



THE LIONS ROAR

"Lion pride in print"

Friday, October 4, 2013

ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL

ALBANY, TEXAS 76430

VOLUME 12 NUMBER 1



Former queens reflect on honor



Former Albany High School homecoming royalty tell about 'good old days.' — See page 4

New students experience Albany



From Florida and Germany to Texas, students adjust to new home in Albany. — See page 5

Lions defeat the competition

Lions are cheered on to victory during the district opener against Ranger. — See page 6

New phone app keeps students connected

School speaks the language of technology

BY JARED HUSMANN
Photo Editor

With the use of smart-phones within the student body at an all time high, the school is now offering a new way to communicate even a step further.

Students and parents now have the ability to receive reminders and schedule updates through an application on their smartphones called School Connect.

"This app really helps remind me of what is going on in our school so I don't

miss anything," senior Abbey Head said. Teachers can pass in-

formation to the students easier than ever with the new application.

"There are times when students may not remember all of the events and

activities going on in the school," science teacher Jennifer Edmison said. "This app is a convenient way for them to stay up to date with what is happening on campus."

The app allows students to receive notifications from the staff, check their grades and several other useful features. The app is easy to use and free to download.

"The students are much more likely to see notifications on their cell phones than to remember handouts from teachers," Edmison said. "It is easier for the staff to send messages to the students who actually need them," Edmison said.

This new app is a way for the school to stay in tune with the latest smart-

phone trends among the students.

"The app is appealing to the students because technology is what everybody understands these days," principal Kevin Hill said.

Students find the app very useful and think it is a great way to stay informed on school events.

"We are on our phones all the time," junior Stevie Phillips said, "so this new app is a great way for the school to adapt to that."

The students seem to enjoy having this high tech way of staying connected.

"I like the app because instead of giving us handouts or taping reminders to our lockers, the school can send out information to us in a way that we will



Junior Chandler Fields reads notifications on the new School Connect app. Students and parents will be able to receive immediate school updates. PHOTO BY JARED HUSMANN

SEE SCHOOL CONNECT | PG 8

New requirements for school year implemented

Rules change regarding EOC, AR, dress code

BY LORI DAVIS
News Editor

Several changes have been made for the 2013-2014 school year, including new requirements for end-of-course tests (EOC), Accelerated Reader (AR), and the dress code.

"Students were required to take 15 tests before they graduated, but due to the rule change by the legislature this summer, now only five are being required," Principal Kevin Hill said. "I think this is a good change."

Students were going to have to take the English I, Algebra I, Biology, World Geography, English II, Geometry, Chemistry, World History, English III, Alge-

bra II, Physics, and U.S. History EOCs before they graduate.

"The English EOCs include reading and writing, and did count as two separate tests," said Hill.

Now, high school students will only have to take a combined English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and US History end-of-course tests before they graduate.

"I think this is a good change because it gives students more options for their interests instead of having to worry about all the EOC tests all the time," Hill said.

The passing score for the EOC tests is 3500.

"Before, when we were going to have to take 15 tests to graduate, it was very stressful," sophomore Carley Price said.

Starting in the 2014-2015 school year, students in the top 10 percent of their class who are seeking automatic admission into

a state university will also have to pass the tests for Algebra II and English III.

"This rule is suspended right now, but will come

into play later," Hill said.

If students do not pass one of the EOC tests the first time, there will be opportunities to retest.

"Now, since we only have to take five tests, I can relax more and enjoy the school year," Pricesaid. Accelerated Reader has

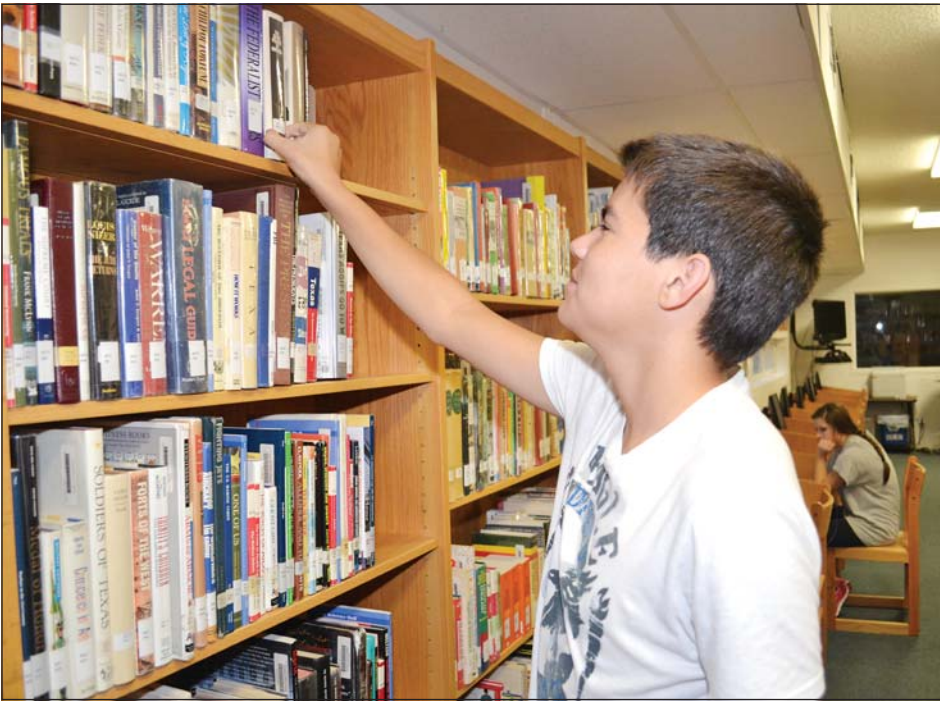
also returned this year. Last year, students could read books and take AR tests on their own, but it wasn't a course requirement.

"The reason that most students don't read very much on their own is that they don't allow enough time to get interested in the book they are reading, and they are very busy with their other activities," English teacher Danita Johnston said.

The AR grade will count as a fourth test grade in English classes each six weeks.

"I think making AR mandatory again will benefit the students, because if students are not required to read, they won't," Johnston said.

Junior high and high school students are required to earn at least 10 points each six weeks in their English classes.



Sophomore Cason Asher chooses an AR book to meet the reinstated reading requirement. Students must earn a minimum of 10 points each six weeks. PHOTO BY LORI DAVIS

SEE NEW RULES | PG 8

Seniors' future success looking up

Students announce acceptance with tiles

BY MELINDA PHILLIPS
Staff Writer

A new trend began this year with the decoration of ceiling tiles to express the choices students are making after high school.

The purpose of this new idea is to motivate students to become successful and achieve their dreams.

The tiles are sold for \$15 and can be decorated with the college a student has been accepted to, giving them motivation for their years after high school.

"Anytime you can

positively promote post-secondary education, you need to take advantage of it," Supt. Shane Fields said.

According to school counselor Dee Dee Waggoner, the success of students is the main goal and will be supported no matter what their choices will be.

"This doesn't have to be only for students going to a four-year college," Waggoner said. "We are promoting any type of continued education after high school."

After seeing the idea online, Fields brought the concept to Albany.

"I got the idea from a friend of ours on Facebook in Sweetwater and thought it was creative," Fields says. "It's a good way to show school spirit for your next school and allows you

to show your goals."

To put the idea into action, Fields presented the plan to other staff members.

"I discussed the idea with Mrs. Waggoner, and she helped get it moving at the high school," Fields said. "It's a great way to get seniors to look past high school."

This new plan for the school is expected to have an impact on more than just the senior class.

"I think it's a wonderful idea," Waggoner said. "It not only lets seniors express their plans after high school, but it also motivates underclassmen to be thinking about what their plans are."

There is no specific date for the tiles to go up, due to



Math teacher Ashley Terrell proudly shows off her hand-crafted ceiling tile representing her college alma mater Hardin Simmons University. Seniors can purchase a ceiling tile to decorate with the college of their choice. PHOTO BY JARED HUSMANN

SEE TILES | PG 8

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

Council grows for new year

The student council is changing and hopefully for the better.

New council officers were elected in May so they could help with projects over the summer and at the start of the new school year.

"They were very helpful," sponsor Donnie Lucas said. "They made a lot of trips to the book room for us and helped in our rooms."

Another change is the number of class Reps from each class has doubled from two to four. The expanded council allows for more participation by the student body in service projects.

Projects this year in-

clude planning homecoming, raising money for the Albany Chest with Trick or Treat for Change, and benefiting the Ministerial Alliance's Christmas basket program through Caroling for Change.

Officers this year are Madison Jones, president; Lewis Kelly, vice president; Conor Wilson, secretary; Rachel Kitchens, reporter.

SAT dates announced

The first SAT test will be held in Albany on October 5 for students who have already registered. There will be more tests throughout the year with registration available at sat.collegeboard.org/register. The SAT college entrance

test measures a student's readiness for college level work. There are numerous websites students can access to help prepare for the test.

Most colleges set a base score that students must meet for admissions and academic scholarships. Students planning on going straight to a junior college usually do not

have to take the SAT test because their performance on state assessments can be high enough for automatic admission.

The next testing date is set for Nov. 2, with a registration deadline of Oct. 3.

For more information about how to register or prepare for the SAT test, contact counselor Dee Dee Waggoner.

The newspaper and yearbook staffs, along with journalism students attended the Interscholastic League Press Conference Convention (ILPC) in Austin every year on April 27-28 to learn from professional journalists and photographers, as well as find out about state contests.

Those attending went to six workshop sessions led by various professionals of the trade.

“The lectures expose you to different styles of writing that shows you what kind of writing they are looking for when they judge your work,” newspaper editor-in-chief Rob Montgomery said. “The lectures are very informational and really help improve our writing and photography skills.”

The school newspaper and yearbook staffs submit their work to be judged and have the opportunity to win awards for the quality of their publication.

“We won a Silver Star Award this year, which is the second highest honor our paper can get,” Montgomery said. “We are very happy with Silver Star Award, especially because we are one of the smallest newspaper staffs to be nominated for an award.”

Teachers Donnie Lucas and Lauren Peacock lead the newspaper and yearbook staffs.

“Mr. Lucas is by far the best journalism teachers in class A

Editorials

Preparation is key

Becoming a senior is not a walk in the park. Procrastination is one of the biggest enemies for a senior student.

SAT's and ACT's aren't usually the biggest priority during a year full of last-minute memories. Seniors may want to have fun and enjoy their last year, but according to every responsible adult out there, they should be preparing for the real world that lies ahead.

One of the most important parts in being prepared for college is making good grades. Even though some high school students feel that studying is overrated or a waste of time, it is a key aspect in not only limiting your choices of colleges, but also making sure that you will be accepted to one.

Another crucial part of college preparation is being involved in extra-curricular activities. Participating in school clubs, sports, and volunteer work provide important criteria for college applications. Going to high school in a small town provides many opportunities for students to get connected, although juggling numerous activities can get stressful and exhausting. Time management is a huge key in staying on track towards the goal of being accepted by the college of choice

The struggle that not only seniors, but also any student has is finding the balance between an exciting social life and successful academic career. Students have to realize what is more important to them and look to the future. Staying home and finishing a tough English essay that might be the determining factor between an A or B is definitely the better choice than hanging out with friends. Preparing for college is hectic, such as taking ACT and SAT tests, making good grades, participating in extra-curricular activities, and sending in applications. It can feel overwhelming sometimes, but the unexplainable feeling of receiving an acceptance letter from the college of choice will be worth it in the end.

Rush hour concerns

Upperclassmen seem to always be in a hurry once the bell rings for lunch to get to their vehicles so they can have the most time possible to eat before they have to rush back to class. The school board should make the lunch periods longer to allow the juniors and seniors enough time to eat without having to rush.

Trying to get out of the parking lot for lunch is like playing a racing game since there are so many cars speeding around trying to leave before everyone else. Having a longer lunch would help to slow students down, and make the parking lot less hectic and much safer.

When the students do get home or to a restaurant for lunch, there are only a few quick minutes to make or order food and eat before heading back to school. Getting the chance to finish eating before going back to class would also eliminate kids always bringing their food and drinks back to class.

Making the lunch period longer would not only benefit the students but also the teachers. If teachers or students need time to run an errand, they would still have time to eat lunch before returning back to school.

Some say that the lunch period should be kept at around 30 - 35 minutes to prevent students from trying to go to Breckenridge or Abilene for a meal. But adding a few minutes to the lunch period would provide enough time to eat without having to rush, but still wouldn't be long enough to travel out of town.

Lengthening the school lunches would make going to lunch safer for the students because the rush to get out of the parking lot would be less chaotic, and students could even have time to run an errand and eat as well.



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ILPC 2013 Silver Star Winner
ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL

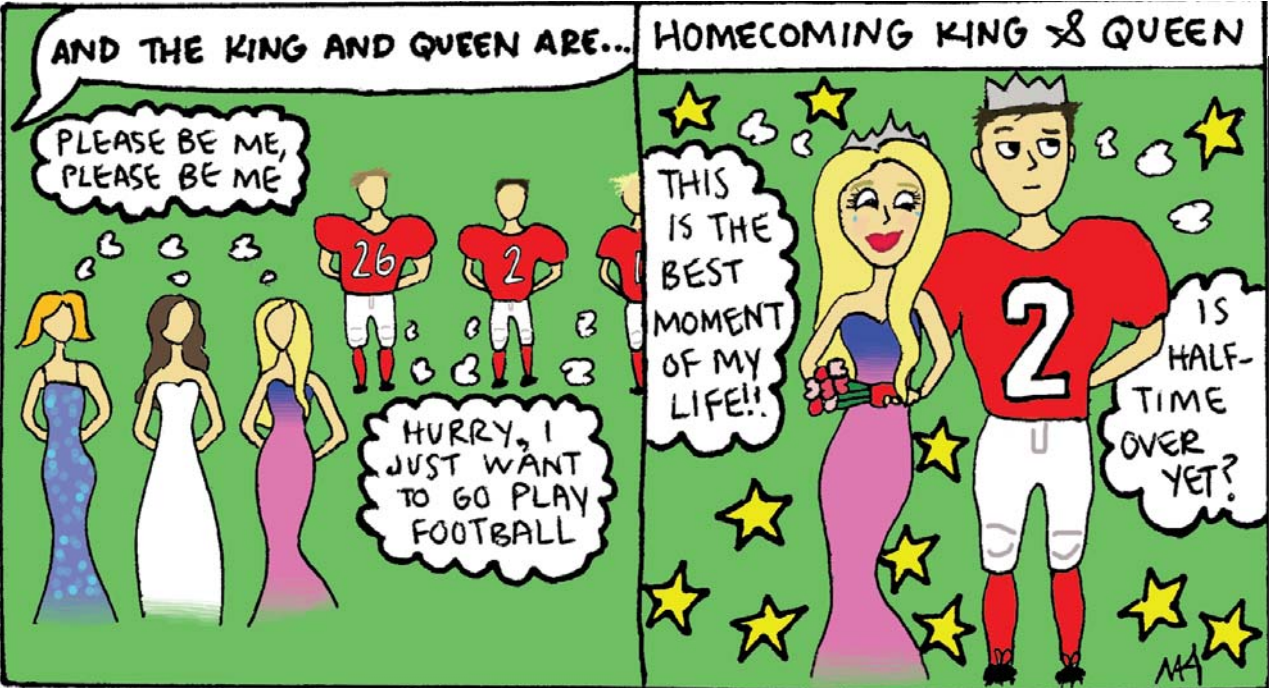
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This is on television because....

A mother was eating breakfast with her eight-year-old son and four-year-old daughter with Good Morning America on the television.

Picture it. The mom pouring the orange juice. The children eating their Fruit Loops and Cocoa Puffs, enjoying the wonderful innocence of childhood. They occasionally glance up at the news, but this time, they don't see any breaking stories. Instead, these children's eyes are being invaded by the sight of a topless woman on top of a man with part of her breast in view, and the couple sticking their tongues down each other's throats.

Have one question: Why the heck is this commercial being shown during the morning news?

I understand that society is changing and things that were once morally inappropriate are now widely accepted and considered to be the norm.

However, a line needs to be drawn, preferably with a thick, black permanent marker.

In years past, you would see tasteless or more adult commercials on late at night when the kiddos were fast

BY KATHRYN HAMILTON

Kats Meows

asleep and the night owl adults were up and about.

But times have definitely changed and condom, tampon, and underwear commercials are seen regularly. I can't imagine that I'm the only one who gets a little bit uncomfortable with some of the things I see, especially when watching something with a family member.

If I'm watching a movie at 9 o'clock at night on a cable network with my mom and

13 year-old brother, I do not care to see a commercial for a female sex toy. That's ridiculous.

I don't know what the solution is or what actions, if any, need to be taken, but all I know is that I am sick and tired of seeing unnecessary content in between shows during the daytime or on networks that should not be showing it.

People that are having sex know about condoms, girls on their periods know what a tampon does, and anyone who wears underwear knows what it looks like.

If this is the case, I would prefer not to have to see them advertised, especially with my parents in the room. Talk about uncomfortable.

Give more, love more, class of 2-0-1-4

No matter how old you are or what grade you're in, everyone is counting down the days until they can move to the next level. From second graders wanting to become sixth graders so that they can run down the halls at the end of the school year, to freshmen gnawing at the bit to wear that shiny red cap and gown on graduation day, we are always looking ahead. What they don't realize is how fast it actually happens. How much you take for granted.

Ever since my last first day of high school, I stopped counting and started appreciating. It hit me that this year will be the last time I will ever cheer for our "Boys of Fall", the last year to ever put on my number 10 jersey or feel the adrenaline in my body when I step on the volleyball court, the last months I will ever spend with the people I've grown up with for eighteen years.

I thought this day would never come until it actually did. What I thought would be a thrilling moment turned into an eye-opener. When you become a senior you need to cherish every little moment no matter how small. Going to class is not normally considered a cherished moment, but this will be the last time I will ever be in a classroom filled

BY CONOR WILSON

Wilson Words

with people who know almost everything about me. They are my second family. People tell you that your closest friends in life are be the ones you meet while in college. Well, if that is so, then I want to cling to the moments and people I have now before we all go our separate ways into the world.

Senior year is a year of mixed emotions. I am ready to have a fresh start and move to the next chapter in my life, but I am not ready to leave the ones who made me, me. When graduation comes, I am going to look around and realize that I will never see half of these people again. I will begin to see it when everyone is getting their new roommates and their class schedules. When I am packing up the past 18 years of my life, laughing with my best friend about all the stupid stuff we've done, I hope I realize the importance of the people around me. The hardest part will be leaving the ones who mean the absolute most to me...my family. They are the closest people I have in my life. They helped shape the person I am today. My family is not the most important thing. They are everything. I know they want me to have a new beginning, but it will be very difficult to leave them. Soon I will finally begin the next new chapter in my life. I hope I'm ready.

Albany tradition will never falter

After playing my freshman year, I made one of the hardest decisions of my life to not play the sport that puts Albany on the radar the most. That's not to say we aren't known for other sports, but when explaining where Albany is located it's easiest to throw the name Denney Faith out there, or Albany Lion football, and they will soon know where you're talking about. That's what made the decision hard. The Albany traditions. The renowned coaching staff.

After I made the choice, I was fearful that the town would look at me differently, but I was wrong. Everybody has accepted my choice, and now I get to experience a fan's point of view of an Albany Lion football game. I've been to multiple NFL games, collegiate games, and even different high school games, and I can honestly say that I wouldn't pick any other place to be on a Friday night than Robert Nail Memorial Stadium.

If you've ever been to an Albany Lion game, whether home or away, you have seen the true heart of a Lion. Whether we are playing the top team in the state, or the last ranked team in the state, you better believe the home

BY CHANDLER FIELDS

CHANCHAN

stands will be filled by 7:30. This not only applies at home. There have been multiple occasions when our crowd has been larger than the home team's crowd. With Albany flags flying at the top of the stands, and the tunnel aired up, you know it's a Friday night in Albany, Texas.

It doesn't matter if you're in kindergarten or thirty years out of high school, you are still an Albany Lion. Lion pride never graduates; it remains a part of you until the very end. As quoted by Thomas Merton, "Tradition, which is always old, is at the same time ever new because it is always reviving – born again in each new generation, to be lived and applied in a new and particular way."

From the upbeat atmosphere in the hallways, to the pep rallies at the end of school, game days always make for a great day. This Lion Pride doesn't reside just at the junior/ senior high school. If you stroll the halls of the elementary school, you'll see most all of the kids wearing their personal Lion jerseys/ cheer uniforms, and the latest temporary tattoos.

It's never a bad day to be an Albany Lion.



2¢ worth

Are you happy to be back at school after the summer break?

"I'm happy to see all my classmates and friends again, but not excited for being packed down with homework."
Abbey Head Senior



"Yes and no. Yes for the sports, and no because I'm not ready for the homework and such."
Valerie Gandara Junior



"Yeah, it's cool. It's good for everybody to be hanging out with each other and going to class. I think everybody is enjoying that.."
Damian Cox Sophomore



"I'm happy because I missed my friends and I was losing a lot of what I learned last year."
Ryan Phillips Freshman



Students find joy with hobbies

Teens stay busy enjoying their favorite craft

BY AUSTIN EDENFIELD
Entertainment Editor

As students, high-schoolers spend the day going to school, learning whatever happens to stick to their brains, and getting so much homework that the paper company has to build a new forest to use for paper every year. When the day is over, they get on buses, in their cars, or even in some cases, on their bikes. They head home, to get prepared for the next day. But what happens after that?

If you ask most kids, they'll probably say that they have no life outside of school, which is likely true in many cases. But what do they actually DO after school? There's only so long someone can sit around and watch TV before their eyes shrivel up from horrible programming.

Student hobbies are very important. It's what keeps kids out of trouble and gives them something to do outside of school and church, if they go. For instance, some students play guitar. Others write stories, or poems, or attempt to write a novel. Some students sit around and play video games, which is a hobby, too.

A few kids choose sports as their hobbies, especially if they're any good.

"I usually just head home and chill and sleep or just hang out" Sophomore Abby Reed said. "I play basketball and volleyball during the season, but other than that, I have nothing else to do. I don't really have much I'd like to learn, and I think I'm pretty good with what I have now."

Outside of school, most students play sports or instruments and get involved in things like Student Council or UIL. They spend their time with their peers and throw themselves into team and school activities. These

things are great for students to get involved with, and it also gives them things to do instead of sitting in front of a TV or a computer.

Student Council members always have something to do, such as designing floats for a parade or decorating for a dance or event, or even just going to the junior high or elementary to help the kids and teachers out there. Being a Student Council member also earns members community service hours and opportunities for college scholarships.

"I either practice for volleyball, or I'm at gymnastics for cheerleading," freshman cheerleader Sydney Key said. "Outside of those two, I don't really have any other hobbies, and I don't have anything I'd like to learn at the moment."

For girls, and even a few guys, being in cheerleading is another fun way to spend time. Cheerleaders always have something to do, whether it is practicing routines, cheering in the game, or just doing some awesome tricks at home. Cheerleading can also lead to scholarships as well as community service hours by helping out the elementary kids in the mornings by opening car doors.

Sports are another way to spend time. Whether it's playing a game, playing a scrimmage, or practicing for a game, you always have something to keep you busy. Things like football, volleyball, tennis, or basketball can all be hobbies for students to have. Sports are also a way to receive scholarships, if students are good at what they play. Sports teams can be really tight-knit, and the team members may go and hang out at each other's houses all the time. Sports are available almost anywhere, so there's no excuse that someone can't make it, or that they don't have time.

"I usually hang out with Jenna Phillips after school, but I should be getting a job soon" sophomore Kimberly Vickers said. "I hang out with my friends, and we ride around

town, or just walk sometimes." "At school, I play trumpet in band, as well as help manage the Lady Lions basketball team."

Another activity is learning to play an instrument. Classes like band, choir, music theory, or even just playing on your own time can be a way to spend time. Music is a creative outlet and can make a successful career with dedication and commitment. Band in high school is really fun, with half time marching, and getting to go to every game. "I really like playing in band, because we get to take road trips and hang out on the bus" sophomore Roberto Cecilio said. "It's also really fun when we get to play at the pep rallies." If you're really good, you can even get a scholarship by playing in the marching or symphonic band.

From Student Council to Band, there are many things inside and outside of school to be involved in. Having a hobby keeps students out of trouble, and can lead to future careers, and an easy ride to college.



Sophomore Kimberly Vickers enjoys her favorite hobby by playing the trumpet during band practice. (top) Junior Abby Reed and freshman Sydney Key pass the volleyball to each other showing their same interest in a hobby. (bottom) PHOTOS BY AUSTIN EDENFIELD

ROARING REVIEWS



Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2
September 27, 2013 PG
Animation | Comedy | Family
Flint Lockwood now works at The Live Corp Company for his idol Chester V. But he's forced to leave his post when he learns that his most infamous machine is still operational and is churning out menacing food-animal hybrids.
Directors: Cody Cameron, Kris Pearn
Writers: Judi Barrett, Ron Barrett
Stars: Bill Hader, Anna Faris, Will Forte

Staff Review:



Grown Ups 2

July 12, 2013 PG-13 101 min

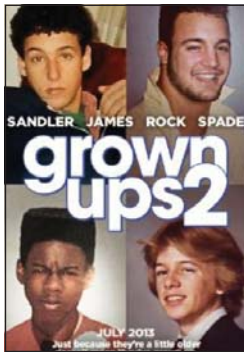
Comedy

After moving his family back to his hometown to be with his friends and their kids, Lenny finds out that between old bullies, new bullies, schizo bus drivers, drunk cops on skis, and 400 costumed party crashers sometimes crazy follows you.

Director: Dennis Dugan

Writers: Fred Wolf, Adam Sandler

Stars: Adam Sandler, Kevin James, Chris Rock



Staff Review:



Insidious: Chapter 2

September 13, 2013 PG-13 105 min

Horror | Thriller

The haunted Lambert family seeks to uncover the mysterious childhood secret that has left them dangerously connected to the spirit world.

Director: James Wan

Writers: Leigh Whannell, James Wan

Stars: Patrick Wilson, Rose Byrne, Barbara Hershey

Staff Review:



Red 2

July 19, 2013 PG -13 116 min

Action | Comedy | Crime

Retired C.I.A. agent Frank Moses reunites his unlikely team of elite operatives for a global quest to track down a missing portable nuclear device.

Director: Dean Parisot

Writers: Jon Hoeber, Erich Hoeber

Stars: Bruce Willis, Helen Mirren, John Malkovich



Staff Review:



THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

BY AUSTIN EDENFIELD

WORLD WAR Z

World War Z is a book about a zombie apocalypse and the stories of several characters being interviewed by a reporter, who is putting together a history of the Zombie War, hence "World War Z".

For any of you who may have gone to see this, you know that this isn't at all the storyline of this movie. The movie follows the life of Gerry, played by Brad Pitt, an ex-UN investigator. Gerry travels around the world in search of a cure for the recent zombie epidemic that is ravaging the entire globe.

Had they named this movie something else instead of *World War Z*, it could possibly have been better received. The special effects are riveting, the storyline is suspenseful in all the right places, and there are even a few kid-appropriate jump scares, where things pop out at you, in the right places.

It has good story-telling, as well as good actors to play good parts. The zombies in this movie are more family appropriate, with no missing limbs or profuse bleeding.

I found myself very into this movie, even wanting to tell key characters to "Run!" or "look out!" when they were in danger, until I remembered what I was watching.

The fact remains; this is not a movie that follows the book. There have been many movies that differ from their book counterparts, such as *The Lightning Thief*, or the well-known *Harry Potter* books, but *World War Z* is completely different from the book from start to finish.

The book also lacks a real main character, whereas, the movie follows the adventure of a character that isn't even in the book.

If you haven't read the book,

then I would definitely recommend renting this movie and even watching with your family or friends.

NOW YOU SEE ME

Now You See Me is a movie about four magicians called "The Four Horsemen" after the iconic death-wielding warriors from the Bible. After robbing a bank over 4000 miles away from where they hold their show, the rest of the movie switches between scenes of the magicians and the FBI agent trying to catch them.

While this can be a bad thing in most cases, I believe that the director of the movie used the confusion perfectly and it made for a very enjoyable watch.

The twists in this movie are so huge that the watcher literally cannot even guess what's going to happen next, with the exact opposite of what you expect coming into play several times.

With notable faces like Jesse Eisenberg and Woody Harrelson, both of which played in *Zombie Land*, the storytelling and acting in this movie are amazing.

I found myself on the edge of my seat for almost the entire movie and shocked at each new twist and trick that played out in the movie. The suspense and thrills are perfectly balanced throughout the show, and it makes for a treat watch.

If you're a fan of magicians, then this is a movie you want to see. It features famous tricks everyone knows but in the most unusual of ways, as well as tricks you would never imagine.

This has easily become one of my favorite movies, and I recommend seeing it. Whether with the family, on a date, or just seeing a movie with friends, *Now You See Me* is a great movie that will continue to thrill every time you watch.

THE CONJURING

Nothing is better than a good old-fashioned scary movie to make you jump out of your skin, and *The Conjuring* is no different.

From the beginning of the movie to the climactic end, this is one terrifying movie. I found myself jumping, and even flinching in terror, several times during the movie.

The Conjuring begins with a family moving into a new house back in the woods with a beautiful property and lake behind it. They love it, and imagine it as their dream home for the first few nights.

After they've been there for a few weeks, things start to happen, beginning with stumbling into the basement.

Pictures start falling, things touching or pulling on the children wake them up, and the dog is killed by something unseen.

The family dismisses it as some sort of coincidence, and they go about their business. But things start to get progressively worse. The mother starts to bruise up, and the children start to see things that aren't there.

When the mom is pulled into the basement by invisible hands, they decide to seek help.

They get the attention of Ed and Lorraine Warren, two demonologists skilled in paranormal behaviors.

They check the house out and tell the family they're being haunted by the ghost of a mother who hung herself, as well as a little boy who vanished.

They set up some gear and start an investigation. Things start to happen rapidly, until the point where the mother is possessed and tries to murder her daughter.

With an ending straight out of an exorcism movie, *The Conjuring* has you on the edge of your seat until the very end.

Past royals reflect on memories

Former homecoming queens reminisce prized moments

BY CURRY WILSON
Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be nominated for Albany High School Homecoming Queen?

Have you ever thought about winning it twice?

As a sophomore in high school in 1982, Piper Parker Tankersley never thought about being crowned Homecoming Queen, an honor she received not once, but twice.

Traditions have changed since then. It used to be that each class had a nominee, where as today each class nominates a senior for the honor. Back then students would alternate either decorating the school hallway or have a big homecoming parade.

"The freshmen and sophomores would go up against the juniors and seniors to see who could make the best decorations," says Tankersley a Nancy Smith Elementary teacher.

"It just so happened that the parade day fell on my sophomore and senior year."

As the big night approached, Tankersley and her escort were just happy to be on the field. Standing on the cool grass with her heavy hair and a tight dress, Tankersley waited on the announcer to call someone else's name out when the unexpected happened. With running mascara and a shocked face, the little sophomore claimed her unexpected crown.

"I just didn't think I was in the running", says Tankersley "I cried and cried and cried the first time I

won, I couldn't stop crying!" The honor typically went to the senior nominee or occasionally the



Former senior Piper Parker Tankersley and senior escort Jeff Balliew pose for the Albany High School homecoming queen picture in 1984. FILE PHOTO

junior student.

Tradition then also called for the queen won to kiss her escort and kiss the student class president who presented the crown.

Not even thinking about the kiss because she was so overwhelmed with emotions Tankersley and her escort shared a light peck under the Friday night lights.

After claiming her shiny new headpiece, the 1982 Homecoming Queen did the noble thing again and also kissed the class president.

"I was shy about things like that," said Tankersley

Jump forward two football seasons and Tankersley, now a senior, was nominated again for Homecoming Queen.

Donning a beautiful, formal gown she stood with the cool grass beneath her feet, for a second time soaking in the lasts moments of her final homecoming experience as a student.

"I think when you are a senior you think about your each event the will be your last, and I was just taking in my last homecoming," Tankersley said with a smile.

While waiting for the answer but not really caring if she got it or not, Tankersley once again won the crown.

This time, however, since her escort had a girlfriend, she did not kiss him.

"My escort had a girlfriend that year so I didn't kiss him out of respect for her," she said.

Since kissing her escort was out of the question, Tankersley did kiss the senior class president, which was her boyfriend at the time.

A few years later, Tankersley had a daughter named Chloe, who never got to experience the excitement of being nominated for homecoming queen since she

chose to graduate a year early.

"I never felt obligated to win because of her," says Early, "but I thought it was neat that she had won twice. Tankersley's daughter, now Chloe Early of Ira, was elected as the class princess both her freshman and junior years, but wasn't eligible to vie for queen because the rules changes to allow only senior nominees.

"I was honored and a little nervous about being in front of people too." Chloe said, "but I thought it was neat that she won twice."

Flash forward to 2011, where another hopeful senior stood on the field waiting for her name to be called. Senior Jamie Fuentes also waited her turn for the crown.

"I wasn't nervous," Fuentes said "I loved getting to walk on the field in a sparkling dress."

Standing next to her father, Jimmy Fuentes, the announcer called out Jamie's name to come and claim her prize.

"The first thing that I thought when they called my name was how my Dad felt at that moment standing right beside me. I was just happy to make him proud." Fuentes said.

With a crown on her head and a king next to her, Fuentes was excited about her win.

"I wanted to be the one to represent our school and its traditions." Fuentes said.

Watching his daughter being crown was a high point for, Jimmy Fuentes too.

"I felt it was very deserving since it was her senior year and she had gone to school here most of her life," Fuentes said.

Though there have been dozens of queens over the years and while traditions have changed, they have one thing in common—a crown.

High prices heighten in high school

Overall expenses increase for students

BY CHANDLER FIELDS
Staff Writer

The beginning of each school year comes with expenses, including some more obvious than others.

Concerns about what to wear, what to bring, and necessities such as paper, pencils, binders, notebooks, pens and even the cost of insurance to play sports vie for a place in the budget.

There are local programs to help reduce the price of school supplies or even provide them without charge, including the Shackelford County Community Resource Center.

One of the main "hidden" costs of starting a new school year can be insurance.

While some students may be covered by their parents' insurance plans, others use Texas Kids First Network, which has two plans for local students: a student accident plan and a football accident plan.

The 24-hour Accident Plan is available for students for an annual cost of \$80 not including school athletic injuries or \$180 per year including all sports except football. A policy covering accidents only during the school day or during school sponsored events both with or without athletics can be purchased for \$30 or \$90.

Football related injuries require special football insurance which costs \$325 per school year. However, the school district helps offset that cost.

"The price of the football policy is split between the family and the school district. If a family already has insurance, each one of the plans is an added supplement, meaning it typically covers what the already existing insurance doesn't cover," superintendent Shane Fields said.

These policies exclude scrimmages, practices not during the school year, and events held away from school premises.

Included with the necessities, the price of new clothes is a big factor in calculating the total cost for back-to-school. No matter



what brand or style, the cost of clothing isn't cheap.

"On the lower price range, you'll end up spending: \$25-\$30 on shoes, \$15 for a pair of jeans, \$5 for undergarments. On average, you'd spend \$200 total. Moving to the higher end, brands could cost up to a thousand dollars," counselor Dee Dee Waggoner said. Along with the Resource Center, Closet Angels is also another way to cut costs on school clothes.

This is the third year students have school-issued MacBooks. Students or parents are required to pay half of the insurance each year, a \$25 fee. That doesn't mean that is the only cost the school has to pay for the laptops.

"Besides the \$25 insurance fee for students, the school has

to pay an additional \$1,200 for the laptops, \$40 for the protective bag, and \$25 for the other half of the insurance per high school student," principal Kevin Hill said.

Dual credit classes also add an expense for some students. Administrated through Cisco College, the classes offer transferable college class credits to nearly every state and private school in Texas. Doubling up on math during the eighth grade year and science during freshman year, juniors like Sierra Price know what it feels like taking a college-level class as just a sophomore.

"I think the dual credit classes will give me an advantage going into college. I'm not really concerned about the cost right now, but I'm glad it's cheaper and I am getting it over with," Price said. "I

consider that they offer more college classes like History since we were a year ahead on math and science. That would make it less we would have to do in college or maybe even in the summer."

The cost for dual credit classes is \$272 for science courses a semester, and \$202 a semester for any other college classes offered including math and English. Science course costs include a book and labs. Other dual credit classes require buying a book ranging anywhere from \$40-\$180.

One of the more important costs for students is school lunches. Whether it's on campus or off, money is still being spent. School lunch prices have increased to \$2.10 for students, \$2.70 for adults, all ice cream is \$1.00, and extra milk is \$.30. For students

like junior Tyler Morgan, eating off campus for lunch is almost an everyday choice.

"Eating out for lunch at places like Los Cazadores and Prairie Star seem like my only options unless I eat at a friend's house. Living ten miles out of town and with only 32 minutes for lunch makes it impossible to go to my house and back in that amount of time," Morgan said. "Also the cost of gas going home everyday would be outrageous. Even though it's costing about \$9 per day to eat out, it's much more convenient just to stay in town," Morgan said.

Other miscellaneous costs that could be added are the price of fuel going to school and back, snacks, FFA and FFCLA dues, concession stand purchases at games, and even the newest Albany Lion or Lady Lion shirts sold by the Booster Club and Sweet Tees.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

4 Homecoming vs. Gorman @7:30-Here
5 SAT Testing @ Albany
5 Varsity Volleyball vs. Lingleville @10:30 a.m.-Here
8 Varsity, JV, Freshman, Jr. High Volleyball vs. Gorman @ 4/5/6:30 p.m.-Here
9 Cross Country Meet @Albany Golf Course
10 JV/Jr. High Football vs. Roscoe @4/5/6:00
11 Varsity Football vs. Roscoe @7:30-Here
12 Varsity/JV Volleyball vs. Moran @5/6:30-There
14 JV, Freshman, Jr. High games Volleyball vs. Jim Ned @ 4 p.m.-Here
15 Cross Country TBA
15 Varsity, JV Volleyball vs. Ranger @5/6:30- there
16 11th Grade PSAT
18 Varsity Football vs. Roby @7:30-Here
19 Varsity/JV Volleyball vs. DeLeon @10/11:30-Here
21 Picture retakes and senior pictures
21 TAKS Exit ELA Retest
22 Varsity Volleyball vs. Lingleville @5p.m.- There
22 TAKS Exit Math Retest
23 TAKS Exit Science Retest
23 District Cross Country Meet @ Seymour
24 TAKS Exit Social Studies Retest
24 JV/Jr. High Football vs. Baird @4/5/6:00- Here
25 Varsity Football vs. Baird @7:30-There
26 Varsity/JV Volleyball vs. Gorman @10/11:30
31 JV/Jr. High Football vs. Cross Plains @4/5/6:00-There

November

1 Varsity Football vs. Cross Plains @7:30-Here
2 Varsity Volleyball District Certification
2 Cross Country Regional Meet @Arlington
4-5 Varsity Volleyball BI-District
8 Varsity Football vs. Hamlin @7:30-There
7 JV/Jr. High Football vs. Hamlin @4/5/6:00-Here
7-9 Varsity Volleyball Area

AHS True Life: I grew up fatherless

Student opens up in tell-all story about personal experiences

BY KATHRYN HAMILTON
Assistant Editor

Imagine the man who raises his little girl. The man that receives butterfly kisses after saying bedtime prayers. The man that warns his little girl about the dangers of boys, but with an aching heart walks her down the aisle, giving her away to one. Imagine all of what a girl wants. Then imagine not having any of them.

While many girls take a caring father for granted or simply overlook having a father around, junior Thalia Dudley has never had the chance for either.

There was a time when Dudley had both her parents in her life.

"We were living with my aunt at the time, and my dad would come over to visit both of us," Dudley said.

But in one day, one incident, and one fight, the life they once knew was set ablaze in the heat of one altercation.

"My aunt and mom needed to go buy some food at the corner store down the street," Dudley explained. "Since we weren't going very far, my mom decided to hold me. When we got back, my dad was there."

He asked where they had been and checked to see if Dudley had been in a car seat. The answer he received fueled his rage. The yelling and shouting that took place from there was just the wind strengthening the flame.

"My dad blew up. He was yelling, 'she could've died!' Going on and on. There was a ton of yelling back and forth. Nothing physical took place, just yelling."

Walking away to another room, Dudley's mother made a phone call. In 15 minutes, she and Dudley were gone. Her grandfather picked them up to move out.

"It was just that one fight. She said that when she was pregnant, he was always supportive and there for her, but that fight was a side of him she had never seen

and it scared her. So she fled."

Within 15 minutes, Dudley departed from her father. Departed from the relationship that was just beginning. Asking how much time he had left, he said goodbye. Letting them go, just like that.

She didn't see him for another 14 years.

"We moved to Anson and then decided to live here in Albany with my Uncle Martin," Dudley said.

Dudley's father decided to go after them, but her uncle, who was doing what he thought best for the girls, told Dudley's father that they didn't want anything to do with him, and that his daughter would be better off without him.

Just like that, he was done looking for them. Done fighting.

Dudley soon thought of a new man in her mother's life as "dad."

"Richard moved in with us," Dudley said. "My mom said that I had asked if he was my dad. Apparently they looked at each other and decided to go along with it. From then on, I thought of him as my father."

At the age of six, Dudley would lose another father.

"There were complications between him and my mom. They had a big fight and a couple of weeks later he moved out," Dudley said. "It was hard and also a relief. I say that because Richard and my mom always fought, and he was always drunk. Bloodshot eyes all of the time."

Everything was out of control.

"Richard and my mom were fighting, and it escalated to him throwing chairs and going crazy, punching the walls," Dudley recalls. "I saw what was happening, so I stepped in because I knew he wouldn't hit me. He was throwing things all around her, so I figured it was going to escalate to him getting physical. At six years-old, I stepped in

and told the only father I knew to get out."

The things a six-year-old shouldn't have to handle or witness, Dudley faced bravely.

"All I can remember was my mom crying. And that was the



On Dudley's next birthday, she would be bombarded with some big news. The ultimate surprise party, minus the party.

"It was my birthday, and I was comparing myself to my dad, asking why I didn't look anything like him. My mom turned to me and told me he wasn't my father," Dudley said. "All I asked was his name."

Melvin.

That was only Dudley's first question. A million more were piling up high in her mind.

"Confusion was running through my head. I asked her, 'Am I even Mexican? What am I?' Then I learned that I was half Mexican and half black. My thought was, okay...?"

Dudley wanted to know more and more. She was curious to find out about the other side of

herself. She felt as if she could not find out who she was, until she found out who he was.

"As the years went on, I started asking more questions. My mom went online and found him on Facebook. She sent him a message on my thirteenth birthday saying, if this means anything to you, you will remember what happened 13 years ago today."

No reply. A year later she messaged him again and asked him if he would like to see his daughter. He replied, "Yes."

"I was so nervous. We met at Rosa's in Abilene, and of course, the day we went is the day that every black guy came to Rosa's," Dudley said with a smile. "Is that him? Is that him? My stomach was in knots."

The wait was finally over. After 14 years, he was face to face with his daughter.

"When he first saw me, I had no idea what he was thinking. He was a very hard person to read. It was so awkward at first because I didn't know what to say and he didn't know what to say. He started asking basic questions and it became more comfortable."

All the questions she had piled high in her head started to spill out.

He told her about his schooling, his days as an Army brat, and about his wife and son.

"We exchanged numbers and he started texting me about once a week. He was even able to take part in the planning of my Quincenera," Dudley said.

Dudley finally started experiencing those special father-daughter moments.

"It was so special to have him at my Quincenera. It had worried me that I wouldn't have anyone to do a father-daughter dance with me. So it really meant a lot that he was there and did that for me."

After her birthday, the relationship that seemed to be going so well started to crumble.

"We had been meeting up until my Quincenera, but after

that it downgraded to texting. I knew it was because of his wife," Dudley said. "I guess she thought my dad would get reconnected with my mom through me, so she didn't like me from the start."

Whatever the cause, the contact between the two dwindled.

"After my Quincenera, I spent Christmas at his mom's house. He would come over to see me after work, but I could never go over to his house. There wasn't a reason, but it was obvious his wife didn't like the idea of me being around."

Her father seemed to accept that he was not going to have a close relationship with his new-found daughter. Instead of fighting for his daughter, he let her hurt.

"I asked my mom about it and she sat me down and said, 'Honey, your dad is not a fighter. He does not fight for anything he wants. He doesn't have that fight.'"

Dudley on the other hand is a fighter and though her father's submissive attitude bothers her, she does her best not to dwell on it.

"I'm to the point where I am no longer sad about my relationship with my dad, but actually offended," Dudley said. "I'm offended because for the longest time, I thought I was not important enough to be fought for."

Now, even the occasional contact has ended.

"His wife had all contact cut off from me. It bothered me when it first started because I didn't understand why someone would want to hurt me so much," Dudley said. "Here I am, 16 years old, and I just want to know my father. That's all. I don't have a desire or reason to break up their family."

Recently, Dudley came to a realization.

"I stopped blaming him and started blaming him. He's not fighting for me. She cut off his phone, but he still has a car. He could still drive here to see me, and he does have a say."

Dudley isn't dwelling on her father's unwillingness to fight for her anymore because she is the opposite. She is a fighter and will have to fight for the things she wants, even if her father isn't there to help her.

Albany attracts students from around the world

Exchange student is housed by new Albany residents

BY MOLLY LEE
Feature Editor

Moving to a new school can be difficult, including being the "new kid," having to figure out how to be involved, remembering names and faces, and making new friends.

Imagine not only being new to the school, but also gaining a new sibling for 10 months who is traveling to the United States for the first time from Düsseldorf, Germany. This became reality for junior Austin Edenfield when he decided to move from Jacksonville, Florida to Albany and gain a new foreign exchange sister, Darlene Schwabroch.

"My parents, Melissa and Greg Pridemore, are the ones that wanted to host a foreign exchange student, but I'm enjoying her being here," Edenfield said.

Schwabroch's foreign exchange program is called SHARE, which partners with organizations in different countries through the German exchange program being called Experiment e.v.

"We have kept a foreign exchange student before, so we were already involved with the SHARE program," Melissa said. "We just told them we were interested in housing an exchange student again and they sent us information with exchange students from different countries that SHARE partners with."

Schwabroch had to go through an interview process with a lot of paperwork to see if she was a good candidate.

"The interview was to see if I was reliable and qualified to



Secretary Jennifer Corbin reviews class schedules with new students, junior Austin Edenfield and sophomore foreign exchange student Darlene Schwabroch.. PHOTO BY MOLLY LEE

be in the exchange program," Schwabroch said. "Fortunately, they thought I was a good fit."

Having a new sibling wasn't a major change for Edenfield, who lived in Florida with his father last year.

"I already have siblings that live in Albany, but now there's more food to cook, less bathroom time, and it's more packed in the car," Edenfield said.

Schwabroch had to leave three siblings in Germany in order to gain new ones in her host home.

"I have three younger brothers, and I live with my stepfather," Schwabroch said. "Everyone is always there including our two cats, so it can get chaotic at times, but it would be boring without all of it."

Schwabroch's stepfather, Guido Helling, who is a social

worker in Germany, has mixed feelings about Schwabroch being in the United States.

"He's happy that I could have this experience because he knew I really wanted to do this," Schwabroch said. "Of course, though, he really misses me being with him."

As expected, Schwabroch's school in Germany is different in many ways from Albany High, such as saying the morning pledges to the flag.

"In my school you have to rent a locker and everyone has one here," Schwabroch said. "We don't get the opportunity to have a warm lunch because we don't have a cafeteria. We just bring our lunches and eat on the playground or somewhere else."

Differences in school life doesn't just differ between countries; it can apply to various

areas of the United States as well.

"Albany is small, and everybody knows everybody," Edenfield said. "I like how everything is so close here. My school in Jacksonville was huge compared to here."

Schwabroch's school in Germany focuses more on core classes than electives.

"We don't have the opportunity to take newspaper or any other electives at my school," Schwabroch said. "We just take basic classes like mathematics and language."

Schwabroch has the opportunity to participate in something in Albany that she considers a hobby and enjoyed doing in Düsseldorf.

"I get to play the saxophone in the marching band," Schwabroch said. "I am a part of the band at my school in

Germany, but it's just a concert band, so I was happy I could be a part of it here, too."

One of the exciting things about being in the marching band is performing on Friday nights at the football games.

"I've never watched a football game until I came here, and they are so much fun," Schwabroch said. "They have football in Germany, but it's not that popular."

Schwabroch is from a large city in Germany, but she is adjusting to Albany's "small town" feel, too.

"I like the 'home' feeling that this high school has," Schwabroch said. "At the volleyball games, I didn't expect teachers, parents, and the town to come watch."

Edenfield's parents were drawn to Albany's "old fashioned" feel.

"I got a job offer in Breckenridge, and we were trying to find a place to live," Austin's mother Melissa said. "We just fell in love with this town, and after talking to a few people, they all recommended living in Albany."

Albany's "small town" reputation is proving to grow on newcomers.

"It's so weird to be in the grocery store and have random people talk to you," Schwabroch said. "It's not that Germans are unfriendly, but you don't talk to people really if you don't know them. Everyone is so friendly here."

Schwabroch enjoys traveling and experiencing new cultures, and she plans on visiting the United States again in the future.

"I feel comfortable here, and it feels like home," Schwabroch said. "I want to come back on vacation and visit my host family. I'm really happy here, and I'm enjoying speaking English all the time."

Pringle calls in one last huddle

Former head football coach returns to Albany

BY MADISON JONES
Editor-In-Chief

The 1971-1974 head coach, Bill Pringle, will make an appearance during the half-time of the homecoming game during a special recognition of the players he coached in Albany.

Bill Pringle began his coaching in Albany in 1971 after leaving his assistant coaching job in Haskell.

"Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing, and Albany had a great tradition of winning football games, so I applied for the job along with 75 other applicants," Pringle said. "It had come down to me and one other coach, but since the school had let go of the head football and head basketball coach, I told them I was willing to coach both, so they gave me the job. I was tickled to death to get it and to start working with the players because I was going to make them work."

Pringle won two district championships, along with making it to the quarterfinals of the playoffs in 1971. He finished with a 30-12-2 record during his time in Albany.

"In those days, the only team that moved ahead in the playoffs was the first place team," former player K.C. Jones said. "It was a huge deal to move on past district."

Jones was the varsity quarterback for three of the four years Pringle coached.

"Coach Pringle was ahead of his time at the high school level utilizing his assistant coaches for scouting and having us do team meetings the night before



Former head football coach Bill Pringle coaches his players and oversees a play during one of his practices in 1972. Pringle will return to Albany for the homecoming game against Gorman, which will be the second district game for the Lions. A reception is planned at the Whitney Theatre to honor Coach Pringle for his accomplishments and time dedicated to guiding local athletes.

FILE PHOTO

the football game," Jones said.

Former offensive guard and defensive tackle of 1971, Tank Nelson, described Pringle's strengths as a coach.

"Coach Pringle came to Albany my senior year of high school," Nelson said. "He quickly switched our offenses and defenses to more modern plays. There is a certain atmosphere and expectation in Albany that isn't in other places, and Coach Pringle had a knack for jelling players together and putting them on the same track to succeed."

Pringle of course moved his family to Albany during his stint

as head coach, which included his three children. One of them, Tricia Pringle Gary, was in high school at the time.

"Having my dad as a coach gave us so many opportunities to meet new people and travel to new towns," Gary said. "He taught us discipline and self-motivation."

Gary recalls changes her dad made when they moved to Albany.

"It was tradition for the cheerleaders to paint a huge sign and hold it up in the middle of the highway for the head football coach to drive through during playoffs: But when I

finally became a cheerleader, my dad wouldn't allow us to hold up the crash sign because it was 'too dangerous,'" Gary said with a chuckle. "I was so disappointed."

Gary cherishes the time she had with her dad in high school.

"I think I was privileged to get to spend so much time with my father," Gary said. "Coaching does limit a person's time at home, so it was nice that his children were able to be with him during the day."

Pringle said many memories were made in Albany.

"Each day we worked on Wishbone, a backfield formation

that had the quarterback, a full back, and two half backs which I adopted from the University of Texas, for 15 minutes at the end of practice," Pringle said. "We had never used it in a game until the second half of the quarter final game against Plains. It worked; Plains couldn't stop us because they had never seen anything like it. It was like having an extra five dollar bill that you had never used."

Pringle retired in 2004 with 37 years of football head coach under his belt.

"Albany was and still is the best coaching job I ever had because the whole community would get behind you," Pringle said. "All of the parents would beat the drum; it was the wildest thing. Things like that just don't happen in other places."

Having coached at many other towns and even at the college level, Pringle still remembers the experience he had in Albany.

"The boys were expected to play hard by their parents and the community," Pringle said. "You just had so much support because the whole community was behind us."

Pringle smiles at the thought of coming back to an Albany homecoming game.

"I have never been back to an Albany homecoming game so I am excited to see those Lions fight once again," Pringle said.

Jones agrees it was time for Pringle to return for a visit.

"It has been long overdue to have Coach Pringle back to recognize him for the influence he had in my life and many other players he coached here in Albany," Jones said.

There will be a reception from 5:30-7:00 at the Whitney Theatre before the homecoming game for anyone who would like to come and speak with Coach Pringle.

Sports traditions, superstitions revealed

Coaches, athletes share game day rituals, quirks

BY LEWIS KELLY
Sports Editor

Even though some may be more profound than others, many athletes and coaches have superstitions and game day rituals that they find necessary to do every season.

"I have an aftershave called Lion Hearted that I wear on every game day," Coach Paul Johnston said. "If I'm on a win streak I'll continue to wear the same shirt and socks, but wash them in between games for as long as we continue to win."

Some coaches have been doing the same traditions year after year since they were athletes in high school.

"When I was in high school, I wouldn't cut my hair during a season, and from then on I've been doing the same thing," Coach Ryder Peacocks said. "After each season is over, I get a haircut, and then I will go without one until the next sport's season is over."

Some rituals can be as simple as eating the same food on the day of a game.

"Every Friday morning of the football season, I wake up and my grandma makes toast and bananas for me," senior Rahkeese McCree said.

The sophomore football players as a group have a similar tradition of eating the same lunch from Prairie Star on game days.

"On game day, one of the varsity sophomore moms brings lunch for us," sophomore Drew Neece said. "The moms take turns every week bringing the food for us since we can't leave campus."

While some rituals may be simple, others can become quite complex.

"When I do the laundry, the hanger hook always goes over the left shoulder whenever I hang up the clothes," Johnston said. "And when I put out team uniforms, I put them out in a certain order,

socks down first, shorts on top, warm ups hung first, jerseys hung last and always in numerical order."

Other traditions may not be key to winning a game, but they are things found to be relaxing or encouraging.

"I used to give Audrey a hug before kickoff every Friday night. She would always come up to me and give me a hug before the National Anthem," Coach Denny Faith said. "She told me that since she was going off to college, I could start hugging Adam instead, but he's not as cute as her."

Some people don't really know when their rituals actually started or if they make a difference, but after they continued on with them for a while, they just became a habit.

"I don't know that they work," Johnston said. "I guess I just started out doing a certain pattern every time before games so I wouldn't forget things, but then after a while it all turned into a game or tradition of always doing it the same way so everything feels right."

Johnston reminisces on past traditions with other coaches.

"Back when I used to coach football, Coach Faith and the other coaches and I along with our wives would go to Abilene each Wednesday night of the season to eat out, but we would never eat at the same restaurant twice in a season," Johnston said. "One time Mrs. Terrell had a 103 fever and didn't want to go out to dinner, but Mr. Terrell made her go out to eat with them anyway before the game that week to keep the tradition the same."

Some traditions could be considered more of a routine.

"When we have an out-of-town game, I like to drive the bus to the stadium, but after the game on the way home, I don't really like driving," Faith said.

Coach David Fairchild also has a tradition of driving the bus of athletes to the field during home games.

"Coach Faith likes to drive to the out of town games, but ever since I've been coaching football

here, I've always driven the varsity bus to the home field before the games," Fairchild said.

Other coaches' superstitions are a little more out of the ordinary than just driving the buses to games.

"I always listen to Queen on the way to school on game days," Johnston said. "If I find a penny on game day, I put it in my left shoe."

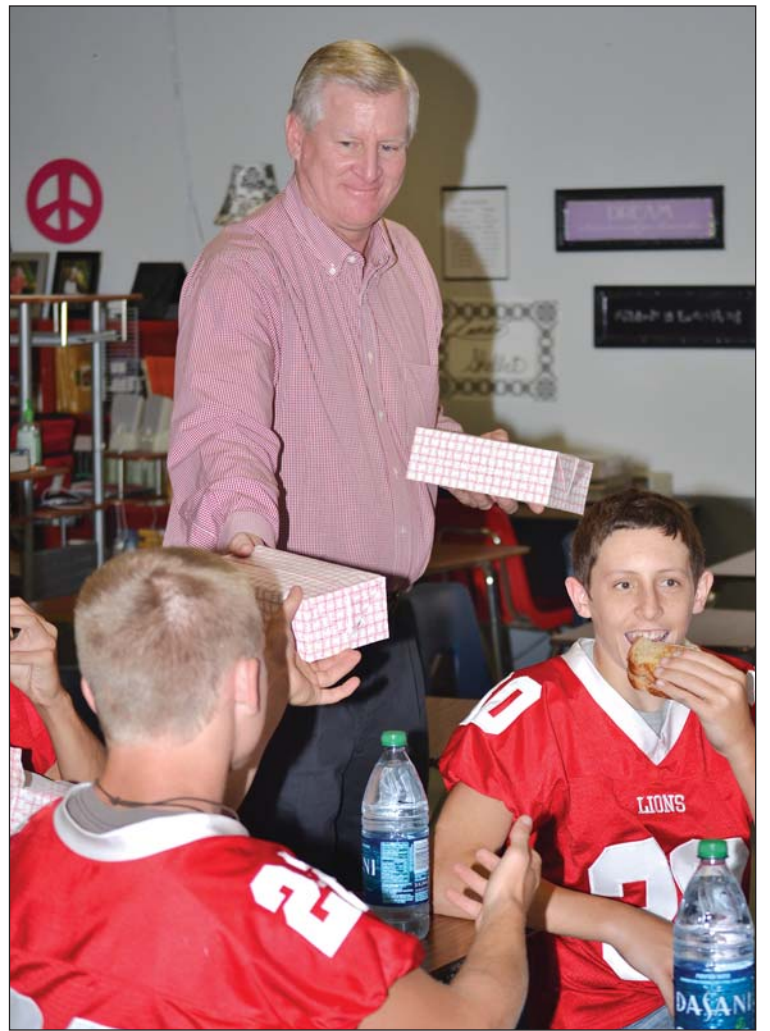
One student attributes a loss in the softball season to a break in routine.

"During softball throughout the entire playoff season, I kept a pack of peanut butter crackers in my bat bag at all times. I would eat two peanut butter crackers each game," senior Kathryn Hamilton said.

The Lady Lions made it to the state tournament last year, but lost in the semifinal round.

"Before getting off the bus, I realized I didn't have any crackers in my bag. Without looking I grabbed a pack of crackers," Hamilton said. "During the game when I went to get a cracker, I realized it was a cheese cracker and my heart skipped a beat."

As the popular sports commercial says about odd rituals, "It's only weird if it doesn't work."



Sophomores Alex Faith and Caleb Masters (top) receive their traditional game day lunch from Mike Cotter. Coach Fairchild (bottom) drives the varsity football team to their game as part of his weekly bus driving ritual. PHOTO BY LEWIS KELLY

Lions prepare for district schedule

Team strives for undefeated season

BY CONOR WILSON
Assistant Editor

The Albany Lions are showing that their hard work has been paying off. The team of 18 is fighting through district with a goal of winning their sixth consecutive district title.

“Last year we had a large group of seniors that had a lot of experience playing on the varsity level,” head coach, Denney Faith, said. “This year we have younger kids who are just now getting the feel of varsity games.”

Even though they are small in number, the team is showing something much greater than low numbers.

“You can make up for size with a lot of heart,” Faith said. “Clearly this group is proving that.”

The long hot summer workouts did not affect the player’s mentality of being successful in the sport they love.

“Football is my favorite sport,” sophomore Drew Neece

said. “Living in Albany, it is clearly one of the most popular sports to people, so I really put more effort into it than any other sport.”

Neece is filling the spot of alumni Jake Bumguardner who now plays for Mary-Hardin Baylor.

“A lot of people ask me if I feel a lot of pressure since I am filling some pretty big shoes, but it doesn’t feel any different” Neece said. “It feels like any other football season. I just keep it in my head that I have to perform my best.”

Being a JV move-up player last year, junior, Stevie Phillips, is fired up and ready to see what this season has to offer.

“The atmosphere of playing in a varsity game is so much different, but in a good way,” Phillips said. “The intensity, fans, adrenaline, excitement, and our determination are on a much higher level.”

With only two more years left to play the sport he loves, Phillips is soaking up every minute of it.

“Football is a way of life,” Phillips said. “As soon as it ends, you just sit around and wait until the next year when it starts again.”

Phillips has set goals for him-

self as well as his team.

“I want us to work as a team in everything we do,” Phillips said. “My personal goal this year is to give all the glory to God no

matter what the outcome is.”

For some, this will be the last year to ever play football. Senior Hunter Munden is set on ending with a great year.



Senior Javier Rocha paves the way for sophomore Drew Neece as he blocks a Munday Mogul. The Lions went on to win against the Moguls 48-8. Albany will face Gorman tonight in the second game of the district race. PHOTO BY CHANDLER FIELDS

“My goal for this year is to give all the glory to God,” Munden said. “Also, I want to set a good example for the underclassmen, and of course win the state ring.”

For Munden, football has been a part of his life since he was little.

“It is kind of sad knowing it will be my last year because I will never get to play it again,” Munden said. “When the time comes for me to turn in my jersey for the last time, I will not only be hanging up what I love most, but I will be letting go of a piece of my life that I will never get back.”

The Lions are 4-0 for the season and 1-0 in district. They play the Gorman Panthers tonight at the Robert Nail Stadium in a homecoming showdown.

“This year we have kids who are just now playing the varsity level,” Faith said. “This team is doing a great job staying strong both mentally and physically.”

The Albany Lion’s district opponents consist of Hamlin, Baird, Cross Pains, Roby, Roscoe, Ranger and Gorman.

“Our goal has always been to play as hard as we can to the best of our abilities, and it will all pay off in the end,” Faith said.

Lady Lions step up to fill gaps

Girls battle through adversity to start season

BY MICHAEL COTTER
Staff Writer

The Albany Lady Lions volleyball team started the season strong despite injuries, racking up a 18-9 record.

“The beginning of the season was pretty rocky,” senior Lexie Lee said. “But as the season progressed, we really came together as a team and started playing very well.”

Coach Kimberly Hill agrees that the squad is playing cohesively.

“This group actually likes each other, which is a very rare quality in a volleyball team, but also a huge bonus,” Hill said. “Liking each other helps the girls play selflessly, and their passing has grown along with their communication.”

The bond the team has made is surprising to some. “We are a little family; we get along very well on and off the court,” Lee said. “We are also very good at pulling off wins, even when no

one else thinks we can.”

The Lady Lions started off the season scrimmaging Miles and Knox City. Unfortunately, tragedy struck when senior Heidi Horneck fell during practice and broke her ankle. Horneck had been playing a very important role as the Lady Lions middle. “She was one of our best spikers,” Lee said. “Losing her was a big loss.”

Fortunately, Conor Wilson stepped up to fill her role.

“The girls were very upset when Heidi went down,” Hill said, “but they stepped up and filled the gaps with even more aggression. Conor took over the middle job which was somewhat of a surprise because of her height, but nobody told her that. She plays very aggressively, and we are very happy to have her as our middle player.”

Another issue to overcome was the team’s experience level.

“Last year seven seniors graduated from the team,” Hill said. “With no real returning varsity starters, younger players are being asked to step up and help the team.”

These players include freshman Rachel Hill, along with sophomores Abby Reed and



Freshman Rachel Hill goes up for a kill with senior Madison Jones and sophomore Tobi Nall covering by her side. The varsity girls are 2-0 after the first two district games. PHOTO BY JARED HUSMANN

Tobi Nall, and a few juniors and seniors who are new to the varsity team.

“These younger girls absolutely deserve their spots on varsity. These roles were not given to them; they were earned through hard work and dedication,” Hill said. “They have a lot of talent and ability and are just like sponges. They soak up all my advice and transfer it onto the court. They are very encouraging, and I’m glad to have them on my roster.”

The girls started off pre-season placing fifth in the tournament here in Albany.

“This year’s district is very tough; it is the same district as last year,” Hill said. “Gorman and De Leon are going to be very good. They were very strong last year, but they were also young. It’s going to be a battle for the top three spots. I’d love to come out and say that Albany is for sure going to win district, but right now there is really no telling. We definitely have a shot.”

The Lady Lions opened up district play against the Moran Bulldogs September 24th, here in the Den. Their district this year includes Moran, Gorman,

Expectations set high for runners

Athletes prepare for district meet in Seymour

BY SHELBY BARTON
Staff Writer

Already competing in several practice meets this season, the cross-country team has been preparing since August for the upcoming district meet on Oct. 23 in Seymour.

With seven girls and four boys running on the team, Coach Ginger Norton has high expectations to not only compete well as a team at district, but also have individual runners advance to the regional meet as well.

“My main goal for this year would be to have a boys’ team and girls’ team to place in the top three at the district meet,” Norton said.

Norton prepares her runners with various techniques besides just working on long distance and running miles.

“Lately, I’ve had them work on lots of hill work, along with bleacher drills and interval workouts which focus on quick speed sprints,” said Norton.

As one of the regional qualifiers from last year, junior Valerie Gandara has been running on the team since her freshman year and started training early for this year’s season.

“I worked out all summer just by going to morning workouts, lifting in the weight room, and running miles and hill workouts,” Gandara said.

Unlike Gandara, sophomore Kyler Conde is a new member of the team and also a new student.

“I ran cross-country last year, but it was much different back in Eula,” Conde said.

Conde claimed cross-country was “the football” of Eula.

“We would run up to five miles a day with even more hill work, where here we only run two miles at the most,” Conde said.

Conde has been pleased with the results of their practice meets so far, considering they ran in the blistering heat.

Sophomore Curry Wilson is also a new runner on the varsity team.

“I’m a little nervous now about running on varsity, but I am going to try to run the best I can,” Wilson said. “I feel our team should do pretty well this year because many of our

runners have good stamina and consistency.”

Having four of the runners advance to regionals last year, Norton is hoping for similar results this year.

“We usually have several runners qualify, but it’s not easy,” Norton said. “Only the top ten move on from our district out of 50-60 runners, and the competition can be pretty tough.”

Reluctant to run her freshman year, Gandara still isn’t too enthused about the sport but runs for the advantages it has in other areas.

“Cross-country may not be fun, but it helps me stay motivated to improve in the track events I’ll be running in the spring,” Gandara said.

With the district meet approaching, Gandara will keep trying to become even stronger and improve her skills.

“I want to keep knocking off time with each run and stay up with teammate Kami Norton,” Gandara said.

The team will see if their efforts have paid off on Oct. 23 at the district meet in Seymour, and those who advance will run again at the regional meet scheduled Nov. 2 at Vandergriff Park in Arlington.



Sophomores Jesus Rodriguez and Kyler Conde race to the finish line at the Comanche meet held last week. The cross country team will host a local meet Oct. 9 at the golf course. PHOTO BY CURRY WILSON

School App

Continued from | PG 1

actually use,” senior Abbey Head said.

The app is not only convenient for the staff and student body, but parents can benefit from it, too.

“I don’t think parents always receive all of the information they should from the students, so this app is a great way for them to stay in tune with the school and receive the same information as the students,” Edmison said.

Students may not always relay all information to par-



ANDROID QR CODE

APPLE QR CODE

ents, so the app is a great way to fix that problem.

“My parents will benefit from the app because I’m not always very good at keeping them informed on what is going on in school. I keep them out-of-the-loop sometimes, and this app should help fix that,” Head said. The app is also very helpful for students who are involved in extracurricular activities.

“I like the sports page of the app because you can check on the times and locations of the games, and you can select which sports you would like to get notifications for,” junior Molly Lee said.

New Rules

Continued from | PG 1

“This will encourage students to read on their own,” Hill said. “Reading is very important.”

The AR grade will be determined by averaging the number of points you receive and the grade you make on your AR test(s).

“We tried to offer AR as extra credit last year, but few students took advantage of it,” Hill said.

A few small changes were also made to the school dress code.

“We just clarified a few minor things,” Hill said. Yoga pants may be worn if they are modestly covered by a shirt or blouse. Tattoos (or any kind of body art) that is inappropriate must be covered at all times.

“Shirts must have at least a cap sleeve that covers part of the shoul-

der,” Hill said.

Students are not allowed to wear sleeveless shirts or tank tops.

“I think most of the rules on the school dress code are reasonable,” sophomore Curry Wilson said.

The length of shorts, skirts, and dresses can be no shorter than one-inch above the knee.

“If a student is violating the dress code, they will be asked to change and then will receive a tardy,” Hill said. “Then, depending on how many tardies that student has already been issued, they may have to attend lunch detention.”

If you receive two or more tardies a six weeks, you will be required to attend lunch detention in Coach Faith’s room.

The principal will determine what is and isn’t appropriate when it comes to dress code.

Tiles

Continued from | PG 1

the fact that students will be accepted to colleges at different times during the year.

“The goal is to put them up once a senior has made a decision and is accepted into the school they want to go to,” Fields said, “So, they will be put up throughout the year.”

Teachers also agree that this is a great way to move students toward success.

“I think it’s awesome,” teacher Jennifer Edmison said. “I love that Mrs. Waggoner is trying to get more students interested in going to college.”

Students agree that having the opportunity to decorate a ceiling tile is a beneficial idea.

“It motivates students to want to apply to college,” senior Alicia Alvarez said. “You can also include things that symbolize your personality.”

Other than being a great way to motivate students, the tiles will add an interesting

look to the hallways.

“I like it because it creates color in the hallway,” senior Kassidy Sullivan said. “You can put your own touch on it.”

Students and teachers have found various ways to show personality in their tiles.

“You could make it your favorite color,” Alvarez said, “You could even put the activities you’re interested in.”

The ways to decorate the tiles is endless.

“They could put pictures of themselves, activities they’re involved in, or things that interest them,” Waggoner said. “They could also decorate them with stickers and scrapbook material or tee-shirts pinned to them.”

After high school, students can still find many ways to use their tiles.

“You could use it as a bulletin board for your college dorm,” Sullivan said. “You could also keep it as something to look back on to see what you did while you were still in high school.”

FEEDING BODY AND SOUL

Students gather for youth fellowship and fun



PHOTOS AND STORY BY JARED HUSMANN



Senior Ethan Nall and Junior Stevie Phillips (above left) enjoy a game of frisbee out on the Feed Store’s front lawn while they wait for Young Life to begin. Students participate in the ultimate finger poking partner challenge (above) while waiting for the skit to begin during Young Life Club. Young Life participants (left) join together in singing an upbeat song to liven the mood. Young Life is held on Monday nights at The Feed Store starting precisely at 7:27 p.m. throughout the school year for all high school students.



A group of friends enjoy a free meal at the weekly Feed Store lunch. Given the opportunity to leave campus for lunch, juniors and seniors are invited to the Feed Store every Tuesday to partake in a meal prepared by parents and volunteers.



Feed Store director Grant Zeller leads the boys’ session of Campaigners. A part of the Young Life ministry, Campaigners is a weekly Bible study for students who are sophomores or older. The girls’ group is led by Alex Balliew.