



"Lion pride in print"

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2016

ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL

ALBANY, TEXAS 76430

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 1



**Sports:**  
Lions  
continue  
winning  
streak  
through  
district run.

— See page 7



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## BRIEFS

### MEMBERS INDUCTED

Twenty-two students were inducted into the National Honor Society on Sunday, October 16, 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. All members are required to earn a minimum of six community service hours each semester.

Officers this year include: Hunter Owen, president; Rachel Hill, vice president; Kylea Gardner, secretary; Kaleigh Clevenger, treasurer; Michaela Reames, reporter.

New inductees were: Grant Head, Felicity Coronado, Nolan Davis, Adam Faith, Chloe Fields, Reyna Garcia, Baley Green, Brian Hamilton, Natalie Hayner, Henry Kelly, Lindsey Lucas, Parker Moon, John Munoz, Dax Neece, Kelton Parker, Madison Ratliff, Madison Russell, Rylie Scott, Shelby Snead, Genevieve Stunkard, McKenna Thompson, and McKenna Wilkins.

### ROYALTY CROWNED

The annual homecoming parade was held Oct. 14, with the junior class taking first place in the float judging. The sophomores took second place, followed by the seniors in third, and taking fourth were the freshmen.

This year's theme was board games. Seniors chose the game *Candyland*, juniors did *Monopoly* and sophomores chose *Twister*. The freshmen used a *Battleship* theme, and the junior high chose *Clue*.

At the game, Rachel Hill was crowned homecoming queen with Grant Head picked as king. Class princesses and princes included juniors Baley Green and Brian Hamilton, sophomores Caitlyn Patterson and Colton Box, freshmen Alayna Koemel and Tyler Beard. Others presented at halftime were FFA beau and sweetheart Roman Fuentes and Abbi Beard; football sweetheart and escort Krysten Morris and Cutter Edgar; FCCLA sweetheart Shelby Snead and band sweetheart Beau Genevieve Stunkard and Ryan Phillips.

The Homecoming game ended with a 60-13 win over Baird, putting the Lions at 3-0 in the district race.

# Council busy with fall activities

## Students raise money for charity

BY RYLIE SCOTT  
Assistant Editor

The Student Council's agenda for the fall is a busy one, including several projects to help raise money for local organizations.

Most of the 47 members dressed up in Halloween costumes last Wednesday to go door-to-door in an effort to raise money for the Albany Chest. The council members raised over \$900 after splitting up into groups to trek across the town.

"Trick-or-Treat for Change is a great way to raise money," senior Rachel Hill said. "Plus, it's always fun for me to get into the spirit of Halloween."

Student Council is also planning an event in Decem-

ber where students dress up in Christmas attire and go around town caroling to raise money.

"We didn't do Caroling for Coins last year, but hopefully we'll be able to this December," Hill said. "My friends all like to have fun, and anytime we're all together, we have a good time."

The proceeds collected from Caroling for Coins usually are given to the Christmas basket program or Toys for Tots, according to StuCo sponsor Donnie Lucas.

The size of the council was expanded this year.

"I think the larger number allows us to get a better picture of what the student body truly thinks," senior Student Council President, Hunter Owen, said.

The group travelled to the District 2 Fall Student Council Convention held at the Abilene Convention



Center on Oct. 5.

"The StuCo convention was great this year," junior class representative Chloe Fields said. "We had a really good speaker that presented three different sessions, so it wasn't boring."

Hill even took away some important leadership

tips from the convention.

"I learned some things that I can apply to our student council," Hill said. "This year, the speaker kept us on our toes by making us participate in a lot of group activities."

The council was also in charge of preparing for

Senior Grant Head turns to listen to speaker Tim Palmer at a Student Council convention in October. Palmer spoke to students about leadership.

PHOTO BY  
RACHEL HILL

Red Ribbon Week held Oct. 24-28. This year's theme was "Celebrate Red Ribbon Week... not just for a week, but for life!"

The council is also responsible for planning for the annual Winter Formal, which has been set for Jan. 21 at the Whitney Theatre.



Biology teacher Andre Raymond (above) and students Cutter Cowart and Ryan Hill (right) clean up a weeded area at the Ag farm in preparation for the construction of "Lil Guatemala."

PHOTOS BY KADE  
EVERITT



# Project aimed at fixing issues

## Honors class constructs 'Lil Guatemala'

BY KADE EVERITT  
Staff Writer

Science teacher Andre Raymond has taught honors classes for several years, but this year he says his students have a drive and personality that sets them apart.

After watching the movie *Living on One Dollar*, which documents the trials faced by the citizens of Pina Blanca, Guatemala, Raymond's honors biology students felt challenged to discover ways to improve life in third world countries. The class decided to create "Lil' Guatemala," a model version of the country in which they hope to help solve real-life problems faced by underdeveloped countries.

Raymond credits the movie for providing inspiration for the project.

"I watched this movie on Guatemala," Raymond said. "As a science teacher, I saw a lot of potentially solvable scientific problems. My son has been to Guatemala twice, so I wondered if at least some of the problems I saw could be solved by my students."

Raymond showed the movie to the class and each member then investigated a specific problem and had to present possible solutions.

Sophomore Caroline Masters said the movie changed her perspective.

"The movie opened my eyes to a new area in which I could help others," Masters said. "I now know that even though I am only a sophomore, I can help more people than just myself."

Sophomore Madison Wilkins was not initially excited by the project.

"At first I had no idea how I was going to start this project," Wilkins said. "I finally got an idea about what to do, and after we

SEE "BIOLOGY" Pg 8

# Juniors juggle academics, extracurriculars

## New dual-credit classes add to load

BY CUTTER COWART  
Staff Writer

Most students agree junior year is one of the hardest years of high school because classes are more challenging than previous years.

Parker Moon was surprised by the copious amount of homework that his junior year has brought.

"Junior year is stressful because you have a lot more challenging classes," Moon said. "Along with football, it's hard to find time to study. So you have to utilize your time wisely, which sometimes means giving up

hanging out with friends or not going to church groups."

Several students like Moon underestimated the difficulty of college classes when they signed up for them in August.

"I'm taking all three college classes offered to juniors this year, including Biology, Psychology and Sociology, and U.S. History," Moon said. "There are times when I regret taking so many classes, but in the long run I feel like it will be helpful because it pushes me towards being a better student."

The addition of dual-credit, or college classes, also provides advantages for students.

"These classes are definitely preparing me for college and will make my freshman year in college a little less stressful so I can

just enjoy college instead of worrying about my grades constantly," Moon said.

According to Moon, there is not much outside stress in his life, other than academics.

"I don't have a job, and I don't have a girlfriend," Moon said. "My family is really helpful with my stress level as well by allowing me to get work done."

Baley Green has also been bombarded with academic stress.

"Along with all the classes we have, we also have extracurricular activities like athletics, NHS, and Student Council which take up a lot of time."

Classes are much cheaper while in high school than they are in college according to Green.

SEE "JR. STRESS" Pg 8



Junior Rylie Scott sits at a desk in the library to study for various tests and quizzes. Scott, along with many other juniors, took on 2 to 3 college level classes this school year, including Psychology, U.S. History, and Biology.

PHOTO BY CUTTER COWART



EDITORIALS

AR deemed unpopular

The requirement to obtain Accelerated Reader points each six weeks is an issue that has been frustrating students for several years. It continues to be mandatory even though students had protested against it.

AR does not make students like reading. It simply adds on to an already big work load.

AR makes students who hate reading end up hating it even more. The only way that students are going to learn to enjoy reading is by reading something on their own time. Forcing them to read is not going to help them develop a passion for literature at all.

Students have too much work and should not be expected to get AR points every six weeks. Having to read every night after they finish homework can keep students up late into the night. Some classes require students to read textbooks for their classes, so an AR book is just something else to read. Many students do not have time to read an AR book and end up trying to cram in a full book in a day or two just before the deadline, or they try to take AR tests over simple books meant for children with a low point value just to earn some of their points.

Many teachers say that reading makes you smarter. But does it really help a student to make them do something that they hate?

Forcing someone to read could make them smarter, but it could also ensure that they will never read for pleasure once they are out of school.

I think that getting rid of Accelerated Reader would be very beneficial to several students. English teachers should at least consider removing this program from their curriculum. They may seem hesitant as it may seem like a mistake at first to do this. However, I think that the overall work level and attitude of many students would improve.

Don't sweat the small stuff

Senior year can be incredibly stressful. The majority of the first few months have been a lot of "do this" and "do that's" and "make this deadline" and "fill out this applicatoin," which can honestly make you feel like you can't stay afloat. With that being said, the greatest advice I can give is not to sweat the small stuff, just enjoy the ride.

Applying for college and receiving acceptance letters back is a very slow process, as it should be. There are thousands of applications being sent in at the same time as yours, and colleges review every single one of them, so it definitely takes time. Don't worry; you will hear back, you will get accepted into a great college, and you will be successful.

Acceptance and rejection letters also come along with the application process, and that is easily the hardest part. If you have your heart set on a certain college and you open a letter to see that you don't get in, don't take it too hard. The grand plan for your life is seldom what you believe it should be.

Most seniors, including myself at times, could argue that senior year is the one year that it's perfectly acceptable to stress out about everything and worry about what life has in store for you. However, in the big scheme of things, 18 years is a really insignificant amount of time. There are far better things ahead than whether we make that deadline or get accepted into that college. Again, don't worry about the small things.



THE  
**LIONS ROAR**  
ILPC 2016 Silver Star Winner  
ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL

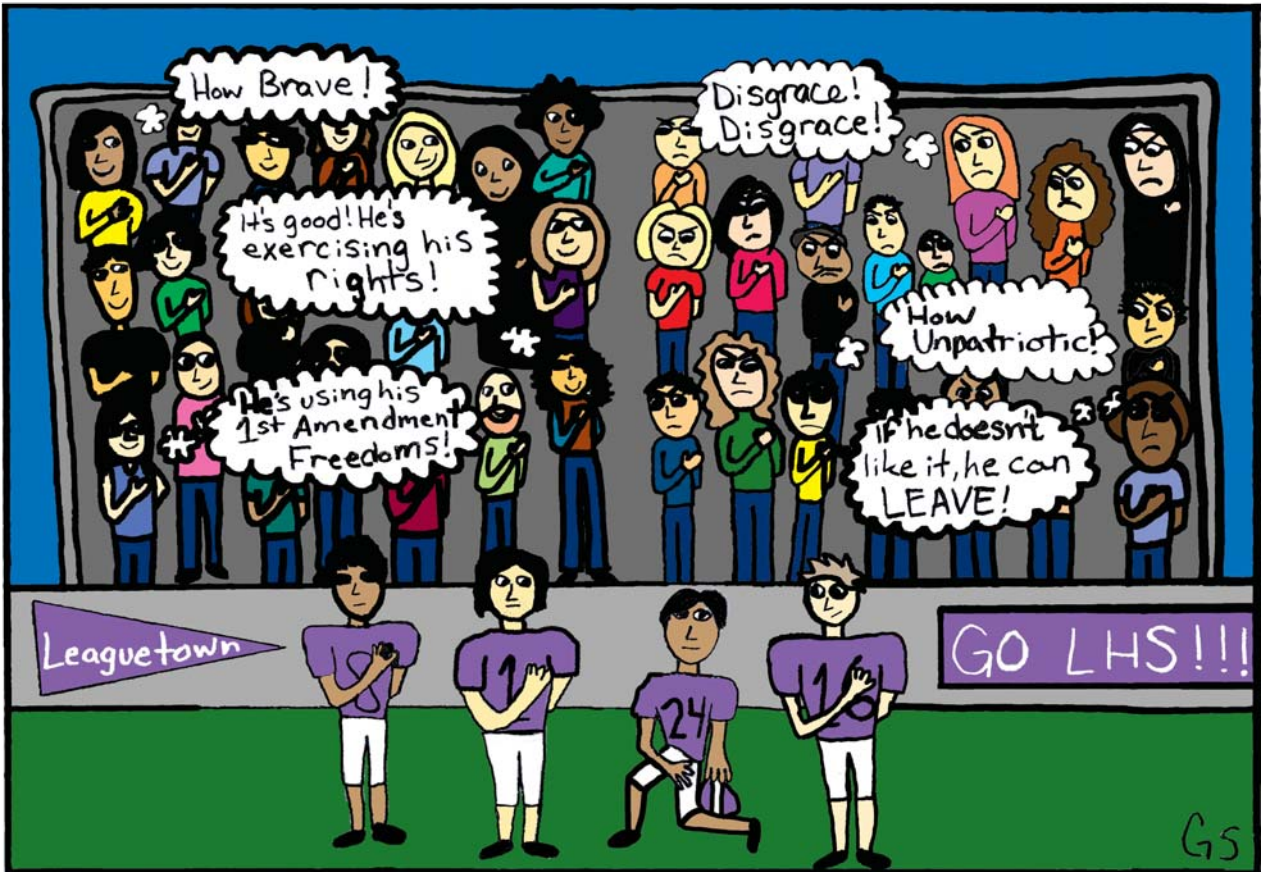
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Spreading gossip can indicate inward problems



Gardner Seeds

KYLEA GARDNER

Living in a small town and going to a 2A high school can be extremely challenging, and it tests your patience all too often. Just as you would think, starting rumors and drama is basically a package deal when it comes to growing up in a small town.

This problem affects everyone to some extent, whether they're the ones talking or the ones being talked about, and it's gradually getting worse. There are people who have been friends since birth who still jump at any opportunity to say something negative about one another, which both saddens me and infuriates me at the same time. It makes me question whether anything in this stage of life is really very genuine at all, and that's an issue that I don't personally have the answer for.

I feel that the problem is rooted in some hurt or lack of confidence within the person starting rumors

intentionally to hurt someone else. The way people treat others is just an outward expression of an inward problem. As the cliché goes, "hurt people hurt people."

The friends and family of the ones being persecuted should stand up and fight; it is not only their right but their responsibility to those whom they care about. Stand up for the victims. Stand up for those who can't stand on their own two feet.

The only advice that I know how to give is this: if you're on the other side of the words being said, and people won't give you a break, just be patient. The problem has much less to do with you, than with the inner being of the other person. If this is something that you struggle with, stay strong. Know that no matter how much you feel like you're alone sometimes, you never really are. At the end of the day, everyone has someone who loves them, someone who cares, even if you don't realize it. Retaliation is the worst way to handle a situation. Don't act on anything, and don't plead your case to everyone; just love people. Love fiercely, love widely, and love unapologetically, without ever looking back. That alone will make all the difference.

Bonds formed by siblings can be long-lasting



Rachel's Revelations

RACHEL HILL

As a seventh grader, I was dreaming for my senior year to get here quickly, but now that it is here, I want it to last. With all of the activities surrounding senior year getting underway, the feeling of nostalgia is fresh in the air, and thoughts of missed opportunities and regrets flood my head. Yeah, most of them were little things, but there is one thing that really sticks out in my head that I wish I could go back and do over.

It all started when I was a big bad nine-year-old and had to share a room with my little sister who was four. Honestly, I don't remember what possessed me to be so mean to my sister, but I was. We would fight and argue and hit each other, but I was the one who instigated it all. I am lucky that looks can't kill because I don't ever recall giving Allison a kind look. I didn't even want to touch her. My mom was constantly grounding me for my behavior, and I remember her saying that I was hurting her heart by being so mean to Alli. Yet, the cycle continued.

I began to struggle with my spitefulness towards her, and it was one of the hardest things I have had to overcome.

Three houses later, we still share a room. We also still have our moments. I am now 18 and Alli just turned 14, and sharing a room with a now teenaged sister has its ups and downs for sure. However, we have come such a long way in our relationship. I realized that a sister really is someone you have forever. I may lose touch with most of my friends for a while, but my sister will always be home and will always be someone I can bring my problems to. I have started to think before I speak to her, focusing on my facial expressions, and I show her how much I love her by hugging her and giving her more attention. Sometimes she puts her guard up around me, and as much as that hurts, I don't blame her. Ten years of misery can make a person bitter, but I can only pray that she begins to soften more towards me. Even though I regret not being the person my sister needed when she was growing up, I am going to work to mend that gap. When she gives in to my hug, or when we share a laugh or start an inside joke, it makes my heart happy. I want more moments like those, and I have six months to form the sisterhood and friendship she deserves.

Athletes reserve right to protest during National Anthem



Parker's 'Pinions

PARKER MOON

The National Anthem is a symbol of our freedom and sacrifice by our soldiers who have shed blood for this country. When played at a school or professional sporting event, athletes should show respect for the song that represents the freedom we enjoy.

Lately though, one NFL player has started a movement across the nation. The San Francisco 49'ers quarterback, Colin Kaepernick, sat during the national anthem on August 26 because he said, "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color." He later said that he will continue to sit until he sees a change in this country toward people of color.

Several other NFL athletes have followed suit to draw attention to racial discrimination in America.

Instead of kneeling, most raise their right hand up as a protest symbol. Now the protest has spread to a Seattle, Washington high school football team that kneeled during the playing of our country's most sacred song.

Some people see these protests as courage for standing up for what's right, while others do not agree with their decisions. Former 49'ers' teammate Alex Boone said that if he were still on the team, they would have a problem on the sidelines. He said that he is "free" to do whatever he wants to as well. Cowboy's owner Jerry Jones stated in an interview that he was very pleased no one on his team has kneeled and disrespected the flag. He added that there have been too many people who have given up so much to protect this country.

While I disagree whole-heartedly with a person's decision to kneel or do something other than having their hand over their heart during the national anthem, they do have the right to express themselves. That's what the first amendment guarantees – freedom of speech and expression.

Our 2¢ worth



Do athletes have the right to protest during the National Anthem?



SENIOR AARON SCHWARK

Yes. This country was built upon the right to protest our grievances. If we don't allow it, it would infringe upon what our founding fathers died for.



JUNIOR GENEVIEVE STUNKARD

Yes, because people shouldn't have to be blindly loyal to their country and should have the right to protest to make it better.



SOPHOMORE PAYNE HEBEL

Yes, they have the right to protest, but it's disrespectful to the troops and soldiers who fought for our country.



FRESHMAN MADY CONNALLY

No, I think they should have to stand up because soldiers are being killed for our freedom and they are sitting down.



ROARING  
REVIEWS  
DEEP WATER HORIZON



September 30, 2016 PG-13  
99 min  
Drama/Thriller

On April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig explodes in the Gulf of Mexico, igniting a massive fireball that kills several crew members. Chief electronics technician Mike Williams (Mark Wahlberg) and his colleagues find themselves fighting for survival as the heat and the flames become stifling and overwhelming. Banding together, the co-workers must use their wits to make it out alive amid all the chaos.

Director: Peter Berg  
Writers: Matthew Michael Carnahan, Matthew Sand  
Star: Mark Wahlberg

Staff Review:



MASTERMINDS



Septemehr 30, 2016 PG-13  
96 min  
Comedy/Action

David Ghannt (Zach Galifianakis) is stuck in the monotony of driving an armored truck day in and day out, so when his work crush lures him into the heist of a lifetime, David's all in. He manages to steal \$17 million, and promptly hands it over to the gang -- who just as promptly double-cross him. David must dodge the authorities and a hit man, and try to turn the tables on his untrustworthy comrades.

Director: Jared Hess  
Writers: Hubbel Palmer, Emily Spively  
Star3: Zach Galifianakis

Staff Review:



HE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN



September 23, 2016 PG-13  
133 min  
Crime/Action

Looking to mine for gold, greedy industrialist Bartholomew Bogue seizes control of the Old West town of Rose Creek. Emma Cullen turns to bounty hunter Sam Chisolm (Denzel Washington) for help. Chisolm recruits an eclectic group of gunslingers to take on Bogue and his ruthless henchmen. The seven mercenaries soon find themselves fighting for more than just money once the bullets start to fly.

Director: Antoine Fuqua  
Writers: Denzel Wenk, Hideo Oguni  
Stars: Denzel Washington, Chris Pratt

Staff Review:



Fantasy football grows in popularity

Game allows more involvement in NFL season for students

BY HENRY KELLY  
Entertainment Editor

When a student really enjoys watching the NFL season, there is nothing better than actually getting to participate in it, which is what they get to do with Fantasy Football.

Fantasy Football is an online competition craze that allows those who join a league to draft skilled players from different NFL teams and compete against others to see who can get the most points based on actual game stats for the players.

"You get to draft a quarterback, two running backs, two wide receivers, a tight-end, flex, kicker, and defense," junior Harvey Hinkle said. "Each week you compete against another member of the league to see who gets the prize money."

This is Hinkle's second year playing Fantasy Football.

"I really like playing it because I get to try to beat my friends," Hinkle said. "The winner gets \$100 in one of my leagues, so I really hope to win."

So far, it's not going so well for him.

"Adrian Peterson was my first pick in all three of my leagues," Hinkle said. "Then he got hurt two weeks in."

Hinkle finds the NFL season more entertaining with Fantasy Football.

"It gives me a reason to watch all the games," Hinkle said. "Otherwise, I would only watch the Vikings."

Junior Dax Neece thinks it makes watching NFL games more difficult.

"Fantasy Football makes it hard to watch the games," Neece said. "I will have players on both teams, so then I won't be able to decide on who to go for."

Neece shares a team with senior Roman Fuentes.

"I like running my team with Dax because he takes care of our lineups," Fuentes said. "It's nice knowing there's no hassle for me to log on every week and adjust our team."

Neece found out that the two were not on the same page.

"I haven't checked our lineup in 3 weeks," Neece said. "I have no idea how we are doing, but if all of our players are in, we will do pretty good."

Fuentes found himself involved in a more unusual way.

"I just got tired of Grant Zeller asking me to be in the league," Fuentes said. "I finally gave in to stop him from talking to me about it."

Neece also found his way into Grant Zeller's league.

"Grant just told me I was in the league," Neece said. "He didn't ask me, I just ended up running



Junior Dalton Scafe (above left) and junior Harvey Hinkle (above right) examine their teams before their upcoming match. Both are very involved in Fantasy Football. Hinkle, along with several other students, participated in a draft held by Grant Zeller at the Feed Store. Zeller prepared for the draft by creating cards for each NFL player in Fantasy Football (left).

TOP PHOTO BY HENRY KELLY  
LEFT PHOTO PROVIDED BY GRANT ZELLER

a team with Roman."

The duo doesn't plan to win the league.

"We probably won't do as well as the hardcore players like Anthony Ceder," Fuentes said. "I play to hopefully upset some other players in the league."

They still hope for a turnaround in the season.

"We are 0-4 right now," Neece said. "We are hopefully going to flip the script and take away the jackpot from Team Ceder."

Junior Brennan Abbate's season is going better than expected.

"I thought I was going to be really bad at the beginning of the season," Abbate said. "So far I'm 3-1 and expecting greatness from here on out."

Abbate has had some trouble with the game lately.

"I changed my lineup before we played, but for some reason it glitched, and it didn't change," Abbate said. "So I had to play with someone that was hurt."

Abbate finds Fantasy Football

makes viewing actual games even more competitive.

"It turns all the games into a competition rather than just your favorite team's game," Abbate said. "Everyone loves competition, and with Fantasy Football there is more of it."

Junior Adam Faith believes the popularity for the game comes from the desire to win.

"People really just want to win the money," Faith said. "I only play for the money, so I wouldn't be surprised if everyone else did too."

Faith is new to the Fantasy Football world.

"This is my first year, and it's been very entertaining so far," Faith said. "Now I am cheering for players that I would have never cheered for before Fantasy Football."

Grant Zeller also played a part in getting Faith involved.

"Grant encouraged me to join the league," Faith said. "I kind of wanted to try it, and Grant gave

me the opportunity."

Like Faith, this was junior Dalton Scafe's first year to play Fantasy Football.

"I really enjoy creating my team and trying to make it better," Scafe said. "One of my favorite parts was getting to draft my players."

Junior Justin Nash, Scafe's brother, feels differently.

"The hardest part for me was staying awake for our draft," Nash said. "For some reason we had it at 1:00 in the morning, and I just chose random people I knew for my team."

Nash's strategy worked out for him.

"I'm 3-1 right now," Nash said. "I'm not that good; I think I've just been getting lucky."

Nash finds Fantasy Football to be the best way for him to get involved in the sport.

"I don't like playing football but I love watching it," Nash said. "Fantasy Football gives me a way to participate in a way I enjoy."

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

BY HENRY KELLY

Rear Window vs Disturbia

*Rear Window*, an extraordinary movie that sets the bar for all thrillers, debuted in 1954 and is one of the best of all time. The 2007 film *Disturbia* reuses the original movie idea while turning it into a modern-day thriller.

*Rear Window* follows a newspaper photographer "Jeff", who finds himself with a broken leg in the heat of summer. The days drag by until he discovers the hidden world through his rear window. He observes what he believes is a murderer in his apartment building. Unable to navigate effectively due to his leg, Jeff must rely on his girlfriend and nurse to help catch the killer.

The modern version, *Disturbia*, follows a teen who continues to get himself into trouble after his father dies in a wreck while Kale is driving. After punching his teacher, Kale is sentenced to three months of house arrest. After his mom cuts off his power, he turns to observing his neighbors for entertainment where he finds

a cute teenage girl who just moved in and a suspected killer.

Man, what a set in *Rear Window*—the whole movie took place in the apartment of Jeff. The only time the movie is taking place outside of his apartment is when the audience is watching through Jeff's binoculars. This gives the audience a feeling of cabin fever because the movie makes you feel as if you are stuck right next to Jeff.

The set of *Disturbia* is a bit more complex than the one in *Rear Window* but it still makes viewers feel stuck with house arrest alongside Kale. Many times, the viewer sees the action through the window right next to Kale as he hopes for the best but can't do anything about it. This sounds very similar to *Rear Window* because with a broken leg, Jeff can only yell from his window to try to help those in peril. Although it is similar in this way to *Rear Window*,

it does not hesitate to put the viewers right in the action when things really start to heat up.

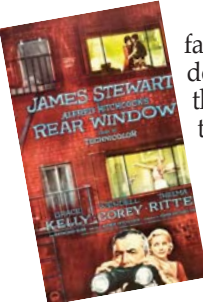
With *Rear Window*, the audience gets a small look into the killer's life, watching him from a distance. While *Disturbia* is loyal to the original idea of it watching from a distance, but brings a whole new feeling when the killer puts himself in Kale's life. This choice by the writers of *Disturbia* puts the story on a much more personal level.

For those who fancy love stories, don't worry. Both of these movies have their own unique style of romance.

In *Rear Window*, it follows Jeff and his girlfriend, Lisa, both struggling to decide on their relationship. Jeff wants them to stay together but not married because he travels as a photographer, while Lisa wants to get married. Meanwhile, *Disturbia* has its own approach to romance. It follows the relationship between Kale and his new neighbor, Ashley, growing closer throughout the movie.

Although *Disturbia*'s writers tweaked the story to make it more intense, *Rear Window* was much more popular in its time because it brought to the screen a thriller no one had ever seen. Some people believe *Disturbia* is just a "rip off" of *Rear Window*, but I disagree. Although the original was very entertaining, I think that there is nothing wrong with using the same idea years later. It's not quite a remake, but for *Rear Window* fans, it brings back that same level of fear and angst that viewers don't get from other thrillers. While *Disturbia* repackaged the plot that *Rear Window* used in 1954, it exposes an audience to a true classic. *Disturbia* also appeals to the younger audience by casting teenagers rather than adults. Some people may disagree with casting teens, but I think it brings this classic to a new generation.

Both *Rear Window* and *Disturbia* are phenomenal movies. Each has its own unique characteristics. Any fan of *Rear Window* will appreciate and enjoy watching *Disturbia*. I think everyone should see *Rear Window* because it is a timeless classic. Fans of thrillers will love both *Rear Window* and *Disturbia*.





# Seniors exercise right to vote for first time

### Trump heavily favored among students

BY BRIAN HAMILTON  
Staff Writer

With one of the most controversial elections in recent memory just days away, over half of the students in grades 7-12 voiced their preference for Republican nominee Donald Trump as president if they were eligible to vote.

According to a poll conducted by the *Lions Roar* last month, of 211 high school and junior high students surveyed, 57 percent favored Trump. However, the biggest surprise revealed by the poll was that 77 students, or 36 percent, said they wouldn't vote for either Trump or Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.

Clinton came in third in the poll with a mere 14 votes, or seven percent.

Of the 211 students polled, 73 percent felt that the candidates' stances on the issues helped determine who they would support.

A total of 26 percent chose media reports as a determining factor, while 14 percent said they would support who their parents supported.

Only five percent of the student body felt that gender was a determining factor.

Important issues that stood out to students were terrorism and national security, which accounted for 75 percent of students, economics accounted for 56 percent, and gun control came in at 36 percent.

Other issues taken into consideration were immigration (35 percent), racial equality (33 percent), abortion (30 percent), military (30 percent), gender equality (26 percent).

While the vast majority of the



Senior Hunter Owen (right) shows his photo ID to early voting election judges Ann King (left) and Dee Balliew (middle) as he signs in to vote at the Shackelford County courthouse. This year, several seniors will be voting for the very first time. PHOTO BY BRIAN HAMILTON

students polled are years away from voting in an election, a handful of local seniors will have the opportunity to participate in their first election.

"I'm glad I can finally voice my opinion for who I think should run this country," senior Hunter Owen said. "It feels kind of weird being old enough to vote."

Others are also glad they get to vote for the first time.

"It's exciting to know I'm at the age where I can be a part of politics," senior Kylea Gardner said. "But it comes with a lot of responsibility. One vote could potentially swing the election."

Senior Rachel Hill is also planning to vote.

"It's kind of intimidating," Hill said. "I'll actually have a say in the deciding of the ruler of our country."

Hill will cast her vote based on her household preference.

"I'm not up to date on all the issues going on," Hill said. "So I'll probably vote for whoever my parents vote for."

Gardner will cast her vote for who she believes to be the lesser of two evils.

"I will most likely vote for Trump," Gardner said. "Not that I really believe 100 percent in everything he says, but I do completely disagree with Clinton and everything she stands for."

Clinton seems untrustworthy and unsafe for Gardner.

"She has built her whole candidacy on lies," Gardner said. "I feel if she were the leader, no one in our country would be safe."

Trump was the strong favorite in the poll taken by the *Lions Roar* and will receive a vote from Owen.

"I'm voting for Trump because he's a more honest guy and wants to take our country in a better direction than Hillary," Owen said. "He says what's on his mind and I like that."

Owen feels Clinton is unqualified to be president.

"There is too much distrust," Owen said. "She hides a lot of stuff and she's power hungry."

He also feels that this election is extremely important for the country.

"This election is huge; if our country goes in the same direction, we'll continue our downfall and have more debt," Owen said. "If we go with Trump, we'll have more jobs and our economy will bounce back."

Thirty-six percent of the student body feels that not participating in this election is the right thing to do.

"The two candidates are the two worst people we could have picked," senior Ryan Phillips said. "It's basically picking the lesser of two evils. I would've voted third party if it had any chance, but it doesn't."

Phillips thinks that GOP nominee Donald Trump and Democratic Party nominee Hillary Clinton are both unable to be trusted with running the country.

"Hillary is a liar; she lies about everything and isn't reliable," Phillips said. "Trump isn't presidential; how's he supposed to control this country if he can't even control his hair?"

Senior Jordan McDonald stands by third party candidate Gary Johnson.

"I don't really know that much about him," McDonald said. "He believes in open borders and I don't like that, but he also believes in smaller government, which is good."

McDonald also feels Trump and Clinton are unfit for presidency.

"Trump is dangerous and has a bad temper," MacDonald said. "Hillary is crooked; she's not trustworthy enough to run the country."

Junior Natalie Hayner was one of just 14 supporters of Hillary Clinton according to the survey.

"I think in general Hillary is a career politician and has more experience than Trump does," Hayner said. "I think she's an overall better person than Trump is."

She feels strongly about Trump.

"His immigration policies are insane," Hayner said. "He's been bankrupt seven times; I don't trust him to run the country. He's a sexist and a racist."

Trump as president would be a disaster according to her.

"If we get someone in there who makes rash decisions and doesn't think before they act, it could launch a full-blown war," Hayner said.

# Church initiates mentoring program

### Teens bond with kids through Youth Connect

BY CUTTER COWART  
Staff Writer

Youth at The Matthews Memorial Presbyterian Church are in a mentorship program called Youth Connect.

"My favorite part about Youth Connect is getting to interact with younger kids and teaching them about Christ," Junior Chloe Fields said.

Fields is a part of a leadership committee that helps plan out the bi-weekly event.

"During our first time getting together and discussing what we were going to do, I had to help get a lesson together for the kids," Fields said.

Grades first through sixth can attend the program.

"I feel like younger students will grow closer to God and start a relationship with him," Fields said. "The students will also grow closer and form a bond with the leaders as well as the leaders growing closer with them, which could have a major impact in their lives and ours."

John Turner, youth pastor, implemented the program due to popular demand of parents.

"There were a lot of parents that really wanted to start something for younger kids," Turner said.

This program is geared towards the youth in Albany.

"I feel as if there are a lot of opportunities for kids to grow in their faith," Turner said. "I felt like there was a void that needed to be filled that encouraged kids' service."

Youth Connect is sponsored by The Presbyterian Church and Resource Care.

"I feel like God is happy to have youth groups meeting and growing in their faith and that he wants us to put that into action," Turner said. "Mindy Ary and other parents identified a need in the community which is what lead to Youth Connect. It allows us to help kids who

are going through tough stuff at young ages."

About 50 students attended the first meeting on Oct. 2 according to Turner.

"The purpose of this program is that these kids would experience God's love for them," Turner said. "Oftentimes that comes when you meet little needs and have moments where you share something from scripture, then praying and believing that it will take root in their life."

Youth Connect is held the first and third Sunday of each month.

"The hope of this program is that they will be taking the knowledge from many of the lessons they learn and applying those in their lives," Turner said.

Junior Rylie Scott is also on the leadership committee and is in charge of helping with sermons for the evening.

"I really enjoy spending time with the kids and just playing with them and getting to know them," Scott said. "It makes me feel like a little kid again."

Scott does the sermons with Rachel Hill.

"This program will teach me a lot of patience because I'm not a really good kid person," Scott said. "It will allow me to love everyone no matter where they come from, and since I'm on the leadership committee, it will teach me how to be a leader."

Scott hopes that the students will learn what they are teaching them during their sermons.

"Hopefully some students will grow closer to God throughout our children's sermons and will know that there are people that love them," Scott said.

Mindy Ary, Program Director at Resource Care, was one of the organizers for starting the program.

"During Summer Day Camp, I came in contact with a lot of kids who we wanted to stay in touch with throughout the year and not just three weeks in the summer," Ary said. "I saw how they developed relationships with the high school staff and saw the importance of mentorships. I wanted the program to be faith-based and to also give high schoolers the opportunity



Junior Henry Kelly (top photo, left) mentors Christopher Naylor (right) during a recent Youth Connect meeting. Senior Hunter Owen (bottom photo, right) gives some football tips to Dalton Richards (middle) and Ashton Bailey (left) during the recreational portion of the program. The goal of Youth Connect mentors is to teach kids about Christianity. TOP PHOTO BY RACHEL HILL. BOTTOM PHOTO BY CUTTER COWART

to share their love of Christ."

Ary runs a summer day camp through the month of July.

"I realized that there is mission work to be done all over the world—even in our hometown—which pushed me to start this program," Ary said. "Elementary kids are very impressionable,

and having our youth guide them in the right direction and interact with them is what we are striving for."

Ary hopes the program will continue for years to come.

"A simple act of showing kindness and love can make such a difference in a child's life,

you can watch the excitement of these young kids when they are shown attention from the high schoolers," Ary said. "I think both age groups will benefit greatly from this program and both will impact each other and build a relationship that will last a lifetime."



# Immigrant parents, students share stories

## Locals leave Mexico in search of better life in America

BY GENEVIEVE STUNKARD  
Features Editor

From when she was eight years old, Sonia Vega remembers riding her horse alongside her brother on the outskirts of Salvatierra, Guanajuato, Mexico, her heart pounding with excitement and her hair blowing freely behind her as the vivid greenery upon the surrounding hills blurred together in the speed of the moment.

They were galloping to a neighboring farm to bring their hardworking father his lunch: typically, gorditas their mother had freshly made back at home. It was their routine to do so every weekend, or otherwise, as often as they could without school getting in their way.

It is moments like these that Vega reminisces about with a soft smile and a dreamy look in her eyes: moments that took place before she lost her father to a heart attack when she was only nine years old. Five years later, at the age of 14, she lost her mother to lung cancer.

The deaths of her parents marked the end of Vega's childhood and the beginning of the most arduous period of her life.

After being orphaned, Vega and her 5-year-old little sister, Mayra, lived with their elderly grandparents, while her brother went to live with their uncle. From there, she worked tirelessly in any way she could to support the household of four, still never making enough for life to be comfortable.

By the time she was 15, she had emigrated by herself to live in the United States in order to find higher-paying work, promising to send money back home to Mayra often.

Since she first arrived in the United States, Vega's life has become easier, though she continues to work selflessly in order to care for her two daughters: Julia, a fourth grader, and Jessica, a junior, who says she is extremely proud of her mother's hard work and willingness to help others.

"I'm grateful for everything my mom has done to give me and Julia the best lives possible," Jessica, who plays multiple sports on a varsity level and serves as a leading drummer in the band, said. "I take pride in my Mexican heritage and in knowing that both of my parents are independent and hardworking."

In the months before Sonia arrived in the United States, she had been writing and receiving letters from her older sister, Carmen, who lived in Albany, Texas.

"We had to write each other, not only because it was 1990 and less people had phones, but because at my house, we were too poor to have a phone," Sonia said. "Carmen had been telling me for a long time that everything in America was better, and that if I'd let her and her husband Silvano adopt me, she'd help me find a good job. That December, I ended up going to live with them, leaving my sister behind with our grandparents."

Sonia was initially hesitant and scared to start a new chapter of her life in the United States.

"I had no idea what it was going to be like, and I felt guilty about leaving Mayra alone with our grandparents because she was so little," she said. "At the time though, I thought it'd be best for her to stay, and if I could make more money working in America, I could give her a better life."

Once she was living in the United States, Sonia began her freshman year of high school, where she faced a challenge beyond the bounds of boys and homework.

"Going to school was depressing at first, because everyone around me spoke English and I could only speak Spanish," she said. "I was really lonely. Whenever someone tried to talk to me, I'd just smile, nod, and say 'okay,' because it's all I knew to do, but I had no idea what was going on. I can remember that, most mornings, whenever my sister would wake me up for school, I'd just cry and cry and cry because I hated the idea of going to school and facing that frustration and confusion all over again."

Fortunately, Sonia's schoolmates and teachers showed nothing but kindness to her during her endeavor.

"All the kids I went to school with were really friendly," she said. "I think they felt bad for me because I couldn't speak English."

Sonia's daughter, Jessica, however, has had a slightly different school experience.

"Mainly during my first two years of high school, people were really immature and used some racial slurs towards me and my friends who are also Hispanic," Jessica said. "I've never taken it too seriously, but I know there are other Hispanics who really can't stand that kind of thing. When I'd tell my parents about things people said at school, for example, I could tell by the expressions on their faces that they were offended."

However, both Jessica and her mother have had nothing but positive experiences regarding their past teachers.

"Every teacher I ever had here was nothing but sweet and just awesome, especially Ms. Therwanger, who I can remember taught me how to say 'chocolate,'" Sonia said. "I remember that moment exactly, because she told me the way I had pronounced the word was just perfect and we were both so



Sonia Vega (top photo, left) shares with her daughter, Jessica (right), photos from the years she lived in Mexico. Sonia moved to Albany at the age of 15 and started working at the Icehouse Restaurant (middle photo) soon after. Alicia Comacho (bottom photo, right) reminds her son, Efen (left), of their Mexican heritage by showing him a pot she brought with them from Mexico. The Comachos immigrated to the United States in 2007. TOP PHOTO BY GENEVIEVE STUNKARD, MIDDLE PHOTO PROVIDED, BOTTOM PHOTO BY RACHEL HILL

thrilled and happy."

Sonia's daughter, Jessica, also received Catherine Therwanger's assistance in school many years later.

"English was my second language because I had mainly learned Spanish at home, and Ms. Therwanger was really patient and supportive when I was struggling to make my English better in fourth grade," Jessica said. "She'd help me with my homework and whatever else I had trouble understanding by myself."

Overall, Sonia said she is grateful to have grown up in a warm community like Albany.

"It makes me so happy and proud to be able to say that it was Albany High School that helped me learn the English language," she said.

However, even after learning a fair amount of English, school remained exceptionally difficult for Sonia.

"I didn't do well in any of my classes—not even Spanish!" she said. "At first I was excited about having a Spanish class, because I thought I was going to get a 100 on everything, but it was a different Spanish than what I'd learned in Mexico. Eventually, I stopped going to regular classes and started staying with just one teacher who helped me with my work and learning English for most of the day."

At the same time, Sonia worked cleaning houses and babysitting during what little part of the day she had left after going to school, and she worked at the Icehouse Restaurant at night, never forgetting about her little sister

back in Mexico.

"I ended up dropping out of school after less than a year because, along with having to work, I had a close family member fall ill for a long time," Sonia said. "I felt that it was more important for me to take care of my family than it was for me to go to school, so I kept working to support Mayra and my grandparents, and I tried to stay with my sick relative as often as I could."

By the time she had the opportunity to go back to school, Sonia had already fallen so far behind that she felt it was impossible for her to catch up.

"The school never called questioning my absence," Sonia said. "So I just continued to focus on working, mainly at the Icehouse."

In 1995, Sonia met her future husband, Jesse, at an adult soccer game.

"I was watching the game because one of the teams playing was coached by my brother-in-law," she said. "Jesse was playing on his team, and, long story short, we were just friends for three years, then we went on one date, and within weeks we were married at a small ceremony at his mother's house."

Jesse Vega has been employed as a ranch hand at the YL Ranch since 1999, while Sonia continues to work at the Icehouse as she has off-and-on since she was 15.

"Both of my parents have had to work so hard to support me and my sister, and because of them I've learned that I'm capable of making any kind of life I want for myself if I work hard enough," Jessica said. "That's why I'm working so hard in school

right now; I want to be able to get into a good college, and then I want to work hard in college so that I can get a good job so that maybe I won't have to work as hard as my parents have had to later in life."

Another thing that Jessica has had the opportunity to learn from her parents is an alternative culture, which has made her life richer, she said.

"My parents aren't very Americanized and have held onto their Mexican heritage with pride," Jessica said. "We experience different things than so many Americans do because we celebrate Mexican holidays, go to a lot of Quinceañeras, and even do little things differently like eat tamales on Christmas rather than things like turkey or ham."

Another Hispanic tradition the Vega family has held onto is their Catholic faith.

"A main difference between being Catholic and being Protestant like many Americans are is that we put more emphasis on worshipping the Virgin Mary," Jessica said.

"After school, my mom and I watch a show on TV called 'La Rosa de Guadalupe,' and in it, actors portray everyday people encountering difficult situations in life and the Virgin helping them get through them."

The Camachos, another family who immigrated from Mexico to the United States in 2007, is close to the Vega family and is Catholic as well. They continue to stay closely connected to their culture.

"My mom, Alicia, makes mostly Mexican food, and she's always encouraged me to work really hard in everything I do like most Mexican parents seem to," Efen Camacho, a senior, said.

Efen took his mother's advice to heart, and has since worked his way up to a manager's position at a local supermarket.

"My parents have always taught me that nothing would ever be handed to me and that hard work always pays off," Efen said. "It's the most valuable lesson I've learned in life."

The Camacho family emigrated from Mexico for a multitude of reasons.

"I came to the United States when I was eight years old because my parents wanted to be able to earn higher wages and because they wanted me and my siblings to be able to get the best education possible," Efen said. "It made me sad to have to leave the little ranch where we were living in Mexico and all the horses and other animals we had there, but I think it was for the best of all of us."

Though Efen's father had applied for his family to immigrate to the United States when Efen was born, the application was not approved until nearly 10 years later.

"When we finally were given approval, my dad was in the United States working, and he called my mom and told her to pack up me and my siblings and take a bus to Laredo," Efen said.

Like Sonia Vega, school was a horrifying experience for Efen for quite some time.

"I remember being so excited to be able to go back to school, and then walking in my first day in Mrs. Fields' third grade class and all of the kids in the room going silent and staring at me," Efen said. "It was terrible. Things got even worse when I realized for the first time that everybody was speaking English and not Spanish, and I couldn't understand a single word anyone was saying. One time, during class, I just broke down and cried because I was so frustrated."

Alicia Camacho, Efen's mother, said she felt upset and uncomfortable knowing her children were struggling in school, but she had a class of her own to worry about.

"I tried taking night classes to learn English at the Resource Center for two or three weeks but I eventually felt like it was just too hard, because the English teacher could only speak English and knew no Spanish at all," Alicia said. "It was easier for me to just learn English through experience and day-to-day life."

Today, Alicia works cleaning houses, while her husband is employed doing outdoor maintenance.

"We have to work all the time, but America is just as good as I'd hoped it would be, and it's all worth it because my children can have better lives," she said.

Sonia Vega agrees that America is a wonderful place, though she said she wishes immigrants were treated with more respect in the media, specifically by Donald Trump.

"Trump hurts my feelings when he talks about the Mexican people, especially when he said what he did about Mexico 'not sending their best,' and sending over murderers, rapists, and drug dealers," Sonia said. "He didn't say whether he was talking about just illegal Mexican immigrants when he said that, and he tends to dehumanize immigrants and makes it out like it's Mexicans that are ruining the country. There are good and bad people everywhere, no matter what their race is."

Jessica said that, regardless of how the media may portray immigrants at times, she will continue to stand by and honor her parents.

"My parents are good, hardworking Mexican people," she said. "I'm proud of my heritage, and plan to carry my Mexican culture with pride my entire life and pass it on to my own children."



# Managers impact team sports

## Sideline skills can influence future players

BY CAITLYN PATTERSON  
Staff Writer

Senior Rachel Hill dreamed of getting onto a competitive court since she was a little girl. The fact that both of her parents were coaches meant that she was on the sidelines for most of her life, watching from a distance.

She finally was able to take an unofficial role during her seventh grade year as a team manager or helper for the high school teams, filling water bottles, filming, folding laundry—really whatever needed to be done.

Hill later was able to move from the sidelines to center court when she made the varsity volleyball team as a freshman, an opportunity she had longed for.

And it all started with being a team manager.

Several local students who are now valued members of a varsity team got their start on the sidelines as well, working their way up through the ranks as team managers.

“It’s a lot of hard work,” Hill said. “Before the games I would make sure that the water bottles were filled, towels were in the lockers, and do anything else the coaches asked me to do.”

Hill said that being a manager is difficult, but it can also be a lot of fun.

“It was pretty intimidating at first because most of the players were juniors and seniors,” Hill said. “But I loved getting to be around older girls

and having the opportunity to watch them play every day.”

Seventh grader Cooper Fairchild said he has managed the varsity and junior varsity football and basketball teams for as long as he can remember.

“I started managing pretty early,” Fairchild said. “It was my kindergarten year. I had a lot of older friends that were doing it and I wanted to be like them.”

Fairchild thinks that having friends on and off of the field is hard to balance.

“Sometimes I wish I was up in the stands with my friends,” Fairchild said. “But I love getting to be on the field.”

Natalie Hayner, a junior, never even considered being a manager until she was asked to help out after she had quit the volleyball team. Not having a background in sports, Hayner gave volleyball a shot when she transferred to Albany, but quickly decided she could help the team more from behind the scenes instead of on the court.

“It’s a lot harder than most people might think it is,” Hayner said. “It can be really time consuming and stressful.”

Managing can be frustrating because “it’s more of a backstage job,” according to Hayner.

“You won’t get a lot of praise for it,” Hayner said. “People are still grateful that you do it even though they’re not thanking you every second or cheering you on like they do for the team.”

Being a manager involves a lot of effort.

“There are a lot of jobs that you have to do for volleyball,” she said. “I have



Seventh graders Cooper Fairchild and Brooks Neece (above) fill up water bottles for the football players before a football game in Winters, which the Lions went on to win 57-8. Junior Natalie Hayner struggles to hold on to a handful of water bottles before one of the Lady Lions’ volleyball games. There are a lot more responsibilities behind the jobs of managers than most people realize.

PHOTOS BY RACHEL HILL & CAITLYN PATTERSON

to wash their laundry, fill waters, air up balls, keep score, and whatever else the girls need.”

Managing can also be fun at times.

“Last year I sang the National Anthem before a game,” Hayner said.

“After I sang one of the referees asked me to sing at his funeral.”

Fairchild’s favorite part about managing is being with his friends.

“We always play tackle football on the field before the game starts,” Fairchild

said. “We get really competitive, and sometimes we even play against the managers from the other team.”

Fairchild said that being on the sidelines and observing for so many years has made him a

better competitor.

“I think that being able to play with the older boys has made me stronger,” Fairchild said. “I’m a lot better at football than I would have been if I hadn’t been a manager.”

Eighth grader Alli Hill was influenced by her older sister Rachel to become a manager. Volleyball managers have to be prepared to make important decisions that can affect the game. Alli learned this during her first time calling lines.

“The ball got really close to the line,” she said. “I made the right call, but the other team got really angry at me and it made me cry.”

Torie Fuentes, an eighth grader, wanted to be manager when she was in second grade because her sister and brother were both managers.

“I love getting to be part of the team,” Fuentes said. “But having to watch some of your players get hurt is one of the worst things about managing.”

Fuentes said she had a rough experience when her own brother, who is also a manager, got injured on the sideline.

“Watching my younger brother, London, get hit by a football player at the Munday game four years ago was awful,” Fuentes said. “After the game he was rushed to the hospital and we found out he broke his tibia.”

Although being manager can be rough at times, at the end of the day Hayner says she loves her team.

“I think the best part about managing is becoming a part of the team,” Hayner said. “It feels like you have another family.”

# Students speak out about Kaepernick case

## Kneeling during Anthem evokes varying opinions

BY KADE EVERITT  
Staff Writer

Colin Kaepernick is in his fifth year as a quarterback in the National Football League for the San Francisco 49ers.

The first time Kaepernick sat out the National Anthem in protest of the treatment of African Americans was Aug. 14. He went unnoticed the first couple of times he sat during the song, but Kaepernick was noticed when the team played the Green Bay Packers.

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick has willingly immersed himself into controversy by refusing to stand for the playing of the national anthem in protest of what he deems are wrongdoings against African Americans and minorities in the United States.

Kaepernick told NFL Media in an exclusive interview after a game that he will not stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color. Kaepernick said that to him this is bigger than football, and it would be selfish on his part to look the other way.

Kaepernick never ran this by anybody. He said that he wasn’t looking for approval from anybody, saying that he has the right to stand up for people that are oppressed even if they take football and endorsements away from him.

Although many people think Kaepernick should be punished or kicked off the team for his actions, senior Jordan McDonald believes in what Kaepernick is doing.

“There shouldn’t be a punishment,” McDonald said. “It is his right to protest, but he won’t have many fans supporting him.”

McDonald thinks Kaepernick should’ve protested in a different way.

Sophomore Cutter Edgar says that all of Kaepernick’s protesting is a joke that he thinks is just a hoax by the NFL to make money.

Senior Roman Fuentes doesn’t agree with the 49er quarterback’s actions.

“I do not agree with his decision to protest,” Fuentes said. “But it is a right protected by the First Amendment.”

Sophomore Cameron Dacus thinks sitting or kneeling is disrespectful.

“I think that what they are doing is unpatriotic,” Dacus said. “Colin Kaepernick should stop protesting while he still has a job.”

Kaepernick wasn’t the starting quarterback for San Francisco at the beginning of the season, but he is now.

Fuentes feels that it is San Francisco’s choice who they start.

“I feel it’s the teams’ decision, and they have to do what is best for the team,” Fuentes said. “But I believe it will hurt the team’s image in the long run.”

Junior Adam Faith thinks that Kaepernick is just seeking attention.

“All Kaepernick wants



Junior Brian Hamilton and fellow teammates stand during the National Anthem during the Cisco game. The actions of professional football player Colin Kaepernick has kindled different reactions among local students, but most feel that saluting the flag and standing during the Star-Spangled Banner is a sign of respect. PHOTO BY RACHEL HILL

is attention because he went from taking his team to the Super Bowl in 2013 to getting benched before the start of the regular season,” Faith said.

Senior Hunter Owen thinks that Kaepernick’s actions are regrettable.

“I think that it is his right to stand or kneel,” Owen said. “However, I find it very disrespectful to everyone who has served or is currently serving our country.”

Kaepernick’s actions have had a ripple effect among high school athletes. Desoto High School is an example.

The entire volleyball team at Desoto High School knelt during the National Anthem before a match on September 20.

While some spectators felt the team is wrong, the Desoto volleyball coach respects their decision.

“I support their decision 100 percent,” Desoto

coach Rhea Reed told NBC5 in Dallas. “In no way does their stance take away from their love of country, our service men and women or the flag. It is an outcry for compassion, understanding and change.”

By taking a stand for civil rights, Kaepernick joins other athletes like the NBA’s Dwayne Wade, Chris Paul, LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony and several WNBA play-

ers in using their platform and status to raise awareness about issues affecting minorities in the U.S.

Kaepernick said that he is aware of what he is doing and that he knows it will not sit well with a lot of people, including the 49ers.

Kaepernick told a reporter for ESPN that he would continue to kneel during the national anthem until something was done.



Lions host Bronte in season finale

Football team heads into playoffs with district title

BY JILLIAN GUINN  
Staff Writer

The Lions will play their final game of the season at home against Bronte tonight at 7:30, having already clinched the district championship with a 4-0 district record.

The Lions, who advanced through playoffs the last two years to the state championship game for Class 2A Div. 2, are hoping to make a repeat trip this year.

"We have been very fortunate the last two years because it's not easy," coach David Fairchild said. "It takes a group of men that are committed and who show up ready to work every day. The key to success is not always who has the best athletes, but which teams are committed, have good chemistry, and are willing to sacrifice for the team."

The District 6-2A race has prepared the Lions for the playoffs.

"We saw several different defenses and offenses in district, which I think will help us overall," coach Denny Faith said.

Throughout most of district, the Lions have achieved their goal of being balanced offensively between passing and rushing.

"If you can stay balanced, it doesn't give the defense an opportunity to key anything," Faith

said. "We didn't really perfect our running game until we started district games."

With 12 starters graduating last year, the Lions have had to adjust to a new line up.

"We lost a lot of key players last year, but the older players have been making sure that the younger ones understand that we have a certain brand of football," senior Roman Fuentes said. "It doesn't matter who is on the team; we all play as one and we all do our part on the team."

The district schedule has also helped players gain experience.

"Our young guys have gotten the opportunity to get some good playing time in on Friday night because none of the other teams in our district have JV teams," Fairchild said. "I think it will be a big plus for us that we were able to play those younger guys a lot."

Of all the positive aspects of district play, the Lions' biggest benefit was gaining confidence.

"Although it took us a few games to get settled in, I think we have done a good job of adjusting to what the coaches wanted," junior Dax Neece said. "Even though our district wasn't too challenging, I think it was good for us because it helped us gain a lot of confidence that we will need for the playoffs."

Even with the lessons learned during district, the Lions will face new challenges heading into the playoffs.

"I think one of the biggest challenges for all teams in the



Senior Jordan Pleasant moves to the outside to make his way up the sidelines during the Lions' match-up with Cisco, their only loss of the season. Albany is undefeated in district action and has locked up the district championship with one game to go. PHOTO BY RACHEL HILL

playoffs is staying injury free and improving the depth of your team," Fairchild said. "All teams are going to be focused. It always comes down to how you prepare each week for your opponent."

Sophomore Cutter Edgar also sees injuries as a problem.

"I think our biggest problem will be the injuries," Edgar said. "Playing better and bigger teams as we head to playoffs is scary because we already have a limited

number of players."

With the Lions striving to continue the legacy, they are not only facing a possibility of physical challenges, but also the challenge of staying mentally strong.

"I believe our biggest challenge in the playoffs will be adjusting to the atmosphere," Fuentes said. "We have a lot of new faces on the team this year, so it will be important that we all perform well on the big stages and

not get caught up in all the hype."

Even with these obstacles, Fairchild believes the Lions have a good chance of making an appearance at the state championship for the third consecutive year.

"Definitely, I do think we have a good chance of returning to state," Fairchild said. "We have a tough region ahead of us with teams like Iraan and Muenster which will be big hurdles, but we just have to know 'It can be done'."

Runners set goals to improve times

Cross country team ends season at district meet

BY RYAN HILL  
Staff Writer

On Oct. 17, the cross country team traveled to a windy course in Hamlin to compete in the district meet drawing their season to an end.

"The course wasn't all that hard; it was flat and didn't change much in elevation, but we faced a really heavy head wind throughout the whole run," head coach Tate Thompson said.

Sophomore, Derek Isbell agrees with the coach.

"I think that the course was fairly easy, but it was super windy and that made it hard for me to maintain a consistent running

pace," Isbell said.

Thompson said that he was pleased with the way the kids ran.

"All of my kids improved their time from the previous week, which is the best way to go out at your last meet," he said.

Thompson also said that the competition was really high.

"They all ran really well, but our district fields some good runners, and the level of competition was too much for our guys."

He thinks it has to do with fall sports.

"Only one other team in our district plays volleyball, so everyone else has their best athletes to compete, while most of ours are in volleyball."

At the beginning of the season Isbell set some goals for himself.

"Every week I wanted to improve my time from the previous week so I could get better, and make a better impact on my times," he said.

He commented he was ready for the next year.

"I am looking forward to next season," he said. "I will stay in shape throughout the year and hopefully do better and advance to regionals."

The coach commended junior Baley Green for being one of the top improvers over the season.

"I think Baley improved the most," he said. "She only got to run in two meets, but the time she shaved off from the first to second was so good."

Coach Thompson concluded that senior Michaela Reames was the hardest worker this season.

"Michaela always put forth the effort, whether we were putting in time in the weight room or running," he said. "Being her senior year, she really wanted to show that she could advance, and it showed every day in practice. Seeing her work hard is what makes coaching enjoyable."



Freshman Dani Ford nears the finish line during the varsity girls two-mile run at the cross country meet held at the Albany Golf Course on Oct. 5. The team is usually small because local athletes have conflicts with other sports events. PHOTO BY KYLEA GARDNER

Volleyball team earns spot in playoffs

Girls advance as runner-up to Hawley in district

BY PARKER MOON  
Staff Writer

The Lady Lions ended district play in third place overall, but advanced in second place behind the Hawley Bearcats in the 2A bracket. Albany faced Petrolia in the bi-district game on Tuesday but scores were not available at press time.

"This is our third year to be runner-up to Hawley in district," coach Kim Hill said. "Hawley has height, which we don't, and are very well coached. They also have more depth, meaning they have more numbers and can choose your top six girls."

Since Albany advanced as the second place team in the 2A bracket, they faced Petrolia in Mineral Wells for the second year in a row.

"Petrolia is a very good team," Hill said. "They have beaten us two years in a row and come from a very good district."

There are seven teams in the district including four being 1A schools and three 2A. Once playoffs start the teams split off into separate brackets.

"Playing smaller schools in

district definitely hurt us preparing for the playoffs," Hill said. "We advance on to play 2A teams such as Petrolia, Windthorst, and Archer City. Both Archer City and Windthorst have made it to the state volleyball tournament for the past six years."

Hill's main goal for the playoffs was to win in the first round.

"Our volleyball team hasn't won bi-district since Rachel (now a senior) was a freshman," Hill said. "That year we went a couple rounds deep, but when she was in eighth grade we were one game away from the regional tournament."

The Lady Lions had an up and down district season due to their struggle with consistency.

"We have a lot of inexperienced players on the team this year due to how young we are," Hill said. "That's why we struggle with consistency."

There were some high points during district play.

"There were some games where we looked like a completely different team because we were playing so well," Hill said. "A lot of this comes with playing more and gaining experience."

Junior Rylie Scott also saw some areas that the team needed to work on while they were in district.

"We really need to work on communication," Scott said. "There



Junior Krysten Morris lays out to save the volley during the Lady Lions' game against Knox City. Albany lost the "pink out game" in four sets. The varsity girls, who have struggled with injuries and inexperience during the 2016 season, are advancing into the playoffs as the second place 2A team.

were several times where we would get a great dig, hustle and get the second ball, and then the third ball would drop right in between two girls. That type of stuff can't happen because you are just giving them free points."

Fundamentals such as missed serves, foot faults, and hitting the net also hurt the team during the season.

"It was definitely a growing year," Hill said. "The potential is there for some success because we have these girls coming back except Rachel. There is a lot of physical ability, so I guess I am hoping we will improve the commitment and the mental toughness factors for next year."

Hill said that the girls tend to remember their mistakes for too

long and that they have got to put it behind them.

"It's just been a rebuilding year," Hill said. "A lot of things were changed this year with Rachel's injury and new leadership roles that had to be filled to find a rhythm so we could be in the district race. I think once we get some consistency for next year we will be better."



## "Biology"

*Continued from | PG 1*

presented it, I felt so good about our conclusions."

Wilkins also expressed how the project changed her views on life.

"I am learning science, but what I am getting out of this project is so much more than that," Wilkins said. "I learned to never take anything that I have for granted. This project made me grateful for what I have, and it makes me want to make a difference in the lives of people in Guatemala."

Sophomore Jillian Guinn shared similar thoughts.

"This project has made me a better student and person," Guinn said. "It has opened my eyes to poverty. It has also shown me what I can do to make a difference in the world."

Raymond's purpose for this project was the same as his everyday classes.

"I want to teach them to problem solve and be critical thinkers," Raymond said. "The ultimate goal is to show the students that even though they are just sophomores, they can help with solving life problems."

Masters was assigned the important area of nutrition.

"My part in this project is to inform the people of Guatemala about nutritional facts," Masters said. "Now that I have done the research, I can help them live a healthier life."

Masters said that the biggest problem in helping them is gaining first-hand knowledge about how they live and what their primary food sources consist of.

She is also a part of the landscape crew for Lil' Guatemala.

Sophomore Haley Stewart is tackling a common concern in underdeveloped countries — money.

"The biggest conflict was that every problem is tied back to the lack of income," Stewart said. "I had to come up with a method that somehow supported everyone's plan financially and come up with an overall plan to eliminate poverty in the country."

Although Stewart struggled in the beginning, she believes she has a firm plan to help the people of Guatemala manage their money.

Wilkins is helping the children of Guatemala by improving education and language skills.

"My overall plan is to have all of the people in Guatemala either getting a degree and a job, or going to school to do so," Wilkins said. "Jillian Guinn and I figured out a system where everyone will end up getting the basic education they need to make a living. We are hoping our trial plan works so we can start helping these people as soon as we can."

Raymond is excited to get started on the second half of the project which is improving the greenhouse at the ag farm and preparing a small

garden to grow crops that people in Guatemala would grow themselves.

The class hopes to take a trip to Guatemala during spring break of their junior year in order to put some of their plans and investigation into practice.

## "Jr. Stress"

*Continued from | PG 1*

"I was taking all three college classes," Green said. "But now I have dropped college history to lighten the work load."

Green copes with stress by working out and distancing herself from her peers.

"I think I will get through the year. It will just be very challenging and will take a lot of mental strength," she said.

Chase Hill also struggles with the work that comes with his junior year and having to balance it with working at the Stasney Ranch.

Hill works at the Stasney Ranch, which takes up a lot of his time.

"I spend around an hour and a half up to three hours a day on school work when I get back from my job," Hill said.

Junior Rylie Scott is learning to deal with the amount of homework that she has throughout the weekends.

"The college classes are like honors classes, so I have to take them to keep my class rank," she said. "If I don't take them, I won't receive the weighted points could

fall down in the class rank."

Scott spends around four hours a day on schoolwork at home, and she has heard that college is even more reading based.

"A few weeks ago I went to lunch with Lori Davis, who is a freshman at TCU, and we got on the topic of college," Scott said. "She was telling me how all of the collegiate classes are all reading based and most homework assignments are essays. Therefore, I feel these classes really are preparing me for college."

Scott copes with the stress by listening to music and just cranking out all the homework at once.

Junior Genevieve Stunkard has little time to do some of the things she loves most because of all of the workload.

"What we have to do is not that much more challenging, but there's just so much," Stunkard said.

There are some nights when she gets little sleep because of homework.

"I usually am working on schoolwork until I finish it and it's time to go to bed, or I work until I'm so tired I might not finish," Stunkard said.

Stunkard says she has very little time to spend with family and friends.

"I have very little time for a social life," she said. "You have to make choices if you want to do well, and I have chosen grades and sleep ahead of a social life."

## WHAT'S HAPPENING!

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### NOVEMBER

- 4 Varsity Football vs. Bronte @ Home, 7:30pm
- 4 2nd Six Weeks Ends
- 5 SAT Testing
- 7 3rd Six Weeks Begins
- 10 JH Girls Basketball vs. Haskell @ Haskell, 5:00pm
- 12 JV & Varsity Girls Basketball vs. Newcastle @ Home, 10:00am
- 15 JV & Varsity Girls Basketball vs. Bronte @ Bronte, 5:00pm
- 17 JH District OAP Contest @ Stamford, 3:00pm
- 18 JV & Varsity Girls Basketball vs. Snyder @ Snyder, 5:00pm
- 21 JV & Varsity Girls Basketball vs. ACHS @ Home, 5:00pm
- 22 JV & Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball vs. Trent @ Trent, 5:00pm
- 23-25 Thanksgiving Holiday
- 29 JV & Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball vs. DeLeon @ Home, 5:00pm

#### DECEMBER

- 1 JH UIL Contest @ Hawley, 8:00am
- 1-3 Albany Varsity Girls Basketball Tournament, 9:00am
- 2 Varsity Boys Basketball vs. Olney @ Olney, 5:00pm
- 3 SAT Testing @ Albany
- 5 JH Boys Basketball vs. Roscoe @ Home, 5:00pm
- 5 JH Girls Basketball vs. Roscoe @ Roscoe, 5:00pm
- 5-9 EOC Retakes
- 6 JV & Varsity Boys Basketball vs. Early @ Early, 5:00pm
- 8-10 Albany JV Boys Basketball Tournament
- 8-10 Varsity Boys Basketball Archer City Tournament
- 8-10 JV & Varsity Girls Basketball Zephyr Tournament
- 13 JV & Varsity Girls Basketball vs. Stamford @ Stamford, 4:00pm
- 13 JV & Varsity Boys Basketball vs. Ballinger @ Ballinger, 5:00pm
- 15-17 Varsity Boys Basketball Hico Tournament
- 16 JV & Varsity Girls Basketball vs. Hawley @ Hawley, 4:00pm
- 19-20 Finals, 8:00am
- 20 JV & Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball vs. Anson @ Home, 4:00pm
- 21 3rd Six Weeks Ends

# Homecoming Festivities

Local students participated in several homecoming activities throughout the week of October 14. From daily dress-up themes to decorating floats for the annual parade, homecoming was a weeks' worth of fun involvement.

The cheerleaders organized dress-up themes and a winner from each day was picked. Themes including Twin Tuesday, Walt Disney Wednesday and Freaky Fan Friday helped students get into the spirit of homecoming.

Each class had one week to select a

board game from a list of suggestions and prepare a float for judging during the annual homecoming parade. Juniors won with Monopoly, followed by Sophomores and their float representing Twister. Senior rounded out the field with Candyland.

The cheerleaders put together a fun and loud pep rally, including a country dance featuring the senior football players. The Lions finished up homecoming week with a win over Baird 60-13 Friday night.

PHOTOS BY RACHEL HILL AND RYLIE SCOTT.

STORY BY RACHEL HILL



Senior Emmy Shirley (left) shows her school spirit by yelling with the cheerleaders during the pep rally. The gym was packed with fans and students rallying behind the football team and cheerleaders. Several members of the sophomore class (below) play Twister while riding their float in the parade. Their float displayed the board game Twister and finished second in the judging contest.



Juniors Madi Ratliff and Krysten Morris (far left) show off tumbling during a cheer routine. Senior Kylea Gardner (left) waves from her car during the homecoming parade. Gardner represented the Queen nominee from the sophomores. Each class chose two seniors to be represented in the homecoming court.



Members of the cheer squad (far left) toss senior flyer Kaleigh Clevenger into a toe touch basket during the Homecoming pep rally. The cheer squad spent hours preparing for this pep rally, decorating the gym and putting together a flawless routine. A week's worth of dress up themes created by the cheerleaders served as another way to get the student body involved in the activities associated with homecoming. Senior Caleb Britting (left) dances as he and other members of the Lion football team walk out of the tunnel during the pep rally. Senior class President Sydney Key (above) crowns Homecoming King Grant Head. Rachel Hill was crowned as the queen after secret ballots were cast throughout the high school. Head represented the Senior class while Hill represented the juniors.