



# THE LIONS ROAR

"Lion pride in print"

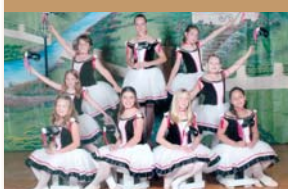
Friday, November 7, 2014

ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL

ALBANY, TEXAS 76430

VOLUME 13 NUMBER 2

## Dance Classes Cancelled for the Year



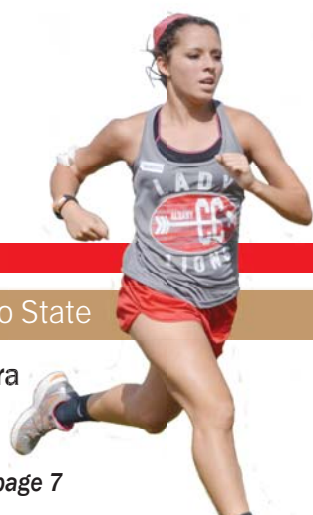
Students remember the years spent in dance classes at the Whitney Theatre. — See page 4

## Red-headed Reflections



Red-headed students discuss the myths and joys of having red hair. — See page 5

## Running her way to State



Senior Valarie Gandara will run at the state cross country meet tomorrow. — See page 7

## Briefs

### Veterans Day Assembly

On Tuesday, Nov. 11, there will be a Veterans Day Assembly in the Albany High School Gymnasium. This assembly is being put on by the Student Council led by Student Council president, Shelby Barton.

The program will start at 10 a.m. and will honor the veterans. Both the Albany High School band and the elementary school third and fourth graders will perform a song. Principal Kevin Hill will introduce the veterans at the assembly, and then there will be a patriotic salute by the Albany High School Band.

Immediately following the assembly, there will be a reception hosted by FCCLA for the veterans and other guests.

### Release date set for Thanksgiving

The junior high and high school campus will dismiss at 12 noon on Tuesday, Nov. 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Thanksgiving Day is Thursday, Nov. 27. Classes will resume on Monday, Dec. 1.

This is the only holiday prior to the Christmas break that starts Friday, Dec. 19 and will resume Jan. 6.

### Running Man Results

Running Man, the annual city-wide game of hide and seek, includes participants from all over the area. An annual tradition in Albany for the past 17 years, Running Man was held at the Feed Store on Oct. 25. Students from junior high to college age gathered at the Feed Store anxiously waiting for the game to start. The goal is to get back to base without being caught by a spotlihter. The grade with the most members back at the base without being caught is the winner.

This year the eighth graders took first place with 88 percent of their group making it back. Second place went to the freshmen, and the seniors took third place.



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

# Students show power of pink



Volleyball players (above) Kelsey Tollett (left) and Ry-lie Scott (right) help fight against cancer by wearing pink warm-up shirts. Cheerleaders Chelsi Freasier and Curry Wilson (left) support the football team and raise breast cancer awareness with their pink poms. PHOTOS BY MOLLY LEE



## Breast cancer awareness promoted in October

BY SHELBY BARTON  
Photo Editor

As a way of advocating those affected in the community, teams and organizations sported various pink accessories last month to support the ongoing fight against breast cancer.

During the month of October, the volleyball team, football team, and cheerleaders promoted awareness by raising money, wearing pink during games, and even dedicating one game and pep rally as "Pink Out the Wildcats."

"Putting our pink

gear on before the game makes me feel important because it is for a great cause, and the pink shows that the football team does care to work for a greater purpose than just winning the game," senior Dylan Petree said.

Players hope that fans from both teams notice the displays of pink to show encouragement and support to those who fight and survived the disease.

"While watching us play with the pink on, I hope the fans and those dealing with cancer feel the support and know that they do not have to battle the disease alone," Petree said.

Football coach Denney Faith said it is important for players to support the cause.

"It's important that the boys show awareness to the fans watching

because breast cancer is a serious problem," Faith said. "I think when people see the team in pink they automatically know what it symbolizes, which keeps the situation on the front burner."

The volleyball girls displayed pink bows, socks, and shirts on game days for similar reasons.

"Our purpose in wearing pink last month was because many people in the community have been affected by breast cancer, and it is important for us to show them support through their battle," senior Kendra Dockins said. "We wear the pink and play each game in their honor, and I am grateful our team and school can join together for a serious cause."

Head cheerleader and

SEE "PINK" Pg. 5

# Council busy with fall projects

## Group takes on fundraising for community

BY RACHEL HILL  
Copy Editor

The local student council is more than a few students who attend meetings and conventions. The council is made up of 34 students who put time and effort into benefitting the school and the community through a variety of service activities including fundraising events.

"The Student Council is an elected leadership organization for junior high and high school," Student Council sponsor Donnie Lucas said. "They undertake various worthy activities, contribute personal time



Student Council members receive a donation from Linda Husmann during their annual "Trick-or-Treat for Change" fundraiser for the Albany Chest. The council members raised close to \$1,000 for the Albany Chest. Other projects this fall include a luncheon fundraiser for Doug Neece, organizing the annual Veterans Day assembly, assisting with Red Ribbon Week, along with the Caroling for Coins event in December. PHOTO BY SHELBY BARTON

SEE "COUNCIL" Pg. 5

# Juniors inducted into honor society

## Students honored for academic achievement

BY KYLEA GARDNER  
Features Editor

Since 1960, the National Honor Society (NHS) has been a big part of the Albany school system.

"NHS is a system that recognizes and encourages academic achievement while also developing the ideals of scholarship, leadership, and service," NHS sponsor Dee Dee Waggoner said.

Being inducted into NHS is a great honor, but there is much more to it than just a patch on your letter jacket or a little something extra on your graduation gown.

"You must show interest in community service work as well as extracur-

ricular activities," Waggoner said.

There are many steps to be followed in choosing NHS inductees.

"To even be considered for National Honor Society, the student must have an overall grade point average of 90, but it doesn't stop there," NHS co-sponsor Karen Noble said. "A faculty council will evaluate the student's overall leadership skills and behavior as well."

After all the evaluations, there is still one more procedure to be fulfilled before being inducted.

"After careful evaluation, the faculty council will vote, and it must be a majority vote to be invited into the National Honor Society," Waggoner said.

Each year 10-12 students are inducted into the National Honor Society, but the hard work doesn't end after the induction.

"We have yearly

projects that the NHS is involved in such as providing side dishes and desserts for a fundraising luncheon that benefits Albany Toys for Tots," Noble said. "Toys for Tots helps buy Christmas gifts for children in need during the winter season."

This school year the NHS is hoping to do more projects to better the community of Albany.

"There was a meeting held discussing the possibility of a City Park clean up project and giving a helping hand to Lori Reames at Closet Angels," Waggoner said.

Membership not only teaches students to be responsible, but also helps them achieve their goals not only in college, but also in their careers.

"There are many ways for students to excel. NHS combines not only academic achievement but community service, leadership, and good

SEE "NHS" Pg. 5



Junior Curry Wilson receives her National Honor Society pin from senior NHS officers Molly Lee and Sierra Price during the induction ceremony on Oct. 26. Wilson was among 11 juniors who were inducted into the Albany Chapter of the National Honor Society.

PHOTO BY EMMY SHIRLEY



Editorials

Volunteering is important

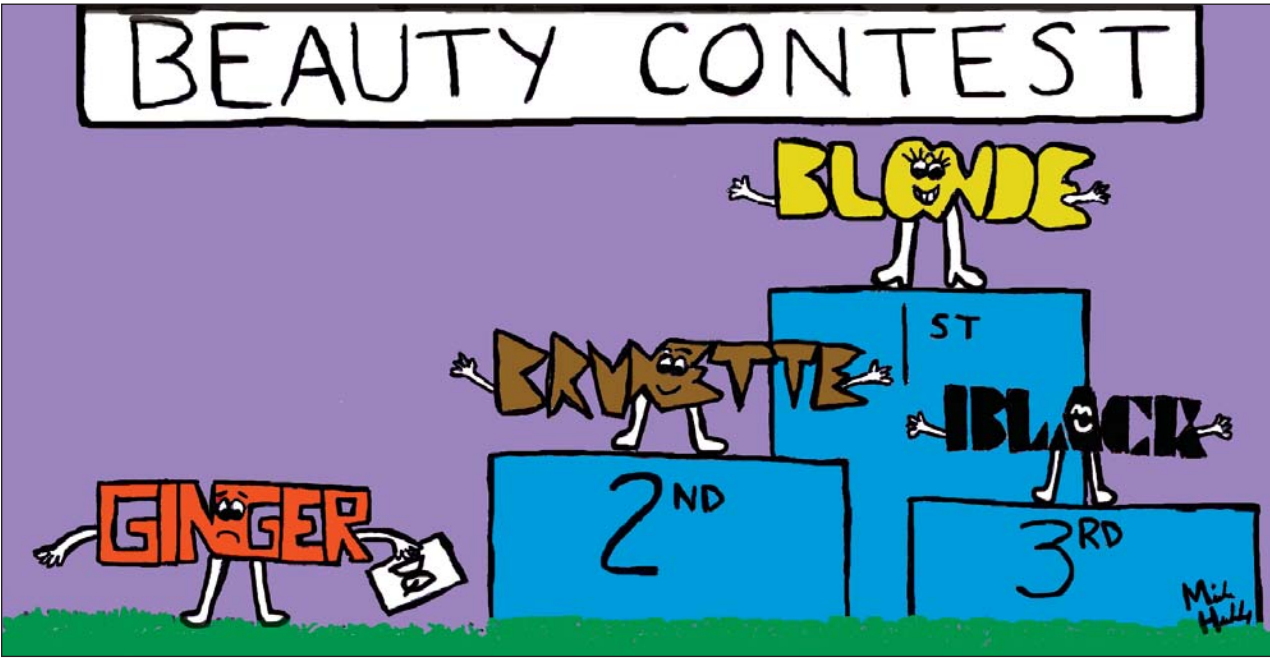
Organizations and clubs like Student Council and National Honor Society require students to gain community service hours in order to stay active as a member. While some students only volunteer to gain those hours, they should volunteer regularly and not just when it’s required. Many students expand their volunteer hours their senior year when applying for college. It looks good on applications if you volunteer consistently and not just at different places for two hours each. If you start volunteering during freshman year, you can get plugged in to some locations that will actually mean something to both the volunteer and the people being helped. Volunteering should be about serving the community you live in, not just gaining hours. Realizing that you can make a difference and serve others by something as simple as picking up trash or setting up events should be motivation enough. Since volunteering is something you can do for the rest of your life, some students may not think it is vital to start in high school. But it is important to learn the importance of volunteering and how happy it can make you to sacrifice your time for others.

There are many organizations and places in Albany to volunteer, but most encourage volunteers to be invested and serve there often. By volunteering you are showing others that you care about the community and enjoy giving to others. Volunteering should be about giving back to your community, not just meeting requirements.

Benefits of social media

Many people have mixed feelings about social media. Some think it’s great and love it, while others feel that it is slowly destroying this generation’s communication skills. Social media is a positive thing that needs to be utilized to its fullest potential. It allows people to communicate with family and friends that they wouldn’t ordinarily be able to keep in touch with. Before Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and many other sites, the only way to talk to friends and relatives was on the phone, and with everyone’s busy schedules, this is increasingly difficult. New friendships can also be made on social media. It makes it easy to keep up with people from surrounding towns and cities and to meet new friends. This is especially helpful when heading off to college or a new place where you don’t know many people because it makes it possible to make some friends before you get there. Social media also helps users stay informed on what is happening. Many people don’t like social media because they believe that our society as a whole spends too much time on it and that because of it face-to-face communication is decreasing. However, it provides opportunities that wouldn’t be available otherwise. Social media needs to be used while it is so easily accessible because it makes it possible to stay in touch with friends and family, meet new friends, and stay informed.

COMMENTARY



Being happy is a choice

One of the things you look forward to after being nominated for homecoming queen is your dad escorting you on the field, as well as showing you off in the homecoming parade. When I heard I was nominated, I have never seen my dad more proud of me. I was touched by his smile and the joy he felt for me. My fantasy for what would be the most perfect bonding experience with my dad was shattered when we heard he was going to have to work out of town for about a month, which happened to overlap with homecoming. The whole process of finding a car for the parade and finding the perfect dress for the field became something that I was not looking forward to anymore because I wasn’t getting to share it with my dad. Homecoming day came and my best friend’s dad, John Ayers, drove me in the parade, and my brother, Mitchell, escorted me on the field. All-in-all, it was a good day despite my dad having to experience it through pictures and on Facebook. But homecoming night was when the loneliness hit me. My parents and siblings were not getting the opportunity to live out the same parts of my senior year with me that I had the privilege of experiencing with my siblings. They were missing out on memories that I would never get back. My family is gone most of the time, leaving me feeling



#blessed  
by MOLLY LEE

lonely and by myself. Since my mom works in Abilene at her family’s funeral home, sometimes I will not see her until 7:30 at night. My dad is often out of town working, and both of my siblings are in Lubbock at Texas Tech University. I have never been alone until this year since my sister is just a year older than me, and I have had to learn the hard way that I was not meant to be an only child. I was almost bitter towards my family for not being present for all of the things that mean something to me. I could not even enjoy spending time with my sister and brother when they were in town for homecoming because I was too busy reflecting on all of the moments they missed. I realized the night of homecoming that I had to make a decision. I knew my family could not control the fact that they were working or at college, and I know they can’t drop everything to be present for all of the little milestones of my senior year. It was a privilege that I was able to be a part of every second of my siblings’ final years in high school. I had to realize that situations change, and I can’t live in the sadness of feeling alone. I don’t want my senior year to be one long memory of wishing that circumstances were different. I had to choose to be joyful in the times that they could be here and still remain joyful when they’re not.

Good manners still matter

I work at a gymnastics gym in town, and every day I see children. When we first started classes this year, I introduced myself to each child taking gymnastics. I expected to get warm responses when I introduced myself, but not all of them were especially friendly. I wasn’t shocked, because we’re talking about three and four year olds here. What amazed me was that some parents failed to require common courtesy. What has happened to parents teaching their children how to treat others? Even I know that a child should not be rude to others, and I’m SEVENTEEN! When I was little, if I would do something that was disrespectful or inappropriate, I wouldn’t get a pat on the back. I would get a pat on my rear-end. I see parents today who “worship” their children, buying them expensive things, always going above and beyond to give them everything. I’m not saying that it’s bad to spoil your children every now and then, but I’m just



REDHEADED RANTS  
by CURRY WILSON

stating that parents should be equally concerned with how their children behave, at least in public. If parents don’t discipline their children today, how will they ever know how to act? Some parents just need to wake up. They need to take action in their children’s lives and learn to say “no”. It’s not that hard. You can make excuses and say that they are going “through a phase,” but this phase needs to stop. I believe that people today don’t understand that the kids that are growing up now will soon be the leaders of this world. And quite frankly, I don’t want my children to grow up in a world that is headed down a questionable path due to parents not doing their job. Wake up people! There is a crisis going on in today’s world, and people need to do something about it! It is too easy to see disrespectful kids everywhere you go, whether or not their parents acknowledge it or not.

America’s team is back

The Dallas Cowboys are looking abnormally good to start this season off, posting a 4-1 in the first five weeks of the season. While everyone is asking me, “How ‘bout them Cowboys?” I am still sitting here in awe waiting for the Cowboys I know so well to disappoint me. Even though I keep waiting for this disappointment to hit me like a freight train, I still have a sliver of hope for America’s team. Not only have they lightened the load on quarterback Tony Romo, but also they have found someone to give it to. The receiver of the load is former Oklahoma Sooners running back DeMarco Murray. Murray has taken this load and done a quite exceptional job with it. He leads the NFL in rushing yards and touchdowns. If Jerry Jones was worried about his team making the headlines this year, he can forget all about that. Even though the Cowboys didn’t snatch A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel in the 2014 NFL Draft, the team is still splashing into the headlines. First they picked up the openly gay defensive end, Michael Sam, off of waivers from the St. Louis Rams.



SPORTS WITH STEVE  
by STEVE PHILLIPS

If that didn’t get the bowl stirring in the state of Texas, Jerry Jones was out of luck after that. The start of the season quickly snatched that headline away. The first game of the season ended in a miserable loss to the San Francisco 49ers. The questions about how bad the Cowboys were going to be this year quickly arose. The next week was an expected win against the Titans, which didn’t impress most critics. Even the week after that did not impress against the Rams, but the next week against the Saints had the critics raving. America’s team has made an epic return. In week five, when the weight of the world was on their shoulders, they came up big against the Texans with an OT win. The Cowboys are entering week 10 with a 6-3 record after losing two straight without Tony Romo. Romo is set to return against the Jaguars as they face off in London, England. I could be making a complete fool of myself with this statement, but THE COWBOYS ARE BACK. AMERICA’S TEAM IS HERE.



THE LIONS ROAR  
ILPC 2014 Gold Star Winner  
ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL

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2¢ worth

Why is volunteering important?

“It helps the people in the community, and it changes your views on things in the community.”

Henry Kelly  
Freshman



“Giving people things that they wouldn’t usually be able to get and seeing them smile gives me happiness in return. I like knowing that I can make a difference.”

Michaela Reames  
Sophomore



“I think volunteering provides important ways to support the community.”

Savannah Perez  
Junior



“A lot of people do things that you don’t hear about or that are behind the scenes, and it’s a way to give back to the community for what they have done for us.”

Chandler Fields  
Senior





Holiday stuffs students with tradition

Students reflect on Thanksgiving memories

BY HAILLEY GREEN  
Entertainment Editor

Thanksgiving traditions have been around as long as, well, pumpkin pie.

Most families have Thanksgiving traditions; some are traditional and others are not so traditional.

“My family always comes in, and we always have the traditional meal, and then at the end of our meal, we tell each other why we are thankful for each other,” junior Carley Price said. “Each person takes turns in the circle, then we will all go around and say why we are thankful for them.”

For some other families traditional may not be their cup of tea.

“We always go to my great-grandparents house and sing hymns for Thanksgiving, and we go around to say what we are thankful for,” sophomore Michaela Reames said. “That usually takes a long time since there are always 50 or 60 of us there.”

Although most traditions are universal, they are still important to individual families.

“I like having traditions,” Reames said. “It’s something special, and it’s what you look forward to every year. I want to keep the traditions alive, but new traditions are always welcomed and fun to have.”

Both Reames and Price said their favorite tradition is what the holiday is famous for – food.

“My grandmother always makes her famous beefy queso, which she brings every year,” Reames said. “My mom brings her Jeff Davis pie, and my cousin Jessica makes a green bean casserole and deviled eggs. There is a lot of food.”

In some cases, people don’t like traditional foods.

“My family always has a wide variety of food because my brother and I are picky, and we don’t like many of the traditional foods,” senior Molly Lee said.

Some people travel to different places to spend the holidays.

“We normally go to Dallas and eat with my dad’s side of the family, then we travel up to Arkansas and eat with my mom’s side of the family,” freshman Brian Hamilton said.

Other students like to stay a little closer to home.

“Even though my grandparents just live in Abilene, I don’t get to see them that often, and it’s nice knowing that every year I’m going to go to their house to spend time with them for two holidays,” Lee said.

Thanksgiving Day is spent doing a variety of activities from playing football, to watching football, to just talking with family.

“Thursday morning I wake up and go to football practice, then I come home and sleep until we have our Thanksgiving dinner,” senior Colin Read said.

Some families play board games with each other to pass the time.

“We always play board games after we eat, usually Scrabble, because we always make up words just to make my grandpa mad because he doesn’t like made-up words,” Lee said.

Traditions often change.

“We actually used to spend

“It’s something special and it’s what you look forward to every year. I want to keep the traditions alive but new traditions are always welcomed..”  
— Michaela Reames



Michaela Reames (left) and her sister, Riley (right), enjoy spending time together at their great-grandparents house with family during Thanksgiving. PHOTO PROVIDED BY MICHAELA REAMES

Thanksgiving with my dad’s side of the family, but then when my grandparents passed away, it’s kind of cool that we get to spend both holidays with my mom’s side of the family,” Lee said.

Some families even wake up to watch the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade together.

“The night before Thanksgiving we usually spend the night and wake up to watch the Thanksgiving parade,” eighth grader Cutter Cowart said. “Then we eat snack foods and watch football until the turkey is done.”

Sometimes it gets a little interesting when a whole family

gets together.

“When my family gets together there is a lot of fighting and there’s a lot of sleeping,” junior Kyler Conde said.

People like having traditions for a number of reasons.

“I like having traditions because I get to see all of my family every year and the food is good,” seventh grader Julia Bowman said.

While some families spend it with their grandparents, others spend it with their great grandparents.

“We go to their house because they are the great grandparents, and we are all just really close,” Reames said. “I love going

to their house. It always feels homey, the food is good, and I love seeing family that I don’t get to see that much.”

Spending time with their family is the most important part of Thanksgiving for many.

“I know that when I go off to college, I can always come home to the same things because tradition has always been a big part of my family,” Price said.

Some families even do things that aren’t so typical for Thanksgiving.

“We eat steak and baked potatoes because my brother and I are picky, and we don’t like that many traditional foods,” Lee said.

Traditions have become traditions for different reasons.

“Over the years, Thanksgiving has always been a time when we had a weekend to ourselves,” junior Caleb Masters said. “It was a perfect time, with all of us together, to go hunting and eat.”

Thanksgiving seems to be a holiday everyone loves.

“I love having traditions because you know what to expect every year, and you can count on it being the same every single year,” Price said. “When I’m in college, I will be able to come home, and that really is a reassuring feeling.”

Thanksgiving weekends aren’t always spent in front of a warm fire.

“All of my family comes to my house every year,” Masters said. “We spend the afternoon together watching the football games and eating dinner. The next morning my dad, my granddad, and I all go hunting in Lamesa.”

Masters loves to spend time out in the deer blinds.

“My favorite tradition would obviously be the hunting,” he said. “It’s something I look forward to every year because I usually have a busy schedule and don’t get to hunt much.”

Traditions may vary by family, but they are all equally important when it comes to the holidays.

ROARING  
REVIEWS

**Fury** October 17, 2014 R 135 min  
Action | Drama  
April, 1945. As the Allies make their final push in the European Theatre, a sergeant named Wardaddy commands a tank and crew on a deadly mission. Outnumbered and outgunned, Wardaddy and his men face overwhelming odds in their heroic attempts to strike at the heart of Nazi Germany.  
**Director:** David Ayer  
**Writer:** David Ayer  
**Stars:** Brad Pitt, Shai LaBeouf, Logan Lerman

Staff Review:

**The Best of Me** October 17, 2014 PG-13 118 min  
Drama | Romance  
The story of Dawson and Amanda, two former high school sweethearts who find themselves reunited after 20 years apart. Their bittersweet reunion reignites the love they’ve never forgotten, but soon they discover the forces that drove them apart twenty years ago live on, posing even more serious threats today.  
**Director:** Michael Hoffman  
**Writers:** Will Fetters  
**Stars:** James Marsden, Michelle Monaghan

Staff Review:

**Ouija** October 24, 2014 PG-13 90 min  
Thriller | Action  
A group of friends must confront their most terrifying fears when they awaken the dark powers of an ancient spirit board.  
**Director:** Stiles White  
**Writers:** Stiles White, Juliet Snowden  
**Stars:** Olivia Cooke, Daren Kagasoff

Staff Review:

**Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day** October 10, 2014 PG 81 min  
Comedy | Family  
When Alexander tells his upbeat family about the misadventures of his disastrous day, he finds little sympathy and begins to wonder if bad things only happen to him.  
**Director:** Miguel Arteta  
**Writers:** Rob Lieber  
**Stars:** Steve Carell, Jennifer Garner, Bella Thorne

Staff Review:

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT  
BY HAILLEY GREEN

**Courageous** So B. It  
by Sarah Weeks

*Courageous* is a movie based on the Christian values and beliefs of four law enforcement officers who face the worst the streets have to offer. However, at home, they are falling short as dads. One officer nags his son and brushes off his daughter. Another is divorced and hardly sees his child, and the third fathered a daughter when he was young and then walked away. Throughout the movie, officers Adam Mitchell, Nathan Hayes, David Thomson, and Shane Fuller all struggle with their relationships, with not only their families, but also with God. When tragedy strikes, being a “good enough” father doesn’t cut it, and these four men’s faith is tested. They are faced with a difficult choice that will in the end come to define their lives and what type of fathers they will grow to be.

This is an absolutely amazing movie. It can take you from laughing to crying in the same scene. For me, there were some parts of the movie that hit me harder because my dad is a police officer, and I can personally relate to certain things more than others may be able to. I would recommend this to anyone. It is a great family movie to watch, and it can really make you think about some of the relationships you have with people and make you reevaluate life. Sherwood Pictures, the Christian production company behind other popular films such as *Fireproof* and *Facing the Giants*, also produced *Courageous*. Alex Kendrick wonderfully directed *Courageous*; he was also the main character. Kendrick also directed *Fireproof* and *Facing the Giants*.

half-thoroughbred farm horse, who is sold at an auction to a mean farmer. Luckily, the farmer’s son, Albert, bonds with Joey and they develop a strong bond to each other. Joey is sold to the Army in 1914 because Albert’s father needs money. Joey is transformed from a farm horse to a cavalry horse and is thrown into the middle of World War I. As Joey charges towards the enemy, his officer is killed and he is taken by the Germans. Joey’s courage touches the soldiers around him. While on the front lines, Joey becomes friends with another horse named Topthorn who is also on the front lines. The two horses grow close and stick together throughout the war.

*War Horse* is written from the point of view of Joey, the horse. This book is different because it is told from Joey’s perspective, which in my opinion makes it more interesting and entertaining. The fact that *War Horse* is composed from a horse’s point of view helps you to have a better understanding of how Joey felt throughout the book. While reading this book, you see the unbreakable bond between a man and his horse. *War Horse* was also made into a movie. The movie was exactly how I imagined it while I was reading the book. I personally like the book more than the movie because the book goes into more detail and the story line is much better in the movie. Michael Morpurgo did an amazing job writing *War Horse* and was able to make me cry and laugh several times throughout the course of reading this book. I would recommend this book to anyone because I am almost positive that everyone will love it.



# Cheer team leaps into new territory

## New pom team formed this year

BY LORI DAVIS  
Assistant Editor

Albany cheerleading and gymnastics coach Kandi Barron has recently added a new team to go along with her cheer team and gymnastics classes. It is a pom team, which is a type of dance team that uses pom poms for their routine.

The team consists of 10 junior high and high school girls.

"This is my first time coaching a pom team," Barron said. "I was never much of a dancer and was more interested in cheerleading, but some of the girls wanted to try it."

Since Barron is not experienced in coaching this kind of team, she sought outside assistance to help with the routine.

"I hired a lady from Houston to choreograph the dance," Barron said.

The girls are excited about the new team performing.

"I love the dancing, and it is fun trying something new," sophomore Kaleigh Clevenger said.

For freshman Krysten Morris, it was the fact that it was something different that drew her to it.

"I have never been on a dance team before, so I thought it would be exciting to try," Morris said.

Senior Rachel Kitchens also likes the team and all of the girls on it.

"Everyone is very dedicated and wants to win, and with that mindset we will do well," Kitchens said.

Performing on a pom team is different from cheerleading, which most

of the girls are involved in.

"There are no stunts, tumbling, or jumps involved in a pom routine," Barron said.

Kitchens finds it more relaxing.

"It is a lot less stressful than cheerleading because you don't have to worry about stunts hitting, and there is no tumbling," Kitchens said.

Morris prefers cheerleading.

"I like cheerleading better because I love to tumble and there isn't any tumbling in pom," Morris said.

Despite the differences, there are similarities between a regular dance team and a pom team.

"The main difference is that pom combines lyrical, jazz, and hip hop dance instead of just being one form of dance," Clevenger said. "You also must use two pom poms the whole time."

The team has two upcoming competitions, the first on Dec. 7 in Garland, and another on Jan. 24 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

"If we win either competition, then we will have won Nationals," Barron said.

The girls on the team wanted to form a pom team both as a fun experience and to benefit them later.

"We had people that liked to compete, but didn't really want to compete in cheerleading, and we all like to dance so we thought it would be fun to try," Kitchens said. "It is also easier to win Nationals in the pom competition."

Clevenger feels that it also will help her in the future.

"I really want to be on a pom team in college, so my mom thought that it would be good for the girls who want to pursue cheerleading and dance later in



Kaleigh Clevenger and Curry Wilson (above) check out the uniforms that the pom team will wear to competitions. Pom team members (right) practice their routine during a Sunday practice. The team will compete on Dec. 7 in Garland, and then on Jan. 24 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington. Winning these two competitions will result in the team winning Nationals.

PHOTOS BY LORI DAVIS

life to give them a good background in this type of dance," Clevenger said.

Freshman Kourtnee Waters loves the competition side of it.

"I really like going to competitions, and we have a mindset to win," Waters said.

The team has set a big



goal for themselves.

"Our goal is to win Nationals and get jackets," Morris said.

Not as many teams participate in the pom category at competitions.

"Since fewer teams enter in the pom competitions, we have a better chance of winning Nationals," freshman Lindsey Lucas said.

There are a few girls who are finding it difficult to transition from cheerleading to pom.

"We are working a lot on the leaps and turns of the routine," freshman Madison Ratliff said. "Most of us are used to the tight motions of cheer and are not used to the movements of pom."

Morris agrees with Ratliff.

"Right now our leaps look more like cheer jumps and not graceful leaps, but we are practicing to improve on that," Morris said.

With all of the other activities going on, it is difficult to find time to practice.

"We have 11 girls on the team with completely different schedules, and so the little free time that we do have is spent on the pom team," Kitchens said.

Clevenger finds it hard to make time in her busy schedule to practice.

"We can't practice after school during the week because everyone has athletic practice, games, church, and homework, so the only time we could find to practice was on Sunday afternoons," Clevenger said.

"I also practice on my own if I have time."

The team has had to make some adjustments to their routine because they have lost a couple of girls.

"Due to injuries and lack of interest, a few girls have left the team, so we have had to redo some of the formations," Barron said.

# Parsons lives to dance another day

## Dance classes cancelled for the year

BY CURRY WILSON  
Assistant Editor

A longstanding tradition is taking a break.

Generations of local students, mostly girls, have donned toe shoes and tights as part of the storied tradition of dance classes in Albany.

However, this year the echo of tap shoes clattering on the wooden floors at the Whitney Theatre has gone silent.

Betsy Parsons, who has owned the dance studio for 20 years, has made the difficult decision not to offer dance classes – at least for this year.

"My granddaughter is going to have surgery, and my daughter needed me to help her with traveling to Fort Worth and being with her through therapy," Parsons said.

Parsons took the studio after her old dance teacher, Marge Bray, had passed away.

"I was about to turn 40 when my old dance teacher, Margie, passed away and left me the studio," Parsons said. "I worked for her when I was in high school, and later I worked for her as an assistant."

While dealing with family issues, Parsons is also dealing with a personal issue herself.

"I was diagnosed with Macular Degeneration, which is an eye disease, about five years ago," Parsons said. "This year when I went back to my doctor in July the disease had started to accelerate."

Parsons did not want to cancel dance this year knowing that the seniors won't be able to have their solos, but she has been forced to make the difficult decision to take the year off.

"I knew that there would be disappointment for the seniors, and the last thing that I wanted to do is to disappoint kids," she said. "But what I am hoping is that they can get past the disappointment and be happy with the memories that they had for the last 14 years."

Rachel Kitchens, a senior, has danced for Parsons since she was three.

"I am upset that she was unable to teach dance,

because dance is something that I love and am passionate about, but I understand that she needed to be with her family," Kitchens said.

Not only has Kitchens been dancing for Parsons, she has been working for her as well.

"I worked at the studio for the last two years, and I had a schedule that I was familiar with," Kitchens said.

"Now my daily routine has been rearranged, and I also don't get to see the people that I loved to work with as much anymore."

For some seniors, dance was the only outside school activity that they did.

"I have been doing dance

since I was about four, and I was sad to hear the news that Miss Betsy wasn't going to do dance this year," senior Faith Brooks said.

"I liked to learn new things every year and to go on stage and perform," In addition to Kitchens, junior Savannah Perez also worked at the studio. She is also hoping that Parsons will return next year.

"I worked for Betsy my sophomore year," Perez said. "I was upset when I heard the news that she wasn't going to teach this year, but I'm hoping that she will return next year because I would like to have my senior solo."

Perez had also been dancing

since she was three and has loved every minute of it.

"I have been doing dance for as long as I can remember," Perez said. "I liked how I could get away from school, and it really helped me to not be so shy when I was younger."

Dance had become very popular over the years. People from neighboring towns traveled to take lessons.

"We have averaged about 145 kids each year," Parsons said. "We have always had a waiting list for kids; however, we wanted to give Albany kids the advantage to sign up first because we really wanted to service them first."

With so many students, Parsons needed help to run the business.

"The last couple of years we have had about six workers," Parsons said.

All of the hard work during the year culminates with the dance recital at the beginning of June. Parsons enjoyed seeing all the hard work the girls put in for their final performance.

"The dance recital is the one night that everybody feels beautiful," Parsons said. "You see these little girls who look like they are floating on air, and it feels like I have won. I think it is really important to have some of those moments in your life."

To others, the dance recital is the one night that shows off the talent of the girls.

"I couldn't wait to get out on stage and really show everybody what we have been working on," Perez said. "I always was happy to see the audience enjoy what we have been working so hard for."

Parsons intends to come back next fall, but if not, then she plans on passing

down the studio to another instructor.

"I will definitely pass down the studio if I can no longer teach dance," she said. "I have a few people that I talked to last year during the year. My hope is to pass down the studio and keep it running just like Marge did," Parsons said.



High School students (above) rehearse their tap dancing routine for the dance recital last year. Current seniors (left) pose for a group ballet shot from several years ago. Many girls in the senior class have been participating in dance at the Albany Dance Theatre doing tap and ballet dances since the age of three.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE ALBANY NEWS AND RACHEL KITCHENS

## WHAT'S HAPPENING! CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### NOVEMBER

- 8 Jr. Varsity/ Varsity Girls basketball vs. Newcastle @ 10:00- there
- 10 Texas Tech Admissions Representative here for Juniors/ Seniors
- 12 ASVAB testing
- 13 Jr. High Girls Basketball vs. Anson @ 5:00- here
- 13 Jr. High Boys Basketball vs. Anson @ 5:00- there
- 15 Jr. Varsity/ Varsity Girls basketball vs. Newcastle @ TBA- here
- 17 Jr. High Girls Basketball vs. Haskell @ 5:00- there
- 17 Jr. High Boys Basketball vs. Haskell @ 5:00- here
- 18 Jr. Varsity II Basketball vs. Eula @ 4:00- there
- 18 Jr. Varsity/ Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball vs. Merkel @ 4:00- here
- 21 Jr. Varsity/ Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball vs. Ranger @ 4:00- here
- 23 NHS Toys for Tots luncheon
- 24 Jr. Varsity/ Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball vs. Veribest @ 4:00- here
- 24 Jr. High Girls Basketball vs. Stamford @ 5:00- here
- 24 Jr. High Boys Basketball vs. Stamford @ 5:00- there
- 25 Jr. Varsity/ Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball vs. Trent @ 4:00- there
- 26-28 Thanksgiving Break

### DECEMBER

- 1 Junior Varsity II Girls Basketball vs. Eula @ 4:00- there
- 1 Jr. High Girls Basketball vs. Hawley @ 5:00- here
- 1 Jr. High Boys Basketball vs. Hawley @ 5:00- there
- 2 Jr. Varsity Girls Basketball vs. Woodson @ 6:00- here
- 2 Jr. Varsity/ Varsity Boys Basketball vs. Archer City @ 5:00- here
- 2-3 STAAR EOC retesting
- 4-6 Jr. Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball Woodson Tournament @ TBD
- 4-6 Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball Albany Tournament @ TBD
- 6 SAT Testing in Albany



# Gingers speak from the soul

School has large number of redheads

BY KYLEA GARDNER  
Features Editor

The red-headed population has been looked down on for some time now, but many high school and elementary students, along with several teachers, are seeing the bright side of being “different”.

Only two percent of the world’s population is naturally redheaded, but Albany seems to have a larger than usual number of redheads who live in town.

“I feel like we’re sort of in this secret club,” junior Curry Wilson said. “When I see another red-headed person, I feel like I’m obligated to say ‘hi’ to them.”

Junior Kyler Conde agreed that being red-headed makes him feel special.

“I feel like I’m famous, because whenever I’m around people, I stick out, so they are always looking at me,” Conde said.

Fourth grade teacher Melissa Fields shared her insight about being part of the redhead population.

“To be part of such a small, special population, you learn to appreciate differences in other people,” Fields said.

Many stereotypes have been pinned on redheads, mostly with a negative connotation.

“Lots of people say that I don’t have a soul, or that I steal people’s souls,” sophomore Abbi Beard said.

Other students also get labels because of their hair color.

“I get a few ‘no soul’ comments here and there, but most commonly I get called a ginger,” Wilson said. “Many of my classmates call me Curry Powder because my hair color resembles the spice, and my name is Curry.”

Conde also gets hassled by fellow students.

“I get called all kinds of things,” Conde said. “Some of my classmates call me ‘Gingersnap’ or ‘Carrot Top’, which are the two most interesting.”

More unique stereotypes get pinned on freshman Garrett Davis as well.

“Lots of people call me a Leprechaun, the usual



Local students and teachers (above) pose for a group picture to display their red hair. Henry Kelly and Curry Wilson (left) help Jennifer Corbin with the money the student council raised at a recent fundraiser. Kelly and Wilson are two of the many students on student council with red hair. Only four percent of the world has red hair. For a small town and school, Albany has many residents that have natural red hair.

PHOTOS BY KYLEA GARDNER

Ginger, and sometimes they say I don’t have a soul,” Davis said.

Genetically, red-headed people are more prone to sunburn and skin cancer, so they usually have to take special precautions in order to keep their skin healthy.

“I wear SPF 100 sunscreen...yes, they do make that,” Wilson said. “I always wear t-shirts instead of tank tops, and I try my best to keep my hair down to protect my neck. When I get hot and I pull my hair up, I just have to apply more sunscreen.”

Beard also has to take similar precautions.

“I continually apply sunscreen, and I try to stay either inside or in the shade as much as possible,” Beard said.

Fields gave her input on the importance of

protecting your skin.

“I make sure that all my makeup has SPF 30 sunscreen, and I try to stay out of the sun as much as possible,” She said. “Redheads have a

**“I feel that the older I’ve become, the more I value the unique-ness of having red hair, pale skin, and many angel kisses.”**

— Melissa Fields, Nancy Smith Elementary teacher

very poor tanning ability, and increased risk of skin cancer, so we have to be very careful and take extra measures.”

On the other hand, Conde has a different view of the situation.

“I don’t really wear sunscreen; I hate smelling like a baby,” Conde said. “My stubbornness will

most likely end up hurting me in the long run.”

Students and teachers both have a hard time being protected from the sun during the summer months.

“The only time that I can swim is either really early in the morning or really late at night,” Wilson said.

Fields, a mother of two, makes an effort to keep her skin protected at sporting events and is very cautious no matter the temperature.

“If I am in the sun, like

at a baseball game, I try to wear a hat and long sleeves as much as possible,” Fields said.

There are many disadvantages that go along with a redhead’s fair skin type, such as the increased risk of sunburn.

“I get insecure around my mom and sisters because they have really dark complexions, and I feel like a vampire around them,” Wilson said. “People have to put on sunglasses just to tone down the brightness.”

Conde agreed that being red-headed isn’t always easy.

“When you have hair like I do, you stick out a lot,” he said. “Then if you get sunburned, your face matches your hair.”

Davis explained that due to his fair skin, he regularly goes through

a bottle of sunscreen per month by himself.

Wilson also shared about her use of sunscreen.

“I have lots of bottles of sunscreen all over my house,” Wilson said.

Although some aspects are less than fabulous, students and teachers expressed that being different isn’t as bad as it seems.

“I get a lot of compliments from people because I don’t look like everyone else,” Beard said.

Freshman Henry Kelly keeps a positive outlook on his appearance.

“Being red headed makes you feel like you’re different, like you’re unique,” Kelly said.

Conde agreed.

“Everyone always knows me because I’m a little bit different than everyone else,” Conde said.

Wilson realized that being the way she is would benefit her later on in life.

“When I get older, I won’t get wrinkles as fast as everyone else because I never go outside,” Wilson said.

Being unlike most people has made Fields more appreciative.

“I feel that the older I’ve become, the more I value my uniqueness of having red hair, pale skin, and many, many angel kisses,” Fields said.

For most of these students, they are the only red-headed person in their immediate family.

“My mom’s dad had red hair, and my dad’s dad had a red beard, but my mom and both sisters have dark complexions,” Wilson said.

Kelly agreed that he is the only one with red hair in his family.

“Most people don’t think I’m actually related to my family because of my hair,” Kelly said.

For a couple students, red hair runs throughout their family.

“My great grandpa had red hair, as well as my younger brother and older sister,” Beard said.

Conde also has many red-headed relatives.

“My mom has red hair, and so do the majority of her relatives,” Conde said. “My dad’s dad had red hair, also.”

Albany is a place where redheads can find their niche, maybe because the odds are more in their favor.

## “Pink”

Continued from | PG 1

senior Rachel Kitchens also helps to promote the situation by getting the cheerleaders involved.

Albany partnered with district schools to also help bring awareness to breast cancer prevention. During the football game in Santo, both schools made an effort to do a “pink out” involving students and local fans.

“Each Friday in October we trade in our red and silver pom poms for pink ones, and we wear pink bows, shoestrings, and have pink ribbon tattoos to be worn at the pep rallies and games,” Kitchens said. “We also dedicated the Santo game as ‘Pink Out the Wildcats’ to encourage even the fans to wear pink.”

The cheerleaders didn’t just wear pink; they raised money to give for the fight.

“The squad sold t-shirts for our fans to wear during our pink out

game with the proceeds donated to the American Cancer Association,” Kitchens said.

Kitchens believes being involved influences others to do the same.

“When football and volleyball fans see the pink, it makes them think about the families and those battling the fight against cancer,” Kitchens said. “As cheerleaders, our responsibility is to encourage the students and fans to see the bigger meaning of wearing the pink.”

Senior Kaylee Waters knows the seriousness of this disease firsthand.

“Both of my grandmothers were affected by breast cancer, and I know from what my family has experienced it really makes a difference when people come together to bring awareness, fight, and encourage those who may be battling,” Waters said. “Noticing all the teams with pink on is a good feeling to know so many come together, no matter what team they are

on, to show awareness for breast cancer.”

A breast cancer survivor of 17 years and FCCLA teacher, Jennie Bailey feels the sport teams wearing pink is becoming more common but still remains very effective.

“Because the color pink is so heavily associated with breast cancer, it is still influential to people who may not know much about the cancer, but especially to those who have experienced the battle,” Bailey said. “To those who are not familiar with breast cancer, there are many organizations and websites that offer the information along with doctors and those who have walked that journey.”

Bailey is appreciative of how much support breast cancer receives now, but wishes more attention would be brought to the other diseases that are not as common.

The Lions wore a shade of blue during one of the home game to support uterine cancer awareness.

## “Council”

Continued from | PG 1

to community service projects and raise money for the Albany Chest and the Christmas Basket program.”

The council has recently started a fundraising project for the Doug Neece family.

The local council attended a fall convention Wednesday, Oct. 22.

“Fall convention is a good way to get more students involved and excited about working for the school,” Shelby Barton, Student Council president said.

The convention was held at the Abilene Civic Center.

Schools from all around the Big Country come to listen to a speaker whose goal is to get kids motivated to be leaders in their school,” Lucas said. “It’s good to find out what other schools are doing and get some ideas for future projects.”

The council has re-

cently been active in the community.

“Trick or Treating for Change is a way to get out and raise money for the Albany Chest,” Barton said. “We have fun getting dressed up and helping out the community.”

Trick or Treating for Change finished its third year successfully, raising around \$1,000.

“Albany Chest supports over 20 local organizations from Little League to the Fire Department,” Lucas said. “The council also goes for caroling in December to raise money for the Christmas Basket Program sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance.”

Winter Formal is a project that helps the Student Council have the resources to continue their work.

“The money we get from Winter Formal is the main source of funds for Student Council,” Lucas said. “It allows for extra things to be done, like the \$25 donation we give as a friendship gift at home football games.”

## “NHS”

Continued from | PG 1

character,” Waggoner said. “It also highlights all of those qualities rather than just one particular talent, and it is recognized nationally.”

One of the 2014 NHS inductees, Curry Wilson, was excited about her invitation.

“I think being in National Honor Society will look really good on a college application; it’s something that colleges recognize,” Wilson said.

Waggoner said students have a better chance of getting scholarships to college when they are involved in National Honor Society.

“When you apply for scholarships, people are investing in you,” Waggoner said. “When you’re in NHS it shows that you have the qualities that they are looking for.”

There was a ceremony held on October 26 to induct the 2014 candidates into NHS.



# Masters battles through injury

Knee injury precludes junior from athletics

BY RACHEL HILL  
Copy Editor

During the very first game of the Lions' 2014 season, the team suffered a serious loss when junior running back Caleb Masters suffered an injury. His diagnosis was a torn meniscus and damaged cartilage in his left knee. The result was extensive surgery.

"It was very disappointing," Masters said. "I knew that the expectations for me this year were very high, and I was primed and ready to fill them. Then in a flash it was all ripped away."

Masters' injury happened against the Colorado City Wolves in the season opener on August 29.

"It just seemed like any other play," Masters said. "I was going for a tackle on an extra point attempt and Stevie Phillips was right on my heels assisting me. We got caught up in a tumble and ended up falling on my knee, causing it to bend at a 90-degree angle. I heard and felt a lot of pops, and I knew it wasn't good."

Masters entered Dr. De-

prang's surgery room on September 3. The doctors went in and trimmed the meniscus, leaving him with only about 20 percent. They also drilled three holes into his knee so that blood would collect in the cartilage allowing it to clot, and result in new cartilage.

"That's the reason I had to keep my weight off it for so long," Masters said. "If I tried to walk on it too soon, I ran the risk of knocking the clot out."

As soon as he could, Masters began rehabbing his knee at the D1 clinic in Abilene, Texas.

"At first it was just little things, like stretching my knee and working on it to keep all the muscles firing and working," Masters said. "Whenever I was able to start walking on it again, I moved into some more extensive rehab."

A positive, solid, and healthy recovery is expected.

"I don't exactly have an exact time frame for when I will be back at 100 percent," Masters said. "However, I am working hard to get back as fast as I can, and hopefully I will be able to return for track season."

Despite the crushing injury, Masters still keeps a positive attitude.

"Because of this injury, I have learned that not everything we have is guaranteed," Masters said. "I've learned not to take the special things we have for

granted. Some things just happen, and even though we may not know why, all I can do is trust that God has a plan."

Even with the physical pain that comes with his injury, Masters says that the emotional pain is the worst part.

"The hardest part about my injury is waking up every Friday morning and remembering that I won't be able to step onto the field wearing an Albany Lions uniform," Masters said. "I wish I could be out there with my friends, fighting alongside them."

However the brotherly bond he shares with his teammates is also evident off the field.

"I know that sometimes the guys joke with me, and I would turn around to find my crutches missing, but I have had way more support than I ever thought I would," Masters said. "People always offered to carry things for me and just do whatever they could to help."

The community also backed Masters in his struggle as well.

"I greatly appreciate the town supporting me throughout this," Masters said. "It feels good to know that the town supports me as a student and a person and not just a football player. It makes me appreciate the opportunity to play sports. Some things are not promised, and I learned to make the most of all the opportunities while I can."



Caleb Masters crutches into the team huddle shortly after his surgery. Masters, who was disappointed he wasn't able to suit up, is still supporting the team from the sidelines every Friday night. Masters is hoping to be back for track season in the spring.

PHOTO BY MOLLY LEE



# Lions fight to become district champs

Lions one game away from 'perfect' regular season

BY CURRY WILSON  
Assistant Editor

Friday night lights and screaming fans should be shining bright for the Lions' season finale tonight.

"Football in Albany is different than other towns. We are expected to win district and go deep into the playoffs, and this year is no different," sophomore Roman Fuentes said.

With the regular season ending tonight, the Lions will face off against the Baird Bears. Head coach Denny Faith has prepared the team to pull off a win against the Bears, making the Lions 6-0 in district and the 2014 district champions.

"Baird has been playing really well right now," Faith said. "I think that they will be a good final game before playoffs."

With playoffs just around the corner, Faith hasn't been holding back the reins in practice.

"We try to keep the practices consistent and not do anything new, but the intensity of the



Alex Faith (left) and Roberto Cecillio (right) show strength on defense by taking down a Ranger player. The Lions have their last district game on November 7th against the Baird Bears with hopes to clench the district champions title. The Lions have a record of 9-0 and are aiming to achieve an undefeated season before entering their playoff run.

PHOTO BY MOLLY LEE

practices increase, and the guys really put everything they have into it by this part in the season."

Several members of the team have set individual goals that they hope to achieve.

"My goal this year was to get better and to prove to my teammates that I have what it takes," Fuentes said.

The Lions are staying focused during the workouts on the one ultimate goal.

"The overall goal is to get to the big game," senior Steve Phillips said.

"Once playoffs come around, then we will just take it one game at a time."

Not only are they working hard in practice, the team is also working hard off of the field.

"As we get

deeper into the season, we ask the boys to watch film on their own," Faith said. "It's just more preparation that they can do on their own and to improve our level of play."

Work that is put forth during practices carries over to the games.

"I can tell that we have gotten better each game," the coach said.

"From pre-season to district, the level of intensity has increased. When playoffs arrive, we hope to be hitting our peaks."

Lion football has a long-running tradition of winning district and going deep into the playoffs.

"When you live in Albany and you play football, there is always a huge role to live up to," Phillips said. "You know that there is always someone in the stands watching you that used to play here, and you want to impress them and make them proud to have been a part of Albany Lion football."

Trying to keep the deep playoff run tradition alive, Fuentes is working hard to help the team in any way possible.

"I'm trying to improve my speed because I play receiver," Fuentes said.

From being on JV last year, Fuentes has grown close with the other varsity players that are returning this year.

"I have been friends with the upper classmen in junior high and JV, so the transition from JV to varsity was easy to be accepted," Fuentes said.

Tonight the Lions will battle it out for the district title with the Baird Bears in Baird.

FOR THE RECORD:	
ALBANY LION FOOTBALL 9-0	
Perrin Whitt.....	W 54-0
Gorman.....	W 34-0
Ranger.....	W 55-0
Santo.....	W 20-6
Cross Plains.....	W 62-0



Lady Lions begin playoffs strong

Volleyball works for deep run in playoffs

MICHAEL COTTER  
Sports Editor

The volleyball girls have clinched one of the top spots in the district and are moving on to the playoffs. The team's hopes for a deep playoff run are very much alive.

The girls finished district in second place and will advance to the post season.

"This season is really going well," junior Lori Davis said. "We are playing really well and learning to play together."

Throughout the season, the team has learned to work together and improve.

"This season is going pretty good," freshman Rylie Scott said. "The team as a whole has really improved, and we are playing better every step of the way."

Despite the progress, the girls ended up in second place despite the two losses to Hawley.

"District was just like I thought it would be," head volleyball coach Kimberly Hill said. "We were in a tight battle with Hawely and Munday for playoff spots, and we have become bet-

ter for it." The team has also seen some players step up and improve their personal game.

"Sarah Taplin has really improved on her passing and is just a very coachable player," Hill said. "Tobi Nall and Rachel Hill have also taken leadership roles, and even as a freshman, Rylie Scott got thrown into the setter's position and is doing a very good job."

<b>FOR THE RECORD:</b>	
<b>DISTRICT 6-2A 10-2</b>	
Knox City.....	W 22-25, 25-19, 25-16, 25-17
Woodson.....	W 25-15, 25-9, 25-11
Benjamin.....	W 25-14, 25-10, 25-15
Hawley.....	L 25-18, 19-25, 22-25, 25-20
Moran.....	W 25-14, 25-11, 25-17
Munday.....	W 25-23, 25-21, 22-25, 15-20
Knox City.....	W 25-15, 25-15, 25-23
Woodson.....	W Forfeit
Benjamin.....	W 25-6, 25-20, 25-15
Hawley.....	L 14-25, 15-25, 19-25
Moran.....	W 25-3, 25-10, 25-16
Munday.....	W 25-23, 29-27, 22-25, 21-25, 15-7

Despite losing to Hawley both times, the girls used these losses as motivation to prepare for the post season.

"We practiced really hard and worked on the little things," Davis said. "Even though we didn't beat them, we really stepped up our game."

There were areas that needed improvement.

"I still think we needed to work on maintaining a consistent level of emotion," coach Hill said. "There were times we were too excited and pumped up, and then times we were way too low. We also needed to realize that because we were successful at something one time, doesn't mean we had mastered it."

The team improved in certain areas during the regular season.

"We really improved at being aggressive, attacking the ball, communicating, and just being intentional and determined," Coach Hill said. "Also, even though they could've still used some work, our serves improved as well."

Throughout this season Rylie Scott was asked to step up and fill some big roles as a starter.

"Being a freshman on varsity was overwhelming at first, but it made me strive to be the best teammate I could be," Scott said. "Sometimes I would get nervous, but I always remembered that it's just a game, and I always need to leave it all out on the court."

The Lady Lions are scheduled to play their bi-district playoff game against Petrolia in Graham on Nov. 4. Results of the game were not available at press time, the winner advances to the area round.



Junior Abby Reed goes up for a hit against Benjamin during a game. The Lady Lions finished 10-2 in district and secured their second place spot with a win over Munday. The team had their first playoff game on Nov. 4, with the results unavailable at press time.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL COTTER

Basketball teams prepare for season

Hopes are high for new season

STEVE PHILLIPS  
News Editor

As football season enters the final stretch of the season, basketball players and coaches are gearing up for a very different playing field. With the first games to be played in November, both the boys' and girls' teams are set to hit the court.

The Lady Lions finished their season in the area round against Goldthwaite last year with a final record of 19-7.

"This year's team is going to be really eager to step up and fill the shoes that last year's team left behind," head coach Paul Johnston said.

This year's varsity team has four returning players from last year.

"It's a whole new group of girls this year, and we lost

five outstanding players," Johnston said. "I'm excited for the seniors to become leaders and for the younger girls to step up and become varsity players."

Johnston says since this is the last year for the seniors and the stakes are higher for them, he looks to them to take leadership roles. One senior, Ruby Sanchez, is returning from last year's varsity team.

"I'm looking forward to being a senior leader," Sanchez said. "This gives me the opportunity to show the younger girls the love I have for basketball and also how important this year is."

Although the Lady Lions had a successful year last year, Sanchez realizes there is room for improvement.

"My goals are to become a better post player," Sanchez said, "and also to become more confident in my ball handling."

Even though she looks to improve her post-play, Sanchez knows that is not



Seniors Tyler Morgan (right) and Chandler Fields (left) practice for the upcoming basketball season. The varsity boys season is scheduled to start on November 18.

PHOTO BY SHELBY BARTON

all she must work on.

"My biggest challenge for this year would be learning to play different positions," Sanchez said. "There is a different atmosphere at every position."

As Coach Johnston and the Lady Lions make their

way off the court, head coach Ryder Peacock and the Lions will dribble their way onto the court.

"Experience is our biggest advantage this year because we returned every starter," Peacock said. The Lions are returning eight

players and all starters from last year. They also posted a 9-7 record with a loss to Windthorst in the bi-district round.

"With experience comes knowledge, which means we don't have to reteach a whole lot," Peacock said.

The Lions' district this year consists of seven teams including Anson, Hamlin, Haskell, Hawley, Roscoe, Stamford, and Winters.

"I think consistency will be our biggest challenge this year," Peacock said. "We have 14 district games, so we will have to play hard every single night to try and reach the playoffs again."

Along with Johnston, Peacock is also optimistic for his team in the upcoming season.

"I'm looking forward to our guys growing," Peacock said. "We don't have to start fresh like last year. Everyone knows where to be and what to do."

This year the Lions will return four seniors who Peacock looks to be the

leaders. Peacock agreed with Johnston that the seniors are the natural choice to be leaders.

"Last year we didn't have any seniors," Peacock said, "but this year I'm really looking for the seniors as a whole to lead us."

A returning starter and senior leader, Dylan Petree, is looking forward to his last year.

"One of my goals this year is to win a district championship," Petree said. "I'm also looking forward to us making a deep playoff run."

Petree concurred with his coach that their district will be difficult.

"We have a tough district, so it is important for us to play to the best of our abilities every single night," Petree said.

The first games of the upcoming basketball season will be determined by how far the players advance in volleyball and football.

Cross country runs through district

Gandara qualifies for state meet

MICHAEL COTTER  
Sports Editor

Senior Valerie Gandara earned a trip to the state cross country meet set for tomorrow in Round Road after finishing tenth at the regional meet held in Lubbock last week.

All the cross country runners have improved and worked hard to make their times better to prepare for the post-season meets.

"The teams have really been improving," coach Paul Johnston said. "The runners got better every week."

Team members agree that they improved as the season progressed.

"The season was great," sophomore Michaela Reames said. "It was very successful."

The runners worked hard and showed their desire to improve.

"Yes, everyone gave it their all and dropped

their times at every meet," Reames said. "I believe if we keep working hard next year, more of us can make it into the post-season meets."

The runners really got along well and pushed each other to the next level.

"The best quality in our team this year was encouragement," Reames said. "Everyone on our team either cheered each other on by the finish line or was screaming their name from the distance."

Some runners have also stepped up their competitive drive.

"I think that on the boys' side, Jake Green coming out and running helped out a lot, and Ethen Berenstein also ran well," Johnston said. "For the girls, Valerie Gandara's, Michaela Reames' and Curry Wilson's times continue to improve, and Jessie Vega and Madison Ratliff also ran well this season."

The runners have enjoyed running this season for different reasons.

"My favorite part of the season was medaling for the first time and spending time with my team,"

Reames said.

Johnston also noted some of the benefits of being a coach.

"I enjoyed the practices every day and the effort that everyone gave," Johnston said. "Regardless of

what the workout was, the runners always had a positive attitude and gave their best effort."

Johnston also commended the runners for their performances at the district meet.

"We had a chance to advance a team to regionals, but came up a little short," he said. "I am just very pleased that Valerie got to advance to the regional meet and then on to the state meet."

This year the top three teams from the district meet and the top ten individuals advanced. Gandara took third place as an individual at district and tenth at the regional meet to qualify for the state meet.



Cross country runners Curry Wilson, Valerie Gandara, and Michala Reames (from left to right) prepare themselves at the starting line of the local cross country meet. Gandara advanced to the state level and will compete Saturday, Nov. 8 in Round Rock. PHOTO BY KYLEA GARDNER



## FALL IS WICKED GOOD FUN



A group of junior high boys dressed as the Village People pose during the costume contest held Saturday evening at the Fall Fest. A larger number of students entered the contest this year than in the recent past.



Freshman Henry Kelly takes time to load up on chili and beans at the Fall Fest before participating in Running Man. The Parent-Teacher Organization was in charge of the food at the cafeteria, which also included stew and corn bread.

The night was filled with playful horror. Children dressed in colorful costumes, parents holding ongoing strands of tickets, and older students socializing while helping with or participated in carnival games, the costume contests, and even bingo at the Fall Fest sponsored by the PTO.

Later that night, the Feed Store hosted the annual Running Man event. Many secondary students camouflaged themselves and stayed up late to experience the thrill of dodging beaming spotlights and running cross country in the dead of the night.



Presbyterian pastor Anthony Ceder (above) delivers a brief message to the runners before the dart into the darkness. Grant Zeller (upper left) enthuses the lively crowd of participants while waiting for the event to begin. Junior Alex Faith (bottom left) works at the football throw booth during the Fall Fest. Junior high students (below) run through the Feed Store doors to conceal themselves from outside spotlights. Running Man has become a popular event for high school and junior high students for the past 17 years.



Camouflaged seventh grader, BJ Morris, (above) waits patiently for the opening of Running Man ceremonies. A truckload of spot lighters (right) catch several runners on their way back to the Feed Store. Once runners were spotlighted, they had their wristbands removed and had to return to the home base - The Feed Store. The grade level that had the most runners return without being spotted was the winner. The eighth grade returned to base with 88 percent, followed by closely by the freshmen in second. The senior class took third place.



Photos and Story by Shelby Barton