



THE LIONS ROAR

"Lion pride in print"

Friday, November 6, 2015

ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL

ALBANY, TEXAS 76430

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 2



Twins battle visual disability



Alyssa and Ivie Zuniga discuss challenges that accompany impaired vision. — See page 5

Scream Team supports athletes



Members share what scream team is all about and why they enjoy it. — See page 4

Lions enter playoff race

With another district title under their belts, the Lions head into the playoffs with an undefeated record in district. — See page 7

Briefs

Society adds new members

Thirteen students were inducted into the National Honor Society on Sunday, October 18, in the auditorium.

In order to be considered for NHS membership, a student must maintain a 90 or above GPA and be evaluated by an anonymous faculty committee based on character, scholarship, leadership and community service.

Officers this year include: Curry Wilson, president; Drew Neece, vice president; Tobi Nall, secretary; Lori Davis, treasurer; Savannah Perez, reporter.

New inductees this year are Dustin Arellano, Abbi Beard, Kaleigh Clevenger, Michael Cotter, Kylea Gardner, Rachel Hill, Sydney Key, Michaela Reames, Alexis Munden, Hunter Owen, Ryan Phillips, Jordan Pleasant, and Kaitlyn Reddin.

All members are required to earn a minimum of six community service hours each semester.

Royalty presented

This year's homecoming parade was held Oct. 10, with the senior class taking first place, followed by the sophomores in second, juniors in third and the freshmen placing fourth. This year's floats represented states. The junior high was given the Judge's Choice Award for their entry highlighting the state of New York.

Later that night at the game, Curry Wilson was crowned as homecoming queen, along with Tyler Miller as king. Other class prince and princesses included juniors Jordan Pleasant and Emmy Shirley, sophomores Henry Kelly and Rylie Scott, and freshmen Payne Hebel and Jillian Guinn. Others presented at the half were FFA beau and sweetheart, Roman Fuentes and Abbi Beard; football escort and sweetheart Alex Faith and Sydney Key. FCCLA sweetheart was Jessica Vega; and band sweetheart and beau McKenna Thompson and Jake Green.



Scan QR code to lead to the SchoolWay app which can be used for both iPhone or Android.

Theater arts improves skills

"Art To Go" used by students

BY PARKER MOON
Staff Writer

A new junior high theater class has been busy with an expanded curriculum this year. The new class, taught by Ginger Bartee, is designed to help students improve skills for One Act Play competition later in the fall.

Being a somewhat new teaching assignment for her, Bartee attended a theater arts workshop in Abilene at the ESC Service Center during August.

"I am new to theater arts," Bartee said. "The workshop gave me ideas of how my class could be set up both for the six weeks and the yearly."

One idea she is using is to have students design and create paper and tape costumes, then they model them for the class.

"The purpose is to teach the elements of design and explore new costumes," Bartee said. "They will also have to write a paper about the costume they created."

Another project will include sound effects in the theater. Students will watch the movie *Finding Nemo* and then try to recreate them.

During the first six weeks, Art To Go was

introduced to the class. The program was created by the Old Jail Arts Center and led by Mary Burk, the outreach director. Burk coordinates with teachers to present a lesson and then create an art project.

"So far this year she has taught a lesson on puppetry," Bartee said. "Later this semester, she is going to be coming back to teach students how to create a set for a play production."

Art To Go reaches out to schools in a 50 mile radius, including Abilene, Eastland, Comanche, Graham, Stamford, Cisco, Clyde, Wylie, Throckmorton, Moran, Lueders, and Breckenridge.

"We see over 1,000 students a month from



Theater Arts teacher Ginger Bartee (middle) reads over a script with her junior high class. The purpose of the class is to improve students' acting before the junior high One Act Play competition in the fall. PHOTO BY PARKER MOON

different schools," Burk said.

"Each month has a set theme that we try to incorporate with the class."

The inspiration for the lessons come from the museum's collections

SEE "THEATER" Pg. 8

Council busy with worthy events

Projects fill up calendar for students

BY HENRY KELLY
Entertainment Editor

The Student Council had a busy agenda for the fall, including a pair of projects to raise money for local youth-related charities.

Most of the 37 members of the organization dressed up in ghoulish costumes last week to go door-to-door in an effort to raise money for the Albany Chest and the 20 local organizations it funds. The council members raised close to \$1,000, after breaking up in teams to canvass the city.

"I enjoy Trick-or-treat for Change because I love getting to dress up," junior Abbi Beard said. "It is also great because I get to spend time with friends while helping out



Student council members Rachel Hill (left) and Sarah Rogers decorate two posters for Red Ribbon Week which took place Oct. 26-30. These posters, along with several others, were displayed in the junior high and high school hallways to promote a drug free message to students. The Student Council also participated in Trick-or-treat for Change on Oct. 28. All of the proceeds were given to the Albany Chest. PHOTO BY HENRY KELLY

local organizations."

While many of the members are veterans, several newcomers were added this year, along

with a new slate of officers.

"I think we have a good group with great representation for each

grade," council president Lori Davis said. "I'm looking forward to a great year with the new members."

Being part of the Student Council can be very helpful when filling out

SEE "COUNCIL" Pg. 8

College entrance tests redesigned

Exams to undergo changes in March

BY RACHEL HILL
Copy Editor

The SAT and ACT college entrance exams are one way to get colleges to notice a student and their academic potential.

"Colleges will want to know a student's class rank, GPA and college entrance scores," counselor Dee Dee Waggoner said. "However, there is no uniform rule that each school district must follow to calculate the rank and GPA; they set their own policy. We base ours on core classes, so it isn't an apples to apples comparison."

Waggoner advises students to take the tests.

"The SAT and ACT tests give a true comparison because it is an across-the-board test, which makes it even more important to have the scores for college applications," Waggoner said.

There are several opportunities for students to prepare for the entrance tests.

"Students can go online and explore ACT and SAT preparations that include apps, emails, books and DVDs," Waggoner said.

Waggoner will be administering tests for any students that are interested.

"I gave the ACT on October 24," Waggoner said. "I will also be administering three upcoming SAT tests that will be on Dec. 5, March 5, and May 7. Students can also choose to take tests in Abilene, Breckenridge and Eastland."

However, the SAT will

be undergoing changes that are set to come out in March.

"I really advise the students to wait until March for the SAT," Waggoner said. "If students need or want any more information on these changes, they can go to www.collegereadiness.collegeboard.org."

The SAT will now have an optional writing section, along with vocabulary that will be used in context.

"Whether students take the ACT or SAT, I advise them to take the test with the writing section at least once," Waggoner said. "This allows colleges to get a look at the student's writing score. After that, students are free to opt out of writing."

Both tests have several curriculums that are tested, including math, English and science.

The SAT used to be very vocabulary-heavy,"



Counselor Dee Dee Waggoner (left) discusses tips for the ACT with senior Michael Cotter. Cotter has taken the test four times to improve his score. PHOTO BY RACHEL HILL

Waggoner said. "Now, it no longer consists of analogies, but has more of the vocabulary in context."

The SAT and ACT are two very different tests.

"The students need to go into the tests they take knowing what to expect," Waggoner said.

Senior Michael Cotter has taken the test four times, improving his score

by two points.

"The more times you see the testing format, the easier it gets," Cotter said. "When colleges see that you are improving throughout each test, they know you are working toward a higher goal. It's only worth retaking if you study and make your score better."

SEE "TESTS" Pg. 8

Editorials

Trouble with phones

In today’s society, many adults and students consider cellphones to be their most prized possession. It often takes priority over having face-to-face conversations with friends and family, and causes people to miss the things going on around them.

Texting, Facetime, social media, and many other smart phone programs are causing people to care more about what’s going on where they’re not instead of enjoying where they are. Texting other people or checking Instagram and Snapchat has become more important than talking to friends. Being on the phone causes people to miss a lot of what is happening around them, and that is something that you can’t get back.

Cellphones have also hurt this generation’s ability to have conversations with adults. Many teenagers fear talking to an adult in person because of how popular texting has become. Students text for convenience because it is quick and easy. However, when the phone is put away, actual conversations prove to be very difficult. Communication skills are very important in life, and the only way they will get better is to put the phone down and have a real conversation.

Being on the phone all the time is also rude. It portrays the image that people care more about what is happening on the tiny rectangular screen than what the people around them have to say. The whole point of being around other people is to have conversations with them, not be on the phone.

Many people say that they are always on their phone because they need to know what’s going on and stay informed. However, text messages and Tweets aren’t going anywhere. The only thing that might be missed is the conversation happening right in front of you.

No one is going to look back on his life and wish that he would have spent more time with his phone. Put the phone down and talk to the people you’re with. It will be much more rewarding.

Fans should stay positive

Sports fans are a big part of any game’s atmosphere. Fans can either offer encouraging words to the athletes and cheer them on to a victory, or they can complain to the officials and yell obnoxious comments throughout the event, distracting the players.

Fans are supposed to attend sporting events to support the players. Instead, many end up distracting and embarrassing the team, and leave a bad impression about our school and community.

The main role as a fan is to support the team, but many fans end up doing just the opposite. Just as positive cheers and chants can lift a player’s spirits, negative comments can bring them down and distract them from the task at hand. Yelling at the other team or the referees is unnecessary because it won’t change anything. Once the call is made, it won’t change because of complaining. The only thing being affected is your team.

Constant shouting is also embarrassing to those around you. People don’t want to sit by someone who is going to be obnoxious throughout the whole game, and it can be embarrassing to friends and family.

Loud fans also reflect poorly on a town. Even though it may only be a few people who are harassing the officials and the other team, they end up representing the whole town and sending a negative message to others.

Fans are supposed to support the teams and cheer them on to a victory. Shouting at the referees or the other team won’t change anything. The old saying applies to sports fans today: If you can’t say something good, don’t say anything at all.



THE
LIONS ROAR
ILPC 2014 Gold Star Winner
ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL

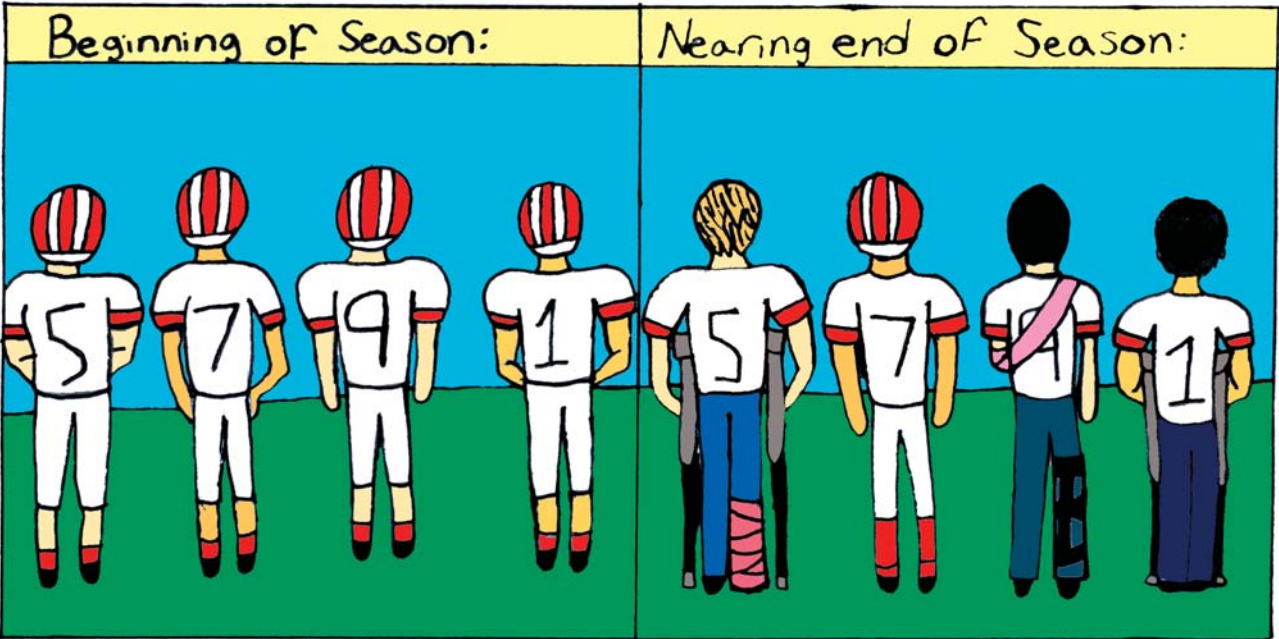
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Leaving behind a legacy

Every day there are millions of thoughts that go through my head ranging from “What am I going to eat for dinner tonight?” to “I wonder how we could accomplish world peace?” But one single question that has been constantly running through my mind the past few weeks has simply been, “When I am gone from this place for good, what kind of legacy will I leave behind?” In all honesty, I can’t say that I have ever struggled with a question more in my life, and I feel as though there are others who feel the same.

So many people live their whole lives being hateful, bitter and cynical toward life, love, and happiness, and at the end of the day, all that there is to remember about that individual is that they were genuinely unhappy. I can truly say that ending up as one of those people terrifies me more than anything else in the world. When I get to the end of my time here at AHS, and even the end of my time on earth, I want to be known for more than just running around in the end-zone at football games with a group of crazy people that call themselves “Scream Team” (although it is pretty amazing to be a part of it to be honest) or writing a column in my school newspaper (also wonderful).



GARDNER SEEDS
by KYLEA GARDNER

There are so many people who think that being the best at a sport or being able to have a 4.0 GPA is all there is to life. While both of those things are awesome, neither one will even slightly matter in the grand scheme of things. I can promise you that when you are 50 years old, no one is going to remember that you were the most popular person in your grade or that you dated that varsity football player that all your friends had a crush on your sophomore year.

Similarly, I can also promise you that while they might not remember your GPA or the car you drove, every single person will be able to remember the way you acted and the way you treated them.

If you were a nightmare to be around throughout high school, people will remember. If you were the kindest soul that stepped foot in the high school, people will remember that too. The way you made people feel and the way you conducted yourself speaks much louder than how many possessions you had or how many followers you had on Instagram...trust me.

Ultimately, you have complete control of your destiny and the legacy you will leave...it’s all up to you.

Everything is not as it seems

On the first day of my freshman year, I was swimming through the halls excited to start my high school career. As time passed, I was up to my head with homework, projects, and reviews for tests. And being involved in sports and extra curricular activities didn’t help either.

Lugging my backpack down the hall filled with books that seemed like 500 pounds, I looked up and saw a group of seniors. They looked so relaxed and carefree, like they were never assigned homework or had to study for eight tests a week. A glowing aura surrounded them like an angel. I longed to be them, and I envied their stress-free lives. From then on, I made myself endure the hardships of school just so I could have a relaxed senior year.

Sophomore year came, and it was the same routine. Get up at 6:30 a.m., get ready for school, go to school, try to learn material that I would probably forget the next day, go to work, study till 10:30, and then finally go to sleep.

After surviving my sophomore year, I couldn’t wait to start my junior year.

Going into my junior year, I was expecting to have an easier schedule since I doubled up on some of my classes. Little did I know that was not the case.



REDHEADED RANTS
by CURRY WILSON

Junior year was the hardest year of my high school career. On top of homework, I had to start my college applications. Applying for and taking the SAT and ACT took up several weekends.

I stayed up later in the night, and I rose with the sun. I had bags on top of bags under my eyes; my hair looked like it was a rat’s nest, and I wore sweats everyday to school. I thought I would never make it to the end. But I somehow managed to make it through and crossed the finish line.

Summer came and went, and I could not wait to start my senior year! I was finally to the point where I could be like the seniors that I saw my freshman year, or so I thought.

Yes, senior year is more laid back, but there is more than meets the eye. Applying for college and scholarships is very time-consuming and strenuous. I always thought that I would barely have any homework or that I wouldn’t have to study for tests as much. But everything is never as it seems, so take it from me.

Yes, senior year is more relaxed, but not as relaxed as you think it might be. You still have homework assignments, tests, and school projects. So don’t get caught up in a fantasy about being a senior because it’s harder than you think.

Number of knee injuries on the rise

In a new era of football, changes seem to be made every day. New extra point distances, new rules protecting receivers’ and quarterbacks’ heads, and new playing surfaces. However, one thing that can’t be changed about the game is the violence. With an incredible rise of knee injuries at all levels of football, players and trainers are looking for the cause.

Through research I have found that there are three major causes for the incredible number of injuries over the past few seasons. The first of these is the new technology that has been developed to make the game faster, most notably the improved cleat and playing surface. All the cleat companies compete for the lightest, best looking cleat with the best cutting ability (longer cleats). When you combine these with the new field turfs that allow little to no movement on cuts, you set up players’ knees for dangerous situations.

To top this off, the newer, lighter cleats provide much less stability than the older, heavier versions. Many of the more serious knee injuries, are a result of the ankle rolling over and the knee following.

The possible second cause is the new type of offenses that more teams are switching to: a spread-type offense that



MIKE’S MOMENTS
by MICHAEL COTTER

spreads the players from sideline to sideline. These offenses run on high speed and quick cuts, requiring both the lineman and skilled backs on both sides to play fast. The main goal is to hit short dinky passes in the flats and across the middle, allowing for hard cuts and hard hits.

The third and final reason is actually the plethora of new rules which prohibit almost all head to head contact. Players can now even be ejected from a game if the referees think that a player purposely tried to target an opponent’s head. Any helmet-to-helmet contact with a quarterback is an automatic ‘roughing the passer’ foul. Although these new restrictions have slightly reduced the number of concussions, they are forcing defensive players to aim lower. The amount of helmet-to-knee contact has increased significantly over the past few years. Even though most of the knee injuries come from the twisting or bending of the knee, contact has also put many players on the sideline.

I believe that knee injuries are just part of this violent sport. While knee braces can help to keep player’s knees safe, there is no real solution that provide complete protection of any body part when playing the rough game of football.



2¢ worth

What kind of music do you like to listen to and why?

“I like R&B because it is very soothing and relaxing.”
Derek Isbell
Freshman



“I like classical music because it calms me down.”
Elise Brown
Sophomore



I like Texas country music because it makes me remember my heritage.”
Grant Head
Junior



“I like country music because there is always a song for whatever mood I’m in.”
Sarah Rogers
Senior



Students convey importance of music

Musical tastes vary, preferences expressed

BY GENEVIEVE STUNKARD
Features Editor

It has been said that music has a power unlike anything else to bring people together in a very human, personal way, forming connections far deeper than words alone can. Music has the ability to remind people of milestones in their lives, such as childhood, relationships, friendships, and more. Some people favor a specific genre of music, some are passionate about a certain artist, and some love so many different types of music that it's impossible to pick a favorite. Music is a large part of human culture and personal identity. Sophomore Natalie Hayner says music plays a great role in human expression.

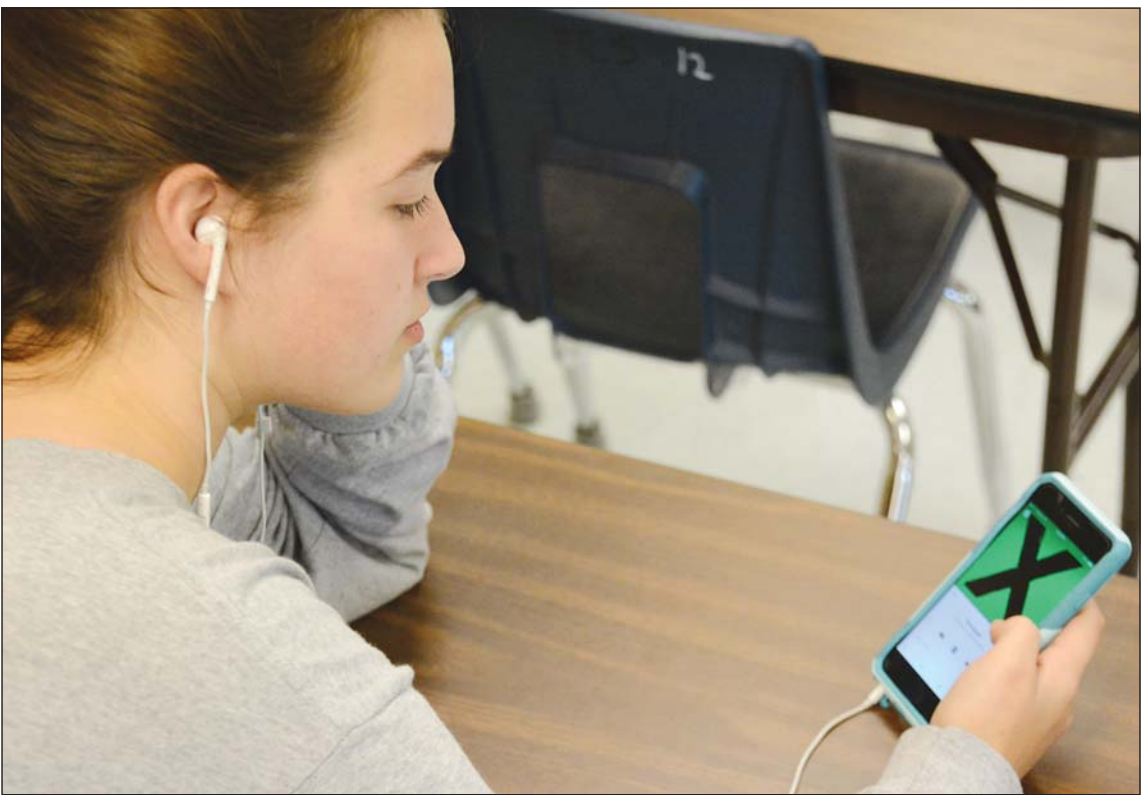
"I believe that utilizing music is one of the most important things people can do," Hayner said. "Music is an outlet for a lot of people and is crucial to some people's everyday life. Without music, life would be mundane and a lot less meaningful."

Hayner, who says she mostly listens to 90's rock and artists with independent styles, believes music can strongly affect and change people's lives.

"Music has impacted me immensely," Haynersaid. "I went to a school that was centered around it. I use music to freely express myself, and when I went to my old school (Texas School of the Performing Arts), it's what I majored in. It really allowed me to come out of my shell and show people how I really feel inside."

Sophomore McKenna Thompson also claims that music has always been an important part of her life.

"Ever since I was little, I've had a deep love for it," Thompson said. "I am constantly humming, singing along in my head, turning my desk



Sophomore Natalie Hayner enjoys music on her phone during a break in class. Most students store music on their phones or computers, downloading songs from iTunes or listening to music on apps. Music preferences can lead to arguments about favorite musical genre. PHOTO BY GENEVIEVE STUNKARD

into a drum, or dancing to music that isn't really playing. I believe music makes you the person you are, and can impact the way you speak, act, dress, and behave. Without music, I feel as if everyone would be extremely similar and conformed."

However, it is not uncommon for people to experience an intolerance towards their music tastes. Commonly referred to as "music shaming," this act of criticism towards others for having musical preferences that differ from one's own often generates self-confidence issues.

"I hear people criticize others for their taste in music all the time," Hayner said. "Recently, I had a friend tell me that my music tastes were trivial compared to hers. It didn't affect our friendship all that much, but I'm a lot more self-conscious talking about anything musical around her now."

Senior Cason Asher says he has also noticed frequent taunt-

ing when it comes to the subject of music.

"There is definitely a lot of 'music shaming' going on, not necessarily just on campus, but in the world in general," Asher said. "I think that people shouldn't worry about what other people listen to and should keep an open mind. Music serves as a way of individualism and self-expression, while still being a very social platform to help people find others with like-minds and similar interests. It's supposed to bring us together."

Asher, like Hayner, says he favors music with an unconventional sound.

"I listen to a broad spectrum of different genres, but my favorite would have to be alternative rock," Asher said. "I love alternative because of how much freedom the artists have to shape the genre in a way that fits them, allowing each artist to have a distinct style."

Hayner believes certain alternative rock artists often bear the brunt

of ridicule in the music world.

"I hear a lot of judgment being passed on bands such as My Chemical Romance, Panic! At the Disco, and bands like Of Mice and Men," Hayner said. "I don't like hearing people's music being trashed. It may not be my taste, but I know that those kinds of bands have helped a lot of people cope with their own personal situations and have really made an impact on their lives."

Thompson agrees. "I went through a phase of being obsessed with hard rock music in junior high, and I was teased quite a bit for it," Thompson said. "To this day, I still don't understand why people ridicule others for liking certain types of music. Everyone should have the right to listen to whatever music they choose without being harassed about it."

While junior Alycia Smith also claims to believe that no one should be condemned for their personal preferences, she disagrees that alternative rock withstands the

harshest criticism.

"My friends and I listen to popular music and bands like One Direction and 5 Seconds of Summer," Smith said. "People outside of my little circle of friends try to make me feel bad about listening to what I like. Guys especially criticize 'boy bands' by calling them untalented. I've basically become immune to that sort of thing because I've heard it so many times and have learned to brush it off."

Hayner finds the recurrent intolerance immature.

"I think belittling anyone's taste in music is really petty and low," Hayner said. "Trashing someone's taste in music is just as bad as trashing their clothing or taste in food or anything else they wholeheartedly enjoy. I'm not going to lie and say that I've never dissed someone's music, but that was years ago. I've since matured and learned to accept people in a more open way."

Hayner says she feels like the world would be a better place if people were more tolerant towards others' preferences.

"It's unfair to make someone feel ashamed for celebrating something they enjoy," Hayner said. "If there's a certain type of music that makes you happy, you should be able to listen to it without feeling guilty. You don't have to like all music, but at the very least, be respectful of those whose musical tastes are different from yours. Music should be celebrated, not shamed. After all, the purpose of music is entertainment. Music is supposed to be fun and not a competition."

Finally, Hayner says that a world without music would be monotonous and dull.

"I think music is so, so important, and I personally know people who have had their lives saved by music by being able to relate to certain artists," Hayner said. "That's why I believe all music, no matter how ridiculous or trivial it is to you, may be important to someone else. I mean, if we didn't have music, can you imagine how boring this world would be? No birds singing, no people humming, nothing. Just a bunch of people droning on."

ROARING
REVIEWS

The Martian
October 2, 2015 PG-13 142 min
Sci-Fi | Thriller
When astronauts blast off from Mars, they leave behind Mark Watney (Matt Damon), presumed dead after a fierce storm. With only a meager amount of supplies, the stranded visitor must find a way to survive on the hostile planet. Meanwhile, back on Earth, members of NASA and a team of scientists work to bring him home, while his crewmates hatch a plan for a daring rescue mission.
Director: Ridley Scott
Writer: Drew Goddard
Stars: Matt Damon, Jessica Chastain
Staff Review:

Hotel Transylvania 2
September 25, 2015 PG 89 min
Fantasy | Action
Now that Dracula (Adam Sandler) has opened Hotel Transylvania's doors to humans, things are changing for the better; however, Drac is worried that his half-human grandson, Dennis, isn't showing his vampire side. So, while Mavis and Johnny are away, Drac puts the boy through a "monster-in-training" boot camp. But things really get batty when Drac's cantankerous, old school dad (Mel Brooks) pays an unexpected visit.
Director: Genndy Tartakovsky
Stars: Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez
Staff Review:

Bridge of Spies
October 4, 2015 PG-13 141 min
Drama | Thriller
During the Cold War, the Soviet Union captures U.S. pilot Francis Gary Powers after shooting down his spy plane. Sentenced to 10 years in prison, Powers' only hope is New York lawyer James Donovan (Tom Hanks), who was recruited to negotiate his release. Donovan hopes to win the man's freedom through a prisoner exchange. If all goes well, the Russians would get Rudolf Abel (Mark Rylance), the convicted spy who Donovan defended in court.
Director: Steven Spielberg
Stars: Tom Hanks
Staff Review:

Crimson Peak
August 16, 2015 R 119 min
Fantasy | Mystery
After marrying Sir Thomas Sharpe, young Edith (Mia Wasikowska) finds herself swept away to the mansion in the English hills. Also there is Lady Lucille, Thomas's sister and protector of her family's dark secrets. Able to communicate with the dead, Edith tries to decipher the mystery behind the ghostly visions that haunt her new home. As she comes closer to the truth, Edith may learn that true monsters are made of flesh and blood.
Director: Guillermo del Toro
Stars: Tom Hiddleston, Jessica Chastain
Staff Review:

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT
BY HENRY KELLY

The Maze Runner: Scorch Trials
I recently saw the second movie in the *The Maze Runner* trilogy and to me it was just like the original but with a lot more running. *The Maze Runner: Scorch Trials* may not have lived up to the original movie.
The first movie seemed much more planned out, though this sequel was still enjoyable. There are a lot of characters and references from the original throughout the sequel which made it much better because I could relate small aspects of the film back to the first movie.
The story line begins where the first left off as the teenagers from the maze are getting off the helicopter that picked them up and enter a large protected building. There they meet teenagers from other mazes, and Thomas (Dylan O'Brien) finds out what these people have in store for them. He and his friends escape into what is left of the city called "The Scorch," and the group begins a long journey to find the Right Hand, a resistance group that lives in the mountains. They find a civilization, but soon learn that it is not the Right Hand. When they are discovered by the "Wicked" from the first building, they flee once again with a few newcomers to find the Right Hand.
This movie is even more action-packed than the original, and it will keep you on the edge of your seat. Although it brings some enjoyment, the storyline seemed poorly constructed. The movie has its moments,

The Eye of Minds
by James Dashner
If you think of a book by James Dashner, it would most likely be *The Maze Runner*. I recently read *The Eye of Minds* which is not as well known as his *Maze Runner* series, but it does live up to our expectations of him.
This novel is unlike any I have ever read. The setting consists mainly of the virtual world called the VirtNet. Never having actually seen a world like this, it could be hard to imagine, but Dashner paints a great picture of this world that allows the reader to place it all together in his head. The characters add jokes to help keep the novel lighthearted. There is great suspense as the characters travel around the world, fighting then fleeing in every step of the journey.

The Eye of Minds
The story begins as teen gamer, Michael, is confronted by a secret government organization that asks him and his friends to help catch a cyber-terrorist who calls himself Kaine. Michael has to go off the grid of the VirtNet to search in various hidden places all over this virtual world. The dangerous hacker that Michael has to catch, has been using technology many gamers aren't aware of to murder players both virtually and in real life, as he carries out his plan he calls The Mortality Doctrine.
Michael chooses his friends Bryson and Sarah to help him on this journey. Bryson cracks jokes throughout the novel, which adds to an otherwise serious story. Sarah is a smart girl, proving to be a huge help to Michael. Both characters show that they are the right people to help stop Kaine.
The Eye of Minds is a great novel with the characters providing an interesting plot to uncover the mystery behind this notorious hacker, Kaine. When you add up all of the humor and action, this book turns out to be a great read. I would it recommend to anyone looking for a unique book.

Scream Team promotes spirit at school

Group creates themed support for varsity teams

BY NOLAN DAVIS
Staff Writer

When fans watch an Albany football game, they can't help but get distracted by a group of screaming teens in costume. No, it's not Halloween or a costume party; it's just the scream team.

The scream team was created to get more people involved in the game, and to not let the crowd get quiet.

"My freshman year I was a cheerleader, and I enjoyed being involved in the game, but then I didn't cheer the next year," junior Kylea Gardner said. "I still wanted to be involved in the game, so Rachel Hill and I got together and formed the scream team."

Gardner said the scream team had been organized before, but only sporadically.

Other members have joined for a variety of reasons.

"I joined scream team because I love watching our guys play football," junior Steven Ford said. "Scream team is a way to motivate our guys and hopefully bring home a win."

Members of the thematic cheering group hope their message is clear.

"I like to think that we help the football players in the game, but I don't know if they see us," Gardner said. "I think we mainly help with crowd involvement."

The group strives to help the crowd keep the noise level high.

"We try to get the crowd excited, and when the crowd gets excited, it pumps up the players and motivates them to go for a win," Ford said.

Some aspects of participating are more fun than others.

"My favorite part is getting to dress up as crazy stuff and getting to scream on the field," sophomore Rylie Scott said. "It really gets exciting when we score or the guys get close to us at our end of the field."

The scream team typically occupies the east end zone under the scoreboard at home games, but their location can vary during out of town games.

Gardner likes to be a part of something bigger.

"I like being involved in the pep rally and getting to dress up," Gardner said. "I like being a part of the community and cheering on the football players."

Part of scream team is being true to Albany. "I like dressing up and



Members of the Scream Team (top) cheer on the Lady Lions during a volleyball game against Hawley on Oct. 20. Three students (left) encourage players during a football game against the Perrin-Whitt Pirates Oct. 23. The group plans to continue dressing up and cheering for both teams throughout the playoff season.

PHOTOS BY NOLAN DAVIS AND RACHEL HILL

getting to yell, but I also like just being a good and loyal fan for Albany," Ford said.

Cheering on the players is fun, but it can be hard work.

"Trying to get the costumes together is always hard," Gardner said. "We normally don't have a lot of time to find things to wear each game."

Rylie Scott doesn't want to get judged. "I hate walking in

front of the fans," Scott said. "I feel stupid when people see me wearing my costume."

Scream team is also physically hard.

"Dressing up is always hard," Ford said. "The worst part about scream team to me is waking up on Saturday morning and not having a voice."

Many memories have been made while on the scream team.

"Last season when

we played Cross Plains on Halloween was a fun night," Gardner said. "We dressed up as a theme for school, then we dressed up as zombies in the pep rally, and then Indians in the game. Then at the game, Michaela Reames was dressed as Scooby Doo, and she was supposed to be a buffalo. At one point in the game I tackled her."

Rylie Scott likes being with her fellow class-

mates and screaming with them on the field.

"I like watching Lori Davis on the scream team," Scott said. "She never misses dressing up for a game, and she is always crazy and full of excitement."

For Steven Ford, scream team is about the energy.

"My favorite scream team memory is when we played Seagraves in the playoffs last year," Ford said. "It was a great game, and it was awesome when we stormed the field after the game."

The members of the scream team hope that it becomes a tradition for students who do not play football.

"Scream team has actually been around for a while, but people just haven't participated," Gardner said. "I hope that when I'm gone, people will continue to not only dress up for football, but also for basketball and other sports."

Rylie Scott thinks that the key is to get the younger students involved.

"I think if we get some freshmen or junior high kids involved in scream team, it will continue to be a tradition," Scott said.

The scream team was originally formed several years ago, but disbanded after the organizers graduated. The group picked up again during the 2014 football season.

Youth ministers guide spiritual opportunities

Leaders join forces to reach community

BY KYLEA GARDNER
Assistant Editor

Over the course of the last four years, several new youth ministers have made their way to Albany in hopes of leading youth physically and spiritually.

Grant Zeller, an Abilene Christian University (ACU) graduate and Albany Young Life leader, made the choice to serve local youth in May of 2011, just after he graduated.

"I always knew that I was called to youth ministry as well as being a Young Life leader, but I never expected that I would end up in Albany," Zeller said. "When I was a senior in college, I met two men named Chuck Rogers and Trey Little. They were the Presbyterian Church's pastor here at the time, and he decided to pursue me."

Zeller said that meeting changed everything.

"A few weeks later, a plan was devised between Young Life and the Feed Store," Zeller said. "Young Life agreed to send a youth leader to start up a Young Life Club in Albany, and though I tried anything I could think of to get out of coming, the Lord was really working on Trey to bring me here, so on May 4, 2011, I moved to Albany."

First Baptist Church youth leader, Thomas Aly, also found his way to Albany right out of college.

"Early on in college

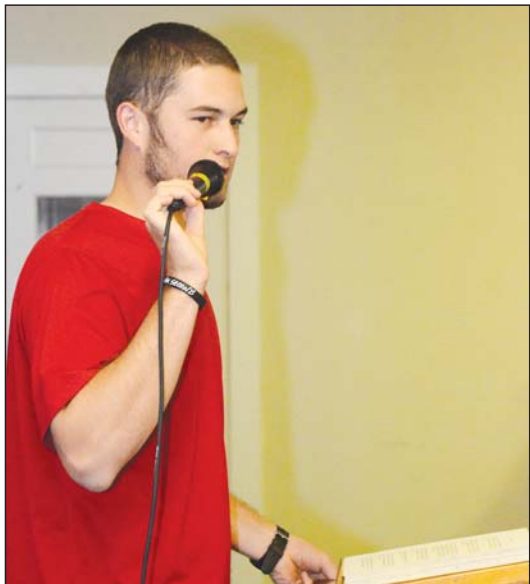
I felt really inspired to be a youth leader because I really have a heart for kids who don't have much, or kids who claim they have a relationship with God but lack the depth," Aly said. "It was actually a funny story how I ended up here. I was introduced to Albany through my college, and I sent my number in the hope of getting a ministry offer, and I was here two weeks later."

Fellow youth leader and Texas A&M University graduate, John Turner, was brought up in a Christian environment, but it wasn't until later in his teenage years that he started taking his faith seriously.

"I grew up near downtown Houston, and I was raised up somewhat a church kid, but I was definitely very uninterested," Turner said. "I spent a lot of time riding the fence, hanging out with other church members one day and then hanging with people doing completely the opposite the next. But the summer before my senior year, God completely changed my world."

Turner feels that his inspiration to become a youth leader and make Christ a big part of his life came from his youth minister as a teenager, who is now the pastor of the church where he serves.

"The summer going into my senior year, I got very close with my youth pastor at the time, Anthony Cedar, and I spent a lot of time with him going to football games and working out rather than partying and things like that," Turner said. "Being around Anthony really



Grant Zeller (top) teaches a group of students a lesson during a meeting of Young Life, which meets on Monday evenings at 7:47 at the Feed Store. Fellow youth minister, Thomas Aly, (left) reads from the Bible in a lesson given to the youth of First Baptist Church. The FBC youth meet Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m. The youth at the Presbyterian Church meet with their new youth pastor John Turner on Sunday evenings.

PHOTOS BY CURRY WILSON AND RACHEL HILL

helped me grow in my faith, and it showed me how big of an impact a youth leader can have on a kid. I decided that would be really awesome if I could have

that kind of impact on someone, too."

The trio all agreed that there is something about Albany that is unique.

"The people in Al-

bany are very different in the sense that they spend so much time out of their busy schedules supporting students' various activities," Aly said. "You don't get that

kind of support in other places. Growing up in Early, Texas, football was a big thing there and they supported that, but Albany supports all of the students' activities from football to Fandangle."

Zeller feels that the opportunities that are given to students are unique in comparison to his hometown of Abilene.

"Albany and Abilene are completely different, but the kids and the relationships are the same," Zeller said. "Having a building in town for the youth like the Feed Store, and getting to do what I do here isn't a normal thing. Having Young Life in a town this small isn't normal either, but it's such an amazing opportunity."

Turner agreed, noting that he came from a vastly different high school.

"I wouldn't call Albany normal, because it is nothing like I am used to," Turner said. "For example, my high school was twice the size of this entire town. From the short amount of time that I have been involved in the lives of people from little kids to adults, I have found a greater sense of community here than I ever did in Houston. There's also a whole lot more openness here, whereas in my hometown everything was very private."

The three leaders made a point to express the vision that they have for the town and the youth.

"I want to see kids come to know Christ, and whatever my role, that is what I am here for," Turner said. "As for kids who don't know Jesus, I just want them to feel loved, lis-

tened to, and known as someone who is more than just a number in a crowd."

Aly shared similar thoughts.

"I think that reaching kids who don't have a church home, or people who lack a relationship with God and are yearning for something to fill the void, would be my hopes for my time here," Aly said. "Lots of kids claim to be Christians, and I want to reach those that really want more of God."

Zeller shared his vision for not only the town of Albany, but for the future of the Feed Store.

"My vision for the Feed Store would be to have a place like this for kids in towns all over the country, starting in our surrounding area so that the kids could have a place to hang out and also have someone openly perusing them right where they are," Zeller said. "My hopes for the youth would be to have a full-time woman leader to care for the girls in ways that I can't, and have someone whose main focus would be the girls in the community."

Turner expressed a deep sense of gratitude toward the fellow youth ministers in the community.

"I think that there is a certain uniqueness about the relationship between Grant, Thomas, and me," Turner said. "We are all three open to whatever God has, and we all have hearts for this community. I am so thankful for those guys and the way that they have loved me and included me, and I am so excited to look back a year from now and see how far we have come."

Twins overcome visual challenges

Zuniga sisters describe life from their perspective

BY GENEVIEVE STUNKARD
Features Editor

From the day a baby is born, his or her eyes will assist in physical, mental, and emotional development. Observations are collected, a little bit at first and eventually many more, in order to understand the world around them.

For legally-blind twins Alyssa and Ivie Zuniga, now in eighth grade, this development has been delayed.

At three months old (June 2002), Ivie and Alyssa were diagnosed with congenital cataracts, a clouding of the lens of the eye that is present at birth. Three days after diagnosis, both girls underwent surgery to have their lenses removed. Mother Crystal Chavez recalls the learning difficulties the girls encountered.

"Because they could not see the first three months of their lives (the time when the brain develops sight), they began observational learning later than most children, including mimicry of facial expressions," Chavez said.

Chavez describes the procedures that the girls have gone through in order to strengthen their eyesight.

"Since then, Ivie and Alyssa have had multiple surgeries to correct muscle weakness," Chavez said. "Alyssa was fortunate enough to have artificial lenses implanted in November of 2007, greatly increasing her vision. Unfortunately, Ivie was not compatible with her artificial lenses, so she wears glasses instead. She also

has glaucoma."

Alyssa compares her and her sister's methods of vision correction.

"My lens implants are like contacts that I don't have to take out, and even though I still have difficulty seeing, I don't have to mess with them much," Alyssa said. "Ivie has to wear really thick glasses in order to see anything."

Besides being born with congenital cataracts, both Ivie and Alyssa have nystagmus, a visual condition in which the eyes have repetitive, uncontrolled movement, resulting in reduced vision.

"Because our eyes are constantly darting around, it's really hard to focus on anything," Alyssa said.

Chavez says that she'd find nonstop shifts in vision unbearable.

"I could not even begin to imagine my world constantly being in motion, but somehow they've persevered," Chavez said.

"When Ivie and I were little, our parents didn't want us to be in special classes because they didn't want to make us feel helpless," Alyssa said. "Other than having to use special devices, we've done everything the way everyone else has. If things were supposed to have been difficult for us, we didn't know, because we can only see from our perspective."

Ivie describes the people that have assisted her sister and her in their education.

"We call people who bring us things we need, like magnifying glasses, 'VI (Visually Impaired) teachers,'" Ivie said. "They just assist us when we take state tests and check up on us every once in a while during school to make sure we're doing okay. At our old school, our VI (Visually Impaired) helper tried to teach us what standards of being legally blind are,

but she never came often enough for the information to stick. I wish she had come more often, because I think both of us would like to have learned more about that."

She also describes special assistive technology that they have used throughout their school years.

"We use CCTV's (Closed-Circuit Television) to enlarge our work using a magnifying camera, and the magnified image is then displayed on a computer screen," Ivie said. "We have iPads that make zooming in on text easy, and we print all of our papers, even our music for band, on legal-size paper, which is double the size of normal paper."

Both twins are members of the band and learned to play clarinet prior to moving to Albany earlier this year.

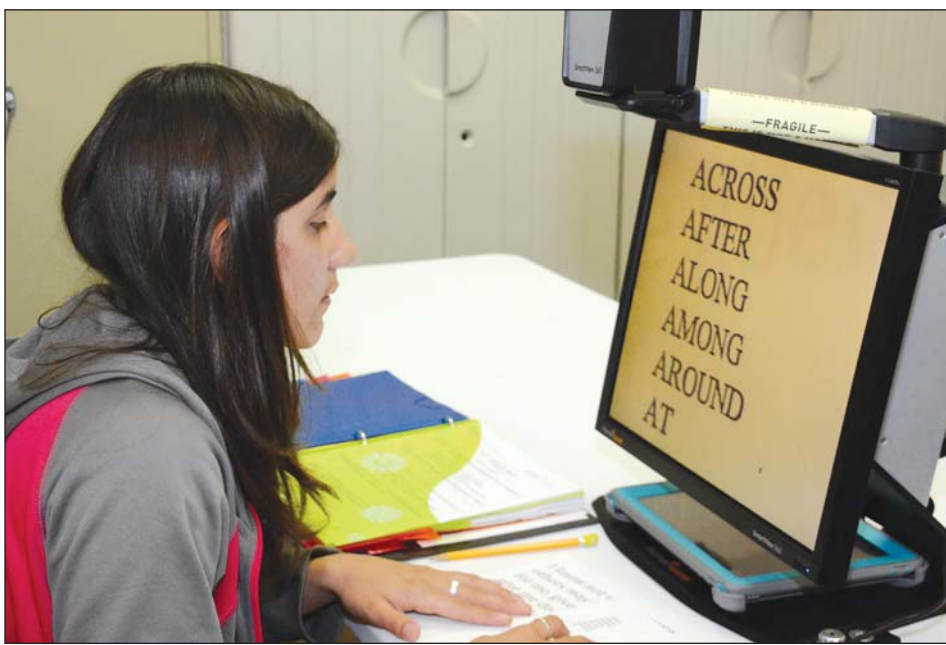
"This is our first year of marching band, ever," Ivie said. "I find it really interesting and challenging at times, not to mention fun. It requires you to think quickly and keep up."

Alyssa claims she never had second thoughts when it came to entering the demanding program.

"I never really thought that I didn't want to do marching band, because I didn't like the thought of telling myself I couldn't do something," she said.

Though she agrees that disabilities should never be seen as a restriction, Ivie admits to initially thinking marching band would be too challenging for her sister and her.

"I enjoy it now, but the first week, I was afraid it'd be too complicated to have to constantly see where I'm going, and I thought it was too bothersome to have someone run out to bring us our music stands during the halftime show," Ivie said. "However, I only thought



Alyssa Zuniga (top) makes use of a special closed-circuit computer to get classwork finished. The school administration provided the CCTV's in order to provide an easier learning environment for the sisters. Both Alyssa and Ivie (left) march side by side during the homecoming parade on Oct. 9. Despite the twin's visual disabilities, they still stay positive and stay involved in various extra-curricular activities, such as marching band.

TOP PHOTO BY GENEVIEVE STUNKARD
BOTTOM PHOTO PROVIDED

that way during the first week. After the first game, things seemed so much easier. Now, we're even memorizing our music. It just goes to show—things are only as difficult as you make them out to be."

Alyssa jokes that having a visual disability could be considered an advantage when it comes to marching.

"I think one of the reasons we don't find marching band that difficult is the fact that, because we can't see the other people around us well, we aren't really affected when they mess up and throw the

whole band off course. We kind of just do what we've been instructed to do, uninfluenced by others, since we can literally only see the people right in front of us."

Regardless of whether or not having the disability has its perks as well as its drawbacks, Chavez expresses pride in her daughters' fierce perseverance.

"Low vision is such a battle, and it comes with so many struggles that people can't even imagine," Chavez said. "It takes them a considerable amount of time to decipher their surroundings before they

are able to learn their way around and utilize whatever is in that environment, and I know that must be so hard for them. They are probably the strongest, big-hearted, empowering people I know. Not to mention, even after all they've endured, they've maintained unwavering faith."

Finally, Chavez dotes on the girls' constant optimism.

"They continue to inspire me every day," she said. "Their vision may be poor, but they never fail to see the good in any and every situation."

Younger siblings live with lasting legacy

Growing up in shadows can take toll

BY RYLIE SCOTT
News Editor

"A" Honor Roll Student.
All-District Player of the Year.

All-star cast member.
The list goes on and on.

Every younger sibling knows the struggle of living in the shadows of an older sibling, from dealing with the pressure of living up to their legacy to being dragged to every one of their long practices and games.

Being the youngest can be hard for some students, such as seventh grader Alli Hill, whose older sister is junior Rachel Hill.

"Everyone expects me to be as good as Rachel," Alli said. "They always ask if I'm going to be like her. I wish they understood that I'm my own person."

Having been compared to his older brothers, George and Lewis, sophomore Henry Kelly can relate.

"Most teachers comment on how great they were as students and expect that I'll be just like them," Henry said. "Sometimes they'll even accidentally call out one of their names instead of mine."

George Kelly is to graduate from college soon and is looking forward to starting in a career with nonprofit organizations. Lewis Kelly is pursuing a career in the medical field as a pediatrician.

"I do like my brothers,



Sisters Rachel and Alli Hill (far left) pose for a childhood photo, and brothers George, Henry, and Lewis Kelly pose for a football playoff snapshot. Younger siblings can find life much different when older relatives graduate.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

though, and I often catch myself talking about them and how they're doing," Henry said.

Being compared to her older sisters also troubles senior Curry Wilson.

"I don't think a lot of people compare me to my sisters as much now, since they're three hours away," Wilson said. "I compare myself to them though, and I have to realize that I'm not them."

Wilson's sisters, Conor and Carson, both attend Texas Tech University.

"I feel a lot of pressure as their little sister," Curry said. "When Carson went off to college, she became editor-in-chief for the campus newspaper. She'll graduate in December and plans to head off to law school."

Wilson's other sister, Conor, is a CNA at a hospital

in Lubbock working towards a nursing degree.

"She's very involved in the Pi Beta Phi sorority," Wilson said. "She's had a 4.0 GPA almost every semester."

On the other hand, some students aren't intimidated by their elder siblings.

"It's actually not hard for me to live as Diehlan's little sister," junior Sydney Key said.

Diehlan Key is currently serving in the U.S. Army.

"He works very hard in the army, and I want to be as hardworking and motivated as he is when it comes to his job," Sydney said.

Freshman Maggie Karl doesn't feel defined by her older sibling either.

"It's not necessarily challenging to live in my sister's shadow since I don't see her as often since she gradu-

ated," she said.

Karl's older sister, Cally, is in her third year of college at Texas Tech and is majoring in accounting.

"Some people say that we look alike and act similar, but I don't really see it," Maggie said.

Being the baby of the family doesn't always come with more disadvantages, according to Henry Kelly.

"Many people really like my brothers, which isn't necessarily a bad thing," he said. "Sometimes they'll like me automatically because of my brothers."

Whether they like to admit it or not, younger siblings look up to their older brothers and sisters.

"The main reason I joined the newspaper staff was because Lewis did in high school," Henry said. "When he likes something, I'll try it out, but I also try to make my own choices most of the time."

Sophomore Chloe Fields looks up to her brother, Chandler, who is attending Texas Christian University

for his freshman year.

"He was third in his class last year and got accepted into TCU, which is a really big accomplishment," Chloe said.

Having successful older siblings can provide motivation, which was the case for Wilson.

"I want to at least get to my sisters' level since they set the bar pretty high," Curry said. "I think learning from their experiences have let me see that I can do whatever they can do. Their lives in college have really opened my eyes to the opportunities that I now know are ahead of me."

Wilson has even made big plans for the future with her sisters.

"I'm going to live with Conor if I get accepted to Texas Tech," Curry said. "I want to already be settled and ready to go before the school year starts."

The success of Kelly's older brothers has inspired him to strive to work harder.

"There's no doubt that I want to be better than my brothers," Henry said. "Ev-

everyone kind of expects me to go to Tech, but maybe I want to attend another college and be different instead of just like them."

Freshman Summer Wagman shares the same opinion.

"I have a sister that's a junior at the University of Texas and is a cheerleader," Summer said. "Most people ask me if I'm as good as Autumn, or if I'm going to go cheer, but what if that's not what I want to do?"

Wagman does admit it is challenging at times to try to live up to her big sister.

"It is pretty hard to have a sister like Autumn," Wagman said. "She has accomplished much more than me, plus her study habits were profoundly better."

Older siblings can come across as overpowering and even too helpful in some cases, according to Wilson.

"My sisters are very overprotective of me and are always offering help, but I want to do things on my own," she said. "I know I will need help along the way, but I know I need to pave my own path first."

Wilson credits her sisters' and her own success to their mother.

"They are all great inspirations for me," Curry said. "All three of us have our mom to thank. She's a trooper and always pushes us to never live our lives scared."

Rash of knee injuries plague athletes

Players relate experiences with recovery

BY NEWT KOEMEL
Staff Writer

It's the third quarter of the quarter-final football game. Archrival Hamlin is desperately trying to end Albany's 2014 football season. Then junior Charles Carter takes the handoff for the 11th time during the game. He makes a cut, jukes out a defender, and hears a pop. "I didn't stop running," Carter said. "I finished the play, but afterward I knew something wasn't right." The following week Carter was told that his MRI revealed the worst scenario for athletes: an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear. Carter is one of several Albany athletes who have suffered knee injuries over the past three years, all of which include an ACL tear. Most have endured a long recovery process and continued playing sports. Some in Albany have questioned why there is a rash of knee injuries, and if they can be prevented. "During a basketball game my sophomore year, I landed on my knee wrong after taking a shot," senior Tobin Nall said. "I didn't think anything was wrong at all. I just thought I landed weird and that's why it was hurting. About five minutes after I was helped off the court to the bench, I was ready to play again." Nall learned later after an MRI scan that she had torn her ACL. Once she underwent surgery, she began the four-month-long recovery process. "I went to physical therapy twice a week for four months," Nall said. "My therapist put me through different types of workouts to help strengthen my knee to prevent future injuries." She returned to sports, but played differently because of her injury. "I played more timidly in volleyball the next season and quit playing basketball all together," Nall said. "I felt like I might hurt it again if I played basketball, and



Senior Levi Britting watches the game after being helped off the field with a serious knee injury. Britting was upset, but still managed to cheer his team on for the remainder of the game. He will be out for the season. Several players have had to deal with the same thing. PHOTO BY CURRY WILSON

I didn't want to risk another injury before softball." Based on her own experiences, she believes that athletes can help prevent such injuries. "I think athletes should take stretching more seriously before playing, or even consider wearing knee braces before they get injured," Nall said. The same year, Nall's teammate also suffered an injury to her ACL. "During basketball practice, I strained my ACL," junior Rachel Hill said. "I also tore my MCL during a basketball game my sophomore year." Hearing audible noises and feeling pain in her knee, Hill knew she had done something to her knee. "When I landed during practice, my knee hyperextended and popped and I couldn't walk on it," Hill said. "When I heard the pop, I knew something happened." After her second injury, it was evident she had torn a ligament. "The second time, a teammate came down on me and I twisted," Hill said. "My knee turned to the inside and I felt painful stretching and lots of popping. Once again I knew I had damaged my other

knee." Hill's trainer offered an explanation of why she had hurt her knees. "I went to PT once a week for three months," Hill said. "The therapist said my injuries were due to weak hips that threw my knees out of alignment, so I worked on balancing drills and hip, ankle strengthening exercises." Hill's injuries were noticeable during sports the following year, and she is hesitant to continue basketball. "My knee bothered me all through volleyball and even into track my sophomore year," Hill said. "I had to delay hurdle preparation until I was completely healed. I'm really nervous about playing basketball this year because I hurt both of my knees during basketball and I don't want to risk my track season." Her advice is similar to Nall's in that she believes athletes "don't stretch enough before practice and games." The Lions have had several of ACL tears happening to multiple players. "I hurt my knee during football practice on my birthday during my sophomore year," senior Tyler Miller

said. "The second it happened, I knew something went wrong. I heard a loud popping noise." Miller later found out that he had torn his ACL, MCL, and meniscus. This type of injury required a more complicated surgery and more rigorous physical therapy. "I now have to wear a brace when I play football," Miller said. "The brace makes me forget about the injury so I can play the game without worrying. I don't feel pain in my knee anymore." Miller believes that his tear was something that cannot be prevented, saying "it was a freak accident." During his junior year, in the first game of the season, senior Caleb Masters suffered a blow to his knee during a tackle that tore the cartilage in the joint, requiring a complex surgery. "Immediately, I thought that my season was over," Masters said. Now that he is healthy and playing football again, his mindset has not changed. "I'm still more than willing to put it all on the line for my team" Masters said. Last year, as the Lions were try-

ing to punch their ticket to AT&T Stadium, another player injured his knee. "We were playing Seagraves in the semi-finals," senior Ben Hawkins said. "During the third quarter, I pulled down the line to block, and my knee gave out." Immediately, his mind went to his teammates. "I'm not gonna be able to finish the year and help my brothers advance to state," Hawkins said. He had torn his ACL, MCL, LCL, and meniscus. On the road to recovery, Hawkins said all he needed was "hard work and dedication" in order to play football again. The injuries Hawkins has experienced may have a long-term effect on his knees. "My knees have never been the same," Hawkins said. "They are weaker now than before the injury." Hawkins believes that all athletes are in danger of injuring themselves when they step onto the football field, but "the greatest athletes are the ones that take the risk."

This season already has seen two starters go down with knee injuries. Carter tore the ACL in his opposite knee during a game against Roby. "My leg was extended and someone hit me from the side," Carter said. "I heard it pop and knew immediately something was wrong." Carter tried to maintain his composure after the injury and looked to scripture to find peace of mind. "Instead of getting mad, I referenced myself to Job in that I had everything, and the finer things in life were taken away to test my faith," Carter said. The injury has shown Carter that nothing is guaranteed. "It has made me realize that I need to go 110 percent every play because I know the next play could be my last," Carter said. Senior Levi Britting tore his ACL during a football game against Canadian. During the game, Britting was hoping that his injury was not severe. "I thought, 'Please just be a hyperextension,'" Britting said. "I still want to keep playing football." With the abundance of these injuries, Carter sees only one solution. "Nothing can prevent knee injuries," Carter said. "If something could be done, we would be doing it."

Lion pride can be family tradition, competition

Three sets of brothers share same interests

BY RYLIE SCOTT
News Editor

Known as the "king of the jungle," the lion possesses extreme power and strength over the animal kingdom. Its majesty far exceeds all other species. Some may choose to travel solo, but lions can only rely on one thing to survive: family. This current football season, three sets of brothers are playing on the varsity level together. Senior Drew Neece is enjoying his first season playing football with his younger brother, sophomore Dax Neece. "It's really neat having him out there on the field with us," Drew said. "He's not only my brother, but another player, another teammate." Senior Alex Faith, whose younger brother is sophomore Adam Faith, can relate to Neece. "It's a great opportunity to be able to play on the same team as my brother," Alex said. "I am able to teach him more moves and help him improve overall." With siblings, often getting along can be an issue. Such is not the case for Adam Faith. "For the most part, we get along well, even during games," Adam said. Alex, however, has a different opinion. "We get along, but I do get mad at him sometimes,"

he said. "When he misses a pass or messes up in the game is when I get the most frustrated." Occasional arguments can arise, but they usually don't get too serious during practices and games. "We fight all the time, but it's just brotherly love," senior Levi Britting said, oldest of the Britting brothers. "During games we don't argue because our focus is on the game and not at each other." Being able to cooperate with each other makes playing on the same team a more enjoyable experience, according to Dax Neece. "For my first year on varsity, it's good to have the chance to play with my brother since it's his senior year," he said. "After all the years playing together at our house, it's nice to finally participate in the real deal." The Faiths are sons of head football coach Denney Faith. "Growing up as a coach's kid, we've played many times," Adam said. "I've never been with him in an actual game until this year." Alex was never able to play Little League, which started in fifth grade, with Adam. "Adam was always too young for us to be on the same team and play together," Alex said. On the other hand, Levi and Caleb Britting, who are also sons of a coach, have been involved in football together from the start. "We played together in the local pee wee league, on JV my sophomore year, and all the time just for fun," Levi said. "It's great to be playing with him now

though, since he gets to be a part of Albany's tradition." With his senior football season coming to a close, Drew's family is excited about their two sons competing on the same team. "My parents always talk about how they'd love to see me throw a touchdown pass to Dax," Drew said. "He's a really good receiver." Participating in any sport with your siblings can create competition, especially football.

"Playing with Levi made me have a more competitive attitude," Caleb said. Levi is out for the rest of the season with a knee injury. "He always pushes me to do my best," Caleb said. "Even when he's on the sidelines he encourages me, especially when I don't want to push myself and feel like giving up." The competitive edge between the Faith brothers occasionally surfaces during practices.

"Sometimes we may have little competitions in practice that are just between us, but once a game starts, we're on the same team and want each other to do well," Adam said. On the other hand, the Neece brothers claim playing with each other doesn't make them more competitive. "I enjoy playing with him and seeing him succeed," Dax said. If they played different positions, it would be a

different story, according to Drew. "If we were playing the same position it would probably cause both of us to have a more competitive attitude since we would both be competing for the same spot," he said. Levi Britting says his brother doesn't have an impact on his competitive attitude. "I get it from wanting to win no matter what, and my brother doesn't make a difference in that," he said.



Older brothers (back row L-R) Alex Faith, Drew Neece, and Levi Britting take time to pose for a picture after a game with younger brothers (bottom row L-R) Adam Faith, Dax Neece, and Caleb Britting. All three brothers take part in various varsity sports this year. The Neece and Faith brothers will participate in the same sports. PHOTO BY RYLIE SCOTT

Lions battle to stay in playoff race

Injuries add challenges to overcome

BY RACHEL HILL
Copy Editor

With a playoff spot now secured, the football team looks to advance one game at a time, no matter the obstacles that stand in the way.

The Lions will travel to Ranger tonight for the regular season finale.

"The injuries we have had this season have caused more problems than just a spot needing to be filled," Senior Michael Cotter said. "It is a huge morale loss when a teammate goes down."

Cotter feels there is still work to be done.

"Currently, we are playing at about 80 percent of our

capability," Cotter said. "If we want to beat the teams like Seagraves and Bremond, we are going to have to pick up the intensity levels on both sides of the ball. This starts with the seniors."

Senior Caleb Masters sees one of his jobs on the team as a motivator.

"As a senior, it's my job to help encourage my teammates and lower classmen to work hard to make each

other better," Masters said, "With everyone working hard and doing their job, I have no doubt we will be rewarded with a great season."

The team has suffered multiple knee injuries, along with a shoulder and hamstring injury.

"Dax Neece and Roman Fuentes have really stepped up defensively," Cotter said.

"Several offensive linemen have filled the gaps on offense as well."

Masters, who injured his



Senior Caleb Masters cuts away from a Cross Plains defender during a 35-0 victory. Masters returned after suffering early season injuries. The Lions clinched another district championship despite being several players short. PHOTO BY CURRY WILSON

knee and hamstring, has gotten back on the field to finish his senior year.

"It feels good to finally be back in the sport I love," Masters said. "Being out so long has taught me not to take things for granted, and

every time I step out onto the field, I give it my all and just enjoy the game."

Although he is still gaining strength from his injuries, Masters has not limited his drive.

"Injuries are going to

happen; it's just a part of football," Masters said. "After being out for so long, I'm more excited than ever to step out on the field and play, and I have no worries about my previous setbacks."

The goals are high for this

year's team.

"My personal goal is just to play my heart out every game and leave it all on the field," Cotter said. "Our long term goal, of course, is to take it one win further and clench the state title, but we must take it one game at a time."

Masters said the team must stay focused.

"Our first goal is to win a district championship," Masters said. "We are taking things one step at a time and planning on getting through district undefeated. Ultimately, our goal is to win a state title."

Junior Hunter Owen agrees.

"Personal stats don't mean anything to me," Owen said, "I would rather my team win than for me to have 50 or more tackles in a game. The goals for everyone is to take it one win further, and we all have a job we must do to make it happen."

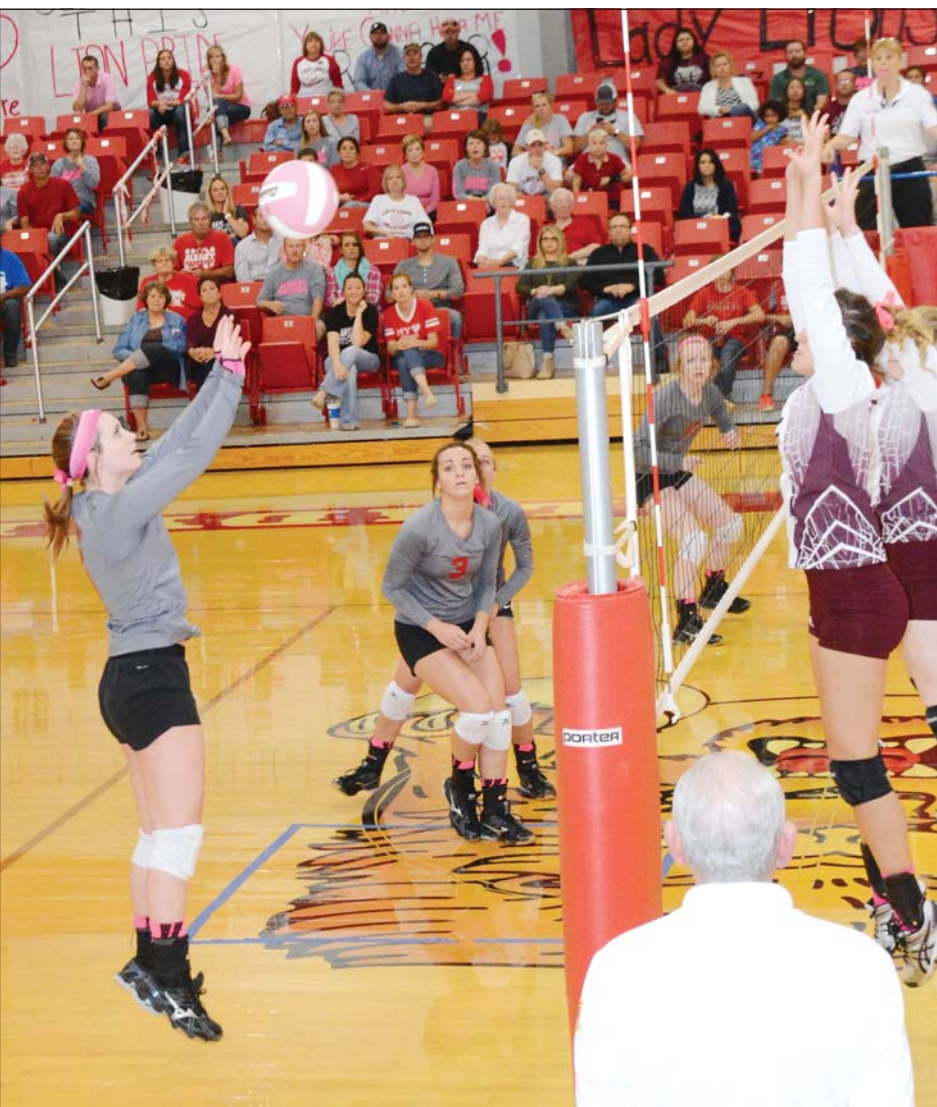
With a season record of 8-1 and a district record of 4-0, the Lions continue to rack up wins in hopes of a long playoff run.

FOR THE RECORD:

ALBANY LION FOOTBALL 40

Baird.....	W 48-6
Cross Plains.....	W 35-0
Perrin Whitt.....	W 48-0
Santo.....	W 61-0

Lady Lions finish second in district



Senior Tobi Nall tips the ball over the net during a district game vs Hawley. The Lady Lions finished runner-up in district and earned a spot in the playoffs. PHOTO BY MICHAEL COTTER

Team moves into playoffs behind Hawley

BY MICHAEL COTTER
Sports Editor

The Lady Lion volleyball team played through district to earn themselves a playoff spot as the district runner-up.

"When we were sitting 8-1 with three district games left, we had two goals," head volleyball coach Kim Hill said. "We wanted to beat Hawley and earn a spot in the playoffs."

Although the team didn't quite meet all the goals, they still played well.

"We are doing very well and I'm excited to see how the rest of the season will go," senior Kelsey Tollett said. "For the most part, our district wasn't challenging. Even though we lost to Hawley, we know we have the talent to beat them if we meet up with them again."

While the losses to Hawley were tough, they taught the team important things.

"They are a really good hitting team," Hill said. "Not only are they tall, but they can hit from anywhere on

the court. They helped us in improving our blocking and returning."

Despite playing well in district and in the first round of the playoffs, the girls still have room for improvement.

"We still have a consistency issue," Hill said. "A lot of times we struggle with our mistakes and we let the

FOR THE RECORD:

LADY LION VOLLEYBALL 10-2

Knox City.....	W 23-25, 25-20, 25-16, 25-19
Woodson.....	W 25-15, 25-8, 25-14
Benjamin.....	W 25-14, 25-10, 25-14
Hawley.....	L 16-25, 10-25, 21-25
Moran.....	W 25-9, 25-23, 25-12
Munday.....	W 25-14, 25-5, 25-12
Knox City.....	W 25-14, 25-22, 13-25, 25-17
Woodson.....	W 25-6, 25-7, 25-16
Benjamin.....	W 25-11, 25-21, 25-11
Hawley.....	L 20-25, 18-25, 12-25
Moran.....	W 25-5, 25-12, 27-7
Munday.....	W 25-20, 25-17, 25-17

negative emotions get to us. We need to do a better job of recovering and moving on to the next volley."

The team needs improvement in practice as well as the games.

"We need to work on our energy and serves in practice," sophomore Lindsay Lucas said. "We get really streaky sometimes, and when we are off, we are

really off."

Even though the girls have things to work on, they do many things well.

"This year the team is very unselfish," Hill said. "Even though we have players who can set and spike very well, our best asset is our unity."

Despite just playing well together as a team, the girls also developed a good in-game mentality.

"We have a 'kill ball' mentality," Tollett said. "Our goal is to keep high intensity, keep our heads up, and shake off mistakes when we make them."

Being an underclassman on varsity can always be intimidating.

"At first, I was nervous all the time," Lucas said. "However, the upperclassman are really sweet and made me feel like a part of the team. They are really good examples."

The girls were frustrated with another loss to Hawley, but decided to focus their energy on the play-offs.

"We were so close to pushing over the hump and winning those first couple sets," junior Rachel Hill said. "We just need to finish every play."

The girls played Petrolia in the bi-district round on Tuesday, hoping to advance to the area game. Results were not available at press time.

Basketball prepares for new season

Workouts begin despite playoff conflicts

BY BRIAN HAMILTON
Staff Writer

Lion and Lady Lion basketball teams are both bringing back experienced players this season hoping to improve last year's record and battle for the district championships.

The Lion basketball squad is set to begin Nov. 24 against the Trent Gorillas, but the team may well have to push their season opener back due to football playoffs.

Lady Lion basketball is set to start Nov. 3 with a three-way scrimmage against Throckmorton and Rising Star. However, there could be a conflict if the volleyball team is still in the playoffs.

"The girls had a 15-16 record last season," girl's

basketball coach Paul Johnston said.

"We missed the playoffs by coming in fourth in a tough district. With too many injuries, the ball just didn't bounce our way."

Though the Lady Lion's basketball team is coming off a 15-16 season from last year, narrowly missing a playoff appearance, the future is looking brighter, according to Johnston.

"We will fight for a district championship," Johnston said. "Our inside game will be one of the best in the district. With our experience, quickness and ability to score will be key to this team's success," Johnston said.

The Lion basketball team, however, is building from a positive season last year.

"We had a 15-5 record last season, claiming the district title and making it to the regional quarter-finals," boy's coach Ryder Peacock said.

A bright future lies in front of the Lions squad.

"We will have more experience on the court," Peacock

said. "This will help for district and the playoffs. Plus, our athleticism helps put us at the top of our district title race."

The lone Lady Lion senior this year is Curry Wilson, who was the starting point guard last season.

"It's weird considering I've played with so many people for so long," Wilson said. "It feels like I'm the only one left."

Like most senior athletes, Wilson wants to end her career on a good note.

"I'm very excited for this season," she said. "I think we will have a better team than last year. Most of the girls are in off-season, so we were able to practice prior to the start of the season."

This year's Lady Lions are anxious for a new start, believing that they can compete for the gold ball.

"We have a good chance to win the district this year," junior Rachel Hill said. "Haskell lost a lot of good

players, while Anson will still be a good competitor for the title."

Boys' basketball got a taste of a district championship last season, and they do not want to let one slip away from them this year.

"With this being my last year, I want to go out with a bang," senior Michael Cotter said. "If we can play under control I think we have a good shot at claiming the title."

Lion basketball will have some advantages during this oncoming season.

"We were a younger team last year; and most of our guys coming back," Cotter said. "Our experience from last year will help this season's outcome greatly."

The Lions have set their goals high this season and plan to work to make them happen.

"We all want to go deep in the playoffs this year, and I think we have a really good chance," junior Jordan Pleasant said.



Junior Lexi Munden goes up for a block shot during practice. Both the girl's and boy's teams have begun their preparation for the new season. Unlike the boy's team, which is loaded with seniors, the girls only have one returning senior. They plan to build off last year's season and to improve.

PHOTO BY KYLEA GARDNER

“Theater”

Continued from | PG 1

of art.

“October is the Hispanic month; we try to relate the projects with our pre-Columbian exhibit,” Burk said. “We try to set all dates in advance of the semester, but for Albany we move dates around so that we can meet the teachers’ needs.”

In addition to the Art-to-Go lessons, the theater class will work on skills for One Act Play. The class was designed for students to improve acting.

“By creating this class, we are trying to get the students to learn about drama and theater mainly for One Act later on in the semester,” Hill said. “Also, it’s an alternative other than band.”

This class is only in junior high mainly because the school does not have anyone certified to teach it. Digital arts and animation is the alternative to band for high school students.

“I think this class is beneficial because it teaches you how to work together,” said Tyler Beard said. “It also helps you to get up and talk in front of the class.”

This class pushes some students to do

more than they thought they could do.

“I like this class because it helps me get out of my comfort zone,” Taylor Scott said.

Auditions for OAP were held at the beginning of October, with more people trying out than last year.

“This year’s play, ‘Louder, I Can’t Hear You’, includes a cast of six plus a narrator,” Barte said. “The performance is on Nov. 18th with Albany hosting the zone contest among Stamford, Haskell, Anson, and Hamlin.”

“Council”

Continued from | PG 1

applications for colleges.

“It really helps me when applying to different colleges,” Davis said. “They like to see that you represented your high school.”

Members also have discovered other unexpected benefits of being part of the council.

“I think Student Council teaches you responsibility,” reporter Savannah Perez said. “It also helps with leadership skills.”

The Student Council also suits up at Christmas to go around town caroling to raise money. This year the proceeds will go to the Neece family.

“I like Caroling for Coins the most because everyone wears tacky Christmas sweaters,” Davis said. “I love seeing the smiles on people’s faces when we sing for them.”

In fact, it is the camaraderie and sense of purpose that drew Davis to the group in the first place.

“I like being on Student Council because I get to represent the other students,” Davis said. “I also like participating in all the projects because they are fun, and it’s nice to help other organizations.”

The council is also responsible for planning the Winter Formal, typically held in January.

“We are in charge of Winter Formal,” Davis said. “We set up the decorations, get all the food and drinks and hire a DJ.”

The winter dance is the council’s lone fundraising activity the group does each year.

“Most of the money we get from Winter Formal is used to pay for the dance,” Davis said. “What we have left, we use to fund the council attending the annual fall convention and giving gifts to visiting schools at home football games.”

The council was also in charge of preparing for Red Ribbon Week on October 26-30. This

year’s theme was “Respect yourself, be drug free.”

“I think Red Ribbon Week spreads awareness of the dangers of drugs,” Savannah Perez said. “The posters we made hopefully bring more attention to the point we are trying to make.”

The group prepared posters reflecting on the respect students should show for their country, the law, the environment, the school and themselves.

The group traveled to the District 2 Fall Convention earlier in the semester held at the Abilene Convention Center.

“I liked getting to go to the convention this year,” junior class representative Hunter Owen said. “The speakers there talked a lot about how to become a better leader.”

“Exams”

Continued from | PG 1

Cotter’s mother, Darla, helps him with practice tests and online studying.

“My mom makes me spend at least two hours a week on studying,” Cotter said. “I have learned the strategies and how to pace myself, which is a big thing on the ACT because you don’t have much time.”

WHAT’S HAPPENING!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
NOVEMBER		
6	2nd Six Weeks Ends	
6	Varsity Football vs. Ranger @ Ranger, 7:30pm	
7	SAT Testing	
7	Area Volleyball	
9	3rd Six Weeks Begins	
9	JH Girls Basketball vs. Anson @ Anson, 5:00pm	
10	Picture Retakes, 8:00am	
12	JH Boys Basketball vs. Anson @ Home, 5:00pm	
13	Volleyball Regional Finals	
16	JH Boys Basketball vs. Haskell @ Haskell, 5:00pm	
16	JH Girls Basketball vs. Haskell @ Haskell, 5:00pm	
17	JV & Varsity Girls Basketball vs. Newcastle @ Newcastle, 10:00am	
18-21	Volleyball State Tourney	
19	JH District One-Act-Play, 8:00am	
23	JH Boys Basketball vs. Stamford @ Home, 5:00pm	
23	JH Girls Basketball vs. Stamford @ Stamford, 5:00pm	
24	JV & Varsity Boys & Girls Basketball vs. Trent @ Home, 4:00pm	
25-28	Thanksgiving Holiday	
30	JH Boys Basketball vs. Hawley @ Home, 5:00pm	
30	JH Girls Basketball vs. Hawley @ Hawley, 5:00pm	
DECEMBER		
1	JV & Varsity Girls Basketball vs. DeLeon @ DeLeon, 4:00pm	
3-4	JV & Varsity Girls Woodson Tourney	
3-4	JV & Varsity Boys Basketball Albany Tourney	
5	SAT Testing @ Albany	
7-9	EOC Retakes	
7	JH Boys Basketball vs. Winters @ Winters, 5:00pm	
7	JH Girls Basketball vs. Winters @ Home, 5:00pm	
8	Varsity Boys & Girls Basketball vs. Newcastle @ Home, 6:00pm	
10-11	JV Boys Basketball Albany Tourney	
10-11	Varsity Boys Basketball Archer City Tourney	
10-11	JV & Varsity Girls Basketball Zephyr Tourney	
12	ACT Testing	
12	JH Boys Basketball Breckenridge Tourney, 5:00pm	
14	JH Boys & Girls Basketball vs. ACS @ ACS, 5:00pm	
15	JV & Varsity Boys Basketball vs. Santo @ Santo, 5:00pm	
15	JV & Varsity Girls Basketball vs. Anson @ Home, 5:00pm	
17	Football State Championship	

Life is good at ‘Young Life’



Ever since Young Life started in Albany in 2012, the organization has grown in numbers. From hilarious skits, to fun games, to learning about Christ, students enjoy coming together every Monday night at 7:47.

Young Life, which is held at the Feed Store, starts with students singing songs and playing games. The leader of Young Life, Grant Zeller, then teaches the students about Jesus. Young Life also sponsors trips that students can attend, like a ski trip to Colorado and Young Life Camp at the beginning of every summer. The location of the camp changes to various states. This year the camp is set to be held in Arizona. A handful of students will have the chance to experience the camp for a week. After a student goes to one camp, they can never go back, unless they convince five more students to go the following year.

Young Life also hosts theme activities. Mr. Christmas Tree is the most popular. A boy representative from each grade competes in a “beauty” pageant including categories such as talent, swim wear, the question, and the lighting of the Christmas tree.

Young Life attracts students from other places as well. Students from Moran make the journey to attend Young Life.

PHOTOS AND STORY BY CURRY WILSON, PHOTO EDITOR

Seniors Lori Davis and Tobi Nall (below) let loose and dance with other students during a meeting of Young Life. Kevin Rogers (far left) plays Hercules in a skit that was also performed during a Monday night club meeting. Rogers, and other community members help Zeller with Young Life.



Students of all classifications in high school (top) join together to sing songs during Young Life before the Bible study and games. Students gather every Monday night to have fun and learn about Jesus. Sophomore Lindsey Lucas and junior Kaleigh Clevenger (right) belt out the words to a popular praise song.



Sophomore Henry Kelly, senior Michael Cotter, and Grant Zeller lead students at Young Life in songs. Grant Zeller (left) educates the students from Albany and Moran about the Bible every Monday night. Zeller has been in Albany since 2012. Since then, Young Life has made a name in town and has grown in numbers. The weekly meetings are open to any high school students.