



# THE LIONS ROAR

"Lion pride in print"

Friday, September 25, 2015

ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL

ALBANY, TEXAS 76430

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 1



## Realities of college life



**Albany graduates describe experiences and give advice to students.**  
— See page 5

## Senior athlete goals



**Graduating athletes share ambitions for final sports seasons.**  
— See page 6

## Football team starts strong

**Lions begin season with a 4-0 record in preparation for District 8-2A race.**  
— See page 7

## Briefs

### Tutorial policy changes

Changes in tutorials started last week. Students who have an average below 70 will have to go into the cafeteria on a three-week cycle. Students must bring work with them and are allowed to use laptops only for schoolwork. Anyone not bringing something to work on will be sent to the office for a tardy slip.

Students who are passing will have the option of going to a teacher's room if they need help or going to the old gym. No students are allowed to leave campus. Those who do leave will be issued an automatic lunch detention.

Pictures, class/organizational meetings, and UIL event practices will continue to be held during tutorials. Students that are in the cafeteria during one of these events will not be allowed to participate.

### Dress code broadened

When students arrived at school this year, they found that a couple of changes had been made to the dress code.

As of this school year, girls are now able to wear sleeveless shirts, as long as they are not too revealing and don't allow undergarments to show.

Also, girls now can wear shorts that cover at least half of the thigh. Nike type shorts with a scallop on the side can only be worn over tights or leggings.

All other dress code rules still remain in force. Anyone violating the dress code can be sent home to change or given an over-sized T-shirt to wear.

### Student Council named

The student body recently picked this year's student council officers, including Lori Davis as president, and Drew Neece as vice president. Other officers elected were Alex Faith as secretary, Caleb Masters as treasurer, and Savannah Perez as reporter.

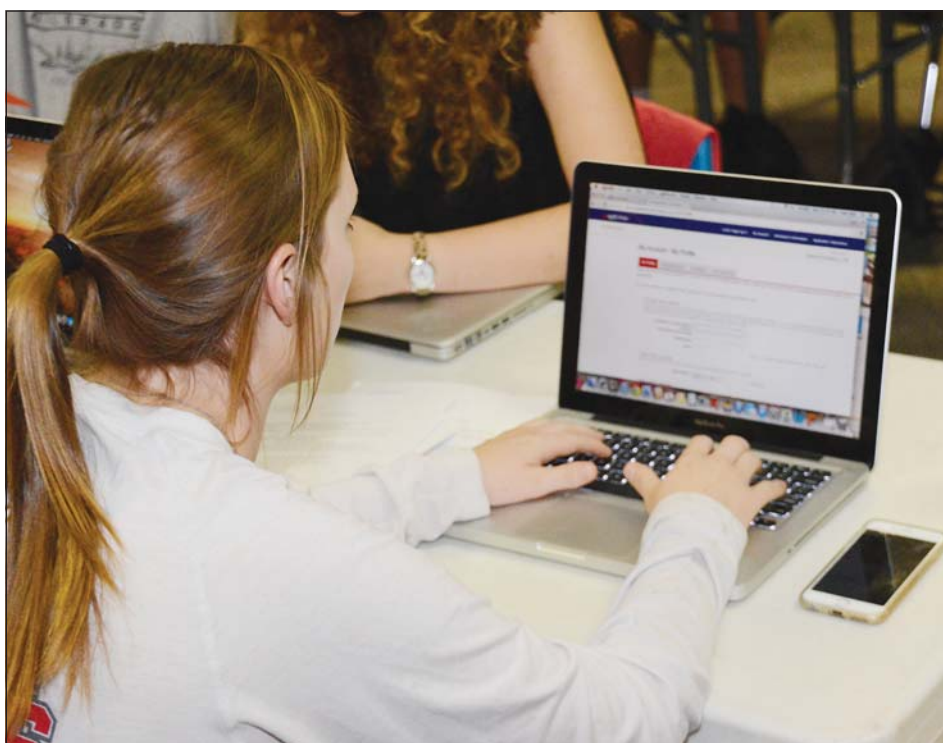
On Wednesday, October 7, the Student Council will attend the fall convention at the Abilene Civic Center.

The council is also planning at least two fall projects, one of which is the annual Trick-or-Treating for Coins to collect money for the Albany Chest. The council will also be Christmas caroling in December to raise donations for a local non-profit.



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

# Seniors learn power of early apps



**Senior Tobi Nail works on college applications through the Apply Texas website. Nail began applying in the summer to a variety of schools and was able to use the Apply Texas application for all of them. With this website, students only have to fill out one application that can be sent to a variety of colleges.** PHOTO BY NEWT KOEMEL

## Class of 2016 begins application process sooner

BY NEWT KOEMEL  
Staff Writer

With adulthood looming right around the corner, many seniors are currently requesting admission into colleges around the state and beyond.

The application process has notoriously been known as complex and requiring large amounts of paperwork, according to the school guidance counselor.

"When I was in school, everything was handwritten," counselor Dee Dee Waggoner said. "If you wanted to apply to more than one school, you had

to completely write out extra applications."

With the introduction of ApplyTexas.com in the early 2000s, the application process changed for Texas students.

"Apply Texas allows for the electronic submission of applications," Waggoner said.

Seniors believe that the website has made the ordeal less complicated.

"I signed up for Apply Texas, and it made it very easy to do multiple applications," senior Caleb Masters said.

Masters has already applied to Harding University, Southern Methodist University and Stephen F. Austin University. In order to make multiple applications with Apply Texas, it's as easy as "copy and pasting all your information onto another application,"

SEE "SENIORS" Pg. 8

# Boy Scouts to earn highest honor

## Several students to receive Eagle Scout award

BY NOLAN DAVIS  
Staff Writer

Several local Boy Scouts will receive the Eagle Scout award this year which is the highest honor given in scouting.

The members have joined scouts for a variety of reasons.

"I joined Boy Scouts because my brothers did it," senior Alex Faith said. "Now I do it because my friends are doing it."

Senior Drew Neece joined for a different reason.

"I joined Boy Scouts because all of my friends were joining, and I didn't want to be left out," Neece said. "Looking back I'm glad that I joined."

The scouts have all worked to attempt earning the Eagle award.



**Sophomores Adam Faith (left) and Henry Kelly look over the next merit badge requirements in the Boy Scout manual. Several Boy Scouts will receive Eagle Scout awards this year, which is the highest honor given in Scouting.** PHOTO BY NOLAN DAVIS

"Earning your Eagle looks good on a college application, and I wanted to finish what I started," Neece said.

Faith also wants to finish strong.

"I was so close to earn-

ing my Eagle award that I didn't want to have spent all my time in scouts and not get to the top," Alex Faith said.

Earning the award is a big accomplishment in scouting, and only six

percent of scouts earn the award.

"Earning the Eagle Scout award means that I am a good citizen and that I am dedicated to making my community a better place," sophomore Adam

Faith said.

Alex Faith is also glad he has stuck with it.

"Staying in Boy Scouts to earn my Eagle award has forced me to accomplish a very hard task in life, and it will help propel me to complete even harder tasks later in life," Alex Faith said.

Participating in Scouting fosters leadership skills.

"Boy Scouts has shown me how to be a leader," Adam Faith said. "It has also taught me how to be helpful."

The students believe that participating in scouts will bring advantages later in life.

"Being in Boy Scouts will give me a competitive edge with college applications and job interviews," Alex Faith said.

Neece thinks being in Scouts will give him an advantage as well.

"If I am in a tough situation or an emergency in the forest, I will be able to start a fire and survive,"

SEE "SCOUTS" Pg. 8

# School invests in new technology

## Students enjoy time with friends

BY RACHEL HILL  
Copy Editor

The Junior Senior High School has two new additions to the campus, each worth \$10,000.

The school recently received donations to purchase four 3-D printers; two for elementary, and two for secondary school.

"The donations we received were both private and through the PTO," superintendent Shane Fields said. "We also used donated money from the windmill company and money that we received from scrap metal projects."

School board president Betsy Parsons and members of the PTO thought it would be a good idea to

purchase the printers to be a 'part of the newest wave of technology.'

"The ball just started rolling on all the things we thought we would be able to accomplish," Fields said. "The students will need to know about these things in college and in the work force."

Principal Kevin Hill agrees.

"More and more real-world uses are being developed to use this technology," Hill said.

"Our students will be exposed to this in the near future."

The printers have a variety of capabilities.

"These printers print more than just plastic, Fields said. "They are being used to print materials for buildings and used for medical purposes. Some of the filament can also be used to grow cells to make actual body parts. They can design or de-



velop something useful for others who may have a disability. The usefulness is unlimited."

The printers will hopefully spark interest among students.

"We want to keep up with the latest technology and provide our students with the ability and knowledge to use it, and this is a different way to do it," Hill said.

Students are looking

forward to trying out the printers.

"I think it will be a cool educational experience," senior Cason Asher said. "They can help us understand technology more than we currently do and give students a more hands-on experience rather than just seeing pictures of it or reading about it in a textbook. We can actually hold what we are learning about."

Junior Sydney Key agrees.

"We are so blessed to live in a town where you can get an opportunity like this," Key said. "I think it's a good opportunity for students to expand their boundaries in education and technology. It's a way to get a chance to experience things they haven't experienced before and

SEE "3D" Pg. 8



Editorials

Making senior year count

For many high school seniors, their final year is nothing but an obstacle standing in the way of college. However, senior year only comes around once, so it is very important to experience it while you can.

With college in their sights, seniors tend to speed ahead and leave high school in their rearview mirror. However, unlike a car, there is no reverse. College is something new and exciting to look forward to, but it shouldn't keep you from enjoying your senior year. It is a year full of fun experiences including final sports seasons, senior skip day, Project Graduation, progressive dinner, spending time with friends, and so much more. Simply flying through all of this would be a shame.

After graduation everyone goes their separate ways. Some are off to college and others to find a job, but the fact is, everyone is leaving. Many classmates have been together since kindergarten, so leaving each other can be very difficult. Students will go off on their own, only to see each other again at class reunions or homecoming football games. Nothing is guaranteed after graduation, but senior year is one final opportunity to become closer with the people that have been there through elementary, junior high, and high school.

Grades are also very important senior year. Many students get a bad case of "senioritis" early in the year and put little effort into classes thinking that they won't matter since they have already been accepted into college. However, colleges receive a transcript at the end of the first semester, and another after graduation, so they have the power to revoke admission if necessary.

The word college is associated with freedom and new experiences. Students want to skip to this stage because of all the fun it promises; however, many challenges also come with this adventure. With freedom comes responsibility, and being away from family can make this much tougher. Senior year is one last chance to have fun and relax before the stress of college.

Senior year should be a year of good memories and great experiences. Enjoy the last year of high school, and remember to always live in the moment.

Keep bleachers clean

The game is over, the gym is empty, and all that remains are the hundreds of empty drink bottles, cans, and empty boats that once held cheese fries and Frito pie. Many adults and students have gotten into a very bad habit of leaving their trash in the stands after a sporting event, and something has to change.

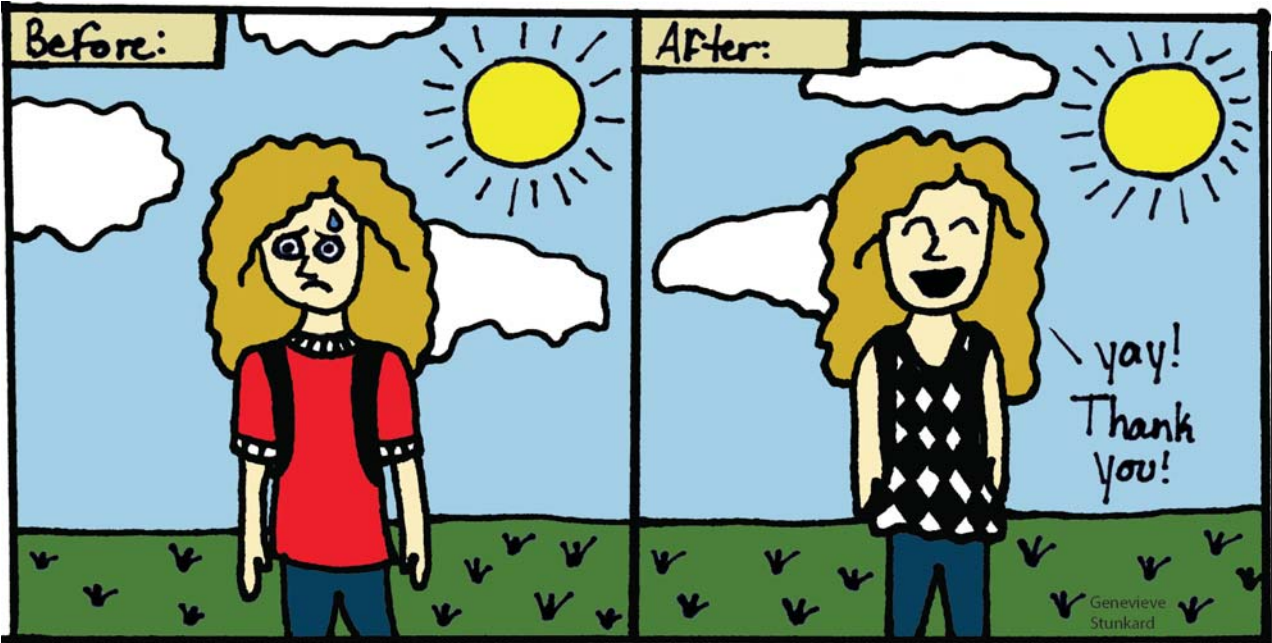
Every time trash is left in the gym or football stadium, a school employee has to clean it up, and this isn't fair to them. For some reason, today's society believes that if we just leave empty trash on the floor of the bleachers, then that makes it okay, and it's no big deal. However, it is a big deal. A school employee should not have to spend 30 minutes to an hour picking up other people's trash just because they were too lazy to throw it away themselves.

Trash left in the stands can also make a huge mess. Half-filled cups and leftover food are spilled on purses and trampled. This makes the floor sticky and dirty and much harder to clean. This mess could be easily avoided if trash was not left in the bleachers in the first place.

Finally, this conveys a bad message on the community. Local athletic facilities represent this town, so garbage left in the stands reflects poorly on Albany. It sends the message that we are lazy and don't care enough to throw away our trash.

Many will justify this by saying that it is the custodian's job to pick up their trash, but this isn't true. They shouldn't have to pick up leftover trash that was left in the stands out of laziness.

Leaving trash in the stands or bleachers after the game is over is wrong and not fair to the people who have to clean. If everyone would throw away their own trash, then this problem would be solved.



Stopping silence is important

In the world we live in today, mental illness is becoming more and more apparent in the lives of teens and young adults. Although people are aware of this, they still choose to ignore it as though it's not a problem, and treat it as more of a joke rather than a serious issue. Every day kids and teens walk around hearing their peers nonchalantly whisper "kill yourself" to one of their buddies, as if that phrase was something to be taken lightly.

As if that phrase wasn't actually something that could, and does, happen a lot nowadays. As if our fragile lives are just a joke.



Many of the people who suffer from mental illness would never let anyone know that they were hurting. They go about their day just as any other person and pray that no one sees through the facade that they portray that things are good and everything is okay. Some people never think twice about another person, and dare I say, it's because people really don't care...and that's sad. Our generation has grown up programmed to only care about our own feelings and our own well-being instead of being worried about

others. The attitude is if I'm okay and things are going good for me that means that all the people around me are fine. Right? WRONG.

Could it be that we are really so self-absorbed that even if one word uttered from our mouths could save another person's life, we would be silent? I'm not trying to be a hypocrite, because I know I've been a victim of self-absorption myself. But if we could all just take a moment to look back and reflect on the fact that life really is short and people are fragile, then maybe, just maybe we would decide that there are simple ways to make a difference.

How many more lives have to be ended for someone to finally speak up? How many more mothers will have to wake up without their child, and how many more teenaged kids will have to walk through school without their best friend before we realize that it is imperative that we fight for those who can't?

No one should ever have to ask why they were too late or ponder what things would be like if they would have just spoken up. Life is too temporary to keep quiet anymore. End the silence.

Leaving without any regrets

I am never the one to settle down too fast. I like to roll with the flow. Live and let live as they say. I don't like to be in the same spot for too long either. Once I start feeling like I'm being suffocated, I just want to leave.

Being a senior now, I am looking forward to graduation day. But let's be honest: what senior isn't? When I was a little girl that's all I could think about! How I would walk across the stage and receive my diploma, and most of all get out of Albany. Don't get me wrong; I am very grateful and blessed to have grown up here. Living in this community has given me a chance to grow up with people that I have known and loved my entire school career, and has given me the opportunity to participate in sports and academic events.

Despite these blessings, I know that there is more



out there than Albany, Texas. My mother always taught me to go out and experience the world, try new things, meet new people. I guess I have her to thank for that.

I never understood how someone would want to stay here after graduation. A lot of people in my class think I'm crazy for wanting to leave, but that's all I could think about until school started.

Throughout my high school career, I have always tried to rush through the year, try to get to the next level, so I could be a senior as soon as possible.

Now that's it's here, I realize that I need to slow down. Take each day as they come, and enjoy the last 155 days of school I have left with my classmates, because I know once graduation day comes, my life here is over. This year I plan to live and let live, letting each day come and live in the moment.

Court lifts suspension against Brady

Most people have heard of deflategate and have a vague understanding of what went on. However, no one really knows how insignificant the events that occurred were to cause the whole scandal.

On January 18, 2015, the AFC championship game was played between the New England Patriots and the Indianapolis Colts. Late in the first half of the games, Patriot's superstar quarterback Tom Brady threw an interception to Colt's linebacker D'Quell Jackson. Jackson brought the ball to his own sideline, and out of habit, he tossed it to the Colt's head trainer. Jackson went on to say, "I wouldn't know how that could even be an advantage or a disadvantage. Either way, I didn't notice anything wrong with the ball."

The trainer gauged the football to be below the permissible range. Despite this act being against NFL rules, the Colts were not penalized. According to the NFL rules, "The league requires footballs to be inflated to a gauge pressure between 12.5 and 13.5 pounds per square inch (psi) or 86 to 93 kPa, when measured by the referees before the game."



The Colts informed the referees, and the balls were measured again at halftime. Despite initial allegations, later reports by the officials stated that only one of the 12 footballs was below league regulations.

The NFL began an investigation into the Patriots' organization finally landing their focus on the quarterback Tom Brady. Despite all the evidence showing these accusations to be false, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell simply made a wrong decision and now wants to flex his muscles. Goodell suspended Brady for the first four games of the season without pay and took away the Patriots' first round draft pick. Even after an appeal hearing, Brady's suspension was upheld. Brady mentioned after the hearing that he was "very disappointed by the NFL's decision," and that he had "done nothing wrong and will continue to plead not guilty."

Brady's case was appealed to a higher federal court, where the suspension was lifted on Sept. 3, and he started in the regular season opener. Justice was finally served.



THE  
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2¢ worth

What do you think about the new tutorials policy?

"I think it is good because students won't be able to leave campus."

Payne Hebel  
Freshman

"It is too complicated, and students and teachers won't be able to get much done."

Baley Green  
Sophomore

"I think that it will be very helpful for those that want to succeed."

Jordan Pleasant  
Junior

"I think that it will benefit the teachers more than the students."

Savannah Perez  
Senior



# Students volunteer at art center

Teens help prepare for art events

BY HENRY KELLY  
Entertainment Editor

The Old Jail Art Center has used junior and senior high students as volunteer docents for several years, crediting the group with helping in the museum's events and outreach programs.

The junior docents usually meet once a week to help prepare for various events by making sample crafts, cleaning, and setting up stations, as well as helping set up for Art to Go, a program that gives students around the Big Country the chance to experience art through hands-on participation.

"I love knowing that with Art to Go, we are helping kids learn more about art," senior Savannah Perez said. She has been a junior docent for six years and now serves as an intern.

Throughout the year, the OJAC hosts festivals celebrating various holidays like the Lunar New Year and Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) with junior docents manning stations with activities aimed at children.

"The festivals can be hard to enjoy because you have to be working and watching the kids at the same time," Perez said. "I still enjoy the festival, especially helping kids with their crafts."

The junior docents also guide the young participants through activities varying from reading stories to playing limbo, all the while wearing hats, masks and even face



Eighth grader Addison Asher prepares supplies for the Art to Go program that the Old Jail Art Center provides to area schools. The local art museum uses student docents to assist with the program, along with several other projects throughout the school year. The junior docents also curate a student art show in March. PHOTO BY KYLEA GARDNER

tattoos. "I like getting to see all the kids enjoy the festival," Kelton Parker said. "It reminds me of when I used to go to them myself."

Although junior docents work throughout the school year, they also take a trip during the summer as a type of reward for their in-

volvement. The trips have ranged from going to the Grace Museum in Abilene to the Nasher Sculpture Museum in Dallas. The trips usually include something new and fun, like eating face-sized burritos or Greek food from a food truck.

"I really enjoy the trips because I get to see cool art and eat good food,"

Parker said.

Although the junior docents sometimes perform more serious duties, it isn't all work and no play.

"I really like getting to joke around and have a good time," Parker said. "I like making memories with the other junior docents."

As volunteers who

start in junior high and transition into high school, athletics can get in the way of the meetings, making it harder to participate. With extracurricular school activities crowding the schedule, continuing to be involved in junior docents can be a struggle.

"We could not serve the thousands of kids we do each month without their help," said OJAC Education Director Erin Whitmore. "They are not only helping prepare for art projects that we teach, but also helping set up and working at events."

Not only is being a junior docent helpful to the museum, but it can also lead to a paying job at the OJAC as an intern. This year's interns are seniors Matthew Rupp and Savannah Perez.

The program also helps high school students log much needed volunteer hours to use on college and scholarship applications.

Being a junior docent looks good on a college application because it shows that a participant is responsible enough to work and willing to give up time to volunteer, Perez said.

The program has even had siblings following the same path.

"My brother, Blake, was a docent, and he always enjoyed it, so when I finally got to sign up, I knew I would like it too," Perez said.

One of the other positive aspects of being a junior docent is that students are guided by a professional staff. The program is led by Mary Burke, the Education Coordinator and Erin Whitmore, the Education Director. The pair

spends much of their time planning and facilitating educational events for students, with the help of the junior docents.

During youth art month in March, the junior docents curate a show of student art, judging and awarding student submissions from grades 5-12 at schools all over the Region 14 area, allowing students to create art that is based on artists' works, but allowing them to create their own interpretation.

The junior docents are also very helpful to the OJAC by telling teenagers about scheduled events and encouraging them to participate in the activities that are planned.

"We feel like we wouldn't have as good of a presence among the teens without the junior docents," Whitmore said. "They help in education and to spread the word around school."

For one day in the year, the junior docents each choose a piece from the OJAC's collection to use to design activities geared for the entire family. They share information about the artist and the selected piece of work, then guide the visitors in creating their own piece of art.

"They are researching and facilitating a public program each spring that encourages families to visit the museum, learn about artists and create their own artwork together," Whitmore said.

Any student wanting to become a junior docent can fill out a form on the OJAC's website or contact the museum's Education Coordinator Mary Burke at 762-2269.



**Ant Man**  
July 17, 2015 PG-13 132 min  
Sci-Fi | Thriller  
Forced out of his own company by former protégé Darren Cross, Dr. Hank Pym recruits Scott Lang, a master thief just released from prison. Lang becomes Ant-Man, armed with a suit that allows him to shrink in size, possess superhuman strength and control an army of ants. He must use his new skills to prevent Cross from using the same technology as a weapon for evil.  
**Director:** Peyton Reed  
**Writers:** Edgar Wright, Joe Cornish  
**Stars:** Michael Dougl

**Staff Review:** [4 lion heads]

**The Man From U.N.C.L.E.**  
August 14, 2015 PG-13 116 min  
Adventure | Action | Comedy  
At the height of the Cold War, a criminal organization plans to use nuclear weapons and technology to cause tension between the United States and Soviet Union. CIA agent Napoleon Solo and KGB agent Illya Kuryakin are forced to work together to stop the evildoers. Their only lead is the daughter of a missing German scientist, whom they must find.  
**Director:** Guy Ritchie  
**Stars:** Henry Cavill, Armie Hammer



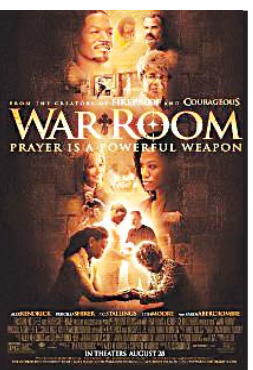
**Staff Review:** [3 lion heads]



**The Visit**  
September 11, 2015 PG-13 94 min  
Comedy | Horror  
Becca and brother Tyler say goodbye to their mother as they board a train heading deep into Pennsylvania to meet their grandparents for the first time. Welcomed by Nana and Pop Pop all seems well until the siblings start to notice strange behavior from the seemingly charming couple. Once the children discover a shocking secret, they begin to wonder if they'll ever make it home.  
**Director:** M. Night Shyamalan  
**Writers:** M. Night Shyamalan  
**Stars:** Katherine Hann, Ed Oxenbould

**Staff Review:** [3 lion heads]

**War Room**  
August 28, 2015 PG 120 min  
Drama  
The Jordans seem to have it all. However, appearances can be deceiving. Husband Tony flirts with temptation while wife Elizabeth becomes bitter, crumbling under the strain of a failing marriage. Their lives take a turn for the better when Elizabeth meets her newest client, Miss Clara, who encourages the couple to find happiness through prayer.  
**Director:** Alex Kendrick  
**Stars:** Priscilla C. Shirer, T.C. Stallings



**Staff Review:** [4 lion heads]

## THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

BY HENRY KELLY

### Legend

by Marie Lu

School librarian Karen Noble recently showed me a book titled *Legend*, the first book of a trilogy that I really enjoyed reading.

The book follows two teens in a futuristic rundown city. One teen, June, comes from a wealthy family, while "Day" is a young criminal the government can't seem to find. These characters face prison or even death in this cat-and-mouse action novel.

*Legend* begins with June, the only student to ever get a perfect score in school, but can't seem to stay out of trouble, and Day, a teenager living alone to avoid the law. What started as an undercover mission for June, later ended with her falling in love with this government target. The story has much more background to it than it does when the book first begins, and so many aspects of the book will reveal themselves as you turn the pages.

In the city, there is a virus going around, and only the wealthy have enough money to buy the medicine for it. Once Day's brother gets this sickness, Day must break the law to get the antidote to keep him alive. While Day is becoming a criminal, across the city, June is breaking the rules at the most prestigious school by scaling walls to try to prove that she is ready to graduate and become a soldier, following the footsteps of her brother, who is a high-in-command general.

This novel is full of everything

a reader is looking for. It is full of action as the characters are in the state of danger at all times. There is a simple yet complex romance as the teens fall for each other even though the timing couldn't be worse.

If you are looking for an action-packed love story novel, this book is for you.



### Fantastic Four

The movie, a remake of the 2005 film, is an interesting movie because of its lack of action. Unlike the film it is based on, the 2015 *Fantastic Four* gives much more background about the group of colleagues and their discovery.

The movie first begins by following the young science-lover Reed Richards played by Miles Teller and his friend Ben Grimm played by Jamie Bell. The storyline stays with this young genius throughout elementary and high school as he is developing his teleporter, but what he doesn't know is that he is really making the prototype of a transportation device to an alternate universe. He then meets Sue Storm, played by Kate Mara, at a science fair, and the pair begins to work on

the real transportation device. Later he meets Sue Storm's brother, Johnny Storm, played by Michael B. Jordan, who Reed also works with to build the transporter to the alternate universe.

Once the actual-sized transportation device is made, the group is the first to travel to the alternate universe. Once they get there, the universe gives the group superpowers they must soon learn to harness. While having to learn how to use their powers, these superhuman scientists must escape the hold the government has on them.

The movie does not have nearly as much action as most superhero movies, but that is what sets it apart. It has a background plot that is much more in depth than other superhero films. It's not your typical superhero movie, so if you are looking for an action-thriller, this might not be for you. This is still a great movie and one that I would recommend for those who enjoy superhero films-and even those who don't normally.





# Students hunt for souls, adventure

## Teens travel to South Africa, Rwanda, Belize

BY PARKER MOON  
Staff Writer

Laughter, joy, and love filled the air last summer as local students participated in a variety of mission and vacation trips around the world.

Seniors Curry Wilson, Drew Neece, Caleb Masters, and freshman Caroline Masters travelled to Belize in July on a mission trip, along with 34 others making the trip with the goal of helping others.

"The purpose of the trip was to spread the word about Christ to a country that is less fortunate than us," Caleb Masters said.

The six-day trip included a children's Vacation Bible School, a doctor who prescribed eyeglasses and sunglasses, and a sports camp that taught local children how to play American football and basketball. Other volunteers helped rebuild and paint a church.

"Building the church was cool," Caroline Masters said. "The people were amazed to see us doing something that they do on a regular basis."

Caroline's father, Brian Masters, also participated in the journey not only to help with the building project, but also to baptize converts. Brian is a deacon at Elliott Street Church of Christ in Breckenridge and is in charge of the youth ministry there.

"For me, baptizing the children was life changing," he said. "Knowing that you had a major part in their lives and helped them start their life with Jesus was awesome."

Masters baptized a total of six people while he was there.

"Watching the people there get baptized, turning their lives to Christ and knowing that we helped them do that, was the highlight," Neece said.

While there, Wilson said that they traveled to the Caribbean Sea where a man took off his shirt and explained that he was



Junior Madison Brown (left) helps women in Rwanda mold mud bricks to be used to the rebuild a house for a man in need. Brown and five others left for the two-week mission trip in mid-June. The trip was sponsored by First Baptist Church of Albany. The church is planning another trip to Africa during spring break.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY THOMAS ALY



Seniors Curry Wilson and Drew Neece (left) speak to a group of children on their mission trip to Belize. Seventh grader Hannah Trail (top) poses with trophy kudu in South Africa last summer.

PHOTOS BY TAMMY MASTERS AND TAMARA TRAIL

wanting to get baptized for all the wrong doings he had done earlier in life. He said that he was part of the wrong crowd, such as gangs who did drugs and other bad things.

When the man took off his shirt, he had scars on his back from being stabbed twenty times while he was sleeping. That incident changed his perspective of life.

"To get to the Caribbean Sea," Wilson said "you had to

travel down a road that was not maintained with pot holes and power lines in the middle of the road."

On the last day, volunteers were able to go shopping, snorkeling, or swimming in the sea.

"It was nice to get involved in the culture and meet new people," Wilson said. "I would definitely do it again in a heart beat."

There were other mission trips during the summer including one to Rwanda attended by Madison

Brown and five others.

Like most mission trips, the two-week trip was to share the word of God to people, but for Madison it was a deeper experience.

"For me, it was connecting with God and reaching out to others," Brown said. "The highlight of the trip was knowing the impact I had on the people over there."

While there, the group sponsored by First Baptist Church

of Albany, made mud bricks, fed street kids, and held church services.

"We built mud bricks to help a man rebuild his house who lost everything during the genocide," Brown said.

Various speakers spread the word during church services.

"There was already a preacher over there that we met up with," Brown said. "Thomas Aly helped out with the church services too, mainly trying to teach them about purity because they weren't really taught that part of the Bible."

Brown said she would love to go back again to help others and enjoy the culture.

For a hunter, going to Africa would be a hunt of a lifetime. Most hunters don't get to go until later in life, but for one-seventh grader, dreams became a reality early.

Hannah Trail traveled to South Africa in July for a 10-day trip with family and friends. The trip consisted of hunting, hanging around the fire, and enjoying views of the landscape.

"The trip was really cool because we got to hunt a lot of animals, eat weird food, and hang out with a bunch of friends," Trail said.

From a hunter's standpoint, Trail said she had a successful hunt, killing an ostrich, zebra, and a kudu that had big swirly horns.

"There was a lot of excitement coming from my mom, dad, and sisters when I shot my animals," Trail said.

With all of the animals to see, places to be, and friends to hang out with, Trail was most happy when with friends and family.

"I had a lot of fun with all my friends, and we got a lot closer to each other during the 10 days," Trail said. "It was also fun to see what animals they shot, and to see the excitement between them and the family."

"Also, while we were all driving around in the Jeep, we got three feet away from a lion," Trail said.

The summer wasn't just fun and games. It included fellow students taking time to go help others and teach others about God, while others grew closer to friends.

# Educators inspired by past teachers

## Hotchkin comes from family of teachers

BY GENEVIEVE STUNKARD  
Features Editor

It's not uncommon for students to be unsure of exactly what they'd like to do after they finish school. Some probably plan to pursue their passions, while others say they'll be happy as long as they make a decent salary.

For some, this indecisiveness can last until the sophomore year of college.

Twenty-two-year-old Melanie Hotchkin, who began her first-ever teaching job in August as the junior high math teacher, originally studied to be a dental hygienist before she realized her true passion was education.

"Both of my parents are teachers in Anson, and my sister teaches in Abilene," Hotchkin said. "I love teaching, and I always have. It's very much in my blood."

Hotchkin's mother, an elementary school reading teacher, originally hoped for her to break the chain of educators in her family.

"My mom didn't want me to feel forced to become a teacher because that's what everyone else in my family does, but I had to do something," Hotchkin said. "So when I got braces in high school, I became interested in dental hygiene, and I interned at a dentist's office in Abilene for a while."

After beginning her studies in college, Hotchkin realized that teaching was where her heart was and always had been.

"Near the end of my sophomore year, I completely changed

my major," Hotchkin said. "I had been taking almost all science classes to become a dental hygienist, so when I made the switch, I had to take summer courses in order to catch up on all the math classes I needed to become a teacher, but it was worth it."

English teacher Jennifer Everitt, like Hotchkin, had not originally planned on entering the education system after college.

"I didn't want to be a teacher at first," Everitt said. "However, a college professor of mine decided that it was my calling, and she had me start giving lectures in her class. It was a big deal, since I was only a sophomore in college."

Everitt expresses that she is pleased with her career choice.

"I really enjoy teaching here," Everitt said. "The kids are great, and it's a good family atmosphere."

Hotchkin's desire to become an educator came not only from her heritage, but also from her ambition to improve the learning experience for students.

"I've always wanted to better education," Hotchkin said. "I had an awful teacher in fourth grade that scared us all. She influenced me in an opposite way, making me want to make school a more positive place."

Likewise, Jennie Bailey, now beginning her tenth year teaching at Albany High School, became a teacher in order to help improve the learning atmosphere for students, as well as to fulfill a more personal desire.

"My interest in becoming a teacher originally came from wanting to be a stay-at-home mom," Bailey said. "I think teaching itself somewhat of a motherly job."

Bailey says she believes that to be an educator certain passions and skill sets are essential.

"I think that you need to have a love for kids and passion for your subject," Bailey said. "It's also necessary to stay organized, treat your work professionally, and be patient."

Everitt shared similar ideas.

"I believe a teacher should be understanding, trustworthy, and very passionate about his or her subject," Everitt said.

Ashley Terrell, now the second-youngest teacher on campus, claims she learned the key to successful teaching from and was influenced by a high school teacher of hers.

"I've wanted to be a teacher since elementary school," Terrell said, "but I would say it was my high school geometry and pre-calculus teacher who made me want to teach math. She was very strict with us and had high expectations. That was the reason we were so successful."

Hotchkin agrees that being somewhat strict is necessary in order to be a good teacher.

"I think teachers need to be optimistic about their students' abilities, very caring, and good disciplinarians," Hotchkin said. "You need to be understanding, but you can't just be mushy all the time. You need good discipline to push students to do their best."

Overall, Hotchkin says she is very pleased with her career choice and her ease finding a job in a small town.

"I'm glad I chose a small town like Albany, because everyone's been very welcoming and helpful," Hotchkin said. "I'm really enjoying my job. It's everything I thought it would be and more, and I can easily see myself doing it for the rest of my life."



Junior high math teacher, Melanie Hotchkin, assists eighth grader Gregori Mikeska with an assignment. Hotchkin, a first-year teacher, comes from a long line of educators, including her parents who both teach in Anson. PHOTO BY GENEVIEVE STUNKARD



# Graduates share college tips

Inside scoop of what college is really like

BY RYLIE SCOTT  
News Editor

The day has come. Parents and their kids walk up and down the halls, hugging and crying, saying their goodbyes.

For some, it's the day they've been waiting for their whole life. But for others, their worst fear has finally become a reality: college.

Past graduates shared their experience about how college life really is, such as Albany graduate Steve Phillips.

"When you are from a small town like Albany, you never know what to expect," Phillips said. "You just have to learn to adapt, and once you get a feel for everything, it's really fun."

Phillips is starting his freshman year at Texas Tech University this fall, along with Molly Lee, who is classified as a sophomore, thanks to dual-credit courses.

"College is honestly the best time of your life if you choose to make it that way," Lee said. "I know people hear this all the time, but you have to get involved on campus."

Sophomore Conor Wilson is involved in many Tech campus organizations.

"The football games are out of this world fun, and I love my sorority," Wilson said. "They really do mean it when they say you find your lifelong friends in college."

With a year under their belts, sophomores have a different attitude about returning to campus this semester, such as Kathryn Hamilton, who is attending the University of Arkansas.

"As a sophomore, you aren't as wrapped up in the transition and kind of 'have it down' in a sense," Hamilton said.

However, freshman year was tough, according to Hamilton.

"Being from out of state, I felt truly independent," Hamilton said. "That's the thing freshmen are usually most excited for, but for me it was a really scary process of being completely on my own for



Albany alumni Rob Montgomery (top) poses with friends at the University of Texas at Austin. Molly Lee (right) is congratulated by sister Lexie after receiving a bid from the Texas Tech chapter of Chi Omega in August. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ROB MONTGOMERY AND MOLLY LEE

the first time in my life."

Sometimes college turns out to be the exact opposite from how it's been advertised.

"Throughout my childhood I heard about how terrible it was to have to live in the dorm," Texas Tech sophomore Lewis Kelly said. "While living in the dorm, you have a meal plan for the whole year, you are close to all your classes, and if you're lucky, your friends live right down the hall from you."

A warning was issued by one former graduate.

"You really do need to go to class," junior at University of Texas at Austin, Rob Montgomery said. "That is the biggest thing older people tell you, and I really believe it is the difference maker. You can read all you want, but if you don't have the professor's perspective, it can become really confusing."

Wilson agrees, saying the college experience has a serious side.

"It's not all rainbows and sunshine," Wilson said. "They didn't tell me about the part where you're literally responsible for every action or choice you make."

Just beginning his first semester at Tech, Phillips was shocked at the number of people in his college classes.

"My whole graduating class was 23 people, and my smallest class at Tech is 450 people," Phillips said. "I have still yet to see the same people twice."

Lee also agrees that college courses are much different than high school classes.

"In college you're expected to anticipate things and know what to do without being told," Lee said. "You have to do things like bring your own scantrons to your tests and be able to take a 50-question

test based solely on the few pages of lecture notes you took yourself in class."

Attending a large, out-of-state college, Hamilton said college course options are vast.

"You are able to be more selective with courses closer to your interests," Hamilton said. "Professors usually have too many students to hear about your concerns or complaints about your classes, so you have to learn to deal with

it by yourself."

Wilson has warned that some classes require more time than others.

"Some aren't hard at all and are a breeze, but there are some like my anatomy classes that you have to devote a lot of time to," Wilson said.

Transitioning to the routine of college can cause major adjustments.

"The biggest adjustment I had to make was balancing my free and social time," Lee said. "Your parents aren't around to tell you what you can and cannot do, which also means no one is making you do anything anymore."

Others have had no problem adjusting to the college life.

"The toughest part was moving all of my stuff into my dorm," Phillips said. "Nothing else has really bothered me."

From Wilson's point of view, independence has caused the biggest adjustments.

"Focusing on myself and not worrying about what other people think has been a huge thing I've had to get used to," Wilson said. "I have had to learn not to rely on people as much, which has made me a stronger, more independent person."

The former Albany students had tips they wanted to share.

"Buy a planner and make yourself use it," Lee said. "I never balanced my time, which didn't work out well."

Kelly stressed the importance of applying early.

"Getting your applications in quickly so you can qualify for early admission will make for a much more relaxed and enjoyable senior year," Kelly said.

Wilson stressed the importance of prioritizing.

"Stay focused on what you're really there for, which should be an education," Wilson said. "Stay true to yourself and strengthen your relationship with God because this time in your life is the biggest transition you will have faced so far."

Parents continue to be important during college, too.

"Stay in touch with your parents," Wilson said. "They can be literal life savers in college."

# Band always puts best foot forward

Members share marching experiences

BY GENEVIEVE STUNKARD  
Features Editor

High school marching bands are a staple of school spirit, starting off each new year with music and merriment. Pep rallies, halftime shows, and the occasional parade allow the band of performers to give back to the community in the form of exciting entertainment.

The elaborate uniforms, degree of concentration, and arduous practices make up a culture that certainly marches to the beat of its own drum.

Junior Sydney Key, who has been playing saxophone since fifth grade, was chosen to serve as this year's field director by band director John Stockdale. As both a band member and a varsity cheerleader, she splits her Friday nights between the two organizations.

"There's a lot of pressure, because I'm expected to do my job as a cheerleader well and then turn around to join the band," Key said. "As soon as the buzzer for halftime sounds, I rush to get my instrument, music, and whistle and make it over to where the rest of the band is. I get in my place, and I make sure everyone is being respectful to the other band."

As field director, Key is responsible for providing commands as to when the band should begin their routine and when they should play. Key, unlike field directors from most other schools, marches alongside her fellow band members throughout the routine.

"I get everyone lined up in their place, and then I start the show," Key said. "I get really nervous having to walk out before everyone else does (to give the starting command), and it puts even more pressure on me when Mr. Stockdale announces my name over the

speakers."

Key describes feeling even more pressured by the way she's dressed in comparison to the other band members.

"It's definitely strange being in a cheer uniform while marching," Key said. "I stick out like a sore thumb with it on, so I think it's more noticeable if I mess up. Also, my shoes are a different color than everybody else's, so if I'm out of step, it really shows."

Sophomore band member and fellow varsity cheerleader McKenna Thompson says she can relate to Key's situation.

"I feel a lot of stress to do the marching routine correctly because of my uniform, too," Thompson said.

Despite the tension that accompanies performing in front of the bleachers filled with fans, Thompson thinks putting on the show is a noteworthy experience.

"Once we begin marching, I love listening to how we all sound together on the open field compared to inside the crowded band hall," Thompson said.

Key agrees.

"I enjoy the games and the whole environment," Key said. "The energy from the stands is contagious."

After each nerve-wracking show, Key is glad to have the night's halftime performance complete.

"There's always a major sense of relief when we finally click off the field and over to our tunnel," Key said.

Rehearsing the show is done during many strenuous practices, and perfecting the routine does not come without hard work and dedication. The marching band began its practices a week before the first day of school, and continues to practice every day during second period.

"I don't like having to go outside first thing in the morning to practice, because it's either freezing or unbearably hot," Key said. "So, you're either cold all day or you're



Drum major Sydney Key (left) guides the members of the Ragging Red Band through their halftime routine during practice recently. Key, a junior, serving as field director for the band for the first time, still plays her saxophone during the performances. The 60-member group is planning a trip over spring break. Band members played in the stands (below) during the football season opener in Colorado City in August.

PHOTOS BY RACHEL HILL AND CURRY WILSON



sweaty and gross."

Sophomore band student Sloan Graham agrees.

"My least favorite thing about band is having to march in the mornings because it's so hot right now, and we have to do such repetitive marches," Graham said.

Thompson believes that the key to improving problematic practice sessions lies in students' behavior.

"The hardest part about marching would definitely be the uncooperative people," Thompson said. "I think the only members of the band should be those who want to contribute to our cause."

Key also wishes some members of the band were more committed.

"There are a lot of people who don't respect the program," Key said. "If we can't respect ourselves, there's no way anyone else will respect us. Our band is full of wasted potential, and that's quite discouraging."

However, Key tries to keep a positive mindset.

"I really try to encourage everyone," Key said. "I try to make sure everyone knows what they're doing because when the band makes a mistake, I feel terrible."

For the most part, band mem-

bers who have had a year or more of experience feel confident in the routines they currently march, expressing a desire to perform more complicated shows.

"It gets pretty difficult to march when you haven't quite gotten your music memorized, so you have to choose between playing well or marching correctly," Key said. "However, I think that most of the drills we do are very simple while being very cool visually, but I also think the band has the potential to do some very complex drills."

Thompson agrees.

"I wish the drills were a bit more complex, because the basic marching up and down the field gets boring for both the band and the audience," Thompson said.

Thompson and Key both say

they intend to stay in band throughout high school.

"I plan to stay in marching band until I graduate," Thompson said. "I've always had a love for music, and I'd even love to remain in band through college!"

Key shares similar ideas.

"I definitely plan on sticking with band throughout high school because I genuinely enjoy playing my saxophone," Key said. "However, I'm unsure about doing college band because that's a whole new level of difficulty."

In the end, both Thompson and Key expressed that the rewards that come with being in marching band are well worth the effort required.

"I wouldn't trade being in the band for anything," Key said. "I love the instruments and all the people that come along with it."



# Athletes face final seasons

## Seniors set goals for their last year

BY RYLIE SCOTT  
News Editor

The last seconds are ticking away on the game clock. The crowd is roaring. The fans cheering becomes deafening. It all comes down to the last play of the game.

For some athletes it's just another game. But for the seniors, this is the last season they will ever step out on an Albany court or field again.

This year 19 seniors will participate in sports, ranging from football in the fall to tennis in the spring.

Most athletes are ready to take on this last year of sports, such as senior Kelsey Tollett.

"I am very excited to take on this year. It's my last chance, and I'm going to make it a good one," Tollett said.

Senior Drew Neece is also ready to give it his all in football, basketball, baseball and track.

"I'm definitely excited, but kind of sad that it's my last year to be an Albany athlete," Neece said.

Becoming a senior means being seen more as a role model for underclassmen. Senior Savannah Perez explained how open she is to start her last year in athletics.

"I'm ready, but I just don't feel like a senior yet," Perez said. "I like knowing I'm the oldest and can be used as a leader when it comes to practice."

Senior Tobi Nall is also willing to step up

to the plate, planning to participate in volleyball, softball, and track.

"I'm so ready to take on the leadership role as a senior," Nall said.

However, senior Levi Britting has a different outlook about his last year. He is playing football and running track.

"To be honest, I'm not ready at all," Britting said. "I want to stay a kid forever."

With the reality of seniority setting in, the seniors amped up their goals for their upcoming seasons.

"I'm looking to go deep in playoffs in both volleyball and softball," Nall said. I want to not only better myself, but my teammates by pushing them in every practice and game."

Perez has even started practicing early in hopes to improve before the start of tennis later this year.

"I'd really like to at least make it to Regionals," Perez said. "I'm going to make sure I work hard in practice and encourage my teammates to work their hardest too."

After making it to the state game last year at the AT&T stadium in Arlington, Neece has even higher expectations for his last season.

"In football, we all want to come out on top this year," Neece said. "We want to make it to the state game and win it."

With goals set high, some seniors are looking to possibly extend their athletic career into college.

"I would like to try to pole vault in college," Britting said, hoping to return to the state track meet in pole vault this

spring. "Maybe at Angelo State or Texas Tech."

Some athletes even wished they would've tried out different sports when they first entered high school.

"I wish I would have played baseball," Carter said. "I think I really would've liked it."

Even Neece said he would've wanted to try out for tennis his freshman year.

"It seems really fun," Neece said. "I like table tennis a lot, so I'd probably do well at it."

Having played sports earlier in the years, some seniors are choosing not to participate in a specific one this time around.

"I'm not going to play basketball this year," Nall said. "I don't want to risk getting hurt again so I can be healthy for softball."

Britting also wishes he could have played basketball more.

"I kind of miss it, but I can deal with it," Britting said. "It provides more time for training in the off-season."

Tollett has decided to stick with just volleyball and softball, not playing basketball or running track again this year.

"I didn't enjoy them, and I don't want to focus on something that I won't give 110 percent to," she said.

**Caleb Masters carries the ball into the end zone during the Dublin game, Sept. 4. The Lions won the non-district bout, 40-14, before moving on to defeat Roby, 41-0, the following week. Albany will travel to Vernon tonight to play the defending Class 2A-Div. II Canadian Wildcats in the final pre-district game.**

PHOTO BY CURRY WILSON



Senior Kelsey Tollett (above) spikes the ball over the hands of two Knox City blockers in the district opener Sept. 12. The Lady Lions won in four sets against the Greyhounds. The volleyball team also beat Woodson on Sept. 15 in three sets. The Lady Lions will face the Hawley Lady Bearcats on Saturday in Hawley, starting at 11:00 a.m.

PHOTO BY NOLAN DAVIS

# Cheerleading: The other side of the megaphone

## Students share the inside story

BY KYLEA GARDNER  
Assistant Editor

The sight of perfect-looking young cheerleaders under the Friday night lights can be deceptive. Cheerleading is an often underappreciated activity that in reality requires many hours of work and dedication.

Like many other sports, cheerleading takes up multiple hours of a student's time.

"Every week I spend 30 minutes to an hour planning a pep rally, and then we have morning cheer practice every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 7:15 to 7:45 a.m., as well as practicing during tutorials on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday," head cheerleader Curry Wilson said. "I also learn new material over the weekend and send videos of it to the other cheerleaders so they can be prepared when they get to practice."

Junior Alexis Munden also spends a majority of her time cheering.

"I would have to say that about six hours or so of my week consists of doing cheer-related things; whether it is learning material or doing pep rallies or cheering at games, most of my time is dedicated to cheer," Munden said.

Fellow junior and varsity cheerleader Sydney Key explained that homecoming week is much more time-consuming than a

regular week of cheer.

"During homecoming week, we basically spend every available hour, and if there are no conflicts, we spend every night in the gym having cheer practice," Key said. "We spend a lot of time perfecting our routines, stunts, and dances, and then we spend two to three hours the night before decorating the gym for the pep rally."

A couple of the cheerleaders spend extra time participating in competitive cheerleading as well as school-related cheer.

"I spend a lot of time during the week cheering for the school, but I also spend a lot of time being involved in competitive cheer and dance," junior Kaleigh Clevenger said. "I spend about four and a half hours a week doing competitive cheer, so it makes for a very busy schedule."

The group expressed that there are pros and cons to being a cheerleader.

"The hardest thing about being a cheerleader is that you are obligated to stay positive at all times, even when things go wrong," Key said. "But the best thing is all of the young kids who look up to you, because I used to be the kid looking up to the varsity cheerleaders, and now I am the person they're looking up to, so that's really cool."

Clevenger also shared the hardest and most rewarding aspects of cheering.

"It's hard to learn new material every week and get it perfected before the pep rally, plus juggling homework, sports,



Junior Kaleigh Clevenger prepares to dismount during a pep rally (top), while cheerleaders Alexis Munden and Curry Wilson (L to R, below) lead the crowd in a cheer. The squad spends 4-5 hours a week practicing performance routines.

PHOTOS BY KYLEA GARDNER



after school practices, and games," Clevenger said. "Getting to be on the sidelines cheering for the boys and getting to bond with the squad are the best parts of cheering."

Wilson shared the struggles of being head cheerleader.

"Getting organized and getting everyone on the same page for pep rallies is sometimes really frustrating because it never seems like we're prepared enough," Wilson said. "People always say 'it's only high school cheerleading,' but you would be surprised by how many people actually care."

The squad agreed that it takes more than just a pretty face to be able to succeed as a cheerleader.

"You have to be happy and cheerful at all times, and you are expected to be a role model for all of the kids that look up to you," Key said. "It's sometimes stressful to be held to higher standards, but it's so worth it to be able to cheer."

Clevenger added that patience helps.

"The number one thing is that you absolutely have to have good leadership abilities, and lots of patience is also important," Clevenger said.

Wilson said that there are many expectations, especially for a head cheerleader.

"I feel like you have to have a whole lot of time on your hands, especially as a head cheerleader," Wilson said. "You need a great attitude because a lot of people look up to you, and you need thick skin because there are people who complain to you and tell

you that you're not doing a good job. You also need to be a good representative of Albany and show school spirit not only for football but for every sport."

Munden thinks that cheerleaders must be fearless in order to be successful.

Stereotypes can also come into play.

"If I could say anything to the people who judge us, I would just say that we are normal people who enjoy cheerleading," Key said. "We really don't look down on anyone despite the fact that they think we do."

Munden had similar thoughts.

"Many people have their mind made up that all cheerleaders are snobbish and look down upon other people, but we really don't," Munden said. "We don't cheer for the prestige of it; we cheer because we enjoy it, and we love to support the football team."

Wilson addressed the idea that cheerleaders don't work hard.

"People think that we don't work hard, but we put in lots of extra time that we don't get credit for," Wilson said. "People don't understand that we get here early and stay late. It's literally like a job, and we are very underappreciated. People don't see all of the extra things that we do, but we do it because we love to cheer and we love to support the athletes."

Despite the hardships and judgment, all of the cheerleaders agreed that cheer was one of the most rewarding extracurricular activities that they have been involved in throughout their high school careers.



# Volleyball sets up for new season

## Lady Lions improve during pre-season

BY MICHAEL COTTER  
Sports Editor

With district play now under way, the Lady Lions are serving up a young team of competitors who are looking for a successful season that extends into the playoffs.

"Everything we are working on this year is wrapped up into the word 'compete,'" head volleyball coach Kimberly Hill said. "We know we will play teams who have more girls, who are bigger, and maybe even more talented. However, our goal is to work hard and out-work every team we face."

The team has played bigger schools this year to prepare for post-season competition.

"We are working hard and playing tough teams right now to prepare for later," Hill said. "We have already had some ups and downs this season, but the girls are improving every week."

Although there are five varsity returners, the team still consists of a wide range of classes. "Our younger girls have

shown maturity this season," Hill said. "Rylie Scott is very consistent and composed, and she gives us a setter we can lean on."

With a young team, upper-classman play an important role.

"The seniors have really stepped up this season," sophomore Rylie Scott said. "They've continued to improve and encourage the underclassmen and provide a good example."

Despite having girls from three classes on the varsity squad, the team has come together.

"All the girls are really selfless and have a team attitude," senior Tobi Nall said. "We are like a big family, and we really get along well. We love playing together."

Returning several players does give the coach some freedom in changing things up.

"We are running a lot of different sets and hitting schemes this season," Hill said. "It has allowed us to extend rallies and attack from all angles."

Even though the team has good chemistry, they seem to struggle sometimes with consistency.

"We have got to find some rhythm and get off this roller coaster we seem to be on," Hill said. "Our serving has got to become more consistent, and we

need to finish a little stronger."

Similar to last season, the girls will have one major opponent in district.

"Hawley is going to be a challenge just like last year," Scott said. "I think we are go-

ing to take this momentum into district and leave with a district championship."

Along with a district title, the girls also aspire to higher goals.

"I believe we have a shot to make a run this year," Nall said.

"Our goal is to make it to the regional tournament, but I know, the seniors want more than that."

The girls played their district opener on Sept. 12 when they defeated Knox City. They have a district record of 2-0.



Junior Rachel Hill goes up for the kill over the hands of Knox City blockers in the first district game on Sat. Sept. 12. The girls won in four sets, and then went on to defeat Woodson in three. Albany is expected to battle Hawley for the district title later in the district 6-2A race.

PHOTO BY  
NOLAN DAVIS

# Lions battle injuries on road to district



Senior Michael Cotter goes up over the top of a Dublin defender to catch a pass from senior Drew Neece for a touchdown during Albany's 40-14 victory in the home opener. The Lions face Canadian tonight in the final pre-district game. PHOTO BY CURRY WILSON

## Football team makes plans to 'Earn it' in 2015

BY RACHEL HILL  
Copy Editor

The football team continues to battle injuries as preseason comes to a close with hopes still high for a long post-season. The team is living by this season's motto: 'Earn it'.

"This year's motto is to ensure that we aren't satisfied with things that are already done," head football coach Denney Faith said. "Anything that you do this year will have to be earned, and any rewards we receive won't come as a surprise because we have to work for everything we want to accomplish."

Senior quarterback Drew Neece agrees with his coach.

"Last year our motto was 'Prove It', and we proved it by making it to state," Neece said. "This year is 'Earn It', so we have to earn it by working hard in practice and encouraging others to do the same. Nothing will be given to us."

Sophomore back-up quarterback Brian Hamilton shares the

same opinion.

"We know we are picked to be pretty good this year, but it won't be given to us," he said. "We have to earn it just like the motto says. I think it applies to us because of our loss at the state championship last year. We know that we are going to have to give a little more effort and try a little harder to come out on top."

Hamilton already had playing time at quarterback.

"I get nervous before I go in because Drew (Neece) always does really well," Hamilton said. "I feel as if my performances need to live up to his, but that makes me work harder to fill his shoes."

Faith had good things to say about the season so far.

"Our preseason looked strong," Faith said. "The kids are working hard. They came back this season in good shape. They had a good spring and summer to prepare themselves for this season."

However, injuries have plagued a few team members.

"I think we have had some injuries that have set us back, but we will work through them," Faith said. "There are good players with a lot of talent who are

out because of injuries. Other than that, we are pleased with where we are at this point."

Neece agrees.

"Injuries are the biggest thing that could hurt our season," Neece said. "Charles Carter and Tristan Cauble will be hard to replace, but we just have to be positive and find people who will work hard to fill their spots."

Carter, who played running back and corner, injured his left knee in the Roby game, while Cauble, who played right guard, tore his PCL, ACL and LCL in the Colorado City season opener.

Despite injuries, the Lions are still hopeful for a prosperous season.

"We have to take it one game at a time," Faith said. Our ultimate goal, of course, is to be one of the last two teams that get to play in December, but there are a lot of other goals we have to reach before we can get to that point."

Neece shared the same view.

"I want to win district first of all," Neece said. "Then we can focus on making it as far as we did last year and finishing it off with a state championship."

The Lions will start district play on Oct. 9 against Baird after an off-week.

# Cross Country runs towards new goals

## Runners don't let heat become obstacle

BY BRIAN HAMILTON  
Staff Writer

Texas heat isn't going to stop this year's CC runners

The cross country team hopes that "heart and desire" will help push them through the scorching Texas heat right on to the regional meet this season.

The squad is trying to improve from last year's results, with several runners coming back to help the cause.

"My goal for the runners this year is to get as many kids to the regional meet as possible," cross country coach Paul Johnston said.

Only one runner, Valerie Gandara, advanced to the regional meet and even on to the state meet last year. However, since she graduated, this year's veteran runners hope to fill her shoes.

"In order to get to regionals, I know I will have to push myself harder and refuse to quit," senior Curry Wilson said. "During the

heat of the day it becomes harder to breathe, which is why I need to practice in the afternoon so I can be acclimated to this weather."

This fall's heat waves have definitely taken a toll on the runners during the mid-day workouts.

"Afternoon runs always make me run slower, and I get tired much faster. It is hard to fight through the scorching heat," sophomore Seleste Martinez said.

Even experienced runners are having trouble.

"This heat makes me very tired while I'm running which makes it hard to do my best," senior Jesus Rodriguez said.

Despite attending another school last year, Rodriguez hopes to improve from his regional appearance last year.

"I really want to make it to the state meet. In order for me to do that, I will need to cut my time from 18 minutes to 15 or 16 minutes," Rodriguez said.

Though the regional meet is the goal set by many runners, some participants have other motives for competing.

"I run cross country so I can be in better shape for track," sophomore Baley Green said.

"While cross country isn't my favorite thing to do, I know I will appreciate the help it will give me in track."

In order to help the distance runners get in cross country shape without burning their legs off or missing other activities, workout times have become more flexible.

"I'm trying to give boys an opportunity to run in the morning so they'll have energy and still be able to practice football," Johnston said. "Also, due to the heat, some girls have chosen to run in the mornings as well."

The team has expanded this season despite weather conditions.

"There are a lot more kids running this year than last year," the coach said. We have five more junior high kids and around 18 high school girls this year. However, there is still the same number of boys running" Johnston said.

Several runners are not as familiar with the sport as the veterans.

"Cross country is an individual sport; you can't compare yourself to the other competitors," Johnston said. "The only thing that needs to be compared is your own times."



Junior Michaela Reames pushes toward the finish line during the first meet of the season in Eula on Sept. 2. The team has seen a large increase in runners this season, with hopes of advancing more members to the regional meet. PHOTO PROVIDED BY LORI REAMES



## "Seniors"

Continued from | PG 1

Waggoner said. Senior Tobin Nall also credited her smooth application process to the common application and the help of Waggoner. "It was very easy to apply thanks to Apply Texas and having a counselor as awesome as Mrs. Waggoner," Nall said. Waggoner said that applying early is beneficial for seniors who want a stress-free year. "Applying early allows seniors to make a decision sooner and start focusing on housing and financial aid," she said. "They are able to focus on their senior year and senior activities." Typically, seniors do not have all the information required to fill out an application form. "Seniors need their high school transcript, college transcript if they have taken dual-credit courses, letters of recommendation, resume, and admission essays," Waggoner said. In the midst of senior activities, it can be difficult to find the time to write extra essays and fill out resumes. However, during the last three years, writing admission essays and resumes has become the last assignments for juniors taking English III. "Something that made it easier to apply was already having my information all typed out on a word document that we created in Mrs. Everitt's," senior Savannah

Perez said. "We spent the last week of our junior year working on essays and our college resumes, so that really helped." According to the counselor, the hardest aspect of the process is to just begin it. "Typically seniors have trouble just getting started," Waggoner said. "They always seem overwhelmed with the whole process. Once you get started, the process becomes easier." The counselor offered a piece of advice for seniors trying to apply. "Take it one step at a time," Waggoner said. "Don't be afraid to ask for help. I give all the seniors a timeline so they can take it step by step." Many seniors who have been through the process are willing to share their ideas and experiences to help their peers. "I'd tell others to begin thinking about possibilities of where they want to go and start learning what's required to apply there," Nall said. Time also plays a role in the application process. "Use Apply Texas and make sure you talk to Mrs. Waggoner to get your transcripts to the schools, and apply as soon as possible because some schools fill up fast," Masters said. The guidance counselor is excited to see this time of the year roll around. "Doing the application process with seniors is my favorite part of my job," Waggoner said. "It's when I really get to know the seniors better."

## "Scouts"

Continued from | PG 1

Neece said. To earn the Eagle Scout award, every scout must complete an Eagle project, which is typically a project that helps his community. "Each day I drove by the elementary school, I noticed that there would always be bikes laying around on the ground," Neece said. "I wanted to do something about it, so I built a bike rack for the elementary school." Alex Faith wanted to give back in a different way. "I wanted to help out my church, so I designed and helped install new stained glass windows for Jesus of Nazareth Catholic Church," Alex Faith said. The boys have made memories with fellow scouts. "My favorite part are the camping trips," Alex Faith said. "It's fun to be with my friends out in the wild." Neece had a similar view. "The camping trips were always the most fun. I like to sit around the campfire with my friends," Neece said. The group has been in scouts for over 10 years. "I started out in Cub Scouts in the first grade, as soon as I could," Neece said. "Once I finished Cub Scouts in fifth grade, I became a Boy Scout." Four of the current Eagle candidates are expected to complete the requirements

over the next few weeks, with Eagle award ceremonies to follow soon after. The requirement must be completed prior to a scout turning 18. Boy Scouts is an organization that teaches young men life lessons. They are able to join once they reach fifth grade. "3D" Continued from | PG 1 something we will be exposed to in our future." However, the printers aren't only for students' use. "Our vision is to get both teachers and students comfortable with the printers," Fields said. "We want them to try the printers out and take risks. They shouldn't be afraid of the new technology. We want kindergarten and up to be able to use these new printers because the design software is very age appropriate." Hill shares the same vision. "We hope to have the technology classes using them pretty soon, as well as any of the vocational courses," Hill said. "However, it could very possibly be used in every course." There will be an in-service to train teachers on Oct. 12. "There will be a gentleman coming to explain how it can be used across all curriculum," Fields said. "For a year's worth of supplies, it will cost each campus only \$300. It's a very reasonable tool for instruction."

## WHAT'S HAPPENING!

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER	
25	1st Six Weeks ends
25	Varsity Football vs. Canadian @ Vernon, 7:30pm
26	Varsity Volleyball vs. Hawley @ Hawley, 10:00am
28	2nd Six Weeks begins
28	JH Volleyball vs. ACS @ Home, 4:30pm
28	College Fair for Juniors
29	JH & Varsity Volleyball vs. Moran @ Home, 5:00pm
30	JH & HS Cross Country Throckmorton, 3:30pm
OCTOBER	
1	JH & JV Football OPEN
2	Varsity Football OPEN
3	Varsity Volleyball vs. Munday @ Home, 11:00am
5	JH Volleyball vs. Moran @ Moran, 4:30pm
6	JH, JV, & Varsity Volleyball vs. Knox City @ Knox City, 4:30pm
7	JH & HS Cross Country @ Home, 3:30pm
8	ACT Workshop @ Anson, 8:00am
8	Palmore Economics for Seniors
8	JH & JV Football vs. Baird @ Baird, 4:00pm
9	Varsity Football vs. Baird @ Home, Homecoming, 7:30pm
10	JH Volleyball Tourney @ Stephenville
10	Varsity Volleyball vs. Woodson @ Woodson, 10:00am
12	JH & HS Cross Country @ Stephenville, 9:00am
12	JH & JV Volleyball vs. ACS @ ACS, 4:00pm
13	JH & Varsity Volleyball vs. Benjamin @ Benjamin, 5:00pm
14	PSAT, 8:00am
15	JH & JV Football vs. Cross Plains @ Home, 5:00pm
16	Varsity Football vs. Cross Plains @ Cross Plains, 7:30pm
17	JV & Varsity Volleyball vs. Eastland @ Home, 10:00am
18	National Honor Society Inductions, 2:00pm
19	District Cross Country @ Hamlin, 4:00pm
19	JH Volleyball vs. Hawley @ Hawley, 4:30pm
20	JV & Varsity Volleyball vs. Hawley @ Home, 4:30pm
22	JH & JV Football vs. Perrin-Whitt @ Home, 5:00pm
23	Varsity Football vs. Perrin-Whitt @ Perrin-Whitt, 7:30pm
24	Varsity Volleyball vs. Moran @ Moran, 10:00am
27	JH & HS Volleyball vs. Munday, @ Home, 4:30pm
29	JH & JV Football vs. Santo @ Santo, 5:00pm
30	Varsity Football vs. Santo @ Home, 7:30pm
31	Fall Fest @ Elementary, 5:30pm
NOVEMBER	
3	Volleyball Bi-District
5	JH & JV vs. Ranger @ Home

Seventh grader Blanton Belcher digs her way through a pan of beans to help her country, South America, win points.



## Messy Olympics

Splattered paint, shattered eggs, throw up, competition, and fun are just a few things that create the Messy Olympics. Students gathered at the First Baptist Church for a chance to win the gold and to get dirty. Participants divided into teams of six and named their teams for countries from around the world. From the United States of America

to Australia, countries battled against various obstacles including covering their entire bodies with paint, diving face first into pans of beans and spaghetti noodles to find M&M's, and drinking unknown concoctions. Great Britain ended up taking the gold in the end. Luxembourg came in at a close second, and trailing behind was the United States of America.



Sophomore Krysten Morris (top) tries to wash up after the games were completed in the foam pit. Junior Emmy Shirley (right) receives a powdered pie to the face with toppings of soy sauce, syrup, and chocolate syrup. Shirley represented the country Germany.



Eighth grader BJ Morris (left) throws up his milkshake that the students had to drink in order to receive points for his team. Alli Hill and Addie Beth Denton (bottom) are covered in their country's colors. They represented the United States of America. Their team finished third behind Luxembourg and the UK.



Baley Green (top) celebrates a win for team Luxembourg after a paint covering contest. Senior Charles Carter (left) helps his team, Great Britain, by having Mustard cover his entire head. Great Britain took home the gold.

PHOTOS AND STORY BY CURRY WILSON