



# THE LIONS ROAR

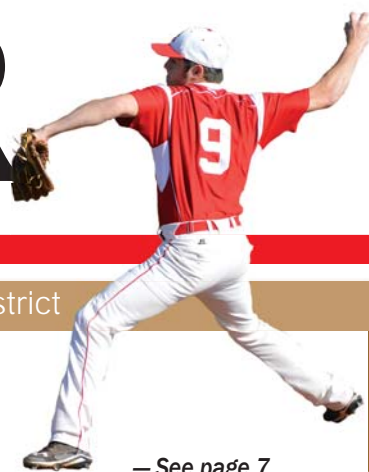
"Lion pride in print"

Friday, April 11, 2014

ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL

ALBANY, TEXAS 76430

VOLUME 12 NUMBER 5



## Memories sparked from past pranks



Students share their opinions and stories about funny pranks and jokes.

— See page 3

## Ragin' Red takes New Orleans



Band leaves Texas to play a concert at the WWII museum.

— See page 4

## Lions fight for district

Lions work to gain first district title in over five years.

— See page 7

# UIL, OAP advance to next round

## Students work towards reaching next level

BY SHELBY BARTON  
News Writer

The UIL Academic and One Act Play teams recently competed at district competitions. Each team is looking to re-establish their reputation as strong regional and state contenders.

Last year, for the first time in many years, the UIL Academic team did not qualify a contestant for the state meet held annually in Austin. For UIL coordinator Rick Davis, not returning to the state level left a bad taste in his mouth.



Junior Michala Huckabay practices number sense with help from math teacher Ricky Davis to prepare for her next meet. Regionals is set for May 3. PHOTO BY SHELBY BARTON

"Well, I think we have good chances in some of our teams with science being our strongest team in years past and our strong writers competing. I also hope someone surprises me this year," Davis said.

First year competitor, Michala Huckabay, is one of those surprises Davis was looking for. Huckabay recently competed in the number sense and spelling events at the district meet.

"Other than participating in academic events, it's a chance to hang out with other students while practicing at school or on weekends at practice meets. It's also an opportunity for scholarships, and it helps in my regular school studies," Huckabay said.

For One Act Play director Mrs. Everitt, the expectations are clear, "State,"

Everitt said.

"These kids have great expectations in themselves, and I expect them to live up to those expectations," Everitt said.

First-year cast member sophomore Cason Asher has worked hard contributing to the play.

"I decided to participate in OAP because it gives me a chance to work with others to make a great show," Asher said.

Asher is in charge of controlling the music, a very crucial part of the production.

"The sound effects and music are very important to the play because it sets the mood and makes transitions between scenes smooth and meaningful," Asher said.

Asher may get nervous, SEE UIL/OAP | PG 8

# Science classes exceed expectations

## Department goes above, beyond to help students

BY LORI DAVIS  
Copy Editor

With three full-time science teachers on staff, Albany High has a very strong science department.

"Most 1A schools have two full-time science teachers, and a third teacher that is also a coach," science teacher Andre Raymond said. "We are very fortunate to have three teachers that only teach science. This gives us an advantage over other schools."

Science teacher Jennifer Edmison believes that the three teachers' individual areas of expertise combine to provide the school with a strong department.

"We balance each other out because we each have

our own specialty," Edmison said.

As a result, science test scores are usually higher than the Texas averages.

"We have always scored near the top of the state percentages," science teacher Dwayne Norton said.

Test scores from all of the schools in the region are combined to make a regional average.

"Our regional average includes all sizes of schools from 1A to 5A, and our science scores are usually higher than most of the other schools," principal Kevin Hill said.

One factor that contributes to this success is the teachers' desire to teach.

"I find science very fascinating, and I love sharing it with people," Raymond said.

Edmison agrees with Raymond.

"I love showing students that science can be a lot of fun," Edmison said.

Norton enjoys being

able to help students learn certain areas of science that are difficult for them.

"My favorite thing about teaching is when students are finally able to understand a specific topic," Norton said.

Raymond feels the same way.

"You can see it in their faces when they finally understand, and it is fun to watch," Raymond said.

With several years of teaching under their belts, the teachers bring quite a bit of experience to the program.

"This is my thirteenth year here at Albany," Norton said. "I have also taught at other public schools and Cisco College, but I love the small town feel of Albany."

Edmison, who previously taught at Wylie, sees a difference in teaching at Albany.

"At Wylie, I just taught juniors and seniors, but here I get to see the stu-

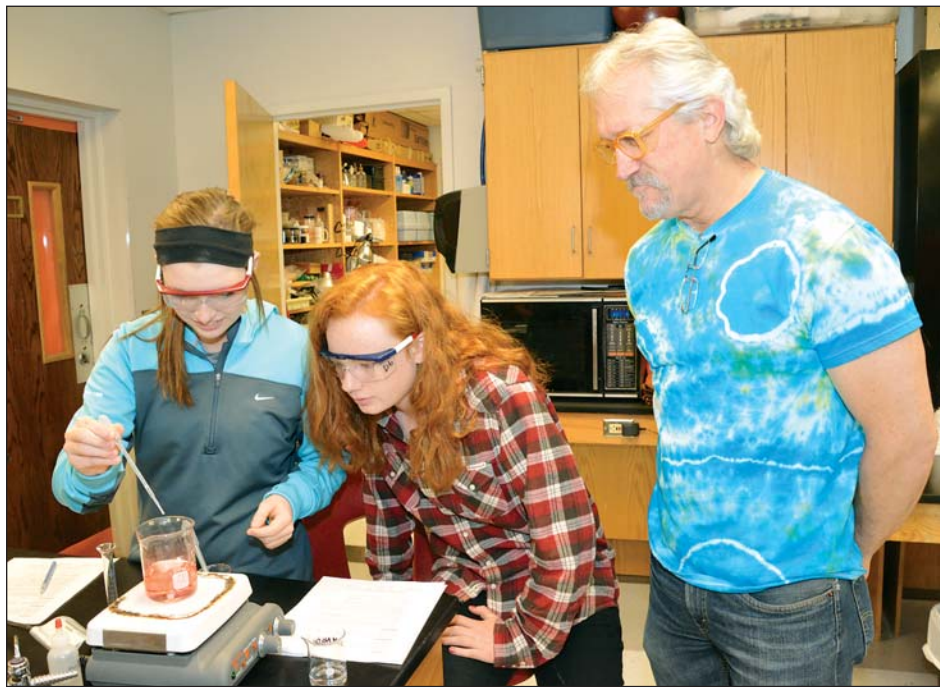
dents grow up," Edmison said. "I also have more variety getting to teach three different science courses."

There are seven high

school science classes offered: IPC, biology, concurrent biology, chemistry, dual credit chemistry, physics, and advanced

plant and soil science. Next year, anatomy and physiology will return.

"A&P will fit some of SEE SCIENCE | PG 8



Sophomores Tobi Nall and Curry Wilson test the pH levels in different liquids with science teacher Dwayne Norton observing from behind. PHOTO BY LORI DAVIS

# Seniors make memories on Spring Break

## Students take trips with friends away from home

BY SHELBY BARTON  
News Writer

As students were recently released for spring break, some of the seniors chose to spend their final high school vacation making memories of a lifetime.

Senior Hunter Munden, along with friends Jared Husmann and Lewis Kelly traveled to Taos, New Mexico for a ski and snowboard adventure.

"We all took turns driving on the never ending 10-hour drive," Munden said. "I had never been skiing

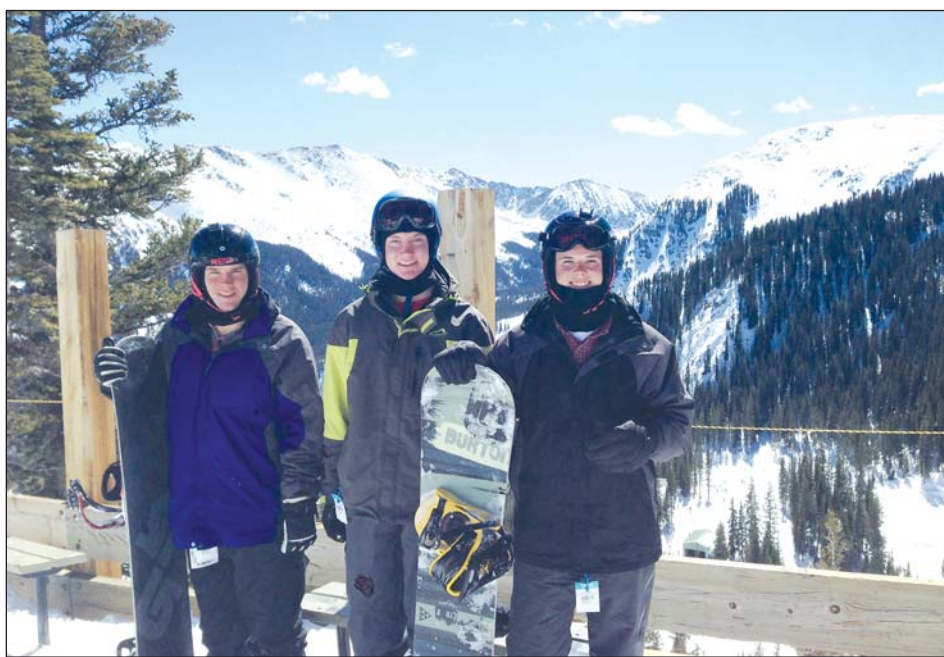
or snowboarding before, so I was really excited to see just what I was getting myself into."

Munden and Kelly both decided to try something new and snowboard down all the slopes, while Husmann stuck with what he knew and skied.

"Lewis and I tried to learn how to snowboard as we went along, and Jared definitely wasn't helping us out by skiing by and throwing snow in our face every time we fell," Munden said.

Being a newcomer, Munden faced complications.

"I really struggled in remembering to lean back while on the snowboard which led to the board catching in the front and a lot of face plants," Mun-



Seniors Hunter Munden, Jared Husmann, and Lewis Kelly pose for a picture before they head to the slopes to shred the gnar. The boys traveled to Taos, New Mexico to enjoy their final high school spring break together. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY LEWIS KELLY

den said.

Hitting the slopes day after day left Munden sore, and traveling so far made him miss what he left back home.

"I had never traveled that far before, so I was feeling a little homesick and ready to drive back home," Munden said.

Once Munden made it back to Albany, he was up and ready the next morning making the most of his spring vacation.

"The long drive caused us to get home around three o'clock in the morning, and I drank so much coffee along the way it took me a while to finally fall asleep," he said. "Then the next morning, I was ready to meet my out-of-town friends to varmint

SEE BREAK | PG 8

quick read • quick read • quick read • quick read • quick read • quick read • quick read • quick read • quick read • quick read • quick read • quick read • quick read • quick read • quick read • quick read

## Journalism set for Austin trip

The annual Interscholastic League Press Conference convention is set for April 26 and 27 at the University of Austin.

Both the newspaper and yearbook staffs will be travelling to Austin along with sponsors and

some journalism students who will be on the staff next year.

Individual and overall awards will be given to both publications during the two-day event. Students will also be able to attend training sessions, which are taught by national journalists, teachers, and photographers. Students will learn skills

that will be helpful to the staff during the sessions.

The closing ceremony will be held April 27 in the LBJ library. Star award winners will be announced, and both *The Lions Roar* and *The Lion* could possibly be nominated for Star Awards. *The Lions Roar* is competing for its ninth consecutive Star Award.

## Cheerleading results posted

Varsity and junior varsity tryouts were held March 7 in the high school gym.

Next year's varsity cheerleaders will include Rachel Kitchens as head cheerleader, Shelby Barton, Sierra Price, Curry

Wilson, Chelsi Freasier, Sydney Key, Kaleigh Clevenger and Alexis Munden. Next year's mascot will be freshman Felicity Coronado.

Junior varsity cheerleaders will include Lindsay Lucas, Madison Ratliff, Krysten Morris, McKenna Thompson, Bailey Green and Kourtney Waters.

## Prom plans

This year's prom will be held on Saturday, April 12 at the Whitney Theatre.

The theme is "Dreaming in White." Juniors and seniors can dance and have a fun night with friends from eight to eleven o'clock. Snacks will be provided.



Editorials

Unity with uniforms

One of the biggest dividing factors in a school is the way that the students dress. If all students were required to wear uniforms to school, then that barrier would be broken down.

Uniforms should be required by the school, which would place less stress on the students when dressing for school day after day.

Dressing in a uniform would mean that students wouldn't have to fear how they look, because everyone would be the same. If students aren't distracted by fashion trends and clothing, they can focus more on their schoolwork and grades.

It would also save time in the morning when they are searching through their wardrobe to find the perfect outfit for the day. This time could be spent more productively finishing homework, eating a good breakfast, or sleeping a little later.

Another problem that high school students face is worrying about what brand clothing they are wearing and how expensive their clothes are. But if everyone wore the same uniform then the problem would be fixed.

Some say that it would get boring wearing the same thing every day. But the school could adopt a policy that allows students to wear whatever they would like, as long as it fits the dress code, on every Friday. So students would still be allowed to express themselves on one day.

Dressing in school uniforms would help to fix the separation that fashion and price bring to all schools that do not require them. They would also help to bring the school together and make it a better learning environment by triggering a greater unity.

Memorizing, not learning

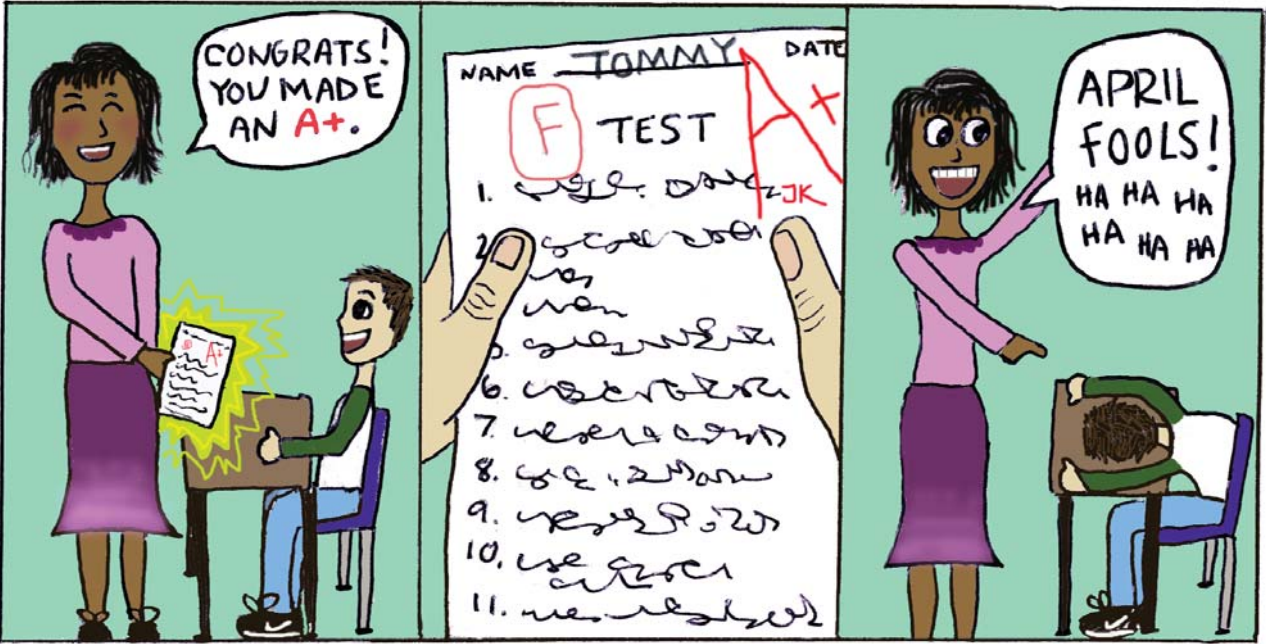
As schools make changes to keep up with demands of education requirements and the workforce, there seems to be one thing that stays constant; school is more about memorization than learning. Teachers should emphasize learning the material rather than memorizing a test review.

It appears that in nearly every class period, preparation for tests looks the same. The teacher gives students a review, and it is up to them whether they memorize the material to pass the test or just wing it. After the test is complete, teens throw all of the information they just learned out of their brains to prepare for the next test. Students don't retain the information and actually "learn" it.

School has changed from teaching students new, interesting material to doing whatever it takes to help them pass a test or meet a certain requirement, and students know that. Teachers teach the curriculum according to the tests students have to pass. Students have changed from wanting to learn to doing what it takes to make an "A" on a paper. Where is the benefit in that?

Although teachers have to prepare students for important tests like the EOC or STAAR, they should make it entertaining for their students. The more memorization teens have to do, the more they do not want to be there, and the less they actually retain later on.

Preparing for the real world requires obtaining material taught in the classroom and utilizing it for the rest of your life. Memorizing vocabulary words and math equations just to pass a test is not going to help many students later on in life.



Enough with all of the same selfies

Wikipedia's definition of a selfie: "a type of self-portrait photograph, typically taken with a hand-held digital camera or phone."

Urban Dictionary's definition of a selfie: "A picture taken of yourself that is planned to be uploaded to Facebook, Myspace, or any other sort of social networking web-site. You can usually see the person's arm holding out the camera in which case you can clearly tell that this person does not have any friends to take pictures of them so they resort to Myspace to find internet friends and post pictures of themselves, taken by themselves. A selfie is usually accompanied by a kissy face or the individual looking in a direction that is not towards the camera."

boost their self-esteem by letting others tell them how pretty they are. Sorry, but that's just vain and superficial.

An occasional, special event, or not to mention goofy selfie is fine, but there is no need for the weekly "Selfie Sunday" or the "just because" selfie. We know what everyone looks like at school.

BY KATHRYN HAMILTON

Kats Meows

My definition of a selfie: a picture taken of oneself for them to show off their vanity or appease themselves by other's comments.

Now that may come off as a bit offensive to the reader who has taken one too many billion selfies, but take a second and reflect on why one actually takes a selfie. I can't speak for guys, but as for girls, it would typically be because she looks into her front camera and thinks, "I'm looking good today." Now there is nothing wrong with being confident, but when someone posts a picture of them smiling posed into the camera, it is usually to show themselves off and

of my pictures and think, "You know what? I did look into my front camera thinking I was looking pretty. I was trying to show myself off. I was being vain and superficial." I don't mind admitting that. It was true.

Aside from my opinion of selfies in relation to vanity and superficiality, my biggest issue with selfies is that it's how some girls are trying to find their self-worth and raise their self-esteem.

How many "likes" am I going to get? How many people are going to comment? Which filter makes me seem flawless or thinner?

It's a bit sickening and demeaning to me. I want every girl to feel beautiful. I want every girl to have great self-esteem and to know how valuable she is. But not through social media. Not through selfies. Those are false and temporary fillers.

Never forgetting what brought us close

In high school, there is no doubt that students go through ups and downs. Whether you're the valedictorian, the best athlete, or even the kid who doesn't talk at all. Everyone has "those" days, but how do we survive it?

In this town of 2,000 it is very easy to know everyone and their dog. Sometimes it can be a bad thing but also a good thing. Having friends is one of the positive aspects about this town. It is very hard not to have at least one friend. It's almost like we are forced to be friends with people because there aren't many options, but in my class of 30 that is not the case.

My class has been close since day one. Starting off not just in kindergarten, but at Stepping Stones, we have made so many memories. When you look at classes that have come through Albany High School, it is very unlikely to find a class that was so close. Having classmates who don't feel the need to date each other is actually really great. We aren't focused on that kind of a relationship but on a more important one... lifelong friendship.

People say that becoming close with someone requires them to go through hardships. In 2006, my class faced one of the hardest facts of life. Our dear friend Gareb Jackson was accidentally shot in a freak accident. It was the summer going into our last year at the elementary school. We were almost finished, ready to start a new chapter in our lives.

The day he passed, the faculty gathered all of us in our school library and sat us down. Most of us had heard the news, but it never actually hit us until they told us he had died. I remember looking at everyone's pale faces and seeing streams of tears running down their faces. It tore us apart losing not only a friend, but a family member of this class.

The year went by and our grade decided to have a dedication in memory of Gareb. We bought an iron Bible and wrote his favorite verse on it; "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1. We all wore camouflage in remembrance of him because that was his favorite color. His dad spoke at the ceremony, and it was just as hard as the day they told us he left this earth.

Throughout the years, my class has grown closer and closer each day we come to school. Now with us almost graduating despite our excitement of starting a new chapter of our lives, we are trying to squeeze out every second we have with each other. Each day as we grow, we know Gareb is always watching us. I consider every single person in this class as my family, and I know we will all miss each other dearly as we head off into the rest of our lives.

Albany High School has had many great classes come and go in the system, but they certainly have never had one who consider themselves family, and for that I am thankful.

BY CONOR WILSON

Wilson Words

College athletes unite to form union

College athletes have joined together to create a labor union that helps out players in many ways. Kain Colter and a group of Northwestern players are at the heart of the process. According to ESPN's *Outside the Lines*, Ramogi Huma, president of the National College Players Association, filed a petition in Chicago on behalf of the players with the National Labor Relations Board. If the group is certified by the NLRB, it will be called the College Athletes Players Association, or CAPA for short. This is about finally giving college athletes a seat at the table, and athletes deserve an equal voice when it comes to their physical, academic and financial protections.

Unfortunately, many people think that all the players want is money. According to Colter, Northwestern quarterback, that is not the case. According to NCPAnow.org, the group has 11 specific goals: 1. Minimize college athletes' brain trauma risks. 2. Raise the scholarship amount. 3. Prevent players from being stuck paying sports-related medical expenses. 4. Increase graduation

rates. 5. Protect educational opportunities for student-athletes in good standing. 6. Prohibit universities from using a permanent injury suffered during athletics as a reason to reduce/eliminate a scholarship. 7. Establish and enforce uniform safety guidelines in all sports to help prevent serious injuries and avoidable deaths. 8. Eliminate restrictions on legitimate employment and a player's ability to directly benefit from commercial opportunities. 9. Prohibit the punishment of college athletes that have not committed a violation. 10. Guarantee that college athletes are granted an athletic release from their university if they wish to transfer schools. 11. Allow college athletes of all sports the ability to transfer schools one time without punishment.

Basically, they are asking for a fund to be built that can be used to pay players who deserve it. Take for example Johnny Manziel. He brought into his campus millions of dollars, but he didn't receive one penny. So the question is, who to pay, or who not to pay.

BY MICHAEL COTTER

Mike's moments



THE  
**LIONS ROAR**  
ILPC 2013 Silver Star Winner  
ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL

PO Box 2050 • 501 East South First Street • Albany, Texas 76430  
Voice 325-762-3974 ext. 111 • Fax 325/762-3850 • E-mail lionsroar@albany.esc14.net

2013-2014 STAFF

Editor-In-Chief.....MADISON JONES  
Assistant Editor.....KATHRYN HAMILTON  
Assistant Editor.....CONOR WILSON  
Photo/Layout Editor .....JARED HUSMANN  
Features Editor.....MOLLY LEE  
Copy Editor.....LORI DAVIS  
Sports Editor.....LEWIS KELLY  
Entertainment Editor.....AUSTIN EDENFIELD  
Staff Writers.....CHANDLER FIELDS, SHELBY BARTON,  
CURRY WILSON, MICHAEL COTTER, DARLENE SCHWABROCH  
Cartoonist .....MADISON JONES  
Adviser.....DONNIE A. LUCAS  
Principal .....KEVIN HILL

The Lions Roar is a student publication published periodically as a nonprofit education project by the Albany High School Journalism Department. Any errors will be corrected if brought to the attention of the Sponsor in writing within 10 days of the publication date.

Albany Independent School District prohibits discrimination in hiring, promotion, discharge pay, fringe benefits, and other aspects of employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicapping conditions or national origin.



2¢ worth

"I wish the ice cream was cheaper in the cafeteria."  
Ryan Phillips  
Freshman



"We should have other sports like indoor water polo."  
Caleb Masters  
Sophomore



"Our school needs better heaters, I am always freezing in classes."  
Sierra Price  
Junior



"We need to start school at 8:05 because that five minutes makes a huge difference."  
Lexie Lee  
Senior





# Pranks bring glee to school day

Students, faculty receive joy from annual jokes

BY AUSTIN EDENFIELD  
Entertainment Editor

Days like April Fools, seniors prank day, and even St. Patrick's Day are full of fun, laughter, and pranking. It's a time for people to enjoy themselves and have a good time.

It's usually easy to get carried away, though.

"I do believe pranks can be fun when used in the right way, and as long as everyone thinks it's funny," math teacher Rick Davis said. "Whenever it isn't funny, that's when it shouldn't be done."

High schoolers have taken this further by creating freshman and senior pranks. Seniors take prank day seriously, inventing things such as wrapping the principal's car, sticking post-its all over the principal's desk, and covering the floors in butter.

"I do approve of pranking. It gives a little joy to be able to get revenge on the teachers that have caused stress all year," senior Dillon Freasier said.

Senior prank day is a long tradition in many schools. It's a day, usually towards the end of the year, where a group of seniors will take a day to pull a prank, usually on a large scale. Pranks can range from something as simple as putting locks on all the lockers to putting a cow in the principal's office.

"Last year, a bunch of us guys pulled a prank on the seniors, where we chalked up the windows on a lot of their cars. It was really funny, and they never found out who did it," said Freasier.

Sometimes, a senior prank can go too far and cause damage or even bodily harm.

Certain pranks, like the honey and chicken-feather prank, can cause embarrassment to the targeted individual, and may

pranks for senior prank day. Last year, the seniors decided to use their unofficial senior skip day during finals time to go to



who weren't too happy about the prank.

"I wasn't a big fan of last year's prank. A few of the students that went to the 'beach' were supposed to be taking a test for me. One of the seniors actually took up my parking space when they parked," Davis said.

April Fool's is another great day for pranks. The first of April is a day set aside specifically for people to enjoy pranks.

"April Fool's is a great day, but I don't usually wait to prank

Senior Dillon Freasier convinces math teacher Ricky Davis (left) to open his door in the attempt to have a trash can topple onto him. Pranks committed by seniors are widely common. The 2013 seniors (below) show off their beach-themed prank. They set up a complete "beach" including a jet-ski, hot tub, boat, and actual sand in front of the foyer of the high school. PHOTO BY AUSTIN EDENFIELD AND THE ALBANY NEWS



not be as fun as it could have been in different circumstances.

"I usually approve of senior prank day, but it can easily go too far and stop being funny," Davis said.

Albany's seniors like to come up with their own unique

the beach in the high school parking lot.

With a dump truck of sand, they converted the bus drive into a beach. They played volleyball, waded out into inflatable pools, and had a great time. There were a few teachers

on that day. I prank all year round. I do enjoy it along with everyone else, laughing and joking around," teacher Chris Beard said.

Teachers and parents can pull pranks, too.

"I once had Mr. Beard call

down to the courthouse asking for me. He had them transfer all over the courthouse, asking for me. I was sitting next to him the entire time. We had everyone calling all over looking for me," Davis said.

Some pranks start out on serious matters.

"I used to be the youth director of a small Baptist church. One night, our car was gone from the church. It was a 1967 Volkswagen bug. A few members of the church slipped it into gear and pushed it down the block to hide it from us. That was definitely a funny prank," Davis said.

Beard is considered the "prankster" among the staff.

"Once, during Thanksgiving, I went to my father-in-law's house. He usually asks someone who is up to bring him something to eat, and he asked me to bring him some trail mix. I put a handful of cat food in it and got everyone in the house to watch. I would 'meow' every time he would eat a handful. He eventually ate all of it," Beard said.

Big pranks usually tend to end up being funny as long as they aren't dangerous.

"Once, Alan Heirman killed a snake and cut off its head. He put it into the seat of my pickup. I went to get in, and as I put my hand on the seat it landed on the snake. It nearly put me into shock. I'm usually not scared of snakes, unless they're touching me," Beard said.

However, all good pranks have limits.


"I approve of pranking to an extent. There are certain pranks where people can get their feelings hurt, but it's funny if they can handle the situation. You have to be careful, though, because they'll usually try to get you back," Beard said.

The key to a good prank seems to be to keep it funny without being at the expense of someone else's safety or dignity.

ROARING REVIEWS



**Noah**  
March 28, 2014 PG-13 138 min  
Adventure | Drama  
  
The biblical Noah suffers visions of an apocalyptic deluge and takes measures to protect his family from the coming flood.  
  
**Director:** Darren Aronofsky  
**Writers:** Darren Aronofsky, Ari Handel  
**Stars:** Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly, Anthony Hopkins

Staff Review: 




**Captain America: The Winter Soldier**  
April 4, 2014 PG-13 128 min  
Action | Adventure | Sci-Fi  
Steve Rogers struggles to embrace his role in the modern world and battles a new threat from old history: the Soviet agent known as the Winter Soldier.  
**Directors:** Anthony Russo, Joe Russo  
**Writers:** Christopher Markus, Stephen McFeely  
**Stars:** Chris Evans, Frank Grillo, Sebastian Stan, Scarlett Johansson

Staff Review: 



**Rio 2**  
April 11, 2014 PG-13 96 min  
Animation | Adventure | Comedy  
It's a jungle out there of Blu, Jewel and their three kids in Rio 2, after they're hurtled from that magical city to the wilds of the Amazon. As Blu tries to fit in, he goes beak-to-beak with the vengeful Nigel, and meets the most fearsome adversary of all - his father-in-law.  
**Director:** Carlos Saldanha  
**Writers:** Don Rhymer, Carlos Saldanha  
**Stars:** Anne Hathaway, Rodrigo Santoro, Leslie Mann

Staff Review: 



**Transcendence**  
April 17, 2014 PG-13 118 min  
Action | Drama | Sci-Fi  
A terminally ill scientist downloads his mind into a computer. This grants him power beyond his wildest dreams, and soon he becomes unstoppable.  
  
**Director:** Wally Pfister  
**Writer:** Jack Paglen  
**Stars:** Kate Mara, Johnny Depp, Morgan Freeman

Staff Review: 

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT  
BY AUSTIN EDENFIELD  
EDITOR'S PICKS



**Jared: *The Prestige***  
  
*The Prestige* is a movie about two rival magicians who try their best to come up with the perfect illusion and pull off the trick of the century. It switches between scenes of their past and future, playing out a rivalry that began as a partnership.  
In the 1900's, two magicians named Robert and Alfred partnered up to do magic shows. Tragically, Robert's wife dies, and he blames it on Alfred. They soon become bitter rivals, going to extreme lengths to out-do each other, even up to the point of cloning themselves, and using a secret twin brother to pull off the trick of the century.  
*The Prestige* is full of plot twists and surprise endings, each one taking a new turn for better or worse. Despite how confusing it can get, it makes for a great movie that keeps entertaining.



**Conor: *The Breakfast Club***  
  
"They were five students with nothing in common, faced with spending a Saturday detention together in their high school library. At 7 a.m., they had nothing to say, but by 4 p.m., they had bared their souls to each other and became good friends. To the outside world they were simply a brain, an athlete, a basket case, a princess, and a criminal, but to each other, they would always be the Breakfast Club." This is the first line in the movie *The Breakfast Club*, said by one of the main characters.  
*The Breakfast Club* is a classic movie about five kids, who all get detention on Saturday, for different reasons. Each from a different clique, they have almost nothing in common, at least on the surface.  
During detention, they slowly progress from harassment and teasing of each other to telling stories and dancing. They slowly tell each other about their lives and become more than just strangers. Although afraid that they'll never talk again after detention, they try to form relationships and become friends.  
The kids finally learn that each one of them has more in common with the rest than they will ever realize. This delivers a strong message of friendship and encourages students to be who they want to be.



**Lewis: *Remember The Titans***  
  
*Remember the Titans* follows the true events of a football team in 1971. Having been denied the position of head coach to allow a new African-American coach, Herman Boone, to have a chance, Coach Bill Yoast decides to retire. When the players decide to sit out the season unless Yoast coaches, he decides to stay on as an assistant coach.  
Despite the initial distrust and animosity towards the new coach, the players slowly start to warm up to Boone as he proves that he can deliver a perfect season. Game after game he shows that he's not afraid to take charge and lead the Titans to victory.  
*Remember the Titans* is a heart-warming movie that is just as memorable as *The Blind Side*, *Facing the Giants*, and other foot-



**Katherine: *Les Miserables***  
  
*Les Miserables* is a movie about a convict-turned honest citizen, Valjean, who starts his own factory. Years later, he finds out that a man using his name has been arrested. After setting it straight, a man who wants him arrested accosts him, only for him to escape. Later on, a revolution in France starts, to overthrow the government. During the revolution, Valjean is charged with taking care of a friend's daughter. When his presence endangers the girl, he leaves to protect her. He is later found dying, and he gives his confession to the girl he was taking care of. He then dies and "joins the spirits of Enjolras, Éponine, Gavroche, and the other rebels at the Barricade on the rue Soufflot."



**Madison: *Wreck It Ralph***  
  
*Wreck-It Ralph* is a Disney movie about a video game character who decides that he no longer wants to stay in his video game and goes on a journey throughout an arcade. He goes "Turbo," a phrase that describes a video game character who has gone out of their game to join another.  
Ralph is a villain in a video game titled "Wreck-It Ralph." After several years, Ralph gets tired of being the villain and wants to be the hero. He heads off on a journey through different games to win a medal, meeting new characters and getting into all sorts of trouble. Along the way he meets a racing-girl named Penelope who has turned into a glitch, thanks to a diabolical mayor.  
Ralph helps Penelope with her race and restores her status in the game, whereupon he realizes that he doesn't necessarily need to win a medal to be a hero, and he decides that maybe being in his game isn't so bad.



# Band experiences French quarter culture

## Students travel to New Orleans for spring break trip

BY DARLENE SCHWABROCH  
Staff Writer

Albany High School's Ragin' Red Band is known for planning a band trip over spring break every other year. The trip usually includes a performance at an important historical venue, as well as guided city tours to learn more about the place and its culture.

This year, 54 band members, accompanied by eight sponsors and parents, spent three nights in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The trip was planned by Unique Travels & Tours, with Eric Akin as the group's tour manager.

The 12-hour trip started early in the morning on Tuesday, March 11, and the band returned home late in the evening on Friday, March 14.

Band director John Stockdale chose New Orleans as this year's destination, at the suggestion of Karen Noble.

"She told me it would be a great place to go. I've never been there, but she has," Stockdale said.

Band students gave positive feedback about the city.

"I think New Orleans was a great choice. It was full of a completely different type of culture," sophomore Caleb Masters said.

New Orleans, also known as The Big Easy or NOLA, is famous for having a rather wild nightlife and being the origin of jazz music. Street performances of music and magic are everywhere in the French Quarter.

"I went mainly for the fun because I've never been there before," sponsor and mom Patricia Tollett said. "But of course there are some things in New Orleans where I want to just watch over my daughter and the rest of the group."

Experiencing this kind of environment compared to Albany's small town feeling sure was an interesting part of the trip. But also other factors showed that New Orleans was a satisfying place to stay.

"It was good because there were so many things about history with the hurricane and the WWII museum," Tollett said.

The band performed at the National WWII Museum, and also toured the facility.

On Wednesday morning, band students played songs like "Armed Forces on Parade", "Salute to America", and "America the Beautiful" during a 15-minute concert. While disappointed that only a few guests attended, Stockdale was still pleased with the performance.

"I thought it was our best performance. I wish more people had been there to hear it," Stockdale said.

Despite the small audience and windy conditions, students gave their best, primarily because of the



responsibility of playing for American veterans who fought for the U.S. in the second world war.

"It was a cool experience to play at a place like this," Masters said.

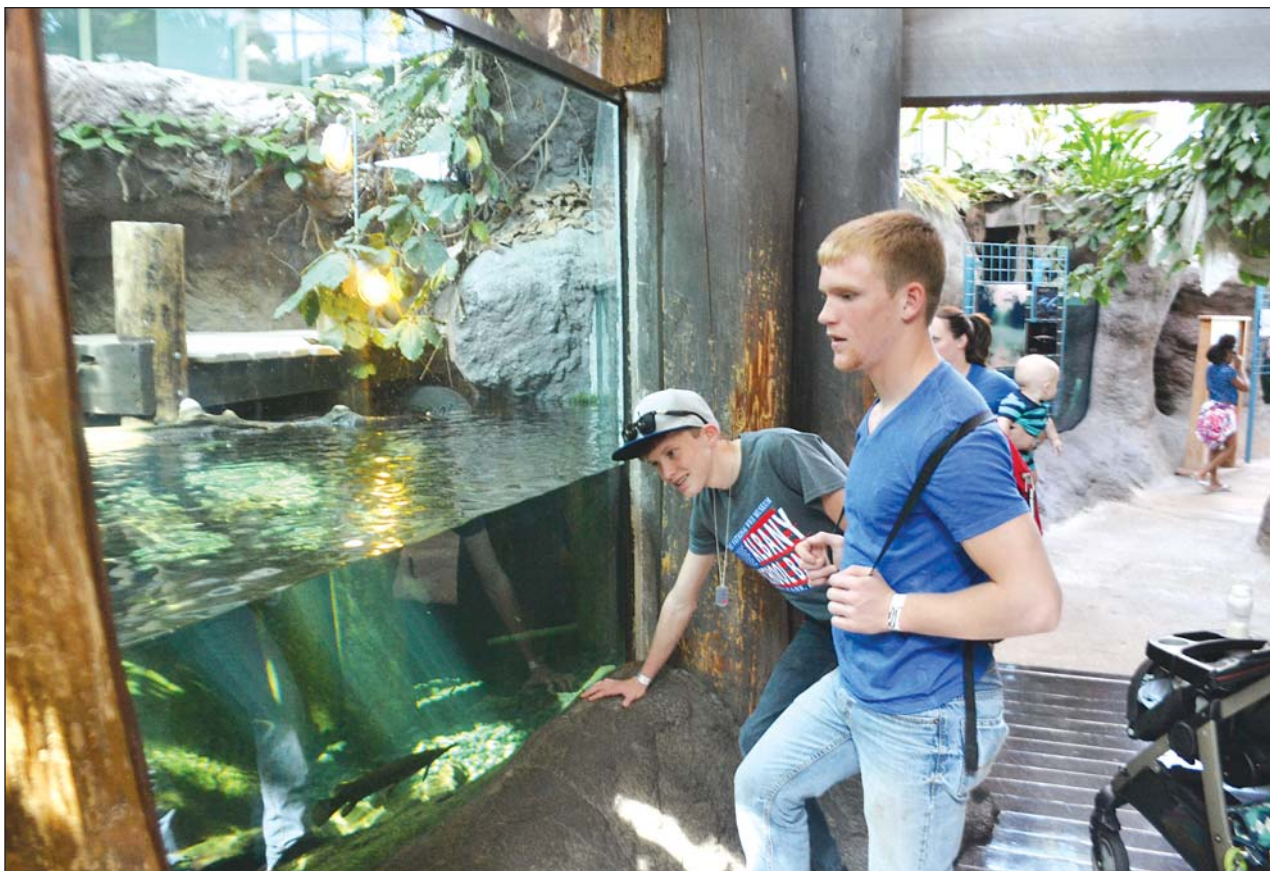
"I felt kind of honored that the museum wanted us to play for them," freshman Sydney Key said.

After the performance, students had time to take

**Band members (left) perform at the World War II museum during their trip with songs dedicated to the American veterans who fought in the second world war. The 54 band members (below) pose for a picture in the historic WWII museum in New Orleans.** PHOTOS BY DARLENE SCHWABROCH



**A handful of band students (left) experience New Orleans culture. Sophomore Caleb Masters and freshman Caleb Britting (bottom) make their way around the zoo, stopping at an exhibit to look at underwater creatures. The zoo was one of many stops the band made on the trip.** PHOTOS BY DARLENE SCHWABROCH



## MEET THE BOARD

### Ginny Ivy: Board Member



Ginny Ivy, board member of the Albany ISD

School Board, has retained her position on the board since last May.

Ivy graduated from Highland Park High School in Dallas and received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Connecticut, along with post-grad work in child development. With two children in school, Ivy wants the best for not just her children, but also for all other students.

In her 14 years in Al-

bany, Ivy has made an impact on many young lives. With her collegiate experience in soccer, Ivy has headed the community soccer league and has also been the Little League concession stand coordinator. She is also a preschool teacher at Stepping Stones and director of Mother's Day Out.

"Due to my background in childhood development, I wanted to be the voice for my children and

the children of Albany," she said.

Though she wasn't raised in Albany, Ivy had a personal connection to the community before even moving here.

"Both my parents and grandparents grew up here, and I have been in the Fandangle since I was five," Ivy said. "I would come spend part of each summer with my grandparents, and I eventually moved here a few years

out of college."

Ivy firmly believes that Albany is a great place for students to be educated and to be raised.

"We are very blessed to live in this town and go to this school," Ivy said. "I believe this board is a great cohesive unit and is great about implementing solutions to problems."

Ginny and husband Paul Ivy have two children, Luke and MiMi, who are in elementary school.

BY: Chandler Fields

a closer look at the museum, including watching the film "Beyond all Boundaries" in the Solomon Victory Theater.

The group spent the rest of the day visiting The Aquarium of the Americas, the French Quarter and the Bubba Gump Shrimp Company, themed after the movie *Forrest Gump* which was partly filmed in New Orleans.

Students did a lot as a group together, but they had enough time to experience the city in smaller groups with close friends as well.

Junior Megan Munns enjoyed parts of the next day's program the most.

"I would have to say the walking tour was my favorite part. I just loved to be on Bourbon Street," she said.

Munns is sad about the fact that this is her last band trip in high school.

"It's really sad because I've been in band since fifth grade. That's the only thing I do - I don't do any sports or anything - so I take this really seriously," she said.

Whether the band would even get to go on a trip this year wasn't sure until only a few days before spring break. The lack of money worried teachers and students for several weeks.

"We had people in town that helped us just by making money available to use. We gave concerts and hosted a pancake supper that helped us as well. The school administration helped us, too," Stockdale said.

Students dealt very professionally with the extra concerts they had to give.

"I thought since we had to do them anyway in order to get enough money, we might as well do a good job," Key said.

Stockdale had mixed emotions about raising the funding.

"I felt like if the money didn't come up, then we weren't supposed to go," Stockdale said. "I think we would have missed a very good opportunity."

Spending four days together also made the band grow closer.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING! CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### April

- 1 Varsity Boys Baseball vs. Lipan @ 5:00- Here
- 1 7th Grade Writing STAAR
- 1 8th Grade Math STAAR
- 1 English Two STAAR
- 2 7th Grade Writing STAAR
- 2 8th Grade Writing STAAR
- 2 Boys and Girls Golf Tournament in Albany @ 9:00
- 3 Varsity Girls Softball vs. Eula @ 5:00- There
- 4 Varsity Boys Baseball vs. Grayford @ 5:00- There
- 4-5 District Tennis Meet @ 8:00- Rose Park- Abilene
- 7 Boys and Girls Golf District Round 1 in Baird @ 5:00-There
- 8 Varsity Girls Softball vs. Stamford @ 5:00- There
- 8 Varsity Boys Baseball vs. Baird @ 5:00- There
- 9 Boys and Girls Golf District Round 2 in Burk Burnett @ 8:30
- 10 Boys and Girls District Track Meet in Albany
- 11 Varsity Girls Softball vs. Baird @ 4:00- There
- 11 Varsity Boys Baseball vs. Gordon @ 5:00- Here
- 12 Jr./Sr. Prom
- 12 ACT @ 8:00- Here
- 14 Varsity Boys Baseball vs. Ranger @ 5:00- Here
- 17 Area Track Meet @ Munday
- 18 Varsity Softball game vs. Haskell @ 5:00- Here
- 18 Varsity Baseball vs. Santo @ 5:00- There
- 21 TAKS Exit- Math
- 22- 8th Grade Social Studies STAAR Test
- 22- Varsity Baseball vs. Eula- Here
- 23- 7th Grade Reading STAAR Test
- 23- 8th Grade Science STAAR Test
- 25-26- Regional Track @ ACU
- 27 Varsity Girls Softball Eula Tournament
- 26-27- ILPC Press Convention

### May

- 1 UIL Academic Meet
- 3 SAT @ 8:00- Here
- 6 Algebra One EOC
- 9-10 State Track Meet @ Austin
- 13- 8th Grade Reading STAAR Test
- 13- Elementary School Musical @ 6:30 in the High School Gym
- 19-21- State UIL Academic Meet- Austin
- 19- Academic Banquet @ 7:00
- 20- Athletic Banquet @ 7:00
- 25- Baccalaureate @ 7:00
- 30- Graduation



## AHS True Life: my work with Apple

Student describes his passion for technology, hands-on position

BY KATHRYN HAMILTON  
Assistant Editor

Walking through the halls, everyone has an iPhone. Walking through the halls, everyone has a Mac. America is practically becoming Apple land.

While most must wait around for the next product or update, sophomore Cason Asher has the inside track on the phenomenon of Apple.

"At the moment I'm a registered developer," Asher said. "I am also an iOS Beta Tester," which allows me to get iOS updates before normal customers so I can help fix and work out the kinks."

Although Asher is registered with Apple, he does not yet have a paid position.

"I send reports to Apple and help them find security holes in the operating system so that once it reaches the public, it's the most secure and safe operating system possible," Asher said. "This isn't a paid position as many people think, though. It's more like fun volunteer work."

At age 15 and already having a position with Apple, Asher obviously has an aptitude for technology.

"I have been around computers since I was born. My mom is an accountant, so we always had a computer, and I was allowed to play on it all of the time," Asher said.

Asher has been fascinated with technology for as long as he can remember.

"My mom and dad told me that when I was four years old I made a voice over of a segment out of the movie *Shrek*, replacing the character's voices

with my own. My parents had no idea how I figured out a way to do that," Asher said. "I can't really say there was ever a 'spark' that started my interest; it had just come naturally to me."

That natural instinct and interest led to his current position.

"When I was in the seventh grade, I watched a video of someone who had the iOS 4 before the public and how he got it," Asher explained.

"As a young junior high kid, I thought it was really cool and looked fun, so I applied to do it."

Although it may seem odd for such a young person to be a Beta Tester, it is actually quite common.

"I know many people my age that are like me and do what I do," Asher said. "In 2012 I received a scholarship to iDT Tech's summer camp at Southern Methodist University where I learned basic coding and met a lot of other kids like me."

Although Asher explains that anyone

could beta test for Apple since it is just volunteer work, the experience could be very beneficial later on.

"This will help me get a job later because it shows that I have worked with Apple before and that I have experience with others on improving products," Asher said. "It will help me get a higher level job with Apple or almost any technical company later on in life."

Asher is already a great asset to the high school.

"Help Mr. Key during first and eighth periods every day with troubleshooting problems on students' and teachers' computers. Sometimes I even take them apart to replace bad parts, such as broken screens and faulty chargers," Asher said. "I love helping students and teachers anyway I can. Everyone at school knows they can ask me for help anytime with their computers, phones, etc."

With such hands-on experience at school

with Macs, Asher pretty much knows all of the ins and outs.

"You name it; I can show it to you," Asher said. "I have taken these laptops apart and put them back together plenty of times and have memorized all of the steps to replacing anything in the computer."

Working with computers has led Asher to hopefully move forward from just Beta testing.

"This year I will hopefully be getting my Apple Technician Certification. The certification test will actually be one of this semester's finals," Asher said. "If I pass, I will actually be paid for fixing Apple computers, which I'm really excited about."

In addition to the technician job, Asher will also hit YouTube.

"I would like to announce that I am starting a YouTube channel where I review iOS applications, games, and even Jailbreak tweaks," Asher explained. "I'm open to other topics as well. Anyone can just search my name on YouTube and they'll find me."

In an era of smart phones and information technology, opportunities in the field abound.

"I would love to continue to work for Apple, but my eyes are open to other opportunities and companies," Asher said. "I don't know what will happen in the future, but I do hope that I will be working at a tech company or maybe even a company of my own. I would love to design computers or be a technician and fix computers like Mr. Key."

His experience has been met by many positive factors.

"This has given me a place to fit in. I have found that there are actually a lot of kids like me," Asher said. "It can be hard for kids to fit in when they attend schools where sports are everything. Having this love for technology has brought me into a community where other people my age share that same love."

## Split homes causes challenges, positive outlooks

Students with divorced parents express thoughts

BY MOLLY LEE  
Feature Editor

Families today can look very different from what has been typical in the past.

One of the factors that has an effect on families is divorce. Separated families can place children in various scenarios and circumstances that might continue to evolve over time.

For freshman Sydney Key, whose parents divorced and are now both remarried with children, life is far from typical at times.

"Sometimes it's hard to separate one house from the other because I switch every week between living with one of my parents then the other," Key said.

Key can pinpoint positive and negative sides to living in two homes.

"I see myself as very lucky because I get to live with both parents and step parents equally since they both live in Albany, and not all kids in my situation have that," Key said. "There are challenges because it's almost like I live out of a suitcase, but I always feel at home, not like I'm a visitor or that I don't really live there."

One of the positives is viewing her parents' homes as an "escape."

"It's good though because I've learned to value time with my family more, and if I'm annoyed with someone, I know I will be going to the other house the next week," Key said.

Senior Autumn Owen also has the privilege of both of her parents living in Albany.

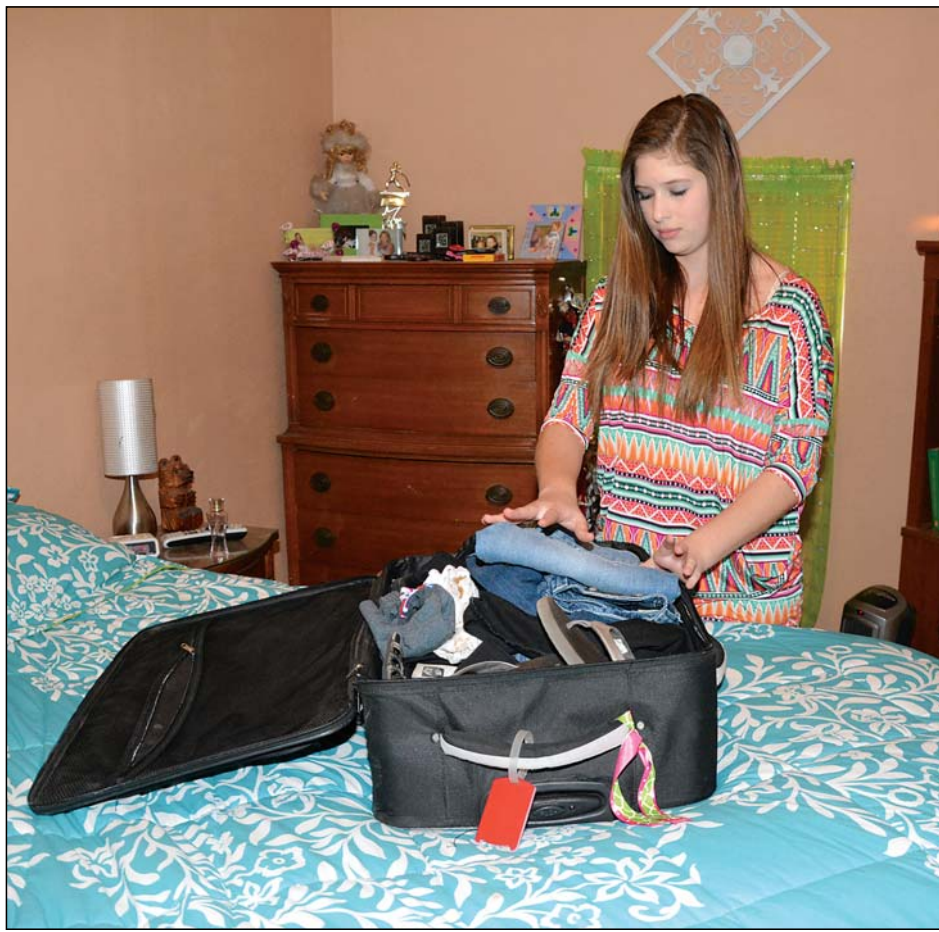
"My mom's house is our main residence, but since my parents both live in Albany we pretty much live at both," Owen said.

This hasn't always been the living situation, though, according to Owen.

"When my parents first split, my older sister was placed with my mom, while me and my younger brother were placed with my dad," Owen said. "We all just wanted to be together but couldn't due to our situation. It helped me and my siblings to rely on each other despite any situation we face."

Freshman Kylea Gardner can relate to living in two households.

"Since my parents divorced, I live with my mom on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays and switch out every other weekend staying with my mom and my dad," Gardner said. "My holidays are split between spending them with one parent in the morning and the other in the afternoon."



Freshman Sydney Key (top) packs her bag to go to her father's house. Senior Autumn Owen (right) is congratulated by her father Jim Owen after winning 2014 Homecoming Queen. PHOTO BY MOLLY LEE & PROVIDED BY AUTUMN OWEN

Gardner believes this situation has brought her closer with her sister, Shelbie.

"I feel like I've had to deal with more than Shelbie did because she went to college while all of this was happening," Gardner said. "It has made us so much closer through it all since she's the best one to talk to about it all."

Key agrees that it has brought her closer to her immediate brother, Diehlan.

"It has brought me a lot closer to Diehlan because we only had each other during the divorce and all of the switching around," Key said. "I'm not as close to Myleigh and Matthew, though, since they're my half siblings."

One of the challenges of divorce for Key is "missing things in my siblings' lives,"

"It's hard when I'm at my mom's and hear that Matthew learned to walk or say new words and I'm not there. Or if I'm at my dad's and learn Myleigh is having trouble with school or something, and I wasn't there to help her."

Gardner feels the hardest challenge so far is "accepting the situation."

"It's been a big challenge having to accept that they aren't getting back together,

and that they are in new relationships," Gardner said. "It's been one of the hardest things I've ever had to go through, but it's nice to see them happy again."

Owen has hardships as a result of divorce, too.

"It's hard because you don't get the feeling your friends have of coming home to a mom and dad," Owen said. "You either go home to your mom or your dad."

Owen describes the situation as being "torn."

"It's not really a family feel," Owen said. "You always have to pick despite wanting to spend time with both parents. It's more of a torn thing."

Gardner believes her youth group has helped her through her parent's divorce.

"My church, Beltway, has helped me so much," Gardner said. "The environment and everything has been a big factor in helping me through the process. I know it is a place of freedom, and it will be joyful from the second I walk in until the second I leave."

Owen believes divorce has helped her be "more thankful for the little things in life."

"I used to be sad about the divorce when I was younger, but now that I'm older I don't let their divorce define me," Owen said. "It has made me stronger and taught me to be more thankful."





# Coaches take on dual role with athletes

## Parenting, coaching go hand-in-hand

BY CHANDLER FIELDS  
Staff Writer

Having your parent as a coach or coaching your own kids, like all things, has its ups and downs. The victories can be sweeter, and the losses are ever so bitter.

For freshman Rachel Hill, both her mother and father coach her from both the bench and from the bleachers.

"My parents being coaches puts a lot of pressure on me because I don't want to let my mom or dad down," Hill said. "It doesn't matter what sport I am playing, I always have a coach on the bench and a coach in the stands. They usually have lots of pointers and constructive criticism for me after a loss or win."

For head volleyball coach Kim Hill, being able to coach her daughter is a blessing.

"Coaching her is a very grey line because she can't get away from me," Kim Hill said. "I do expect more out of her than the rest of the team, and I'm probably tougher on her because the coaching doesn't end on the court because we talk about the games at home."

Alex Faith, a sophomore and son of football head coach Denney Faith, believes that his father may treat him different, but it is for his own good.

"He treats me differently from the other players because he expects more of me as his son," Alex Faith said. "He pushes me harder in practice so when I get the chance in the game, I will make it happen for the team."

On the opposite side of that, Coach Faith thinks that being tougher on his sons was just a result of him expecting the most from them.

"I expect more out of them and I often catch myself being a little tougher on them because of that," Faith said. "Not all fathers get to see their sons while they work and get to spend the time that I

do with them, but I feel like as their father I put more pressure on them some times."

It isn't always easy for a coach to instruct his or her own child. This is the case for most coaches, especially for head softball coach and football defensive coordinator Jimmy Fuentes who has coached two of his own kids.

"It's tough. Not only do they have a coach coaching them, they have their dad coaching them," Fuentes said. "With that, there are high expectations on both sides."

Coaching both a son and a daughter, Fuentes knows first-hand the tactics with coaching both genders.

"The expectations are the same for both of them," Fuentes said. "There is not much difference besides the fact

that the sports are different, so there's different approaches I've had in coaching them. I understand all of my kids' personalities, and I know how to coach them."

All coaches dream of coaching in the state game, and Fuentes got that opportunity in 2011 with his oldest daughter, Jamie.

"Every coach wants to end their last games with their kid at the state championship," Fuentes said. "I was one of the lucky few who actually got that opportunity."

Like Fuentes, Coach Faith was also one of the lucky few who got to coach his son in a state championship.

"It was a pretty awesome ex-



Sophomore Levi Britting takes a day to practice pole vault with father and coach Rod Britting. Britting hopes to return to state level again in pole vault. PHOTO BY LEWIS KELLY

perience being able to coach my son in the state game," Denney Faith said. "Having that good of a season and seeing my son and his teammates play at that level was amazing."

Although Faith has coached, or is coaching, all three of his sons, being a parent and fan is more stressful than being their coach.

"I've sat in the stands and watched my daughter play in some state games, and I have found out that being a fan is tougher than being a coach because you don't have control of the game," he said.

Assistant football coach and head track coach Rod Britting says that pushing his kids harder is his

was in high school and college."

Some may say that they are treated differently, but that treatment isn't easy due to the anxiety and level of performance that is expected everyday.

"Everyone always talks about how coaches' kids have it easier, but I think that we have it harder," Levi Britting said. "It is like the pressure an athlete feels to perform for their parents on game day, except we have that pressure everyday."

The night before a playoff game the Hill household is full of last-minute preparations in anticipation of the big game.

"My mom is really intense and is always studying film and think-

ing of new rotations," Rachel Hill said. "My dad always has different basketball moves that he shows me the night before or the morning of the game."

As for the Faith household, things are pretty quiet and laid back the night before playoff games.

"The whole family is thinking about the game and how it will turn out," Alex Faith said. "We all go to bed early so we can get a good night's sleep before the big day."

For girls' track coach Ginger Norton, this year will be the last year to coach one of her own children.

"It has been a lot of fun coaching Kami, and it helps to have an exceptional athlete because she is very dedicated in all she does," Coach Norton said. "I will miss her work ethic in track and will be sad knowing someone else is coaching her."

A temptation of treating her daughter differently isn't an issue for Norton because she knows Kami has the self-drive to compete at a high level.

"I don't worry about her doing her best because of how hard she works," Coach Norton said. "Kami has been humble in all she does and has always thought about the team aspect. I respect her for that, and anyone else that does as well."

For senior Kami Norton, having her mother as a coach will be something she will miss most about high school.

"My mom takes care of me so much in that she makes sure I have everything I need on competition day," Kami said. "I try not to allow the negative comments I sometimes hear about her coaching styles and take in the positive comments about how much teammates appreciate her."

The drive of her mother is one thing that will stick with Kami as she moves forward in her collegiate track career.

"I am going to miss not having her push me next year, even when I have had about all I can take of her constructive criticism," Norton said. "At the end of the day, I think she is the reason I have been so successful as a high school athlete."

# Runners stride to accomplish their goals

## Athletes prepare for the road to state

BY CURRY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Hoping to sprint to success, track stars have been developing their skills this season.

Not having participated in track since junior high, senior Ethan Nall has come back to throw the discus this year.

"I did track in junior high, but not freshman, sophomore or junior years because I like to focus on one sport at a time so I can work and improve as much as I can," Nall said.

Though Nall decided to compete in track his senior year, he wished that he had done it the three previous years.

"I wish I would have done track throughout my high school career because if I had more experience there is no telling what I would be throwing today," Nall said.

Even with little experience, Nall never stops trying to improve in order to achieve his goals.

"My goals this year are to keep improving every track meet, to make it out of district, and to throw around 120 feet," Nall said.

Also determined to achieve his goals, sophomore Matthew Rupp has been working hard to beat his time in the 400-meter dash.

"My old time in the 400-meter dash was about 54 seconds, and I would really like to improve my time," Rupp said.

The love of competition just might push him to succeed.

"I just love to run with and against friends and other people," Rupp said.

Not only is he pushed in practice, Rupp is also pushed by his opponents to do better.

"I feel intimidated by some of the people that I race against from

bigger cities. They make me run faster because they give me that adrenaline rush that some runners don't give me," Rupp said.

Rupp plans to participate in track next year with the hope of running in the mile relay.

"I plan on running track next year because I am committed to the sport. Also, I hope that I will be able to run in the mile relay next year," Rupp said.

Rupp feels more prepared for this year's season due to running last year.

"I feel more experienced and prepared because I know what to expect this season. I also feel like I am prepared for the seasons to come."

Also prepared for this season is junior Valerie Gandara, who runs in the mile relay, 800 meter dash and the 800 meter relay. Starting off the season slow, the mile relay team has pushed to accomplish their goals.

"Our first track meet didn't go as planned at all, but I think it made us push even more to get ourselves back in shape for the season," Gandara said.

Gandara has also set high expectations for herself.

"My main goals are to knock four seconds off my quarter and five seconds off of my 800 meter dash. I was able to do it last year, so I'm expecting more from myself this year," Gandara said.

Though the workouts are tough, it doesn't stop Gandara from doing what she likes.

"My favorite part about track is the competition, being able to beat your goals, and having to set new ones," Gandara said.

Not only is Gandara pushed by her peers, but also by other teams as well.

"Hamlin has always been my biggest competition because they always have strong runners in the mile relay, and there is one girl that runs in the 800-meter dash that is pretty good," Gandara said.

Also running the 800-meter relay is freshman Madison

Brown. Brown is also active in other events.

"I run the 800-meter relay, 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, and I sometimes compete in the long jump," Brown said.

Only being a freshman, Brown is not intimidated by other athletes.

"I know my strength, and I just push myself harder to my

opponents' levels. I don't feel intimidated because they are actually making me better," Brown said.

Compared to junior high track, there are some differences in high school track.

"I have tougher competition, and the workouts are a little more intense because I am with the upperclassmen. So, I have

to work even harder to compete with them," Brown said.

Not only does Brown compete in track for the enjoyment, she does it to make memories and friends also.

"I'm in track for the satisfaction of being on a team, and the long-lasting friends I will make, not just on my team but on other teams as well," Brown said.



Senior Kami Norton leads the girls' track team in practice to prepare for the upcoming district meet. The district meet will be held in Albany on April 10. Norton works to return to Austin for her fourth and final trip in hopes of receiving a state medal. PHOTO BY LEWIS KELLY



# Lady Lions step up to the plate

## Softball girls show promise for season

BY MICHAEL COTTER  
Staff Writer

Last year the Lady Lions softball team lost some key players, but this year younger players are stepping up to fill the holes left by the graduating seniors.

"They're looking good. Of course it's a difficult adjustment, but they're working really hard," senior Kathryn Hamilton said. "The key is to get more comfortable with the position, but also know the game. We can't think about comparisons. Coach Fuentes always tells us to learn from the ones that have come before us. So we just have to fill their spots, but remember to focus on the present."

Coach Fuentes agrees that the younger girls are really stepping up and proving themselves on the field.

"They understand what is expected of them," Fuentes said. "So far they have played very well, but there is still room for improvement."

The girls started the season with their goals set high.

"It's the goal I've had every year since I was a freshman. I hope to end up in Austin again, especially since it's my senior year," Hamilton said. "It will be really hard,

but I honestly think we still have a good chance."

Sophomore Kelsey Tollett also shares Hamilton's ideas and goals.

"My goal is to play spotless in district, even better in the playoffs, and downright perfect at state,

and we will get us that title," Tollett said.

Fuentes shares the desire for a return to Austin, only he believes the key to this success is to not get satisfied with too little.

"I want to win district, improve

with every ball game, but most of all to not get complacent," Fuentes said.

The girls are looking to go undefeated in district, which will be tough this year because they are the team everyone is looking to beat.

"It's going to be a battle," Hamilton said. "After last year, we have a huge target on our backs, but we still have a chance to have a great run. District is going to be tough, but we have to stay focused for each game and prepare ourselves in practice."

The team agrees that their largest weakness is their lack of experience.

"The team is very young this year," Fuentes said. "We are starting a lot of young players, as well as asking a lot from them. I know it is tough on them, but we have confidence they will pull through."

Even though the girls are young, the team is still coming together on and off the field.

"I think that our strongest bond is that we're all striving for the same goal. We all want to go as far in the season as we possibly can," Hamilton said.

The girls started district play on March 4th and finished the first half with a record of 4-2.



Sophomore Kelsey Tollett throws a pitch to strike out the opposing team. The Lady Lions were 4-2 after the first round in district, tied for second place. PHOTO BY DARLENE SCHWABROCH

# Baseball slides into district play

## Varsity boys compete for district title

BY CONOR WILSON  
Assistant Editor

The Lion baseball team has been preparing for district since the beginning of the season in hopes of moving into the playoffs. Reaching their goal is largely dependent on simply practicing the skills that need improvement. Head coach David Fairchild believes that good pitching is the key to success.

"As long as our pitching is on and we have solid defense, we will be successful this year," Fairchild said.

The Lion's district consists of Santo, Ranger, Gordon, Baird, and Lipan.

"Our biggest competitors in our district are Santo and Ranger," Fairchild said. "We have yet to beat Ranger, but last year we split with Santo, but they ended up being district champs."

There are four returning seniors from last year's varsity team. Senior third baseman Justin Jones has set high goals for himself considering this is his last year.

"I want to succeed in everything I do this year from working hard in practice to playing to the best of my abilities in a game," Jones said. "I don't want to end my last season in

my high school career on a bad note."

Jones has participated in baseball since his freshman year and is now one of the leaders on the team.

"I strive to be the best role model for all the underclassmen," Jones said. "It is really cool to think that younger kids are looking up to me."

Jones is trying to make the most of his last season of baseball in his career.

"I am going to miss my teammates the most," Jones said. "We have made so many memories that I will always have to look back on."

Junior Teagan Brandon is excited to be a part of Jones' last year playing baseball.

"I'm most excited about our team this year because I think we have a lot of experience," Brandon said. "Our plan is to go deep into the playoffs, and I firmly believe we can make it."

For Brandon, baseball is more than just a sport that he has been playing his whole life.

"Baseball has and always will be my favorite sport," Brandon said. "It's one sport that I can relate things to life and give examples through baseball."

Like Jones, Brandon has set many goals for himself as well as his team.

"My expectations this year is to have a strong field of players and a line-up full of good hitters," Brandon said. "That in turn will take us deep into the playoffs."

Being a leader is very important to Brandon.

"No matter how old you are,

there is always someone watching you," Brandon said. "By not losing your composure and staying strong in the toughest battles you are faced with makes you a powerful leader."

Baseball has not only been a part of Brandon's life, but Fairchild's as

well.

"I played baseball in college, so baseball has been a big part of my life," Fairchild said. "Not everyone can play this sport. It takes a lot of skill and mental coordination. It's America's Sport"

Fairchild is excited to see what is in store for his team this year.

"I believe this team will be successful because we have a strong chemistry between us," Fairchild said. "Our group of seniors are great role models for our younger kids on the team."



Junior Xavier Cornado catches the ball thrown by Senior Jared Husmann in hopes of getting the opponent out. The Lions came out undefeated in the first half of district, securing a spot in the playoffs. PHOTO BY LEWIS KELLY

# Golf, tennis fight for advancement



Senior Lexi Hudson reaches for the ball to hit across to the opposing team. The district meet for tennis will be held at Rose Park in Abilene on April 4th and 5th. PHOTO BY LEWIS KELLY

## Teams prepare throughout season for district competition

BY LEWIS KELLY  
Sports Editor

Along with spring comes a new set of sports, including golf and tennis, which are both in full swing.

The golf team has prepared all season for the district tournament that was played on April 7 and 9. Results of the district tournament were not available at press time.

"Olney and Stamford will be very tough in district this year. Olney picked up Tanner Thompson, who lived in Albany before and is ranked as one of the top five golfers in the state," head coach Ryder Peacock said. "Stamford has two players who placed sixteenth and twenty-second last year at state that will both be returning."

Last year the girls' and boys' teams didn't advance past district.

"On the boys' side we will be just as good as a team as last year," Peacock said. "The district

will be weaker overall in terms of depth as well."

The girls have a new coach this year, elementary teacher Angela Askew.

"I think it will be a good year, because we have a new coach that will be able to teach us new things," junior Kaylee Waters said. "Coach Askew is very good at explaining rules and making them easy to understand."

Newcomers have enjoyed the competitive side of the tournaments.

"I'm most excited to be competing against other schools for the first time and to be helping out my team," freshman Matthew Mitchell said. "Before this year, I have only played for fun."

Some golfers have certain strengths on the course that help them to contend against opponents.

"I'm strongest on the course with my irons and making my approach," Mitchell said. "Both help me to get to the green in less shots, and it lowers my stroke count."

The tennis team also prepared themselves for the district tournament, which was held April 4 and 5 in Abilene. Results of the district meet were not available at press time.

"Seymour has a lot of tough competitors this year in district," senior Mati Rupp said. "This is my first year to play singles on varsity, so I'm not really sure how good anyone is."

According to head coach Sara Wilson, both the mixed doubles' and girls' doubles' teams advanced to regionals last year.

"I believe we are already a lot better than last year," senior Lexie Lee said. "We started this year by winning second place in a tournament."

Providing leadership for the team this year are seniors Lexie Lee and Lexi Hudson in girls' doubles, along with Mati Rupp playing girls' singles.

"We graduated six seniors last year, but we have three moving up who will have an excellent chance of qualifying for regionals," Wilson said.

To strengthen their ability, athletes practice on their weaknesses and set goals at the beginning of the season.

"My personal goal this year is to get all of my serves in during one full match and to improve my accuracy on my backhand," freshman Michaela Reames said.

Though the work put in may sometimes be tough, players enjoy experiences that they will never forget.



UIL/OAP

Continued from | PG 1

but he knows his job is important to his fellow cast and crew members.

"Competitions are definitely more nerve-racking than the practices because during the competitions, mistakes can't be made," Asher said. "The best part is seeing what all our hard work resulted in and watching all the pieces of the play fit together perfectly."

Everitt commended their performance at zone.

"If they do what we have prepared for, they have a great chance in advancing. But that's if they perform like I know they can," Everitt said.

Everitt has enjoyed the year so far as director.

"The best part for me has definitely been getting to know all of the students through all the long practices," Everitt said. "OAP gives you confidence in, how to express yourself and how to work together."

Science

Continued from | PG 1

the different interests that students have," Hill said.

Anatomy and physiology will not be a required class.

"Biology is the only class that you are required to take before you graduate, but you also have to have taken two more upper level science classes," Hill said.

Raymond feels that anatomy and physiology classes will benefit students.

"Being able to know how the body works is very useful," Raymond said.

Anatomy and physiology were offered in past years.

"Several students that took the class in high school returned from college and said that out of all of the classes, it had helped them the most in getting prepared for college," Norton said.

Junior Sierra Price is

glad that she will have a chance to take anatomy and physiology.

"I want to be a physical therapist, or another closely-related career, so this class will be very beneficial," Price said. "I will have to take similar classes in college, so it will be helpful to already know some information."

Science is also very helpful to students that aren't heading towards a science-driven career.

"Everything that we do is related to science in some way," Raymond said.

Raymond believes that in the next few years, classes may have to become bigger to make room for required endorsement classes.

"The biggest challenge facing all of the schools is going to be making room for the extra classes," Raymond said. "Three classes might have to be combined into two so that a teacher is able to teach another subject."

Break

Continued from | PG 1

hunt in Rule."

Munden's favorite part of his trip was snowboarding for the first time.

"As bad as it might have been, I loved it and hope we can all go again soon," Munden said.

Fellow senior Brittney Everitt also traveled a great distance this Spring Break. Everitt joined a group of churches including Friendship Baptist Church of Albany and First Baptist of Cisco to journey 12 hours to Matamoros, Mexico for a mission trip.

"The purpose of this trip for me was to share the Lord with people in Mexico and to help people want to become Christians, along with working to improve the condition of the church we served in Matamoros," Everitt said.

This mission team worked on leveling the floor in the kitchen and

dining area, painted the inside of the church, built and stained cabinets, and sealed the Baptistry so water would no longer leak.

"My favorite part of the trip was being able to share a hobby of mine with the children in the area," Everitt said. "We played soccer for hours and all had a blast. I absolutely loved it."

Everitt learned some life lessons in the short five-day trip.

"I've learned that you don't need material items to be happy and to never take for granted the fact you have a good house, a bed to sleep in, and good water to drink, as well as remembering to not complain over the little stuff," Everitt said. "The people we worked with in Mexico didn't have anything, and all they want to do is give back to us, which makes me want to be a better person and lend a helping

hand to anyone I may cross paths with."

Senior Ethan Nall also had a weekend get-a-way around the Austin area for a BBQ tour with Young Life Leader Grant Zeller, senior Gavin Smith, junior Chandler Fields, and junior Austin Edenfield.

"My favorite part of the trip was finally being able to eat at a place named Franklin's after waiting three hours in the freezing weather," Nall said. "The wait was worth it. We ate the best brisket and pork ribs."

The BBQ boys joined another Young Life group from Amarillo and stayed in Camp Buckner near Austin for the night.

Nall said the long car rides made them grow together as a group.

"We weren't really close before the trip, but after spending countless hours in the car, you'll either hate everyone or bond closer as a group," Nall said.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Students find ways to spend free time

*Spring: the sun comes out, the weather warms, and the teenagers come out of hibernation. After this year's long and bitter winter, students are enjoying great weather and springtime activities to fill their time. From friendly pickup games of basketball at The Feed Store to impromptu rounds of ultimate frisbee at the city park, you can always find students having fun around town.*

PHOTOS AND STORY BY  
JARED HUSMANN



Junior Stevie Phillips (top left) enjoys an after-school game of table tennis at The Feed Store. The Feed Store has become a popular hangout spot for students looking for a place to spend their free time. Sophomore Caleb Masters (above) flings a frisbee to a teammate during a game of ultimate frisbee at the city park. The park offers a nice, well-kept field and sand volleyball court for the students to enjoy. Junior Tyler Morgan (left) shoots a three-pointer at The Feed Store's basketball court. Senior Ethan Nall returns the ball during a table tennis tournament at The Feed Store. Young Life leader Grant Zeller and sophomore Caleb Masters compete to catch the frisbee at the city park. Senior Ethan Nall (bottom left) focuses in on the ball in a game of sting pong, a popular form of table tennis among guys.

