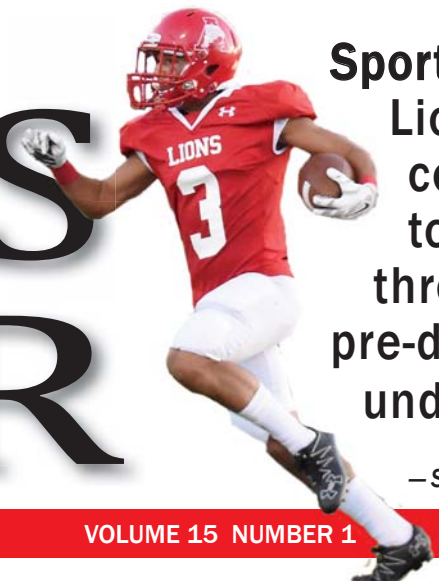




THE LIONS ROAR



Sports:
Lions
continue
to battle
through
pre-district
undefeated.

— See page 7

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2016 ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL ALBANY, TEXAS 76430 VOLUME 15 NUMBER 1 FREE



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

DUAL CREDIT

Several dual credit classes are being offered this fall, including government, U.S. history, biology, anatomy, and college English. The dual credit government and history courses are new this school year and are offered through Cisco College. There are currently 22 juniors enrolled in the history course and 10 are taking the government class. Both are being taught as hybrid courses, with local teachers covering a portion of the material and the college content provided online by a Cisco College instructor.

Dual credit biology has been taught for several years by local teacher Dwayne Norton, who previous taught at Cisco College before moving to Albany. There are 25 juniors and seniors enrolled. He is also teaching a dual credit anatomy and physiology class, with 11 students enrolled.

Cisco College also is sending an instructor on Tuesdays and Thursdays to teach the dual credit English classes, with 16 students enrolled.

OFFICERS NAMED

The student body recently picked this year's student council officers, including Hunter Owen, president, and Michaela Reames, vice president. Other officers elected were Kaleigh Cleveenger, secretary, Natalie Hayner, treasurer, and Abbi Beard, reporter.

The council is also planning the annual Trick-or-Treating for Change project to raise money for the Albany Chest. As of now this is the only project planned, but the council is discussing other ways to raise money or provide service for the school and community.

FCA STARTS YEAR

The Albany Chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes had their first meeting at lunch on Wednesday, September 14. Longtime FCA leader, Paul Johnston, was the guest speaker for the meeting.

FCCLA and theater arts teacher Jenny Scott is replacing Johnston and taking over as the new "huddle leader." She plans for the organization to meet on the second Wednesday of each month, either in the FCCLA department at school or somewhere off campus every other month.

FCA aims to reach out to athletes and give students a chance to establish an on-going ministry. The organization will be mov-

Tutorials deemed ineffective

Class periods made longer to compensate

BY RYAN HILL
Staff Writer

Entering into the new year, the policy change eliminating tutorials has shaken up the daily school life of students across campus.

"I felt it was more important to have longer class periods," said Principal Kevin Hill.

Longer class periods have benefits that the 20-minute study hall couldn't give.

"It gives the students more time to complete the lessons, or the teacher time to reteach a lesson to the whole class, if necessary," Hill said.

Hill added that Lion Academy will be utilized more to fill the void.

"Lion Academy will become more effective than it has been in the past," Hill said.

Some students regret not using the opportunity of tutorials in the past.

"I wish I took advantage of them last year because I was close to failing many times, and I didn't go in and do my work," junior Harvey Hinkle said. "It sickens me that I could've done so much better."



Junior Felicity Coronado signs in to Lion Academy after finishing athletics. Many students are attending the after school program in order to get assistance from teachers and study for upcoming tests after the elimination of the mid-morning tutorial period. PHOTO BY RYAN HILL

Students will now have to resort to using Lion Academy after school.

"I'll start using Lion Academy more, especially now that I'm in anatomy," Hinkle said.

The students aren't the only ones having to adjust to the policy change.

"From a counseling standpoint, I was able to use tutorials to help seniors with college applications, and juniors with SAT/ACT planning," counselor Dee Dee Waggoner said. "I was able to meet with

student groups all at the same time, without taking away class time."

In the past, tutorials were used by every student, not just by the students who were failing, according to Waggoner.

"Most everyone is involved in extracurricular activities or has a job after school, so they are going to miss the extra time they had to get ahead on homework, or caught up on a previous lesson," Waggoner said. The counselor under-

stands that the system wasn't as effective as it could have been.

"I know that tutorials weren't effective as planned, but I think that the students in extracurricular activities benefited the most," Waggoner added.

Across the board, the common answer among students is that they wish they had taken more advantage of the given opportunity.

"Now that tutorials are gone, I realize how much

time I actually had to study and do makeup work, and homework," Sophomore Madison Wilkins said.

In the five weeks since classes started, the loss of a tutorial period has required an adjustment.

"The transition has been good," Hill said. "It has been a smooth adjustment, for both students and teachers, the campus improvement committee will discuss the pros and cons of the change, and I encourage the students to share their thoughts."



New teacher Jenny Scott reviews senior Alycia Smith's work during her second period theatre arts class. Along with theatre, Scott is teaching FCCLA classes and taking over retired coach Paul Johnston's position as the FCA sponsor. PHOTO BY BRIAN HAMILTON

Five new staffers employed

Two alumnae return to AHS as teachers

BY BRIAN HAMILTON
Staff Writer

Several new staff members have joined the junior high/senior high staff this fall following one of the larger turnovers of personnel in recent years.

Four new teachers and a new school nurse were employed over the summer to fill the vacancies left by retirements and resignations.

One of the new teachers is Albany alumnae M.J. Vickers, who replaced Melanie Hotchkin as the junior high math teacher, and also took on coaching duties on the girls' side of athletics.

"It's good to be home," Vickers said. "Coaching at the school where I played and joining with the teachers who taught me is neat."

Vickers has close ties to Albany. "I have two brothers, including Ryder Peacock, who teaches technology class and is also a coach here,"

Ryder; and my sister-in-law, Lauren Peacock."

Though she grew up in Albany, Vickers started her teaching career in a much different environment.

"I started at Northwest ISD in Ft. Worth for three years," Vickers said. "I taught seventh and eighth grade math, and coached junior high volleyball, basketball and track."

Before her career in teaching started, Vickers was a standout athlete at McMurry University in Abilene.

"When I attended McMurry, I played basketball and volleyball," Vickers said. "As a sophomore, I was awarded second team all-conference for basketball, in volleyball I was named to the All-American team, and we won the 2012 NCCAA national championship."

Another teacher who is new to AHS is Doug Mumm, who took the place of science teacher Jennifer Edmison following her departure.

"As of right now I am teaching IPC, eighth grade science, and an intervention math class," Mumm said.

Mumm's family is all grown up. "My wife's name is Jo-Ann, my sons' names are DJ and Walter, and

School buys Chromebooks

Jr. High gets new internet-based computers

BY JILLIAN GUINN
Staff Writer

Chromebooks are now being distributed to junior high students instead of MacBooks due to the difference in cost.

"Chromebooks cost about \$350, while MacBooks are about \$1,400," principal Kevin Hill said. "The Chromebooks are less expensive, but they still allow us to access everything we need. They are easier to manage and there are not as many things to replace."

The students will now be downloading apps like Google Classroom, Google Docs, and Google Drive for learning in-

stead of programs. Most apps for the Chromebooks are free, or cost a nominal fee as low as 99 cents. While there are many more programs that are available for Macs that aren't available on Chromebooks, there is much more expense involved.

"At this time, there are not as many learning programs for the Chromebooks because the Macs have been around longer," technology director Dan Key said. "There are some applications we will have to find alternatives for, but eventually the playing field will be leveled."

Some teachers, like technology instructor Ryder Peacock, say they are adjusting well to the change in technology as well as their students.

"The students are doing well, he said. "Over time they will get better at using the Chromebooks

SEE "Chromebooks" Pg. 8



English teacher Jennifer Everitt helps a student with a project on one of the junior high's new Chromebooks. The web-based

EDITORIALS

Elimination of tutorials

Tutorials were removed from the schedule for the new school year because administrators felt like it wasn't working.

Many people do not think that this is a good idea. Tutorials were a great time for studying. Students who were not assigned to a tutorial because of grades were assigned to go sit in the gym for 20 minutes. This gave them an opportunity to study for upcoming tests and quizzes. With the removal of tutorials, students will not have an extra study period.

Tutorials were also a perfect time for class meetings. Student Council regularly had their meetings during tutorials. Newspaper and yearbook classes took pictures for their publications. Class elections scheduled their meetings in tutorials. Now with the elimination of tutorials, students will have to be taken out of the classroom for the meetings and elections. It will also be more difficult for newspaper and yearbook students to get their pictures and story information without interrupting classes.

Tutorials also motivated students who were failing to improve their grades. Students who were failing a class, had to go sit in the cafeteria and do homework or study. No student wanted to have to sit in the cafeteria for punishment while their friends were hanging out in the gym. Most kids tried to bring their grades up so that they didn't have to be punished anymore.

The administrators say that students didn't take advantage of the time that was given to them. Because of this, they felt like the 20 minutes used for the tutorial period would be better spent being spread throughout the schedule. Some students did not use the tutorial period to their advantage. However, you cannot expect every student to use their free time to study or go ask teachers questions. There were many students that used tutorials for the right reason, though. You can't expect everyone to use their time wisely.

Tutorials were a good way for students to get their grades up and catch up on missed work. Getting rid of it was not a good idea.

Guns, school don't mix

In light of the opening of hunting season, it is timely to address the issue of guns being brought to school in students' vehicles. State law could requires a student found with a firearm on school property, loaded or unloaded, to be sent to disciplinary alternative education program, or D.A.E.P. Students should not have firearms of any kind on the school premises.

While some schools have a zero tolerance policy, AHS and many of the surrounding schools are more lenient on this matter, and the law permits the right of judgement on a school official's part.

Though our school may not practice a zero tolerance policy, there is still no reason a student should ever bring a weapon to school. It's common sense that bringing a gun on school property is putting yourself, other students, faculty, and administration in harm's way, because while you might not have any intention to commit foul play, someone could break into your vehicle and cause harm to others, and the responsibility could partly be put on you.

By law, a person has to be 18 years old to be in possession of rifles and shotguns, and at least 21 years old to have a handgun. So having any kind of firearm is illegal for a vast majority of the students enrolled in school. With that being said, having guns in a vehicle in or out of school could result in legal trouble for the person in possession and the gun owner.

It can be argued that the guns can be used for safety purposes in case of emergency, but that's no excuse. Regardless of whether you believe you could protect people or not, that matter should always be left up to adults who are trained in such matters. If an emergency situation were to emerge and police had to intervene, a student would be putting themselves in more danger by carrying a gun because any police officer seeing an underage kid carrying a firearm during a dangerous situation would see it as a threat.

Firearms should be left at home. There are no exceptions that are legal or smart.



THE

LIONS ROAR

ILPC 2016 Silver Star Winner

ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL

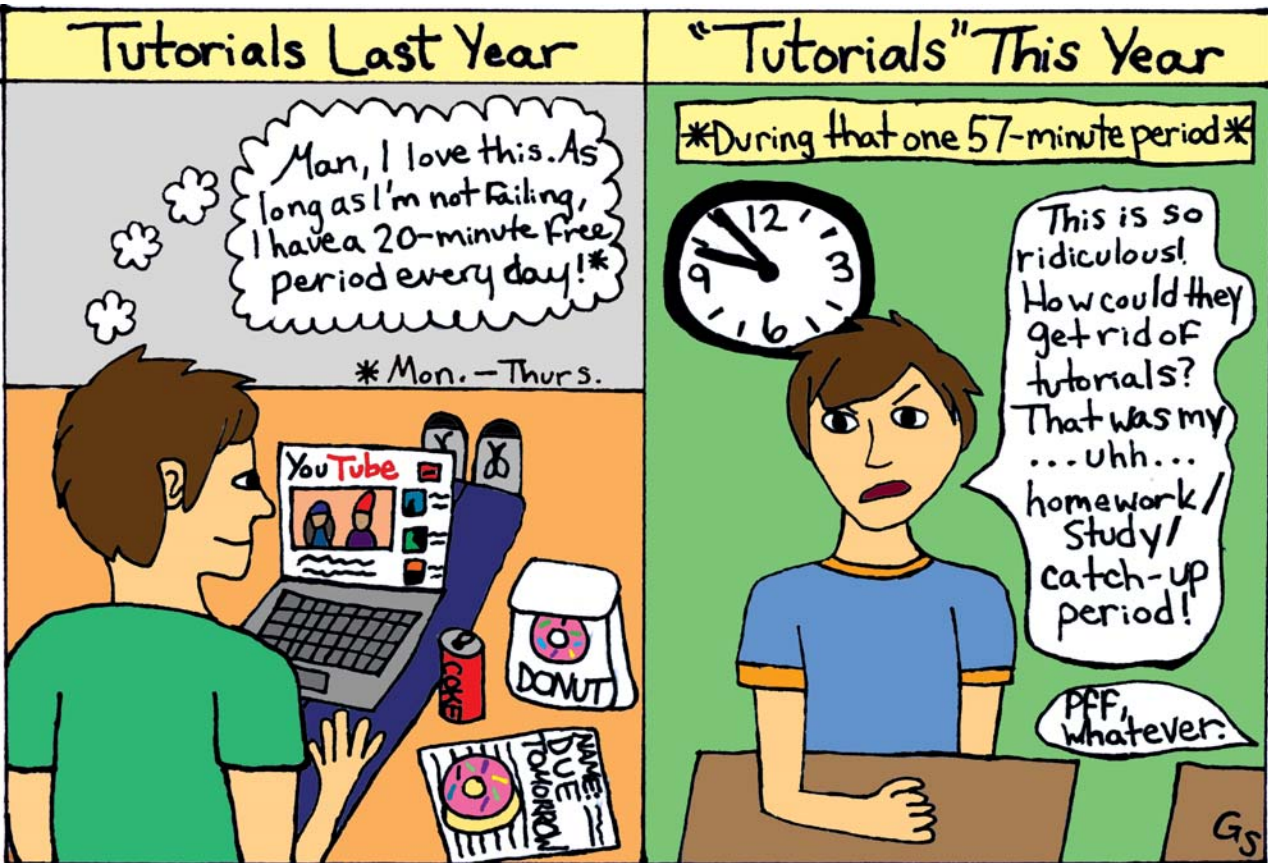
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There is a lot more to life than the little things



Gardner Seeds

In today's society, I feel like teens and young adults are dependent upon affection from other people to feel good about themselves. While I can see myself falling into that category at times, I think it's crucial to realize that isn't all that matters in life.

As my senior year started, I realized that having someone to tell me that I'm pretty, or that I'm valuable, isn't necessary. With that being said, finding out that you have beauty and value is a necessity, but it's something you need to discover on your own. I'm convinced that we would all be lying if we claimed that the thought of "falling in love" or finding "the one" wasn't appealing, but if I were to be completely honest, the odds of ending up with someone I met in freshman English are slim to none, and that's completely okay.

I think that there's still a tiny spark inside of each of us that believes that fairytales are true, and I think that you should hold on to that for as long as you can. Just don't spend the best days of your life wasting time on temporary relationships. I wholeheartedly believe that soul mates exist, and I think that I already know mine, but not in the way that everyone reading this will assume. I think that soul mates are so much more

than that dreamy guy that looks you in the eyes and whispers sweet nothings into your ear. The soul mate I'm referring to isn't romantic at all; it's found in the friend that leaves a key to her door hidden on her front porch so I never have to worry about where I'll go if I have a bad night. It's the girl that I've been close to since kindergarten who welcomed me with open arms even when we lost touch for a couple of years. It's the few people that text me the second I tweet lyrics to sad country songs just to make sure that I'm okay. I have found love in the face of every person that I sit next to in class or rode the bench with during athletic events. I have found that feeling in everyone that has lifted me up and told me to keep going no matter how many times I have fallen; I have found it in my classmates, my family, my friends, my community, and so many other places. You have your whole life to find a husband or a wife, but the connections that you make with people during your teenage years are what will mold you into the person that you are destined to become. In saying that, I encourage you: go out and make relationships, love deeply and widely, and love with every last piece of your heart. Be unapologetic about the way that you chase after your dreams, but don't keep looking so far into the future that you miss the present. You deserve to live a life exploding with passion, risk, wonder, and danger, and you deserve to live it well. Don't let it pass by. Here and now is God's greatest blessing to each of us, and I think it's tragic that all too often we waste it by wishing for someday.

Learning how to cherish every struggle



Rachel's Revelations

Ever since I can remember, I have pictured myself playing sports throughout my high school career. With my mom and dad both being coaches, I always felt that I had to set my goals much higher for them. I developed a love for running, working out, pushing myself to limits and becoming better.

During my freshman year I secured a place on varsity for all my sports. Being in athletics, it is inevitable to avoid injuries along the way. I had several sprained ankles, tweaked shoulder muscles, stress fractures and some minor knee injuries. It seemed that there was always a nagging injury I had to overcome.

This past summer I played in a few league basketball games, and I had a great time. I was excited about the upcoming year of sports, and I had so many goals for volleyball, basketball and track. However, all these aspirations came crashing down with one single rebound. As soon as my knee twisted, I knew something wasn't right. Yes, as much as I hate to admit it, I did shed some tears. It was the worst pain I'd felt. To make a long story short, I had torn my ACL and lateral meniscus, and I had also damaged my patella (knee cap). When my doctor called


with the news, I was pretty devastated. As we scheduled my surgery, I watched my final volleyball season fly out the window, along with basketball, and just the enjoyment of working out.

After my surgery, I couldn't even do a simple leg lift. Being confined to the plastic restraints of my full leg brace was awful. The worst, however, was not being able to play my last year of volleyball. I was really questioning God and His plan for me.

When two-a-days rolled around, I was pretty depressed that I wouldn't be able to participate. My role as a senior leader had changed drastically, and I struggled to find a way to remain part of the team. Fortunately, as the season progressed, so did my capabilities with my knee. I began mastering the leg lift, walking on my own, and after a few weeks, I got rid of that horrible brace. It was difficult to watch my team compete and only be able to cheer for them, and mentally, I was still having a hard time grasping my inability to play. However, my focus shifted. During each rehab, I channeled my efforts for the upcoming track season. I began to overcome my irritation with God and started seeing the bigger picture. He showed me that there is more to life than sports, as hard as that was for me to accept.

I am now 11 weeks post-surgery, and the road is becoming smoother. I've begun to cherish the struggles. In the end you have two choices. You can use the hard times as a stumbling block, or overcome and use them as a building block. These struggles have taught, and are continuing to teach me, life lessons.

Lochte faces harsh consequences for lying



Parker's 'Pinions

For people who don't follow the Olympics, the Ryan Lochte case may be a blur considering there are two sides to it. The 12-time Olympic gold medalist told NBC reporter Billy Bush that he was on his way back from a night club with teammates Gunnar Bentz, Jack Conger, and Jimmy Feigen, when an unmarked car stopped their taxi. Sounds like a reasonable story so far.

Lochte said two men with police badges then got out and told the swimmers to get out of their car. Once out of the car, they were held at gunpoint and told to get on the ground. That is when Lochte refused, so the man cocked the gun and put it on his forehead. The men then took their wallets but left their cellphones and credentials.

Brazilian authorities looked into the incident because they didn't want Rio to look like a reckless city with a lot of crime. The kicker to the story that Lochte told was that it was all caught on camera. The original story turned out to be a lie


to cover up Lochte's immature actions at a gas station with teammates. That's when he does the wrong thing by telling a lie — a whopper.

The actual story is that the swimmers had just left a party and were intoxicated. At the gas station they vandalized a bathroom and a sign outside. Security guards confronted them and one guard waved his gun in the direction of the swimmers but did not do anything.


The effects of Lochte's actions have come back to haunt him. He has now lost four major sponsors including Ralph Lauren, Speedo, Syneron-Candela (a skin care company), and Airweave (a Japanese mattress company). Although he has lost those endorsements, a cough drop company, Pine Brothers, and the Macy's Department Store have stayed with him. This is where the saying, "nothing good comes from lying" comes into play. For a swimmer, most of their income comes from sponsors because swimming isn't an actual job that pays a salary. The overall theme of this case is that you should never lie about something. Instead, tell the truth and face the consequences of your actions and things won't be as bad.

Lochte, who has secured his spot in Olympic history, now has blemished his reputation and will have to work hard to get it back.

Our 2¢ worth




How do you feel about the elimination of tutorials?



Senior

LOGAN LLOYD


I'm okay with tutorials being gone. It seemed like an unnecessary break in the day where kids could leave campus.



Junior

KATARINA CAUDEL


Part of me likes it because we have more class time, but I don't like having less time to get things done before a class starts.



Sophomore

COLTON BOX

Now I don't have time to study during school.



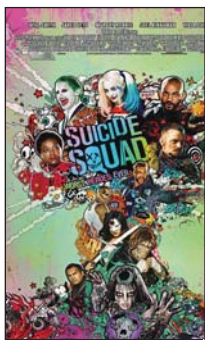
Freshman

BRAYDEN SULLIVAN

I don't like it because now I don't get to go hang out with my friends in the gym.

ROARING
REVIEWS

SUICIDE SQUAD



August 5, 2016 PG-13 130 min
Fantasy/Crime

Figuring they're all expendable, a U.S. intelligence officer decides to assemble a team of dangerous, incarcerated supervillains for a top-secret mission. Now armed with government weapons, Deadshot (Will Smith), Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie), Captain Boomerang, Killer Croc and other despicable inmates must learn to work together. Dubbed Task Force X, the criminals unite to battle a mysterious and powerful entity, while the diabolical Joker (Jared Leto) launches an evil agenda of his own.

Director: David Ayer
Writer: David Ayer
Stars: Margot Robbie, Jared Leto

Staff Review:



NERVE



July 27, 2016 PG-13 96 min
Mystery/Crime

Industrious high school senior Vee Delmonico (Emma Roberts) is tired of living life on the sidelines. Pressured by her friends, Vee decides to join Nerve, a popular online game that challenges players to accept a series of dares. It's not long before the adrenaline-fueled competition requires her to perform increasingly dangerous stunts. When Nerve begins to take a sinister turn, Vee finds herself in a high-stakes finale that will ultimately determine her entire future.

Directors: Ariel Shulman, Henry Joost
Writer: Jessica Sharzer
Stars: Emma Roberts, Dave Franco

Staff Review:



PETE'S DRAGON



August 12, 2016 PG 103 min
Fantasy/Adventure

Mr. Meacham (Robert Redford), a woodcarver, delights local children with stories of a mysterious dragon that lives deep in the woods of the Pacific Northwest. His daughter Grace (Bryce Dallas Howard) believes these are just tall tales, until she meets Pete (Oakes Fegley), a 10-year-old orphan who says he lives in the woods with a giant, friendly dragon. With help from a young girl named Natalie (Oona Laurence), Grace sets out to investigate if this fantastic claim can be true.

Director: David Lowery
Writer: Toby Halbrooks
Stars: Bryce Dallas Howard, Oakes Fegley

Staff Review:



Ping-Pong makes comeback

Revival of classic game becomes popular among local students

BY HENRY KELLY
Entertainment Editor

With a resurgence in popularity among students, Ping-Pong has become one of the go-to games for all those looking for a good pastime or a competitive match.

"I'm not sure why Ping-Pong has become so popular all of a sudden," junior Rylie Scott said. "I think it may have something to do with the Olympics, because all of a sudden, everyone is playing it."

Although table tennis is a sport, some play it to pass the time.

"It's fun to play when I don't have anything to do," Scott said. "But I still like giving people a run for their money."

Scott has been playing Ping-Pong since she was 10 years old.

"When I lived in Poolville, we used to set up a Ping-Pong table in the garage around New Year's," Scott said. "We'd invite people over and have a big round robin."

Like Scott, senior Roman Fuentes began playing at a young age.

"When I was a football manager, the football players brought a Ping-Pong table into the locker room," Fuentes said. "When they would go to practice, we (the managers) would play the whole time."

Fuentes has his own opinion about how table tennis became popular again.

"We just started going up to the Presbyterian Church after two-a-days," Fuentes said. "We would have tournaments that lasted a couple hours."

Fuentes believes Presbyterian youth minister John Turner is the best Ping-Pong player in Albany.

Junior Brian Hamilton thinks otherwise.

"I'm the best there is in Albany, plain and simple," Hamilton said. "I have doubters, but I know my ability."

Hamilton grew up playing with his brother and father.

"My brother is my rival because he knows my weaknesses," Hamilton said. "I've gotten better playing against him, but over the years a lot of fists have been thrown and tears shed."

Hamilton believes table tennis requires a lot to be good.

"It requires extreme focus all the time," Hamilton said. "It involves the most hand-eye coordination of all the sports."

This all pays off after the game for Hamilton.

"When I win, I get to claim my dominance over the loser," Hamilton said. "And no one in the whole school can beat me, so it feels good to be the best."

Unlike Hamilton, junior Kyle



Junior Brian Hamilton (left) serves the ball during an intense Ping-Pong match. His rival is youth minister John Turner (bottom). Both are highly competitive and have helped revive the popularity of the game among local youth.

PHOTOS BY HENRY KELLY



Manning finds Ping-Pong easy to play.

"It's popular because you don't need much skill to play," Manning said. "Everyone can pick up a paddle and have fun."

Manning is another who believes John Turner is the best in Albany.

"I have a rivalry with John Turner," Manning said. "I hope to beat him someday, but until then, I'll just have to keep practicing."

Like Manning, Scott's goal is to beat her rival someday.

"I am determined to beat Brian Hamilton," Scott said. "He is so good and I really hope to defeat him in the future."

When it comes to who is the best in Albany, Scott is undecided.

"I'm sort of in between Brian Hamilton and John Turner," Scott said. "I know they are both really good. I have also heard Roman Fuentes and Jordan Pleasant are good."

Seventh grader Cooper Fairchild is certain Hamilton is the best player

in Albany.

Fairchild has been playing since an early age.

"When I was younger, we sold our old couch and decided to buy a Ping-Pong table," Fairchild said. "Since then, I have been playing against my dad a lot and have gradually gotten better and better."

This is how Fairchild built a rivalry with his dad.

"We would always play each other and eventually I started to beat him," Fairchild said. "Every time I beat him, we would have a rematch."

Fairchild has found his style.

"When I play, I like moving around a lot," Fairchild said. "That way, when I'm focused, I can get to anywhere the ball is hit."

Hamilton enjoys using his own strategies, too.

"I like slicing the ball when they expect me to slam it," Hamilton said. "Then, by the time they get to the ball, they hit it into the net."

Junior Adam Faith finds the

sweetness of victory depends on the reaction of the loser.

"I really like winning because I get to see the other person rage," Faith said. "When you're in tournaments, that's when it gets the most fun because people get really mad when they lose."

Fuentes sometimes is the person on the losing side.

"Sometimes when I really want to win a game and I don't, I get pretty mad," Fuentes said. "Once or twice I have thrown my paddle after losing."

Although it can be frustrating, Faith plans to play table tennis for the rest of his life.

"I don't plan to ever stop playing Ping-Pong," Faith said. "Someday I hope to become as good as Coach Fairchild."

For Faith, Ping-Pong is his go-to game to play.

"You don't ever get very tired, so you can play all day," Faith said. "It's just that game that you can play all the time and it never gets old."

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

BY HENRY KELLY

Sully

Sully brings both an entertaining movie and an informative story to the screen. Because the movie is based on a true story, *Sully* had to tell the full story while keeping the viewer locked in, and I believe it did a great job of doing both. Although you would expect a story like this to be made into a documentary, *Sully* was done well enough as a movie to make it more than a bio-pic.

The movie is based on the true events following a pilot who is being interviewed to determine if, after landing on the Hudson River and saving all the passengers, he could have made it to a runway. Tom Hanks portrays Chelsey "Sully" Sullenberger, doing a very good job of depicting what was going on inside the head of the pilot as these events were taking place. Alongside him is Aaron Eckhart playing his co-pilot, creating a perfect duo for the movie. Unlike Tom Hanks, Aaron Eckhart's character required him

to show his emotion through his dialogue, while Tom Hanks had to show his emotion in more confined ways. As you watched Chelsey Sullenberger throughout the movie, you could tell, thanks to the good acting by Tom Hanks, that although he tried to remain professional, the whole fiasco was very frustrating for him.

The only criticism I really have is that there are too many memories. It's difficult at times to tell what was really going on or what was a flashback, but after the movie was over, I realized that this may have actually helped the movie. The way it did this was because as the movie continued, with the different memories shown throughout it, the story and background began to unfold before your eyes, and you got to know for yourself what it was like on the plane from the various points of view. The background wasn't the only thing that unfolded though. You also get to see "Sully" unfold before you and learn more about him. It can be hard to make a very exciting movie out of real-life

happenings, but *Sully* was done very well and should definitely be seen if you are at all interested in the story or aviation.

Jason Bourne

If you have ever seen a Bourne movie, you know they are always top-of-the-line action movies, and if you are an action movie fan, you would not be let down by *Jason Bourne*.

The movie finally brought back that feel of an intense cat and mouse movie that the series is famous for. It's been 14 years since Matt Damon first portrayed this character and I can honestly say, there is no one better for the job. Although 1 of the 5 movies in the franchise followed another character in the movie, Aaron Cross (Jeremy Renner), Matt Damon is the better actor for a role like this.

In this movie, Bourne finds himself back in the middle of the action after he had been in hiding for a short while. The film

contained one of the longest chase scenes I have ever seen, and at one point I was asking myself if it would ever end. Although it lasted a while, it did not lack the Bourne series specialty – intensity. Reportedly they destroyed 170 cars to film the scene.

Bourne's cleverness always seems to lock in the audience as everyone waits to see what he will do next. Although Bourne never opens up for the audience, he still finds a way to attract the viewers just like a good protagonist should. Just as Bourne attracts the audience, the antagonist group does a good job of pushing the audience from the beginning, as well as creating for themselves a stance in the movie that continues to make the audience dislike them more as the plot continues.

While this movie may seem a little repetitive, if you have seen all the previous films in the series, it is still a classic thriller that made the franchise so attractive to action fans. If you enjoy the previous Bourne movies, this one will make you feel right at home.

Distracted driving becomes routine

Drivers tell stories of mishaps, give advice

BY CAITLYN PATTERSON
Staff Writer

One of the leading causes of teen accidents today is distracted driving, and Albany youth are certainly not immune to the trend.

According to the website *distraction.gov*, a total of 3,179 people were killed and 431,000 were injured in accidents resulting from some form of distracted driving during 2014 alone.

Most drivers both young and old may not understand the risk that they are taking when they drive while being distracted by some other activity.

McKenna Thompson, a junior, says she sees distracted drivers almost daily when she travels to Breckenridge and Abilene.

"Kids our age think that they're invincible and that it's a right not a privilege to be driving," she said. "They just kind of take it for granted and risk other people's safety."

Lety Cecilio, a junior, worries that being distracted while driving does not only affect her personal life, but also the lives of others around her.

"I get mad at people when they're sidetracked because they could possibly end up hurting me or someone else," Cecilio said. "But I forget to think about that myself when I'm driving and get distracted."

Science teacher Andre Raymond says adults are just as

guilty as adolescents when it comes to driving while juggling other activities.

"It's not just students," Raymond said. "I can't tell you how many times, when I'm leaving school or driving around, I've seen parents driving with their kids in the backseat through the school zone while illegally talking on their cell phones."

Raymond thinks students often mimic the behavior of their parents or other adults.

"When students see their parents talking on their phones while driving, they may start to think that it's okay for them to do it," he said. "If students never face the consequences of distracted driving, then they're not going to realize how dangerous it is until something tragic happens."

The teacher said that many drivers have a false sense of security.

"Even adults don't always pay attention to the potential consequences," Raymond said. "If nothing bad ever happens, then they think it never will."

When students receive a text and decide to answer it, chances are they are not thinking about the possible dangers involved.

Most students choose to text back because the temptation to respond is too strong for them.

Cecilio admits she nearly had an accident this summer when she decided to check a text message while driving.

"I tried holding the phone in my right hand so I could shift my gaze between my phone and the road," she said. "I guess I glanced at my phone for too long, because I ended up going off the road and into a ditch."

Texting is not the only cause of distracted driving. Eating, adjusting the radio, changing clothes, falling asleep, putting on makeup, and interacting with passengers can also take



Junior Lety Cecilio checks Twitter on her phone, demonstrating what students should not do while driving. Many students do not understand the dangers of multi-tasking while driving. PHOTO BY CAITLYN PATTERSON

the focus off of driving.

Thompson says that she is most distracted when driving long distances.

"I have this thing about driving for an extended period of time," Thompson said. "I get distracted easily because it's so boring and I get tired."

Kyle Manning, a junior, was involved in an accident in August when he fell asleep at the wheel.

"I was driving home from Baird when I started to get tired," Manning said. "I pulled over and took a nap, but then my dad called and told me to come home."

Manning shook his friend

in the passenger seat to wake him up and ensure that he was wearing his seatbelt.

"If you want to live, put your seatbelt on," Manning said. "It's not worth risking your life."

Raymond emphasizes that any and all forms of distracted driving are dangerous and should be avoided.

"Anything that is not allowing you to give your full attention to the road is distracted driving," Raymond said.

It is important for the drivers to stay focused on the road and not be distracted by the things that surround them, according to Cecilio.

"Our lives are fragile," Cecilio said. "We shouldn't distract ourselves with anything while we're driving."

Raymond makes an effort to avoid any distractions while he is driving.

"I don't put myself in the situation where I'm going to be distracted," he said. "I try to make sure to eliminate potential distraction."

Getting rid of possible distractions while driving can be difficult for some drivers.

"It's all related to discipline," Raymond said. "Don't suffer from big consequences because you didn't want to deal with the small ones first."

Vacations, mission trips fill students' summers

Participants make lifetime of memories

BY CUTTER COWART
Staff Writer

With students just now over a month into the new school year, it's becoming harder to reflect back on what were recently cherished most—summer vacations.

This summer, students went on a variety of trips, ranging from mission trips in the Metroplex, to seeing family in California, and if you are Brennan Abbate, it consisted of going to the Land of Enchantment for a church camp - Glorieta, New Mexico.

"I went with the Matthews Memorial Presbyterian Church for camp for a week at Glorieta, New Mexico," Abbate, a junior, said. "Out of all the things we did there, my favorite parts of the trip were listening to the speaker's sermons and white-water rafting."

"The drive up to Glorieta took around seven and a half hours," Abbate said. "We stopped over at a church in Amarillo to stay the night. I really enjoyed watching everyone grow closer to God every single day."

The campers also played games and had group activities while there.

"One of the most memorable moments for me was winning a competition out of all the groups at the camp," he said.

Freshman Aubrey Moon went to Nationals with her softball team "Texas Glory."

"The tournament was held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota," Moon said.

Moon's team played against a whopping 64 teams in the five-day tournament.

Moon stayed in Sioux Falls for about a week.

"My favorite part of the trip was free time; that's when I got to learn new things about my teammates that I didn't know," Moon said. "We also went shopping downtown and tried new foods."

Moon also visited "The Falls," a well-known waterfall on a river



One of two large groups from Albany that attended church camp at Glorieta, New Mexico stops long enough for a photo opportunity near the entrance. Albany students attended camps, traveled to other countries and urban areas for missions and went on family trips during the summer. PHOTO PROVIDED

that runs through downtown Sioux Falls.

"My teammates and I ate at a little café that overlooks the water," Moon said. "While climbing up to the café, one of my teammates slipped and almost fell into the water, but luckily we all caught her and dragged her out."

For some high school students, their lives were changed forever because of a mission trip in Garland, Texas.

"We went to two apartment complexes and hosted a Vacation Bible School that lasted five days," senior Jordan Pleasant said. "One day we did a carnival for the kids during Vacation Bible School."

He went with Beltway Park Church, along with other students from Albany.

"The purpose of this mission trip was to go into lower income places where people don't know God or have never even heard of him and show them His everlasting

love," Pleasant said.

Some of the older kids who attended the Vacation Bible School ended up giving their lives to Christ.

"My best memory was meeting a fourth-grade girl named Priscilla," Pleasant said. "We were able to get to know each other by the end of the week. She and I became close to each other, and God really spoke to me through her."

The group was gone for five days.

Sophomore Ryan Sanders took a trip through nine different states over the summer.

"I went through Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi," Sanders said. "I was gone for two weeks, and the drive was horrible when it came to getting from place to place," Sanders said.

His father, James Sanders, was in the Navy for almost 10 years.

"We traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana to see one of his friends that he made while in the Navy," Sanders said. "While we were there, we visited the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base along with his friend."

After Sanders left the Naval base, his father's friend took them to the National World War II Museum.

"My favorite part of the museum was the aerial section," Sanders said. "My favorite aircraft was the P-40 that was used by an Air Force group—the Flying Tigers."

Sanders visited Bourbon Street, and while there he went into multiple stores and restaurants.

"While shopping for souvenirs, we witnessed a man taste hot sauce with a Scoville rank of 337,000," Sanders said. "After watching him trying to cope with the hot sauce, I ended up buying it to prank my friends."

Sanders stayed in New Or-

leans for around three days.

"I went on a swamp tour that lasted about an hour," Sanders said. "We saw alligators that were around seven or eight feet long. Eventually I was able to hold a baby alligator that was around six months old."

Sanders then went on to Virginia to witness some sights that he has never seen before.

"We went to Williamsburg and saw where the Battle of Yorktown took place," he said.

Sanders would continue to stay in Virginia for around a week.

"After Yorktown I headed to Virginia Beach to look at a Navy station and to go to the beach," Sanders said.

Sanders spent almost an entire day at the beach and the Navy station.

"While in Washington we went to the National Museum of the Marine Corps, The National Air and Space Museum, and The National Museum of Natural History," Sanders said. "Out of all of these, though, my favorite was the Air and Space Museum because I got to see the Wright Brothers' airplane—the 'Wright Flyer I.'"

Sanders was able to visit several of the national war monuments, including the WW II Memorial and Vietnam War Memorial, as well as the Lincoln Memorial.

"After seeing all of the memorials, we headed to the Navy Yard and went on a base to see another Navy museum as well as look at the retired Navy ships," Sanders said.

Sanders says he would like to follow in his father's footsteps and join the Navy.

"We headed over to Arlington National Cemetery where we saw John F. Kennedy's grave and Robert E. Lee's house," Sanders said. "We then walked up to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and got to watch the changing of the guard."

He said the vacation experience was very positive.

"I would go back on that trip again if I had the chance," Sanders said. "I learned about many different branches of the military and got to have a bonding experience with my mom and dad."

Teenaged mother tells her tale

Junior journeys from extreme stress to maternal bliss

BY GENEVIEVE STUNKARD
Features Editor

She had missed her period, she threw up everything she ate, and mornings just didn't feel right.

After experiencing a month's worth of symptoms, freshman Sarah Benoit found herself sitting on a toilet seat, anxiously awaiting the results of an 89-cent pregnancy test she had bought at Dollar General with some pocket change on a Sunday morning in November while the rest of the house was asleep.

She breathed a sigh of relief: two lines. Negative. With brief reassurance, she showered, leaving the test kit on the counter. However, a gut feeling told her that something still just wasn't right.

Dripping wet and wearing nothing but a towel, she re-read the kit instructions and double-checked the result.

Two lines. Positive.

Before her heart had time to skip a beat, someone was pounding at the bathroom door. Her mother was awake, in a hurry to use the only bathroom in the house.

Benoit scurried to hide everything under some towels.

"And then whenever she came in, I asked her, 'Mom, what would you do if I took a pregnancy test and it was positive?'"

"And she said, 'I would kill you,' half-jokingly."

"And I told her, 'Better go ahead and load the gun, then.'"

Thirty-three weeks later, on June 15, 2015, Benoit, who is now a junior, gave birth to her daughter, lovingly named Makenzye Danielle Horneck, alongside her then-boyfriend Jacob Horneck, at the age of 15.

"But I don't regret having her at all," she said. "I have a lot of support from her dad, his family, and mine, and I'm really grateful for that."

Benoit said her mother, Joni Perkins, was incredibly upset when she first showed her the positive pregnancy test.

"In the beginning, it was like the end of the world," Perkins said. "I had to go to Breckenridge that day, so after Sarah showed me the pregnancy test, I told her that we'd talk about it later and left her at home. But in the car, I cried and cried to my husband, who was driving. I was in complete shock, blaming myself. It felt like it couldn't be reality."

Perkins said her head was swirling with thoughts at the time that she was a bad mother and that her daughter's life was over.

"I was in disbelief," she said. "I thought Sarah wasn't going to be able to graduate high school or have anything close to a normal life. I told her not to tell anybody because I was so afraid of how people would look at us. I thought they'd see me as a bad mom because she was 14 and pregnant."

Benoit and her mother made a doctor's appointment for the next day to confirm the results of the at-home pregnancy test.

"They did a blood test, and, sure enough, she was about a month pregnant," Perkins said. "But after going to the doctor, she had to be rushed to a hospital because she was experiencing severe pain in her lower abdomen, and they thought that could mean she was having an ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy in which the fertilized egg implants outside the uterus)."

Because Benoit was only five feet tall and 82 pounds at the time, an ectopic pregnancy, if left untreated, could have easily put her life at risk.

"Luckily, she was just cramping," Perkins said. "Her pregnancy didn't really get any easier from there, though."

Perkins described her daughter's pregnancy as being like a roller coaster in that neither of them knew who to tell or what to do.

"I gave her three choices: she could either have the baby, be a mom, and raise her daughter as her own; she could have the baby and put it up for adoption; or she could have the baby and Makenzye would be raised as Sarah's sister rather than as her daughter. At first, I had thoughts of maybe packing up and leaving to go somewhere while Sarah was pregnant and letting her have the baby away from everything, kind of like they did in the olden days."

But, Perkins said, Sarah decided to take the issue head-on rather than "run away" from it.

"Abortion was never an option to me, either, because I believed that because I had made the choice of having unprotected sex in the first place, I just had to live with it," Benoit said.

When she told Horneck, Makenzye's father, that she was carrying his child, he originally didn't believe her.

"I called him right after I first showed him my mom the at-home test and told him that we needed to resolve any differences we were having and make up, because we were going to have a baby," Benoit said. "He didn't believe me until he saw the at-home test himself. He just stared at it and I saw a tear come out of his eye, and he told me he loved me."

After that, Benoit and Horneck sat down and had a long discussion.

"We talked about how we really needed



Sarah Benoit (top), now a junior, embraces her daughter Makenzye, who was born when Benoit was 15 years old. Although she originally thought her life was over when she first found out she was pregnant, Benoit has since adapted to being a mother. She (bottom) now works at the local grocery store to provide for her daughter. PHOTOS BY MALARIE SUTTON AND GENEVIEVE STUNKARD

to get rid of all the negativity in our relationship and try to focus on doing well in school so that we could get good jobs and support Makenzye together," Benoit said. "We'd just have to do whatever we had to do. We cried a lot together because we were so scared."

Major adjustments had to be made in light of Benoit's pregnancy, Perkins said.

"We had to meet privately with the school principal and all of her coaches to let them know that she wouldn't be able to play sports because of the pregnancy, and we couldn't explain to anyone else why she was suddenly quitting athletics because everything was still a secret at the time," Perkins said.

Benoit continued to go to school as normal until news that she was expecting began to spread a few months after she conceived.

"When more people found out, that was when the bullying started," Perkins said. "People were calling her things, using words you wouldn't be able to put in a high school newspaper. In addition to that, she was sick all the time, and eventually the stress from everything resulted in her passing out during a class due to stress."

Following that incident, Benoit received permission from a doctor to be homebound for the remainder of her pregnancy.

"To finish my freshman year, I would go to the library for two hours after school every day," Benoit said.

Tensions heightened when Benoit's father (Perkin's former spouse) discovered that his daughter was pregnant through Facebook.

"He totally freaked out and told us that he was coming down with the law and an army," Perkins said. "Sarah was receiving text messages from him saying that her life was over and that he was going to beat up whoever the boy was. I told him to go home and calm down, and that if he wanted a fight, I had a bigger army than he did to back me up. I'd do anything to protect my child."

Perkins added that she was proud to have stood by her daughter throughout her entire pregnancy.

"I was there for everything," she said. "We took birthing classes together to learn what she would experience during her pregnancy and when she gave birth, as well as Lamaze maternity classes. With her size and age, there was a higher chance that she'd have complications, and it was nice that we were able to learn how to prepare for what might

happen."

However, during Benoit's 37-week check-up, a complication arose that no expectant mother would ever want to imagine.

"They couldn't find a heartbeat on the baby and Sarah's blood pressure was dropping," Perkins said. "She was immediately rushed to the hospital for an emergency C-section."

Sarah's mother, overwrought and shaking with fear, paced the floors, trying to get ahold of Horneck for the birth of his daughter.

"I was also trying to get my husband there, but at the time we only had one car and I had it," she said. "The doctor only gave us 30 minutes to get everybody there before they had to start the procedure. During that time, the nurses were able to get the baby's heartbeat back up, but then they told me that Sarah's placenta was going to rupture if they didn't operate soon. If her placenta were to rupture, it could have easily killed Sarah and her baby."

Luckily, Horneck was able to get a ride to the hospital and arrived just 10 minutes before Benoit had to be taken to the operating room.

"We had originally planned for a natural birth, where Jacob, my husband, and I would be there in the room with Sarah, but during a C-section, only one visitor can be back with the mother during the birth," Perkins said. "I wanted that person to be Jacob, because I didn't want to deny him of being there for the birth of his child."

In the operating room, Benoit sat in a hospital bed leaned over as she was given a numbing shot and then a spinal block – a procedure in which a large needle is inserted into the lower back, guided through the membrane surrounding the spinal cord, and then a powerful anesthetic is injected into the lower body while allowing the subject to remain alert.

"Then, they laid me down and put a blue curtain right below my chin, and all I could see was Jacob on the right side of me and a nurse on the left," Benoit said. "The doctor and all of the assistants were talking. I would ask what was happening behind the curtain and they'd say things like 'we're three layers into your tummy' and 'we're inside' and 'we can see her head.'"

Meanwhile, Benoit's mother was outside smoking, a cigarette trembling between her

fingers, incredibly scared for her daughter's life.

"It kept running through my mind that she and the baby might not survive," Perkins said. "It was terrifying."

In the operating room, Benoit recalls repeatedly looking at the clock, anxious to hear a cry or any sign that her daughter was alive.

"Then, at 4:48 PM, 21 minutes into the procedure, I heard the loudest cry ever, and they lifted her up, and she was all purple and the umbilical cord was still attached," she said. "Jacob cried and then I did, too, just out of shock and happiness that she was alive. She was five pounds, one ounce, and 18 and a half inches long."

Makenzye was then moved to a warmer because she was premature.

"I didn't get to spend time with Makenzye until an hour after she was born because the nurses were busy trying to stabilize her," Benoit said. "She was having trouble breathing on her own."

Hospital officials informed Perkins that her daughter was indeed alive, and asked her if she'd like to see the baby.

"And of course I ran to see Makenzye, and then Sarah wanted to see me, and I didn't know where I was supposed to be," Perkins said. "I was in a frenzy, so excited to see them. Kenzye was in the clean-up area at the time because she still wasn't breathing and Sarah was in recovery."

Benoit said that, though her birthing situation put her in a critical state, giving birth naturally at her size and age could have come with its own dangers.

"If I had had her naturally being the way that I am, I could have broken a lot of bones down there and had a high chance of hemorrhaging," Benoit said. "She cracked three ribs of mine throughout my pregnancy because she kicked and moved around so much."

Now, Makenzye is a happy, healthy, 15-month old little girl, whose mother will be graduating high school this year.

"My sophomore year was really hard, because I had to juggle going to school early every morning and having to take care of my daughter all night," Benoit said. "It's hard being without her almost every day. I think it's better that I graduate a year early so that I can get into college sooner and spend more time with Makenzye until she starts preschool."

In order to graduate school early, Benoit does extra schoolwork online and must take more standardized tests at the end of the year than her junior classmates.

"But everything will work out," she said. "I just have to work really hard, and I can do that. It can just be a lot to keep up with sometimes."

When Benoit is at school or working at the local grocery store in order to provide Makenzye with clothes and toys, her mother is babysitting.

"I quit my full-time job to be a stay-at-home grandma so that Sarah would be able to go to school," Perkins said.

Benoit said that, though she wishes she could have gotten to experience high school and college years the same way that other teenaged girls do, she wouldn't change her life for the world.

"After I graduate high school, I plan on going to study at Texas Tech University to become a neonatal nurse because I absolutely love kids and babies," Benoit said. "Throughout being rushed to the hospital for my C-section and then during the surgery, I had a nurse named Ashley beside me the entire time. She was so helpful and made me feel a lot better, and I want to be able to help people in the same way."

Benoit wants the best life she can possibly provide for her daughter.

"I really want her to go to a private school and raise her in a church environment," Benoit said. "She's my baby, and I think if anything ever happened to her at some public school in a big city, I'd kill somebody."

As for now, Makenzye and her mother enjoy doing a multitude of activities together.

"We watch TV and cuddle, we play patty-cake together, and we watch educational movies that teach her things like ABC's and 123's," Benoit said. "Sometimes, when the weather's nice, I take her to the park and let her play. She's silly, she loves to dance and talk, and she loves animals and food. She just loves everything. She's so sweet."

Though Horneck and Benoit are no longer romantic partners, Benoit said that the two remain good friends and that Horneck is a great father to Makenzye.

"Jacob and I just weren't meant to be," she said. "We tried to work things out the best that we could for Makenzye, and we'll always love each other as her parents and stay in each other's lives because of her. We just thought it'd be best if Makenzye didn't grow up around unhappy parents that were always arguing. I don't know much about Jacob's life anymore, but I know that he loves to spend time with our daughter whenever he has the chance."

In the end, both Benoit and her mother are satisfied with the direction their lives have taken.

"At first everything was so hard and stressful, but now Sarah being a mom is like the best thing in the world," Perkins said. "It ended up being a blessing to us, because Makenzye is such an awesome little girl. I can't imagine my life without her. No matter what life brings you, the outcome is always better than you imagine it will be."

Athletes overcome small numbers

Sports participation decreases from last year

BY RYLIE SCOTT
Assistant Editor

As the old saying goes, "It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog." Participation in extracurricular activities such as sports has decreased, but that isn't expected to affect Albany athletics.

According to athletic director/high school principal Kevin Hill, our high school enrollment numbers have increased the last two years.

"This year we have 162 students enrolled," Hill said. "Two years ago we had 147 students and just this last October we had around 155. That may not sound like many students, but for a school this size, it's pretty significant."

With the enrollment on the increase, the participation in some extracurricular activities has actually decreased.

"I think kids just have different interests and jobs to work in order to earn money for their families," Hill said. "Many athletes are involved in club sports as well."

The decline in numbers has affected the football team this year.

"I don't think the lack of size will have an effect

on our success this season," head football coach Denney Faith said. "All of the boys play hard, so it doesn't matter if there's a bunch of players or only a few. They're all Albany Lions."

In total, 36 athletes went out for football this season, compared to 45 or more in the past for both varsity and JV.

"We're down a few numbers from what we have been in the past," Faith said. "I don't know that we've had a team this small in a while. It just depends on the class sizes and how big they are."

This isn't Faith's first go-around with lower numbers.

"Around 2005 or 2006 we only had four seniors, so we played with 17 on varsity that year," Faith said.

Faith attributes some of the decline in numbers this season to the number of seniors that graduated in May.

"If there are two small classes back to back, like a junior and senior class, then you can have some small numbers," Faith said.

Senior Roman Fuentes doubts that the lack of teammates will affect their success this season.

"I don't think it'll have an effect because we make up the slack with speed," Fuentes said. "Our line-men do a good job of using their quickness to overwhelm the opponents. I think the small numbers actually benefit us."

Fuentes also has an



Senior Jordan Pleasant and a couple of fellow injured teammates walk off the field after a short time-out called by the Lions against the Roscoe Plowboys on Sept. 9. The Lions beat the Plowboys 48-7 and will play Cisco tonight at Robert Nail Stadium starting at 7:30 p.m.

PHOTO BY
RACHEL HILL

idea about why the participation in sports has dwindled.

"I think the numbers are smaller because more people are getting the 'I don't care' mentality about everything," Fuentes said. "I think they are influenced by the people around them."

On the other hand, the number of athletes participating in volleyball has stayed the same.

"Our total number this year is 22, which is really the same as any other year," head volleyball coach Kimberly Hill said. "Our numbers have usually been in the low to

mid-20s for the past three years. Since the 22 came out, we have only had two quit."

Sometimes the pressures of school cause students to drop extracurricular activities in order to stay afloat. Such was the case for sophomore Madison Wilkins, who decided not to try out for volleyball this season.

"It was really hard to balance school, volleyball, stock show, and extra events that I want to attend," Wilkins said. "Grades are my top priority, and I knew I had to find extra time somewhere for studying and

homework. Not playing has been easier on me this year, and I have had evenings off for things I've wanted to do."

Senior Matthew Mitchell also made the decision not to play football.

"The main reason I didn't play this year is that I've just never been a big football fan," Mitchell said. "It's really just been something I've done to get in shape. Now that I've gotten to choose my sports, I just didn't want to play."

Family is also a big factor for Mitchell.

"I do miss playing with my friends, but I had to

get two jobs, have school during the week, and a kid on the way," Mitchell said. "These things come first, and besides, it's just a game."

Senior Tristan Cauble, who suffered a knee injury that required surgery last year, planned to not go out for football, but changed his mind after the season started.

"I felt like my knee wasn't prepared for football, and I wanted to focus on golf," Cauble said. "Knowing it was my senior year, I decided to play football because I know it will probably be the last time I ever play."

Johnston keeps busy with new jobs

Ex-coach presented with ministry opportunities

BY KADE EVERITT
Staff Writer

Paul Johnston, who retired in May, is staying busy with a couple of new interests, but that doesn't mean that he isn't missing certain aspects of coaching – especially working with kids.

"I miss coaching my girls' basketball, cross country, discus and shot-put," Johnston said. "I miss sitting outside my room in the morning and telling the kids 'hi'. I miss those things a lot."

Although Johnston misses his daily interaction with students, he now enjoys being involved in ministry and serving as a representative for the eastern territory of the Big County Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"I started getting involved in ministry at my church a couple of years ago, and God has just been leading me in that path ever since," Johnston said.

Many duties come with being a minister.

"I help with Sunday School, preach, visit people in the hospital, and I am part of a jail ministry," he said.

His involvement in the jail ministry has opened his eyes and helped him grow stronger in his faith.

"I went along with two other preachers to visit a jail ministry and

was allowed to baptize seven people," he said. "I enjoyed talking to the people and spreading the Word to them."

Johnston has never baptized anyone before.

"It was the most awesome feeling I've ever had," he said. "It was my first time to ever baptize someone."

Johnston has not always been the full-time minister at Friendship Baptist in Albany.

"Over the last 15 years, I preached every once in a while," Johnston said. "Within the past year, I have preached every other week while our church was without a permanent pastor. Then they asked me to preach full time."

Along with being the minister at Friendship Baptist, Johnston is also an FCA representative.

His job with the FCA consists of visiting coaches and students in his area to minister to any needs they have. He said it is important to minister to sponsors so that they in return can minister to the students and teach them about Christ.

"I travel to eight different counties around the Big Country and talk to 32 schools," he said. "I really enjoy visiting with the coaches and talking to the students. When I go to these schools, I share Christ."

On top of traveling and talking to schools, Johnston helps organize events involving the FCA.

"This year I'm in charge of organizing Fields of Faith in Graham," he said. "I also did summer leadership

sports camps."

When Johnston is not traveling, he is stuck in an office.

"I dislike having to sit in an office and getting on a computer," he said.

Johnston has strong opinions about computers.

"I don't like computers and I don't like technology," he said. "The second you start to depend on them, they quit on you."

Although it is one of his many plans, Johnston has not been able to spend more time with his own kids and grandkids.

"Maybe when my wife retires, we will be able to," Johnston said. "So far I haven't gotten to spend more time with the grandchildren."

Danita, his wife, plans to teach at least two more years before she retires.

The Johnstons have three adult children who are no longer living at home.

"Bobbie is a licensed chiropractor and certified teacher in Dallas, Zane is a coach at the University of Mary-Hardin Baylor," Johnston said. "Leif recently obtained a coaching job at Central Texas Christian School."

Johnston and his wife also have six grandchildren.

"Bobbie has four kids; Jude, Lola, Lucy, and Nora," Danita Johnston said. "Zane, their oldest son, has two kids; Sloan and Max."

Coach Johnston said that Jenny Scott, who moved to the high school campus this year to teach FCCLA and theater arts classes, is going to be the district's new FCA Hudson leader.



Former Lady Lions basketball coach Paul Johnston (top) talks with kids about the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) during the opening meeting held Sept. 14. Johnston preaches (bottom) to the members of Friendship Baptist on Sunday mornings, where he now serves as pastor.

PHOTO BY
KADE EVERITT

Volleyball tips off district play

Lady Lions battle with young team

BY PARKER MOON
Sports Editor

The Lady Lions kicked off district play, two weeks ago, battling through with a set of young players.

"I think we are going to be in the same position as we were last year," coach Kim Hill said, "and that was battling Hawley."

The Lady Lions were runner-up to Hawley last year and went 10-2 in district. Albany went on to lose to Petrolia for the second year in a row in the first round.

"Hawley will be good again this year," Hill said. "They have a lot of height, stronger hitters, and can block well."

Hill also said that sometimes the teams you think are weaker can be the hardest teams to beat from a mental aspect.

"For the rest of this year's district, I see us getting better with each game," Hill said. "I think you will see an improvement when you compare our first district round against the second round."

With five returners from last year's varsity team, there are also six newcomers, four of them being freshmen.

"To be honest, our freshmen have really been doing a good job to step up, fill gaps and become leaders," Hill said.

The goal for this year as a team was to find unity.

"Our goal was not only unity but also chemistry," Hill said. "We struggle with being very young, so finding our chemistry won't come overnight."

At the beginning of the season, the team played several teams that were a couple of divisions higher than them.

"We struggled at the beginning of the season," Hill said. "We had ups and downs because we were still trying to figure out who would be on varsity. Our overall consistency was our struggle because when we see the same opponent, we may win one time but lose the next."

Struggles at the beginning of the season can translate into areas of improvement.

"We need to work on the little things and do them right," Hill said. "Things such as our fundamentals, passing, serving, and communication. When you can do better at the little things, then that

translates into the bigger things."

Senior Rachel Hill was injured in a summer basketball game on June 23 and tore her ACL.

"Rachel is trying to step up from a motivational aspect since she can't play," Hill said.

An ACL typically will take about six months to heal with extensive therapy.

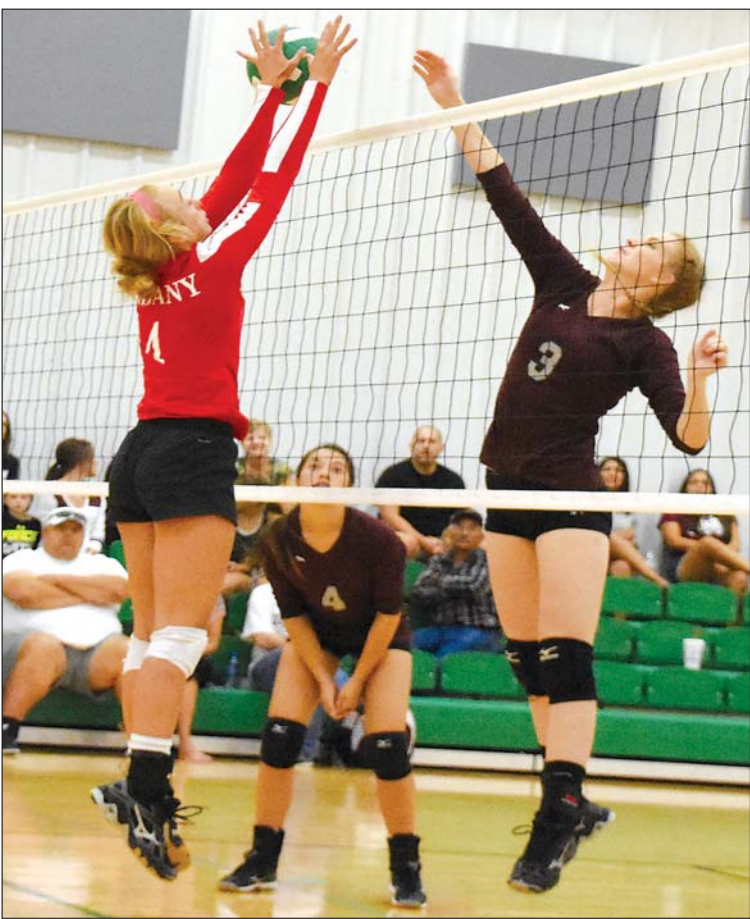
"It's really hard mentally to not be able to play," Rachel said. "I love volleyball, and I miss being part of the team on the court, but I'm thankful to at least wear the same jersey."

After Rachel tore her ACL, she had surgery shortly after on July 14 to try and make it back in time for spring sports.

"I try to keep the energy up on the bench," Rachel said. "Volleyball is a game based on momentum. When the team is struggling to win the rallies, it's important to stay positive and have high energy, so that is one way I can help them."

The young Hill said her role has changed from being a leader on the court to motivating the team from the sideline.

"My job changed when I was injured," Rachel said. "While I'm on the bench, I spend most of my time watching the opponent and finding the holes in their offense."



Junior Rylie Scott goes up to block a spike during a scrimmage vs the DeLeon Bearcats. The Lady Lions started their district season two weeks ago against the Moran Bulldogs and will be playing Hawley at home Saturday at 11:00 a.m. PHOTO BY RACHEL HILL

Lions off to strong pre-district start

Lions face Cisco in final non-district game

BY KADE EVERITT
Staff Writer

The Lion football team is battling lower numbers and a lack of experience this season as they try to claw their way back to a third consecutive state playoff appearance.

The 4-0 Lions are coming off of a 34-0 victory over the Anson Tigers last Friday, in a game that ended at the half due to lightning.

Even with a lack of experience, head football coach Denny Faith has confidence in his team.

"Some of these players this season don't have the experience that is needed," Faith said. "All of that comes with playing time."

Junior quarterback Brian Hamilton also recognizes that the Lions need to gain more experience.

"The team hasn't reached full potential yet," Hamilton said. "But the more games we play the more comfortable and able to play at a higher level we will become."

Faith has high expectations for the Lions.



The Lions come charging out of the tunnel before the Colorado City season opener on Aug. 26, winning the game 34-12. The Lions will play Cisco tonight looking for their fifth straight victory.

PHOTO BY RACHEL HILL

this year," Edgar said. "Our biggest challenge is going to be filling the shoes and learning the positions of last year's seniors."

Junior quarterback Brian Hamilton has similar thoughts.

"The team has many new players that haven't reached full potential," Hamilton said.

Every team faces challenges, but Denny Faith says you can't look ahead.

"You have to treat every team you face like it's the biggest challenge," Denny Faith said. "If you don't, you won't be ready for the game."

Faith's motto this year is simple.

"It can be done," Faith said. "It is pretty self-explanatory."

The players feel the same way about the motto.

"Losing back-to-back state championships hurt people's motivation for the sport," Hamilton said. "If you don't have the mentality that it can be done then it won't get done."

Sophomore defensive end Ryan Hill agrees.

"This year's motto has great significance because the mottos in the last two years have pushed us to get to the state game," Hill said.

The Lions' district opener will be at Winters. Homecoming will be the following week against the Baird Bears on October 14.

"We want to get better every week," Faith said. "Eventually we want to get into the playoffs."

Senior running back Hunter Owen agrees.

"I want our team to improve on last year and take it a step further," Owen said.

Injuries are always a topic coaches don't like talking about.

"Our biggest challenge this year is going to be staying healthy," Faith said. "If we stay healthy, we will be

all right."

Faith said the strengths of this team are speed and quickness throughout the roster.

But there are weak spots the Lions will have to fix.

"This year's team lacks depth in many positions," Faith said.

Mistakes in a game can make or break a team.

"Right now we need to focus on not making mistakes and getting fewer penalties," Faith said.

Faith says this team will gain the experience needed to play as they progress through the season.

"This team has a lot of new players that are having to step up and fill the roles of players that were in the program for three years and have now graduated," junior receiver Adam Faith said.

Sophomore full-back Cutter Edgar is one of the new players.

"There are a lot of young players, including myself, playing on varsity

Cross country runs to regionals

New coach sets new expectations for runners

BY CUTTER COWART
Staff Writer

Tate Thompson has never coached cross country in his entire career, so the new coach is quickly figuring out the fall sport.

"It's definitely different from coaching football and basketball," Thompson said.

Thompson says that he is getting tips from his friends that coach cross country.

"We have a total of 15 students running: 10 high school students and five junior high students," Thompson said.

Cross Country had their first meet September 6th.

"My expectations for my runners are for them to get better every meet they are part of," Thompson said. "They know their times, so I hope that they try to shave some time off and challenge themselves at every meet."

The cross country team has been going up against much larger schools with more competition than what they are used to.

"Low numbers can be negative on us because there are not enough people to challenge one another,"

Thompson said. "When it comes to our district, we are kind of in the middle of the pack."

One of Thompson's runners, Michaela Reames, has competed in cross country for 4 years.

"This year my goals are to keep pushing through and hopefully make it to regionals," Reames said. "It will just take a lot of hard work and dedication."

Reames prepared for the season throughout the summer.

"I kept a very healthy diet, and I ran, and still do run, six days a week doing distance and pace work," Reames said. "Lifting became a big part of my life around May. I got stronger over the summer, drinking lots of water and Gatorade to replenish my electrolytes which really helped me keep going."

According to Reames, she doesn't plan on competitively running in college but will continue to run and lift on her own.

"I enjoy running and getting better at each meet, but I've realized that there is life after sports," Reames said. "I still want to compete and enjoy sports, but it's not that big of a priority as it used to be. I'm more focused on my walk with Christ and my future."

For freshman Dani Ford and junior Justin Nash, it's their first year running cross country.

"My goals for this year are to try and get top 25 every meet," Nash said. "I also hope to break a

21 minute three-mile."

Nash is a new student who just transferred this year from Bangs.

"Running cross country this year is pretty challenging," Nash said. "It has made me really sore, but I have really enjoyed it so far."

According to Nash there are only two boys out of the ten runners on the team.

"It's kind of weird because there are really no other guys to talk to about anything, but we all get along pretty well," Nash said.

It's Ford's first year ever to run cross country, and she's a freshman on varsity.

"Running this year has been very difficult because of the strenuous activity," Ford said.

Ford is running to help get in shape for basketball season.

"I plan on running next year, and I've really enjoyed my experience so far," she said. "It will really help me in the long run with basketball."

Ford placed 103rd out of 200 girls at the meet on September 6.

"My goal this year is to achieve a better time by a few minutes and create endurance as well. I'd also like to get to bond with my cross country team all throughout the season and get to know them a bit better," Ford said.

Like Reames, sophomore Derek Isbell has been doing workouts throughout the summer to prepare for the season.



Sophomore Shelby Snead pushes towards the finish line during the first meet of the season in Eula held on Sept. 6. Cross Country's next meet will be this Wednesday in Throckmorton starting at 2:00 p.m.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY LORI REAMES

"This summer I worked really hard to get in shape for the season by doing a lot of hill sprints and two-mile runs," Isbell said.

Isbell has been running cross country since eighth grade.

"I really hope to run a time of 21 minutes or under three-mile and advance to regionals," Isbell said.

Isbell placed 68th at the first meet.

"This season I just want to work as hard as I can and do the best I can without making any excuses about why I didn't do that well," Isbell said.

According to Isbell, former Coach Paul Johnston left some everlasting memories with him.

"I remember running down the hill coming into Albany with Coach Johnston driving right behind me screaming at me to push myself beyond my limits," Isbell said.

Isbell also runs cross country to help get in shape for basketball.

"My favorite part of running cross country is the satisfaction I get when I finish a race or accomplish a time I didn't think I could achieve," Isbell said.

"New Teachers"

Continued from | PG 1
my daughter's name is Jacque," Mumm said. "All the kids are out of the house now."

This is not Mumm's first go around in teaching.

"I've subbed in Abilene schools a lot," Mumm said. "I then taught physics, IPC, and PTEL for two years in Colorado City."

Mumm has a non-typical background.

"I went to the Air Force Academy out of high school, flew C-130s, and spent four years in the Philippines," Munn said. "The last four years of my tour were spent in California at Travis Air Base."

One thing that he can claim is having the longest drive of all the teachers.

"From my home in Abilene to here is about forty minutes," Mumm said.

Another teacher and coach on campus is Tate Thompson, who has taken over the position of Paul Johnston following his retirement in May.

"My wife, Nikki, and I have been married eight years," Thompson said. "We have a daughter, Karter, who just started kindergarten, and a son, Kylan, who stays at daycare."

Thompson attended several colleges.

"I went to Western Texas and got my associate's," Thompson said. "Then I went to the University of North

Texas, then I went to Texas Tech, and I later finished my college career at McMurry University in Abilene.

While the list of colleges he has attended is long, the number of schools Thompson has taught at is short.

"The only other school I have taught and coached at is Haskell," Thompson said. "I was at Haskell for eight years. I was the head boys' basketball coach, and I also taught classes such as U.S. History and College Prep."

Thompson is teaching a variety of classes in Albany.

"I'm teaching seventh grade history, high school P.E., and coaching cross-country," Thompson said. "On top of all that, I'm also the new girls' basketball coach."

New teacher Jenny Scott, who is also an Albany alumnae, is new to campus but taught at elementary last year.

"My family and I moved from Peaster, Texas to Albany about three years ago," Scott said.

"My husband, Jonathan, is principal at Nancy Smith Elementary, and we have two daughters, Rylie, a junior, and Taylor, a freshman."

Scott has a number of certifications.

"First I went to Tarleton State University and got my bachelor's degree," she said. "Then I went to Texas State to get my master's degree."

Her teaching career has taken her to several different places.

"I've taught at Ranger High School, and was a

counselor at both Lockhart High School and Stamford High School," Scott said. "I taught subjects such as English, journalism, speech, and theatre. I even coached girls' sports at Ranger."

Scott is teaching FCCLA and Theatre Arts classes this year.

A new nurse joined the staff this year after Ingrid McCloy left.

"I've nursed at Kindred in Albany and at Covenant Hospital in Lubbock," Lisa

Russell said. "Also, I was the nurse for Lubbock ISD and Hays ISD."

Russell's family is part of the elementary school.

"Ben, the youngest, is in kindergarten, and Sidney is a fifth grader," Russell said. "Alex is my oldest, and he is twenty-two."

She attended two different colleges.

"I attended West Texas A&M," Russell said. "Then I went to Covenant School of Nursing in Lubbock."

"Chromebooks"

Continued from | PG 1

will get easier," Peacock said. "If the Chromebooks function at the same rate as the MacBooks, it will be worth the savings. But it's too early to tell. After a year of experience, we can make that determination."

This recent technology change is also causing teachers, like seventh grade tech apps teacher Kim Hill, to be behind schedule.

"I didn't know until a week before school started we would be using Chromebooks," Kim Hill said. "I am having to redo all of my lessons and tests, and all of my terminology is changing."

Younger students, like seventh grader Bryce Asher, are also having trouble adjusting.

"My whole family uses MacBooks, and they are easier to use than Chromebooks," Asher said. "The whole first week of school the Chromebooks didn't

even work, and they are really different from an Apple."

Chromebooks were also used briefly by some high school students while they waited for laptops to be distributed.

"It's been very helpful to have the Chromebooks available to my high school English students," English teacher Jennifer Everitt said. "It's been nice to be able to use Google Classroom from day one, and the kids really like using the online learning applications."

Chromebooks may possibly be the future of technology at Albany ISD.

"Right now the plan is to keep the Macs in the high school and Chromebooks in the junior high," Key said. "But there is a possibility we could go to all Chromebooks at some point in the future mainly because of the price difference."

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

23	1 st Six Weeks ends
23	Varsity Football @ Home, 7:30pm
24	Varsity Volleyball @ Home, 10:30am
26	2 nd Six Weeks begins
27	JH/Varsity Volleyball @ Home, 5:00pm
28	JH/HS Cross Country @ Throckmorton, 2:00pm
29	JV Football OPEN
30	Varsity Football OPEN

OCTOBER

1	JV/Varsity Volleyball @ Home, 4:30pm
1	SAT, 8:00am
4	College Fair for Juniors
4	JH/Varsity Volleyball @ Home, 4:30pm
5	Student Council Convention, 8:00am
5	JH & HS Cross Country @ Home, 2:30pm
5	Open Door Speaker – Pam Stinzell, 1:10pm
6	Chad Cargill ACT Workshop @ Anson, 8:00am
6	JH/JV Football @ Home, 5:00pm
7	Varsity Football @ Winters, 7:30pm
8	Varsity Volleyball @ Woodson, 11:00am
11	JH/HS Cross Country @ Roscoe, 4:00pm
11	JH/HS Volleyball @ Home, 5:00pm
13	JH/JV Football @ Baird, 4:00pm
14	Varsity Football @ Home, Homecoming, 7:30pm
16	National Honor Society Inductions, 2pm
18	FCCLA Region Workshop @ Abilene, 9:00am
18	JV/Varsity Volleyball @ Hawley, 4:30pm
19	PSAT, 8:00am
19	District Cross Country @ Hamlin, 2:00pm
20	JH & JV Football @ Home, 4:00pm
21	Varsity Football @ Cross Plains, 7:30pm
22	ACT, 8:00am
22	Varsity Vball vs. Benjamin @ Benjamin, 2:00pm
24	Band Marching Contest @ Abilene-Wylie, 2:00pm
25	JH, JV & Vars. Vball vs. Munday @ Munday, 4:30pm
27	JH & JV Football vs. Miles @ Home, 4:00pm
28	Varsity Football vs. Miles @ Miles, 7:30pm

Messy Olympics

With the spirit of the 31st Olympiads still fresh in the air, several local junior high and high school students competed in their own version of the Rio De Janeiro games known as Messy Olympics.

Competitors gathered into teams of six and chose a country, ranging from Djibouti to Italy, to participate in the second annual Games organized by First Baptist Church's youth director Thomas Aly.

The countries battled against each

other and several messy obstacles, including a body painting race, egg toss, trivia games and bubble gum statue building.

Ten countries were represented in the Games. The senior boys from Madagascar claimed the gold medal while 8th grade girls representing Jamaica secured second. Freshmen girls rounded out the field, winning the bronze for Fiji.

PHOTOS AND STORY BY RACHEL HILL



Sophomore Jazmyne Sanchez (left) volunteers her face for a shaving cream and Cheerio make-over in one of several 'messy' games. Eighth grader Alli Hill (bottom) chugs a Coke covered with a dirty sock to secure third place in the tie-breaker.



Members of the Brazilian team (left) throw their hands up to display frustration with the judges. Dani Ford (bottom) strategically places a Life-saver on teammate Aubrey Moon's face to gain points for Fiji.

Tristan Cauble (above) grimaces as his egg cracks and splatters during the egg toss, causing them to lose the game and preventing them from gaining points for team Madagascar. Taylor Scott (right) focuses her energy into the egg toss as well, while she competes for Fiji. Madagascar, however ended up securing first place, followed by Jamaica in second. Fiji rounded out the field in third, coming up short in the tie breaker.

