



"Lion pride in print"

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2017

ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL

ALBANY, TEXAS 76430

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 6



**Sports:**  
Lions come home with medals from state track meet, set new records.

— See page 7



Scan QR code to go to the SchoolWay app, which can be used for both iPhone and Android.

## BRIEFS

### FINALS WEEK

Finals for the spring semester are scheduled for next week. Students are required to take a minimum of two core class exams, as well as exams in any classes where requirements are not met. High school students who are exempt from finals must sign in by 9:30 a.m. each day. Junior high students are required to stay the entire day and will stay in the gym when not testing. The exam schedule is as follows:

**Tuesday, May 22**  
8:00 a.m. – 1st period  
10:00 a.m. – 2nd period  
1:00 p.m. – 3rd period

**Wednesday, May 23**  
8:00 a.m. – 4th period  
10:00 a.m. – 5th period  
1:00 p.m. – 6th period

**Thursday, May 24**  
8:00 a.m. – 7th period  
10:00 a.m. – 8th period

### GRADUATION

A total of 32 students are graduating from Albany High School this year. The graduation ceremony is scheduled for Friday, May 26, at the Albany High School gym at 7:00 p.m. Graduates will be receiving diplomas, scholarships, and awards. The ceremony will also include music, and speakers, with a reception following at the Whitney Theatre. Family, friends, teachers, and other guests are invited to attend. Project Graduation will be held that evening for graduates and ushers.

### TWO-A-DAYS

Two-a-day workouts for volleyball and cross country will begin Tuesday, August 1. Volleyball workouts will begin at 7:00 a.m. and cross country will start at 9:00 a.m. Football workouts will not begin until Monday, August 7 at 8:00 a.m. Students are required to have a physical examination prior to workouts. Physicals were offered free of charge on Thursday, May 18 at 4:00 p.m. Students that did not attend are responsible for the cost of having a physical conducted during the summer. Athletes will receive a letter during the summer containing more information about two-a-days and the upcoming athletic seasons.

# Students excel at ILPC

## Lions Roar awarded Silver Star

BY KADE EVERITT  
Staff Writer

The *Lions Roar* came back from this year's annual spring ILPC convention with a number of individual medals and another star award.

"I was glad we got a Silver Star Award," newspaper adviser Donnie Lucas said. "It would have been nice to get a gold again, but they changed the criteria and made it tougher to get a Gold Star."

Editor-in-Chief Kylea Gardner was also glad with the outcome of this year's award.

"Obviously being editor-in-chief, I was disappointed because we had gotten gold so many times before," Gardner said. "A Silver Star is nothing to be sad about, though. Being

editor, you feel like not getting the best is your fault, but there are many 5A and 6A schools that didn't get a star, so it's still a big honor to be awarded silver."

Lucas wants to find out what it takes to be on the top.

"I am really going to look at what it takes to get back to a Gold Star," Lucas said. "There were four gold and eight silver this year, so that puts us in the top 12 newspapers in the state, and most of those schools were 5A and 6A. It's probably disappointing for the staff members to get the silver, but with stricter judging, it's still really good."

Although awards are nice, they aren't everything, according to the adviser.

"Going to the convention is not just about the awards," Lucas said. "It's really about the learning experience from sessions conducted by experts from around the state and even out of state."

Lucas also said that



The *Lions Roar* editor-in-chief Kylea Gardner accepts a Silver Star Award from ILPC director Jeanne Acton at the LBJ Library at the University of Texas campus in Austin. The *Lions Roar* staff attended the Interscholastic League Press Conference and received many individual honors, along with junior Henry Kelly receiving a 'Tops In Texas' award.

PHOTO PROVIDED

after going to this year's sessions, the staff will use Google Drive next year to help with organization. Articles are also going to focus more on telling the individual stories of students in school.

Feature editor Genevieve Stunkard not only

gained writing tips from the sessions, but also gained inspiration to be a better writer.

"It changed me because it made me realize how much I want to be a writer," Stunkard said. "There are such good speakers there, and they

encourage everyone that their writing matters. It made me certain that I need to go into the journalism profession."

Gardner also gained knowledge from the sessions.

SEE "ILPC" Pg 8

# Summer credit recovery set for June

## Classes slated for 4 weeks in June at high school

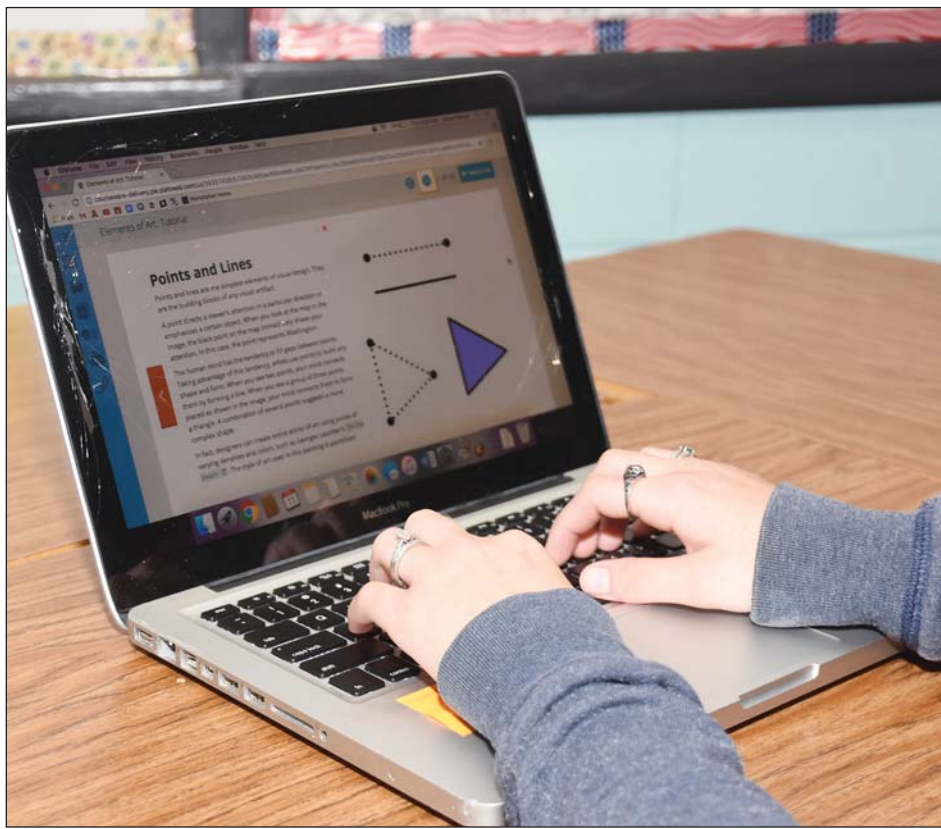
BY JILLIAN GUINN  
Staff Writer

Summer school has been set by principal Kevin Hill for June 5-30 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday.

"Students that failed to gain the credit for the semester or had too many absences to gain credit will have to attend summer school," Hill said.

Coaches Ryder Peacock and Jimmy Fuentes will oversee the students.

"I always enjoy summer school because it's a break away from your traditional classroom environment," Peacock



Students are able to gain credits and seat-time through online PLATO classes that are going to be held this summer. PHOTO BY KADE EVERITT

said. "It's also a good opportunity for students to get caught up and stay on schedule with graduation requirements."

An online curriculum called PLATO is used by students to gain credit for courses they need.

"The curriculum has run well in the past," Peacock said. "Anytime you have an online system you will have some glitches, but we haven't had any major problems."

On average about 18-20 students will attend summer school.

"About eight junior high and about eight high school students are required to take summer school each year," Hill said. "Most students show up and do their work and receive their credit."

Sophomore Ryan Sanders attended summer school last year.

SEE "SUMMER" Pg 8

# Schoolwide changes coming this fall

## New principal, earlier start top list of adjustments

BY RYLIE SCOTT  
Assistant Editor

As the 2017-18 school year approaches, several staff position and district-wide calendar changes will be put into practice. With the District of Innovation title, Albany ISD has been given flexibility to change the start date for next school year.

"From talking to teachers and our District of Innovation committee, we've decided to start school on Aug. 17, which is a Thursday," superintendent Shane Fields said. "Teachers will come back in Aug., but we're wanting

that first week to be a half week to make it easier to ease back into the swing of things."

Although school will start earlier, the bell schedule will remain the same, and the district calendar may still have the same end date, according to high school principal Kevin Hill.

"We're probably looking at May 25 being the last day of school next year," Hill said. "The end date may be the same, but we're trying to put a holiday at least once a month to give kids and teachers breaks."

Hill is stepping down from the junior/senior high school principal position to become the new Makerspace coordinator next year, returning to his technology roots.

"When we first started thinking about this program, [Makerspace] I had been in technology before



Librarian Karen Noble cleans out her desk preparing for her retirement at the end of this school year. Between retirements, resignations, reassignments, and new hires, the '17-'18 year will be full of changes. PHOTO BY RYLIE SCOTT

and taught networking when I was technology director," Hill said. "I really enjoy dealing with that technology side, but the hardest part of being technology director was dealing with the hardware.

It is just working with nameless, faceless equipment. As Makerspace coordinator, I see it as the best of both worlds because the kids are involved too, and I really enjoy being around the kids."

Taking over Hill's principal position next year will be Edward Morales, the current principal at Roscoe Collegiate High School.

"We're excited to blend his background that he brings from an early collegiate high school with what we're doing with Makerspace to give kids more opportunities," Fields said. "He's been in a situation where kids have a different exposure than ours, and so we want to find what fits best for Albany's students to help them become competitive and have all the tools they need when they graduate."

Morales was previously a seventh grade history/science teacher, head boys' basketball and track coach at Albany.

"I remember it being a great community that

SEE "CHANGES" Pg 8



EDITORIALS

College stress can wait

Many students these days stress out about college. It is okay to think about college, but students need to learn to just live life in high school.

High school is one of the greatest times in a person's life. Between sports, classes, friends, and other activities, students have more than enough to think about without worrying about college. Students can fret about college when they are in college. First, they need to live in the moment and enjoy high school.

Students need to worry about their schoolwork in high school, which will affect getting into college. It is pointless and disappointing to worry about which college you want to go to and then realize that your choices are limited because your high school grades were not good enough.

High school gives students opportunities that they will not have in college. Most students will not play sports in college, so they need to make the most of sports while they can in high school. UIL, FFA, FCCLA, and other programs need to be taken advantage of while still available to students.

Many people would argue that college is important and students should think about it a lot. This is not wrong. College is very important, and students have to think about it. However, students should not spend so much time thinking about college that they miss out on having fun in high school.

College is very important, but so is high school. Students can't afford to waste a crucial time in their life because they are too focused on the future to enjoy the present. Just have fun and live in the moment.

Stay ahead in school

Every student, in some form or fashion, struggles with procrastinating. For some, it comes early on in life, like in junior high for example. In other cases, when the final semester of senior year rolls around, they turn in their last editorial a week and a half late. Either way, procrastination plagues everyone at some point in their lives. It is imperative that, no matter how hard it is to resist procrastinating, students stay on top of their schoolwork.

Waiting until the last minute to finish a project or write a paper is a big issue in relationship to procrastinating. If a teacher assigns a project with a three-week preparation period, and a student starts 3 hours before it is due, the quality of the work is significantly less impressive than that of someone who worked adamantly to come out with a nice-looking finished product. Since the quality of the work is so low, the student will more than likely get a much lower grade than someone who worked hard.

Secondly, as an effect of the first mentioned problem, it will be harder for someone who doesn't make great grades to get into college than someone who does their work and makes good grades. This is not to say that people who don't make good grades can't get into college; it simply means that it will be more of a challenge for that person. It is possible to still get into a good school with bad grades, but not if you procrastinate on your application.

Of course, the students that get behind in school argue that procrastination is okay as long as they get their schoolwork done on time, but that's not the case. Teachers can obviously tell when a student throws together a project last minute, and their grade will reflect the amount of work that they put into their assignment. Again, it is essential that students begin to recognize the importance of using their time wisely and getting their school work done before the time it is due.



THE

LIONS ROAR

ILPC 2017 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

2016-2017 STAFF	
Editor-In-Chief.....	KYLEA GARDNER
Assistant Editor.....	RYLIE SCOTT
Photo/Layout Editor .....	RACHEL HILL
Features Editor.....	GENEVIEVE STUNKARD
News/Copy Editor.....	NOLAN DAVIS
Sports Editor.....	PARKER MOON
Entertainment Editor.....	HENRY KELLY
Cartoonist .....	GENEVIEVE STUNKARD
Staff Writers/Photographers.....	KADE EVERITT, JILLIAN GUINN, BRIAN HAMILTON, RYAN HILL, CAITLYN PATTERSON, CUTTER COWART
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 Adviser 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.

COMMENTARY



Infinitely grateful for lasting memories

Gardner Seeds



KYLEA GARDNER

When I was preparing to start my seventh grade year, Trey Little, my pastor at the time, was embarking on a new journey; a transition from a 2,000 person town to the big city of Houston. In his final sermon he said something that has always stuck with me. He said, with a just-lost-the-championship-game look on his face, "right now, I am feeling very conscious of time because it is so rare, it is completely irretreivable; you can never repeat it or relive it."

I am feeling a lot like Pastor Little must have been feeling, because the unforgiving hands of time are ticking away, and they don't slow down for anyone. I often talk about how ready I am to leave this place and move on with my life, and that still stands true, but I now realize that the first 18 years of my life have been filled with insurmountable bits of joy because of this place, because of these people.

To the staff of *The Lions Roar*, thank you. You've kept me on my toes, that's for sure. Between the late night editing sessions, the early morning tardy tallies, and the quotes of the day, it has been a pleasure to know all of you...even you, Mr. Lucas.

When I look back at my time in Albany, I think the hearts of the people will be what I remember the most. People with hearts like my ninth grade English teacher, who never thought twice about sharing her Diet Coke with me when I broke down in tears in her classroom. People with hearts like my senior One-Act Director, who made me feel truly confident for the first time in my life. People like Coach Wilson, who, even with all the squawking and squirrely comments, truly believed in me. Those are the people that I will remember the most.

There are some truly unforgettable people that I have come into contact with throughout the last four years. I'll never forget the long car rides and Dairy Queen blizzard treats that went hand in hand with a text from "cutter butter peanut butter." Chicago, you already know everything I needed to say. You better not block me on Snapchat again after graduation...I love you, later. Michaela Reames, my dear, you made me enjoy being alive, and that is more than I could ever ask for in a friend. You mean the world to me. Jeb: your endless flirting and excessive use of the phrase "baby girl" has always made me laugh. I appreciate that. Alexis, Lex...I couldn't have done it without you, and I am going to miss you so much.

Regardless of whether I want time to slow down a bit or not, the days are dwindling faster and faster, and all I know to do is sit at my desk, solemnly grateful for the memories.

Making time for others can be rewarding

Rachel's Revelations



RACHEL HILL

Everyone knows those awkward 7:50 a.m. interactions in the school hallways. Yeah, the ones where you make eye contact, immediately look straight ahead, and continue past that kid you see every morning. Or the 12:35 p.m. exchanges where getting those beloved chicken nuggets are more important than saying hi to that one kid.

I bet after you read those two sentences, at least one person popped into your head. You see them every day, but neither of you have ever said anything to the other. We spend all day talking over the teacher, smiling down at our laps while we try to sneak our phones in class, and filling the halls with the latest gossip, but we have forgotten how to simply say 'Good Morning' to someone we see in the hallway.

I'm the first to admit that I was the one who put my head down and kept walking...until I realized how important people were. Right now, high school seems

like everything. I mean we really don't know anything else except the daily routine of pressing snooze a few times and then spending our days in classrooms. But what if one simple 'hello' or smile could change that routine, benefitting not only you, but also the people around you?

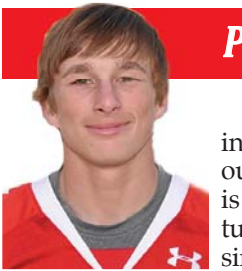
This year, I have tried to focus on slowing down and valuing people. No matter whom I pass, I strive to smile, say hello, or stop and talk to them. Granted, there are times I fail. Times where I just can't force myself to put forth that tiny effort to make someone's day a little brighter. But there are also times that I am able to make that interaction a little less awkward.

As May 26 rounds the corner faster and faster, my advice is this: take time out of your day to communicate with someone. Whether that communication is a smile or a full-blown conversation, someone's day could be changed by it.

Hopefully you were able to put down your phone and read this column. And hopefully you were influenced to change your daily routine by incorporating others in it. You only have so many years in high school, so why not make the most of it by doing the simple task of valuing others.

Passion on the field, in the church pulpit

Parker's 'Pinions



PARKER MOON

The seven of us are on the field in 97-degree temperature sweating our rears off. All we can think about is how bad our feet burn from the turf and when the game will be over since we are crushing every team in the tournament. We finally hear the director of the tournament yell "One minute!" The other team is rushing around trying to get another play in for a score, but it's not like it will matter. Two plays go by, the team has not scored, and the director finally blows the horn.

When school is out for the summer, most people think that the football team only works out during the school year to prepare for the next season, or at least that's what I thought until I got into high school. But for the past two years, people have become more aware of how good we are, at seven-on-seven football. Both years we made it to the state tournament in College Station. One highlight of course is winning, but the

amount of free gear we get is awesome. Free uniforms, cleats, t-shirts, and accessories make the trip all worth it, even if we don't win a lot. Getting to take pictures with Texas A&M football players is pretty awesome as well.

While all these things are great, one thing this past year that caught my attention is the amount of passion one person had for the game. Instead of a player, it was actually my coach. He is constantly yelling and trying to push us to win. If you are a fan, you can hear him from a mile away yelling "JAYHAWK! NOTRE DAME! STEP ON THEIR TOES!" He gets his passion for the game from growing up with a father who coached at a school in Austin and won multiple state championships. However, his passion isn't limited to just football. He even has the same enthusiasm for his son's little league baseball team and his job as pastor of a church.

If you meet him for the first time, not knowing anything about him, you would never guess what his profession is. You would probably think he has some white collar job because of his frat clothing style. His passion extends beyond the field and into the pulpit on Sunday mornings. Anthony Ceder's attitude towards everything is one of kind.

Our 2¢ worth



What is your favorite memory of the school year?



SENIOR SYDNEY KEY

The home-coming pep rally was my favorite memory because it was cool to see all of our hard work pay off.



JUNIOR CHLOE FIELDS

My favorite memory is jamming out in the car on the way to football games.



SOPHOMORE JOSHUA DYER

Having the opportunity to travel with the varsity basketball team during the playoffs.



FRESHMAN MOLLIE DOTSON

Getting to meet new people and learn new things.



## ROARING REVIEWS

### BEAUTY AND THE BEAST



March 17, 2017 PG 139 min  
 Fantasy/Romance

Belle (Emma Watson), a bright, beautiful and independent young woman, is taken prisoner by a beast (Dan Stevens) in its castle. Despite her fears, she befriends the castle's enchanted staff and learns to look beyond the beast's hideous exterior, allowing her to recognize the kind heart and soul of the true prince that hides on the inside. This film brings a much praised Disney cartoon to life.

**Director:** Bill Condon  
**Writers:** Stephen Chbosky, Evan Spilotopoulos  
**Stars:** Emma Watson, Dan Stevens

#### Staff Review:



### THE FATE OF THE FURIOUS



April 14, 2017 PG-13 160 min  
 Crime/Thriller

With Dom and Letty married, Brian and Mia retired and the rest of the crew exonerated, the globe-trotting team has found some semblance of a normal life. They soon face an unexpected challenge when a mysterious woman named Cipher forces Dom to betray them all. Now, they must unite to bring home the man who made them a family and stop Cipher from unleashing chaos. With their lives on the line, the group must do all it takes to survive.

**Director:** F. Gary Gray  
**Writers:** Chris Morgan, Gary Scott Thompson  
**Stars:** Britt Robertson, Dennis Quaid

#### Staff Review:



### GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2



May 5, 2017 PG-13 138 min  
 Science fiction/Action

In the next installment of Marvel's Guardians of the Galaxy, the group must fight for themselves and each other in this epic trip through space. The team struggles to keep its newfound family together as it tries to unravel the mystery of Peter Quill's true parentage in the outer reaches of the galaxy. As the journey continues, the group becomes wound up in other troubles and must fight to continue their quest and stay together.

**Director:** James Gunn  
**Writers:** James Gunn, Dan Abnett  
**Stars:** Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana

#### Staff Review:



# Students hone singing skills

## UIL helps teens improve voice, widen repertoire of music

BY HENRY KELLY  
 Entertainment Editor

It may come naturally to some but not to others. Either way, singing takes practice and more practice to perfect the talent.

"It's just like athletics, whether or not you are good, it all depends on how much you practice," sophomore Braden Davis said. "It really teaches you hard work, but learning new songs is still fun."

Davis has been singing since he was in kindergarten.

"When I was six, Mrs. Betsy asked me to sing in the *Fandangle*," Davis said. "I started enjoying it on the first day."

He gets help at home when he practices.

"My mom has helped me improve my voice," Davis said. "She is very musically inclined since she has been singing most of her life, so I listen to her tips most of the time."

He finds UIL singing to be a big help as well.

"You start out not knowing much about the song they give you," Davis said. "Then you slowly learn the notes and lyrics, and by the end it's just fine tuning."

Davis prefers singing for others.

"I sing by myself just to practice, but I really enjoy singing in front of crowds," Davis said. "I've performed in some concerts and liked it a lot."

He hopes to find a future in singing.

"I plan on singing in college," Davis said. "I'll try to get some gigs and possibly try to go a professional route. If you can become famous, you can really make a lot of money."

Davis says singing is a good distraction.

"Whenever I've been in chaotic times in my life, I just sing," Davis said. "I get to focus on that rather than the problems in my life."

Like Davis, UIL singing accompanist Karen Noble finds that singing comforts people and lets them express themselves.

"I think singing is a great outlet for people," Noble said. "Where some people like to be outside, others can use singing to express their emotions."

Noble says the skill comes both naturally and through practice.

"Some people have the ability to hear a pitch and match it," Noble said. "But practicing allows singers to become even better."

Noble says singing coach Jeanne Gunn drives from Arlington to help students practice for UIL contests.

"She is really good at teaching students things they didn't think they could do," Noble said. "She can see potential in the students and help them. After she hears their



Junior Natalie Hayner and Senior Sydney Key (above middle) sing *Let's Settle* during a *Fandangle* practice. Junior Genevieve Stunkard practices her UIL song "*Bist Du Bei Mir*", a German soloist song, with UIL accompanist Karen Noble for the state meet on May 29. Hayner will also attend the meet.

PHOTOS BY  
 HENRY KELLY

voice, she will pick out music that fits their range and help them improve."

Noble says UIL singing has 3 classes of solos, Class 1 being the hardest.

"Class 1 is often in a foreign language," Noble said. "Juniors Natalie Hayner and Genevieve Stunkard sang Italian solos last year and German solos this year."

"It's hard to sing solos in foreign languages at first," Hayner said. "But once you learn it, it becomes lots of fun."

She prefers singing in musicals.

"I liked being in *Susical the Musical* and *Thame* because no one judges me, and we are all there because we enjoy it," Hayner said. "Plus, I like Broadway songs because that's what's easiest for me to sing and when my voice sounds best."

Hayner first began to learn to sing in the eighth grade.

"I went to a preforming arts school, and I was really bad until

they taught me not to sing through my nose," Hayner said. "Since then, I've really learned on my own after they helped me with the breathing."

Singing had always been a fun activity for Hayner before eighth grade, just not as serious.

"I liked singing before that, but I wasn't good, so I never did any performances," Hayner said. "Now, I sing in the *Fandangle* and in performances at the Aztec Theater, and in other performances because it seems fun or someone asked me to do it."

On the other side of the spectrum, Stunkard has never gotten a chance to share her singing talent with the public.

"I was asked to sing in a choir, but I couldn't because I live out of town," Stunkard said. "I hope in the future I could do it, though."

Stunkard has been expressing herself through song all of her life.

"I used to make up songs when I was little and I thought they were

good," she said. "I wanted to be a popstar like Hannah Montana, so my mom videoed me for a music video in which I sang about love."

Stunkard finds singing to be one of the activities she likes most.

"When I'm at home and no one is there, I'm always singing Billy Joel or Elton John," Stunkard said. "I've also been serenading people with *The Longest Time* lately."

While singing is sometimes a carefree activity for her, Stunkard still works to try to improve her voice.

"I'm always practicing to sing the best I can and strengthen my voice," Stunkard said. "I like to sing challenging songs like those of artist Björk since she is a robust soprano."

Stunkard plans to continue singing after high school.

"I want to study music in college," Stunkard said. "I don't even know if I will use it after, I just want to because I love singing."

# THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

BY HENRY KELLY

## Power Rangers

Attempting to stay true to the original TV show, the movie *Power Rangers* was cheesy to say the least. The fighting and some of the dialogue was a little silly, but that didn't make it unenjoyable. It was that type of movie that you don't care whether the special effects are perfect or not since that's how the old show was.

It was fun to watch, as I think back to the Saturday mornings waking up early to watch a bunch of robot teenagers do backflips and fight villains together. I felt like I was really watching the old show when I saw the movie, and that was the best part about it. The nostalgia that it brought might have made it seem better than it actually was.

It was hard to make a connection with the characters until further along in the movie, but that is better than no connection at all. The thing was, I could only relate to some of the Power Rangers. For others, I couldn't because they

were too dramatic, which got a little annoying, or tried too hard to be "tough." It took a while, but being able to root for one or two characters made the movie a lot more fun to watch.

As far as special effects go, at times it felt a little amateur, but most of the time it looked good. The visual effects helped bring the movie to life and made the fighting in *Power Rangers* a lot more exciting than a normal teenager movie. The downside is that there didn't seem to be enough of this hand-to-hand combat. We get to see them train throughout the movie, but once it's time to actually fight evil, we barely get to see the Power Rangers put their training into action.

*Power Rangers* was a fun movie that won't win any awards but will definitely bring back good memories.

It's not quite the childhood TV show remake that *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* was, but it is still exciting and a good kind of cheesy; that good kind of cheesy that made fans enjoy the original.



## Ghost in the Shell

While *Ghost in the Shell* was one of the most visually appealing films

of recent history, its story and characters seemed to be strongly influenced by other stories. I wouldn't go so far as to say stolen, but influence from movies like *Blade Runner*, *Robocop*, *G.I. Joe*, and even the book *The Giver* are very evident.

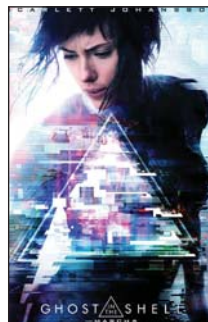
*Ghost in the Shell* wasn't short of action, that's for sure, but it definitely came up short in making viewers find an emotional connection with the characters. The movie provided a small ounce of emotional dialogue in a large cup of action tea. It focuses on quick and close combat to entice the audience which just didn't cut it. This combat was significantly more fun to watch than other action movies because it wasn't your usual human lollygagging. This was some stinkin' high-tech robo punching.

As I said earlier, the visuals of the movie might have moved it up to a mediocre Sci-Fi movie, since looking

at the set and costume designs was what I focused on the most. I still don't understand how the world could have made all these advances in technology and still drive the same old cars. Not sure if this was a mistake, but if it was on purpose, it didn't seem to help the movie at all.

Getting people into the theater because they saw Scarlett Johansson on the cover was as much as the movie could do. The use of well-known actors didn't help the film at all, and, if anything, hurt it. Because the story is based off a manga series (Japanese comics), it would have been helpful to keep the characters true to the written copy.

I feel like *Ghost in the Shell* is a few years late of being unique. It wasn't emotional or mind-blowing, and was a bit of a knockoff of movies that brought something new to the table. If you are looking for a good artificial intelligence movie, I suggest *Blade Runner* rather than *Ghost in the Shell*. It brings emotion, action, and robots all into one movie which is something *Ghost in the Shell* couldn't pull off.





# Graduates prepare to extend education, embark on new journeys

## Class of 2017 says their goodbyes

BY CAITLYN PATTERSON  
Staff Writer

With graduation coming up soon, many seniors are reflecting on time they have spent with their classmates. Most students have gone to school together since kindergarten and share many memories.

Sydney Key has a funny memory from kindergarten that involves Alexis Munden and Steven Ford.

"This one time in kindergarten, Alexis and I were playing in the puppet center and Steven Ford came up to Alexis and told her that he drew me naked in his journal," Key said. "Alexis was absolutely appalled and told me I needed to go tell the teacher."

Key now thinks the whole situation is entirely amusing.

"I'm still not sure how you can make a stick figure naked, but I told the teacher anyways, and Steven got sent to the principal's office," Key said. "It's just really funny to me because we were only in kindergarten. Honestly, what five-year-old seriously knows about nudity?"

Grant Head and his friends showcased their peculiar idea of a talent in the sixth grade.

"Roman Fuentes, Efrén Camacho, Jordan Pleasant, Luke Little, and I ate cereal for our talent at the talent show," Head said. "We literally sat at a table, got our bowls out, and ate while the song 'Milk and Cereal' played. About halfway through the song, Mr. Viertel turned down the music and yelled, 'Are you guys actually going to do anything?'"

The boys then proceeded to pour their cereal into each other's bowls until Jordan ended up with all the cereal.

"From there we stood up and bowed, then ran out the back door," Head said. "Mr. Viertel wasn't too happy with us."

Kylea Gardner had her fair share of elementary drama involving her best friend.

"In elementary school, Alexis and I were with each other every single day," Gardner said. "When we fought, it was like actual World War III. Lexi's clan would take over the playground and mine would take over the swings, spider web, and track." The fights would mostly be over boys.

"We weren't allowed to talk to anyone from the other side," Gardner said. "The worst fight we ever got into was in fifth grade when Rachel Hill moved here."

Being the new kid, Hill attempted to make friends and fit in.

"Alexis was really manipulative," Gardner said. "She conned Rachel into telling her dad, the assistant principal at the time, that I was giving students the finger and cussing in class."

Gardner was sent to the office shortly after that.

"I ended up getting three swats and having to write apology letters for something I never did," Gardner said. "I still hold a bit of a grudge for that."

Efrén Camacho had a bit of a struggle when he first moved to town.

"In third grade when I first got here, I didn't know any English at all," Camacho said. "Some of the kids tried to help me learn, but I still had some trouble."

One day during recess, Camacho decided to try out the water fountain.

"So to get it to work, you have to push the button, but I never saw the kids push the button," Camacho said. "I thought you just leaned in and the water would come out."

He headed over to the fountain and leaned forward, expecting for the water to come out.

"I kept moving my head around like an idiot trying to figure out how it worked for like two minutes," Camacho said. "I finally figured it out when I gave up and stepped away and watched this other kid go to take a drink and saw him push the button. It was so embarrassing."



### TSTC

BRECKENRIDGE, TEXAS  
Landon Meadows will attend TSTC in the fall and will study to become an EMT.



### Texas Tech

LUBBOCK, TEXAS  
Alexis Munden and Kaleigh Clevenger plan to attend Texas Tech University in the fall. Munden will major in Nursing, while Clevenger plans to attend veterinary school.



### Cisco College

ABILENE/CISCO, TEXAS  
Kelsey Bernstein, Sarah Horneck, and Logan Lloyd will attend Cisco College in the fall. Lloyd will major in Ag Education, Bernstein will earn her basics, and Horneck plans to study nursing.



### The Golf Academy of America

FARMERS BRANCH, TEXAS  
Tristan Cauble will attend the Golf Academy of America in the fall to get a business degree in course management and then work toward earning his pro card. Afterward he plans to play in small amateur tours.



## UNDECIDED

Alycia Smith, Ethen Bernstein, Efrén Camacho, Taylor Davis, Emmy Shirley, Ryan Phillips, and Bailey Ferguson.



### Hardin Simmons

ABILENE, TEXAS  
Jordan Pleasant plans to study Business Administration at Hardin Simmons this fall.



### UTI

IRVING, TEXAS  
Steven Ford, Aaron Vasquez, and Jake Green will attend the Universal Technical Institute in the fall.



### Angelo State

SAN ANGELO, TEXAS  
Michaela Reames and Kaitlyn Reddin will attend Angelo State University. Reddin will study nursing and Reames plans to major in elementary education.



### ENMU

Caleb Britting will attend Eastern New Mexico University in the fall to study Journalism and Broadcasting.



Oklahoma University  
After graduation Dustin Arellano will attend Oklahoma University in Norman, OK to study Aerospace Engineering.



### Baylor University

WACO, TEXAS  
Kylea Gardner will attend Baylor University in the fall and get her Masters Degree in Oncology Nursing.



### Tarleton State

STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS  
Abby Beard will be attending Tarleton State University in the fall. She will major in biology to become a Physical Therapist.



### Texas State

SAN MARCOS, TEXAS  
Roman Fuentes will attend Texas State University in the fall and double major in Political Science and Economics.



### Texas A&M

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS  
Grant Head, Rachel Hill, Sydney Key, and Hunter Owen will attend Texas A&M in the fall. Owen (Pre-Med) and Head (Agriculture/Range Ecology) plan to room together. Hill is majoring in Education and Key will study investigative and forensic sciences for her Pre-Law degree.



# Graduating class leaves sports legacy

## Seniors share high school memories

BY RYAN HILL  
Staff Writer

On May 26, the seniors will walk the stage for graduation, many of them leaving a part of their heart behind. A part of their heart that will be almost impossible to fill. Their achievements and their successes. Athletics.

Seniors, such as Rachel Hill, recall their favorite memories from their high school athletic career – the ones that they'll never forget.

"In my junior year at the regional track meet we competed in the mile relay in hopes of making it to state, again," Rachel Hill said. "We ended up third and only the top two go, but we knew we had a shot at the wild card."

It was a long wait that made the moment more memorable.

"It was 11:30 pm, and we had just gotten back to town and still hadn't heard results for the wild card spot," Hill said. "Finally, my dad told me the news. We had gotten the ninth place spot by two-hundredths of a second."

But just qualifying for state was only part of the memory.

"My mother and I heard the news, loaded up in the car and drove to Tobi Nall's house and picked her up," Hill said. "Then we drove to Krysten Morris's house picking her up telling her the good news. Then we ended up at Bailey Green's house, who was fresh out of the shower, hugging, jumping and crying. We were all excited about going back to State."

Hill, a two-time State qualifier, also had numerous All-District honors.

"My freshman year I got Newcomer of the Year in both volleyball and basketball," Hill said.

She earned the most recognition her sophomore year.

"During my second varsity season, I was named MVP in volleyball," Hill said. "I also got most valuable player in basketball. In track I advanced to regionals in four events, qualifying for State in two of them. At the State meet, I placed second in the 100-meter hurdles, and fourth in the 300-meter hurdles."

Senior Hunter Owen was also able to rack up numerous district awards, earning Newcomer of the Year his freshman year in basketball, and MVP his senior year. His sophomore year, he was defensive MVP in basketball as well in football. In his junior year, he was named defensive MVP, and made Big Country Super Team for football. In his final year he was overall MVP in both football and basketball, along with numerous first and second-team awards.

Jordan Pleasant, who played two varsity seasons for the football team, was a standout running back and defensive back.

"My favorite memory would have to be my junior football season," Pleasant said. "Getting to play in NRG Stadium at the highest level of high school football was the highest point in my career."

Pleasant ate up 571 yards rushing in his senior year even though the Lions only advanced to the quarterfinal round.

Standout wide receiver and sprinter Roman Fuentes had a remarkable career.

"My favorite memory would have to be medaling in the mile relay at state my junior year," Fuentes said. "We placed third, and I can't complain or ask for a better performance."

Just being part of that group of guys made Fuentes's memories even more treasurable.

"The bonds and friendships I created on the trip to the State meet can never be replaced," Fuentes said. "I created new friendships with unfamiliar faces, which is a true blessing. Strengthening relationships helps with team chemistry, and the behind-the-scenes things that are built over years of being together is what is important."

Owen, who played four varsity seasons for the football team, was a great testament to the Lions' defense.

"Getting to play in two state



Senior Hunter Owen (top) dives for a touchdown while reaching across the goal line to get the touchdown during a playoff game against Electra. The Lions played Electra in the second round of playoffs.



Senior Jordan Pleasant (top) goes up for a jump shot during a varsity boys basketball district game against Hamlin. The varsity boys finished the 2017 season as district champions. Pleasant (top right) scans the field looking for an opening during the Lions' final game against the Iraan Braves in the third round of football playoffs. Senior Rachel Hill (right) leaps into the air to spike the ball for a kill during her junior year. Hill tore her ACL her senior year during a summer league basketball game and did not recover in time for volleyball or basketball season, but did run track, and made it to regionals this year. Senior Roman Fuentes (bottom) runs to the sideline while pushing a Roscoe Plowboy defender off of him before cutting up the field for a touchdown.



championships in two different NFL stadiums was a great experience," Owen said. "We got to showcase our skills at the most watched sporting event in high school sports which makes me content with my career."

In his senior year, Owen charted 146 tackles and 18 tackles for loss.

Fuentes set big goals for his football career.

"I was able to gain many accomplishments and recognition

in football," Fuentes said. "We made deep runs in football all three years I played. But I fell short of my biggest personal goal: winning a state championship."

Yet, Fuentes was happy with what his career brought him.

"When it comes down to it, my career as an Albany Lion taught me to never be satisfied, and to always shoot for goals no matter how farfetched they seem," Fuentes said.

Owen, who played running

back and wide receiver on offense scored 22 times for the Lions in his senior year. Yet his biggest personal goal wasn't met.

"Getting to state was the top goal I had in my dreams," Owen said. "Like all of the other guys, I wanted some hardware on my finger."

Pleasant had goals for the hardwood too.

"Before my high school career ended I wanted to play in the regional basketball tournament,

and we did."

Pleasant said. "We were fortunate enough to do that twice, back to back. We lost in the first round both times, but the experience was great."

Injuries can be the worst thing an athlete has to deal with as their career goes forward.

"In the summer before my senior year I tore my ACL in a summer league basketball game," Hill said. "My only goal was to make it back for track, because I knew that I would miss volleyball, and there was only a slim chance to be back for basketball. I rehabbed my knee, and I ended up making it to regionals in track, which was a big accomplishment. I wanted to be able to medal at State in three of my events, but sometimes things don't happen the way you like."

Pleasant battled a minor injury during his sophomore football season.

"When I was a sophomore, I was chasing Harvey Hinkle around down by the track," Pleasant said. "Then he decided to go through the gate, and he slammed it behind him. The gate hit me right in the face, knocking my front tooth out. I wasn't able to play the second half of that football season, and I just got my permanent tooth put in a couple of weeks ago."

Pleasant had been wearing a retainer with a fake tooth for the past two years. When basketball ended he was able to get his permanent tooth in.

Owen had an injury the beginning of his senior year.

"I knew something wasn't right with my right knee when we started two-a-days, but I thought nothing of it," Owen said. "It was the first day of full pads when my knee hurt the most. So I finally gave in, and went to the doctor and got it checked out. It turns out that there was a small chip of bone floating around my knee. The bone chip was getting caught in my MCL, and that is what we thought was the initial problem."

Owen said that they just sucked the small bone fragment out of his knee, and gave him six weeks to recover, missing the two scrimmages and the first game of his senior year.

But while things may not have worked out as hoped, most are reconciled with the outcome.

"I have no regrets about the way my career turned out," Fuentes said. "Everything that happened in my career was beneficial in how it will help me in the long run with my character and life decisions."

Owen had similar feelings about his career.

"I honestly wouldn't change anything," Owen said. "I am content with the way that my career ended, even though we didn't win State in football like we had planned."

Pleasant said that the only thing he regrets was cherishing the moment. "I wished that I had lived in the moment and brought it all in, because before I knew it, it was all over," he said.

Hill wishes her time as an Albany Lady Lion had gone a little different.

"I wished that I would've played basketball longer," Hill said, "or tried to play more sports. I played tennis my junior and senior year, but I think I could've been better if I started my freshman year."

The senior Lions left some advice for underclassmen.

"I have learned that if you work hard, then you will be rewarded," Hill said. "Never take your talent for granted. Any given practice, game or scrimmage could be your last, so always go all out."

Owen said to cherish all the memories, because "you're never going to get them back, and before you know it, it's gone. Always be thankful for your talents and gifts," he said.

Fuentes had some parting thoughts.

"Sports are more than just a bunch of kids running around on a field or court," he said.

"Athletics teaches you character, and it prepares you for your future and aspirations. Whether it be the people you're around or the goals you set for yourself, sports will eventually be something you look back on that molded you to the person you have become."



# Mile relay wins silver at state meet

## Bernstein takes gold medal in pole vault

BY BRIAN HAMILTON  
Staff Writer

Several track and field athletes finished off their seasons by performing at the State Track Meet held at Mike A. Myers Stadium at the University of Texas on May 12-13.

The boys' team advanced in several events, including the 4x400m relay, 4x100m relay, 100m dash, triple jump, and pole vault.

"Every coach's goal is to take kids to State, but people don't realize how tough it is to get there," track coach Rod Britting said. "Whenever you can take several kids to State, it is very fulfilling."

Britting feels that this year's success comes from the success of past predecessors.

"These guys seem to be a product of tradition," he said. "They were expected to do well, so they rose to the occasion."

Senior Hunter Owen, who advanced to State in the 4x100m relay and 4x400m relay, used last year's experiences to push him to another State appearance and a hopeful medaling performance.

"I remember coming up

short last year and wanting to get back," he said. "I'm hoping to improve and have a stronger performance."

His hope was to run a better time in the 4x400m relay.

"My goal was to run my split in the mile relay at a low 51-second or high 50-second," Owen said. "I'm close to my goal and with the two weeks of preparation before State, I hope to shave my time down to around a 50 second split."

Pole vaulter and senior Ethen Bernstein, who won the regional track meet with a jump of 15-01 and placed second at the State meet last year with a jump of 15-0, remembers how close he was to winning State in his event last year.

"I'm just trying to repeat what I did last year," Bernstein said. "I got beat on misses last year, so it helps motivate me since I was that close to winning it all."

Bernstein shattered the school record with a jump of 16-0 at state, winning the gold medal.

"Throughout the season I've been trying to break the school record which is 15-03," he said. "I jumped 15-01 at the regional meet, and met my goal to bump that up to 16-0 at the state meet."

Aside from Owen and Bernstein, senior Roman Fuentes was also motivated for the State meet.

"After performing so poorly

Sophomore Cameron Dacus (left) receives the baton from senior Jordan Pleasant (right) during the 4x400m relay at the regional track meet in Odessa. The relay went on to win second at the state meet in Austin last Saturday.

PHOTO BY  
RYAN HILL



last year at the State Track Meet, I pushed myself more to be able to compete better this year," Fuentes said. "Also, my great teammates helped me tremendously by holding me accountable at practice to become a better runner."

Fuentes wanted both the 4x100m and 4x400m relays to advance to state along with himself in the 100m dash. He took the bronze medal in the 100 meter dash.

"I wanted to medal at state in all three events," Fuentes said. "We almost got there, taking

fourth in the sprint relay."

Britting recognizes that the seniors have impacted the track program.

"There were three seniors on each of the relays and two who advanced in individual events," Britting said. "The seniors set the bar very high and will be difficult to replace. They are a special group of guys and I love their competitive spirits."

The girls side of the track season fell just short of a State appearance, but they had to overcome obstacles along with having several young runners.

"Not getting to State was frustrating," junior Baley Green said. "But we'll have a strong team next year, and hopefully we will be able to make it to Austin."

Senior Rachel Hill persevered to come back from a torn ACL and lateral meniscus, as well as a bone chipped patella, which all struck her while playing summer basketball last year.

"I got set back a little bit and wasn't able to get started in track until early February," Hill said. "My rehab was centered around getting back to track."

# Lions advance closer to top spot

## Team sets eyes on state baseball tournament

BY CUTTER COWART  
Staff Writer

The baseball team advanced into playoffs after winning district with a record of 9-1.

The team faced San Saba two weeks ago in the first round of playoffs. The Lions defeated Armadillos by a score of 10 to 4 at McMurry University. Albany also faced McCamey a week ago in the second round of playoffs. The Lions beat the Badgers, 6-0 and 17-2.

The Lions are facing Anson in a regional quarterfinal series that started yesterday at ACU.

Dax Neece, a junior, is hopeful for a long playoff run.

"The only way we're going to get there is by practicing harder," Neece said. "Overall, I need to work on everything, especially in being confident when hitting."

The Lions lost several seniors off the 2016 team and needed players to step up.



Sophomore Joshua Dyer makes contact with the ball during the area playoff game two weeks ago against McCamey. The Lions competed in a best of three series, winning the first two games to advance.

PHOTO BY  
PARKER MOON

"The thing that is different about this team from last year is that we had to replace the seniors that left," Neece said. "The people that have done that have really stepped up, and some have had to play positions they've never had to before. It took time for the team to adjust, but I feel as if we

could go really far."

Kelton Parker, a junior, is hoping to improve during the playoffs.

"Since district is over I'm focusing on bettering myself when it comes to hitting," Parker said. "I'm going to take a lot more reps in the cages and focus on my

technique."

The Lions have struggled finding time for practices scheduled for everyone to be there.

"The challenges that we've had so far is trying to get good practices when we have everyone at practice," coach David Fairchild said. "In a small school everyone is involved in a bunch of extra-curricular activities. The key is to make them get their baseball workouts in. We've struggled with this in the past so they should know."

This year, UIL changed the pitch count rule to 110 pitches in a series.

"This change won't affect us in the playoffs," Fairchild said. "It will actually benefit us because everyone will get 110 pitches in a series. It benefits us when we play a series a week."

This season, district play was more compact and quick.

"I thought our cramped district helped us out," Fairchild said. "It gave us more time to prepare before district. Last year we came out of basketball and played a district game immediately. This year we had two weeks to prepare for district, which allowed us to get into a baseball mentality."

The Lions are hopeful for a long run in the playoffs.

"The things we need to work on for playoffs are eliminating all the big plays," Fairchild said. "We also need to continue to hit the ball and stay disciplined at the plate. We also need to continue our great pitching, but we need to improve practically all around on offense and defense."

Roman Fuentes a senior, is happy with his team this season.

"I feel like we've had a lot of young players step up and fill in positions that we lost," Fuentes said. "We've been a fundamentally sound team for the most part."

Fuentes wants to improve his hitting going into playoffs.

"I would like to improve on hitting and making solid contact," Fuentes said. "I'm going to practice and get more reps in the cage all while focusing on technique."

Fuentes is hoping for a chance at the state title.

"We've had to rely on a lot of new pitching," he said. "Newer players have had to step in and play positions they aren't used to, but all have the same goal at the end of the day. We want to make a deep playoff run and hopefully contend for a state title."

# Lady Lions falls short in playoffs

## Team loses to Archer City in first round

BY PARKER MOON  
Sports Editor

The Lady Lions came up short in the playoffs when they had to meet up with Archer City in the bi-district playoff game. Albany was the third place team from District 7-2A, while the Lady Wildcats were second in District 8-2A.

"Meeting up with the best district in the state is something that we are going to have to deal with," head coach Jimmy Fuentes said. "It's been this way for the past four years. We need to put in more time in the off-season than we normally do because we know the first round is going to be tough."

Fuentes faced somewhat of a learning curve this season.

"With such a young team, it was kind of a learning curve for me," Fuentes said. "The girls

picked up fast, though, and the new freshmen contributed a lot during the off-season, so there wasn't a whole lot of a transition. They just had to learn our terminology and get used to playing with the girls who have been here for a couple of seasons."

Fuentes said that having to teach the basics of the game actually didn't slow the team down.

"If you're not a softball coach year-round, then you have to expect a little bit of a crash course at the beginning of every season," Fuentes said. "There's also a lot of fundamental you wish you had time for but don't, so it's a little faster-paced. We either have to skip them or work through them quickly while the season is going."

Fuentes said he was pleased with how the freshmen responded after being thrown right into the heat of the moment early in the season, giving him high hopes for next year.

"Next year is the year that I have circled for about three years," Fuentes said. "I anticipate this upcoming season will be the

one we get back to claiming a district championship since we will finally have a veteran team."

There are some upcoming freshmen who Fuentes believes will be able to contribute to the team's success after they make at least one adjustment.

"We need consistency," Fuentes said. "We have to have that to beat the teams we are supposed to beat and play the way we are supposed to—game in and game out. We can't have any games where we show up and don't perform. We had too many of those games this year. The girls know my expectations now, and I think they will handle those situations better."

One freshman who made major contributions this season was Aubrey Moon.

"I haven't seen a freshman season like that since Kelli Schkade," Fuentes said. "Aubrey's performance might have been better. That's saying a lot because Kelli was probably the best player to ever come through this program. Aubrey had a pretty outstanding freshman year."



Junior Baley Green catches a ball while on the run right before she falls to the ground during their final game against Archer City. The Lady Lions lost to the Wildcats 14-1 in Grafard. Archer City is part of District 8-2A, which typically has a team advance to the state tournament each year. PHOTO BY PARKER MOON



## "ILPC"

Continued from | PG 1

"Most of what I learned at ILPC would have been beneficial this year rather than in the future," she said. "I am planning on getting on staff at Baylor. There was a session by Bobby Hawthorne that talked about being a good editor, and I want to take what I learned there and use it in the future."

Entertainment editor Henry Kelly was the lone staff writer who won a Tops in Texas this year.

To get a Tops in Texas, a first place in the Individual Achievement Award for a specific category is required. Then all the first place entries are judged again to determine the single best entry from Class A through 6A.

"Last year we won four Tops in Texas, and they had not called out anyone from Albany yet this year until Entertainment page design," Kelly said. "I was just super happy to get the Tops in Texas because of how rare it is for a 2A school to beat out all the bigger schools. I had a lot of help from Rachel Hill with the photos."

Kelly won the top Entertainment Page Design. Albany students brought a total of 25 gold medals, 19 silver and 9 bronze in

Individual Achievement Awards for Class 2A.

## "Summer"

Continued from | PG 1

"I like the curriculum that is used," Sanders said. "It's easy to use, and I didn't have any problems with it."

Senior Steven Ford is very thankful for the option of summer school.

"My sophomore year I just kind of gave up and ended up not getting my science credit," Ford said. "Because of summer school I was given the opportunity to earn the credit."

Summer school is a second chance for many students.

"Summer school taught me a lot of things I didn't learn freshman year," sophomore Colton Box said. "I was able to work at my own pace, and that really made a difference. Without this opportunity I wouldn't have been able to complete the course and stay with my class."

## "Changes"

Continued from | PG 1

really supports and strives to help the students," Morales said. "My main goals are to be sure to follow and enforce

the school policy and student code of conduct, and maybe introduce a couple STEM or early college classes."

Along with a new principal, a new science teacher will be hired.

"We've received a resignation from Mr. Mumm," Fields said. "He's going to try to teach in Abilene so he doesn't have to make the long commute anymore."

Librarian Karen Noble will be retiring at the end of this school year after 32 years of teaching and being librarian.

"We're trying to decide how to configure Mrs. Noble's position since she's librarian but also does some other duties," Fields said. "On the elementary side, we don't have any personnel changes, and we don't anticipate any."

Noble has been librarian at Albany for 16 years, where she previously taught English and business classes.

"I started out being a librarian part-time and an English/business teacher part-time, so I would spread myself out through the day," Noble said. "Later on, we hired another English teacher, and I was still teaching a couple computer classes on the library computers. After that it became strictly library."

Albany has been a real blessing for Noble ever since she first moved here with her family, she said.

"After three years living in Albany, while teaching in Breckenridge, I was offered a job at Albany," Noble said. "My oldest daughter was starting kindergarten, so it gave me the opportunity to work in the same town as my children went to school. The school has always been really, really good to me and I'm just happy to have had this opportunity to be here and experience the Albany community."

Over the years, Noble has loved making the library a 'safe place' for any and all students.

"I just like to make myself available to listen to the kids," Noble said. "I like the library to be a place where they can come without feeling pressured to perform or to be a certain way. I enjoy talking to the kids and just letting them be themselves."

After retirement, travelling, the world is in Noble's future.

"I have a daughter who's a flight attendant, so that gives me a lot of opportunities to go different places," Noble said. "I love my job, and it's not that I can't do my job, but I'm just ready to do something else."

## WHAT'S HAPPENING!

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY		
19 Girls Basketball Shootout, 5:00pm		
20 Girls Basketball Shootout, 9:00am		
20 Progressive Dinner 5:00pm		
21 Baccalaureate 7:00pm		
22 Finals Day 1, 8:00am		
23 Finals Day 2, 8:00am		
24 Finals Day 3, 8:00am		
25 6th Six Weeks Ends		
26 Graduation Practice, 10:00am		
26 Graduation, 7:00pm		

JUNE		
3 SAT Testing		
5 Summer school begins, 9:00am – 1:00pm		
10 ACT Testing		
12 Morning workouts - boys/girls, 7:00am		
19 EOC retest window opens: Alg I, Biology, US History		
19 EOC English I Retest		
20 STAAR 8th grade math Retest		
21 EOC English 2 Retest		
21 STAAR Reading Retest		
23 EOC retest window closes: Alg I, Biology, US History		
30 Summer school ends, 9:00am – 1:00pm		

JULY		
7 Girl's Morning workouts - Ends		
21 Boy's Morning workouts - Ends		

AUGUST		
1 Volleyball Two-a-days Begin, 8:00am		
4 Volleyball scrimmage vs. Clyde, 9:00am		
5 Volleyball JV tournament @ Dublin, 8:00am		
5 Volleyball Scrimmage vs. Breckenridge, 9:00am		
7 Football Two-a-days Begin, 8:00am		
8 Volleyball @ ACS, 12:00pm		
10-12 Albany Volleyball Tournament		
15 Volleyball open, 1:00pm		
16 School begins, 8:00am		

# Zuniga looks to new life adventure

## Visually impaired student to attend school for blind

BY GENEVIEVE STUNKARD  
Features Editor

Freshman Ivie Zuniga is, with some difficulty, capable of doing most everything teenagers do. Despite having to bring her face within mere inches of each page to read it, despite having to wear glasses as thick as old-timey coke bottles, and despite the fact that she lives every day of her life knowing that, one day, her world will go black and she'll never see another sunset, Ivie faces life with courage and vigor, taking full advantage of every opportunity to make her life the beautiful ideal she has always dreamed it could be, regardless of being visually impaired.

That is why she will attend the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Austin for the next two years. In order to prepare for the day her vision leaves her completely, Ivie will learn how to perform necessary life tasks blind, including how to navigate a city, how to read using braille, and how to apply makeup, do her hair, and take care of herself, as well as some additional skills, such as how to play guitar, how to do yoga, and artistic skills.

"I've always asked myself 'Are you having a life or are you living a life?'" Zuniga said. "Well, I think going to the school will finally give me the opportunity to live my life instead of just having it. I'll finally have the chance to live life at a pace comfortable for me, without having to sacrifice my dreams."

And Ivie has an abundance of dreams she hopes to see come true in her lifetime—many more than most people with 20/20 vision.

"Going to the school to learn the skills I need for life in a controlled environment will be good to prepare me for college, I think," Ivie said. "I want to study music, literature, art—a little bit of everything, like a liberal arts degree. I want to write fiction and be an architect and a fashion consultant and an



Above, Ivie Zuniga poses for a photo with her younger sister, Lizzie (left), and her twin sister, Alyssa (right). Ivie practices (left photo) reading braille prior to attending the Texas School for the Blind in Austin next fall. The freshman is transferring to the specialized school to learn life skills for her condition.

PHOTOS BY GENEVIEVE STUNKARD

interior designer, and I think going to TSBVI will let me do those things in the future, seeing how they have a lot of different types of artistic classes. It's awesome."

Zuniga says she imagines living at the boarding school will be somewhat like living in an apartment in the big city—self-reliant and surrounded by opportunity.

"For me, what I think is most exciting is that I'll be able to be more independent," Ivie said. "I like to feel capable of doing whatever I want or need to do on my own."

However, Ivie feels she will be heartbroken, at least for a little while, about being separated from her mother, Crystal Tedford and twin sister, Alyssa

Zuniga, who is also visually impaired, but will not lose her vision completely like Ivie. She will be able to visit her mother and sister every weekend and during the summer, but still says she will miss them.

"I can't find the right word to describe such a deep hurt in your heart," Ivie said. "Like an aching for a long time. 'Lyssa is staying behind and will keep going to school in Albany because she doesn't feel like she needs the same help that I do. We're kind of opposites that way. I see it less like getting help because my vision is getting worse and more like a chance to finally become my own person and seek the opportunities I need to accomplish what I want to. I don't see any shame

in admitting that I need help to get where I want to be."

Alyssa is also excited about finally having the opportunity to grow as an individual in her sister's absence, saying the time apart could be good for them.

"Over the course of our lives we've relied on each other a little too much," Alyssa said. "I guess it'd be good for us to be a little more independent. I'm kind of upset that she's leaving, because she's my best friend and it'll be lonely without her. I just think when she's gone I'm going to want to talk to her so bad, but she won't be there beside me. But I trust her decision, and I just want her to do what will make her happiest."

Seventh grader Lizzie Chavez, Ivie's little sister,

dreams that Ivie will finally be growing up to be an adult who does grown-up things like go grocery shopping and work at Starbucks once she turns 16 in Austin.

"But things are going to be so different without her," Lizzie said. "Even if she can't see good, she's the one who really cleans and makes my mom her coffee in the mornings just because she likes to. That's why I think she'll work at Starbucks, because she's so good at making coffee, and so I don't know what my mom's going to do without her, because Ivie's a pro and my mom won't know how to make coffee as good as she can. I'm just going to miss her so much."

Ivie's mother was initially surprised when she presented a report of her copious research on the school for the blind, but then realized attending the school would be the best thing for her ambitious daughter.

"They've already struggled so much to keep up with their grades, no matter how hard they work," Tedford said. "They do keep up their grades, but they're exhausted. I'm scared about her being so far away, but I just tell myself that I'm willing to do whatever I can to do what's best for my daughter, and I can't teach her how to live a life blind. I can teach her everything else, but I can't teach her that. It's taken me 15 years to accept the fact that I can't help her with everything. I finally had to take a step back and realize that she needs help beyond her mama."

Ivie believes the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired will be like a paradise for her and others with similar conditions, with a massive braille library and extremely vivid décor to stand out against its white walls.

"I've already begun to practice braille," Ivie said. "I'm excited about not having to strain my eyes and to truly be able to enjoy a book. I really want to learn how to work every tool there is for the visually impaired and take full advantage of every opportunity I have, and there will be endless possibilities with what I can do when I receive an education from TSBVI. At a normal school, everything is too fast-paced and I don't have the tools I need to do anything I really want to do. That's going to change for me."