done. Defeated and beaten down, the same trainers who had helped me during the session continued to do so and gave me all the motivation possible to finish. When I finished, (near last amongst a group of much older men and women) I had an amazing sense of accomplishment, unlike I have never felt in a workout, and oddly, despite the pain, I would like to return.

As I finished my workout, I made it a point to talk to the trainers and some other people working out. I asked them why they would ever want to get into such a hard fitness program, and they all answered nearly the same way. They were very apprehensive about the system the first day, but became addicted to it after their first workout because it works.

Throughout my one day of crossfit I fell in love, and I will certainly be attending again. It is extremely hard but even more rewarding.



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LHS track stretches to go the extra distance

By MARIECLAIRE CHRISTENSON

With the 2014 track season arriving quickly, the LHS track team sets out to compete to be one of the best in the state.

“The 2013 season was good. We had a lot of good performances by a lot of different kids. We were young and we returned a lot of those kids back, so I’m looking forward to seeing what they can do this year,” said LHS head track coach James Jarvarski.

For many of the athletes returning this season, winter conditioning played a major role in helping them improve their performance for this spring’s competition. Coaches leading the winter workouts switched things up a bit this year by adding a few new activities to help with coordination and flexibility.

“Something new we started using at winter conditioning was yoga,” said senior sprinter Adam Belhaj. “I really liked it because it’s something different and I’m not as flexible as I

should be so it’s good to work on that. It’s also nice to not always have to run, so I like that.”

Similar to last season, this year the track team keeps the same goals in mind and puts in the extra effort to aim to be a top competitor on the award stand.

“My hopes are to be really competitive at the state meet on the boys side particularly,” said Jarvarski. “We have a good distance program, and I think they are going to be the anchor of our team, but we have good sprinters too. I look to be really competitive as a team and hopefully the girls pick their spots and be competitive in their events. Our goals are always to be in the top four and to get as many kids to the state meet. The more events we can score in, the more we can do.”

With adding three new coaches into the mix, the team is excited and optimistic about this new season. The first meet is coming up on Mar. 18 at USD in the DakotaDome.



PHOTO BY MARIECLAIRE CHRISTENSON

The LHS winter conditioning participants prepare for the upcoming track season by performing yoga in the upper gym led by new track coach, Elizabeth Venerick.

Wrestling season comes to a close at State

By MARIECLAIRE CHRISTENSON

On March 1 and 2, the LHS wrestling team competed for the state title in Rapid City. Although the team's hopes did not play out, their hard work did not go unnoticed. The boys powered through the matches and fought for a good finish.

“I feel we tried our best, even under the circumstances we were put in,” said LHS senior Max Hooker. “We might not have done that well, but we did what we could.”

After months of competing during the regular season, the five LHS state qualifiers, Hooker, Skyler Castilleja, Brandon Sylasa, Mustapha Mohammed and Luke Jamison, went into the tournament feeling prepared. LHS wrestling standout junior Castilleja arrived at the tournament ranked first in his weight class and ready to fight for his spot on the podium, but an unfortunate issue with a wrestling prerequisite held him back from participating.

“I was really hurt I couldn’t wrestle,” said Castilleja. “I wish I could have wrestled to prove to people how good I am. It was hard staying there to watch the tournament, but I couldn’t leave my team. I was there to support them by cheering them on and helping them get ready before their match.”



PHOTO PROVIDED BY YEARBOOK

LHS junior Skyler Castilleja challenges opponent on Feb. 20 at Regionals in Lennox. Castilleja has placed first at Regionals for the past three years.

Hooker finalized his wrestling career in Rapid City, and despite walking away empty handed, he persevered in reaching his own personal goals. At the start of season, Hooker set his sights on just making it to State, and although the experience was bittersweet, his hard

work this season paid off.

“This is what I’ve worked for and I tried my best,” said Hooker. “I tried as hard as I could all year and it paid off because I made it to State. It feels weird knowing I won’t wrestle anymore. Part of me wants to keep going, but another

part is relieved.”

With the wrestling season coming to a close, the athletes look back fondly at the relationships and memories made throughout the season. For Hooker, Castilleja and senior wrestler Josh Westley, they often laugh about their time spent sitting on the couch in the wrestling room. The couch was eventually taken away by wrestling coach Mark Ernster for the boys’ lack of movement off of the comfortable seat. The LHS team had a different dynamic this year compared to other years, the athletes this season were more than just competitors, they were good friends.

“LHS wrestling might be a small team, but we are close. Whether we win or lose, we are always there for each other. We are more of a family than a team,” said Hooker.

Wrestling has been a big influence in the lives of those who compete in the sport, and for seniors like Hooker, they walk away having learned many life lessons.

“Every day we go in the wrestling room and work our butts off in practice, and it teaches us a lot in life, because when we wrestle, it gets us mentally prepared for life and makes us tough,” said Hooker.



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ORAL INTERP

**Kate McCoy, 12**

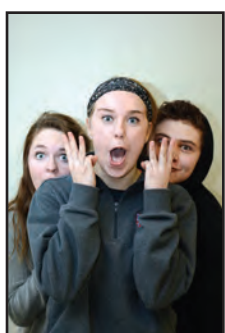
What is your pump up song?
Anything said by Kid President
What is your good luck charm?
My purple suit
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... Minion.

**Alex Newcomb-Weiland, 11**

What is your pump up song?
Star Trek theme song
What is your good luck charm?
Grace Fjellanger's face
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... Jason Derulo.

**Annie Deutscher, 11**

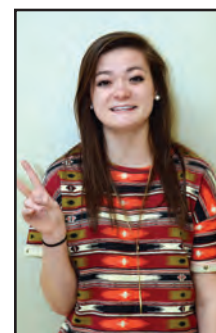
What is your pump up song?
Any one of Seth Brick's melodious masterpieces
What is your good luck charm?
Tucker Hammer
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... Shakira, because my hips don't lie.

**Michelle Haas, 11**

What is your pump up song?
Your mom's face
What is your good luck charm?
Jessie's pillow pet, Claudia
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... Dr. Phil.

**Jessie Rames, 11**

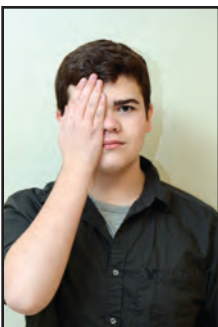
What is your pump up song?
Your mom
What is your good luck charm?
Miss Simon's baby
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... Will Ferrell.

**Grace Fjellanger, 11**

What is your pump up song?
"Love You Long Time" by The Black Eyed Peas
What is your good luck charm?
Alex Newcomb-Weiland's face
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... Mrs. Nelson.

**Daniel Bergeson, 11**

What is your pump up song?
"The Longest Time" by Billy Joel
What is your good luck charm?
Knuckles the Echidna
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... the guy who forces Jason Derulo to stop saying his name before all of his songs.

**Taren Pfitzer, 11**

What is your pump up song? "The Longest Time" by Billy Joel
What is your good luck charm? a stuffed echidna named Knuckles
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... Jason Derulo.

**Tucker Hammer, 11**

What is your pump up song?
"The Melodies Glory of Music" by Jason Derulo
What is your good luck charm?
Pink tie
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... Justin Timberlake.

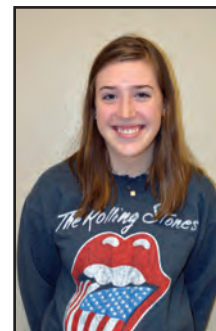
DEBATE

**Brandon Rivard, 12**

What is your pump up song?
"More" by Usher
What is your good luck charm?
My transformer flashdrive
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... Morgan Freeman.

**Emma Johnson, 12**

What is your pump up song?
"Dark Horse" by Katy Perry
What is your good luck charm?
My lucky underwear
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... Nicholas Cage.

**Alex Kracht, 11**

What is your pump up song?
DARK HORSE
What is your good luck charm?
Caleb Munce
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... Nick Cage because he is the one true God.

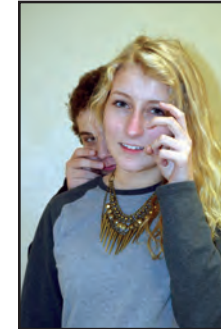
THEATRE



Levi DeGross, 12
What is your pump up song?
"Timber" by Ke\$ha
What is your good luck charm?
 My man-pri's
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... Russel Crowe.



Greta Schultz, 12
What is your pump up song?
"Let It Go" from Frozen
What is your good luck charm?
 The medicrane
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... Elizabeth Enalls 'cause she's a princess.



Maddy Ryan, 12
What is your pump up song?
"Happy" by Pharrell Williams
What is your good luck charm?
 The month of August
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... a member of the OSO crew so I can be SuFu famous for a day.



Frank Najarro, 12
What is your pump up song?
"Carnaval" by Celia Cruz
What is your good luck charm? My wool scarf, because it keeps my Latin blood warm.
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... DeRoos, so we can find out what it's like inside his head.



Kelsey Stotz, 12
What is your pump up song?
"One for the Money" by Escape the Fate
What is your good luck charm?
 Meh... I don't have one.
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... George Bush. 'Cause what the heck happened to him?



Max Hofer, 12
What is your pump up song?
 Beethoven's 5th symphony
What is your good luck charm?
 Well I have a box of Lucky Charms... They're magically delicious!
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... Riley Hoben's house. Then I'd be awesome.

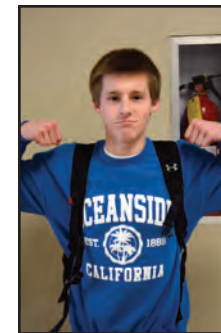
STUDENT COUNCIL



Jadah Thaemert, 11
What is your position for the 2014-15 school year? President
What is your good luck charm? Ace Apollo, the German Shepard and my 6ft tall teddy bear.
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... Ace Hood.



Kayli Fitz, 11
What is your position for the 2014-15 school year? Vice president
What is your good luck charm? Zoe Roberts, because she makes me look less weird.
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... Will Hannemann, because he is the best president of students. #BGOD



Seth Foss, 11
What is your position for the 2014-15 school year? Secretary
What is your good luck charm?
 Tweets that don't get me in trouble.
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... King Levi.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



Ryan Patrick, 12
What is your position on NHS?
 President
What is your good luck charm?
 The podium
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... Jaws.



Mary Engfelt, 12
What is your position on NHS?
 Vice President
What is your good luck charm?
 Oxygen
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... anyone.



Carly Hohman, 12
What is your position on NHS?
 Secretary
What is your good luck charm?
 Prae StealYoGurl Dey
If I could be anyone for a day I would be... Emma Watson. She's sophisticated, beautiful and independent...like me.



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