

The Brand

Lowry High School

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Winnemucca, Nevada

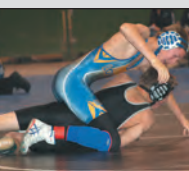
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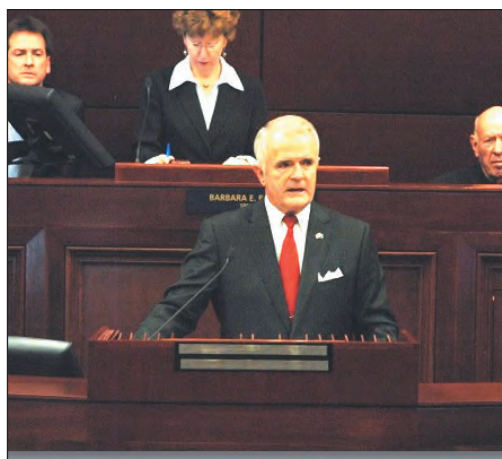
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State of Nevada facing budget cuts

By Stephanie Cochran

There will be "cuts, merges and perhaps eliminations," said Reno Senator Randolph Townsend to the Reno Gazette Journal (RGJ) of Nevada's budget problem. In his second State of the State address, Governor Jim Gibbons' proposed a state budget cut that would reduce the state work force by about 6 percent, including about 375 layoffs, and eliminate 1,052 vacant positions, while also reducing state workers' salaries by 6%. Humboldt County School District Superintendent Mike Bumgartner said, "We have to find a way to meet the budget shortfall somehow, but for teachers and state employees it's kind of a discriminatory action. That (solution) should be a last desperate action."

In cutting state spending, Gibbons said he put a priority on protecting Nevada's needy from diminished services and keeping kindergarten through 12th grade education strong. "I will not unfairly balance this budget on the backs of those in our society who can least afford to shoulder the burden," Gibbons said. Yet, when there are any cuts, the effects resonate to impact all areas of society. In response to Gibbons' proposal, HCSD created a survey for its staff in regards to safely addressing possible budget cuts. The survey addressed four issues; what programs or positions are crucial, where might reductions have a lesser impact, possible ideas, and any other



COURTESY

Gov. Gibbons in a State of the State address

comments about the budget reduction. Results were posted Friday, Feb. 13 for HCSD staff.

Mrs. McGibbon, a chemistry teacher at Lowry said, "Instead of spreading the cuts evenly, he is just taking one segment and having them bear the burden." The budget cuts would not affect Lowry as much as it would higher education, but the science department is already in pretty bad shape. "Basically we would have fewer labs, fewer demonstrations, we couldn't do the consumables, it just wouldn't be good," McGibbon added.

Gibbons' largest cut would be in the higher education system. In an interview with the RGJ, Assembly Speaker Barbara Buckley said, "We might just as well close the campuses down." Gibbons' plan to cut UNR funding by \$76 million annually in

2009-11 will have a high toll on Nevada's youth. "I don't think that higher education would survive that kind of cut. I think it's completely unrealistic," said Bumgartner.

In his speech, Gibbons presented modest justification for cutting more than a third of the university system's budget, saying only that taxpayers would continue to finance a somewhat higher fraction of the university funding than the national standard. "It's such a short sighted view; education is what economic development is all about. If they cut the education budget, they will attract fewer young people and retain fewer people, so it's a disaster," said McGibbon.

Lowry junior, Courtney Hammond said, "Education is probably the worst place to cut funding; two years from now I'll be attending college, and if it happens to be in Nevada, my education may not be as good as it could have been in years past. Cutting funding is essentially stunting the educational growth of the people who will soon be leading the state or even the country."

With so much emphasis on the education system, Gibbons changed the focus of his speech to end on a more positive note. The RGJ reported that Gibbons said the state's renewable energy potential could help see it out of the recession. "Northern Nevada is our geothermal capital and southern Nevada is our solar capital and everywhere in between we can harness our wind resources," Gibbons continued, "our opportunities in this area are endless."

Obama makes progress on campaign promises

By Stephanie Cochran

The St. Petersburg Times created an "Obameter" that tracks Obama's campaign promises and the action taken upon them. Of his 510 promises, most are still rated "no action," but one can not expect huge progress only one month into his term.

Of the seven promises kept, Obama has: appointed a republican to his cabinet; banned see PROGRESS page 2



Chuck Kennedy/MCT

President Barack Obama

Winterfest 2009: A sweet success

By Camille Lyon

The Winterfest activities began on Monday January 2 with an overall theme of candy and gum. Monday was sports day. Many attended Bingo Night to win prizes from the local businesses. Randi Schmeusser, of the senior class, won the black-out round and received a \$100 Visa gift card.

Tuesday had a futuristic theme. see WINTERFEST page 2



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King Freddy Bernabe and Queen Amaya Criswell

PROGRESS



MCT CAMPUS

Barack and Michelle Obama at a campaign rally.

lobbyist gifting to employees; signed the Ledbetter Act, which promised equal pay; required new hires to sign a form affirming their honesty in obtaining the job; released presidential records, directed the military towards ending the war in Iraq, and expanded eligibility for State Children's Health Insurance Fund.

One promise has been compromised and one has been broken. When president signed his first bill just hours after it was finalized in Congress, he broke his first promise. Obama promised not to sign any bills until it was open for 5

days of public comment first. The compromised campaign promise involved tougher rules against revolving door for lobbyists and former officials.

Obama has 18 promises in the works. He plans to extend unemployment benefits and temporarily suspend taxes on those benefits, get his daughters a puppy, modernize the nation's

electricity grid and use "smart grid" practices, require more energy efficient appliances, work with UN on climate change, weatherize one million homes a year, raise fuel economy standards, create white house performance team and chief performance officer, double federal funding for basic science research over 10 years, encourage community service through online service through online outreach and social networking, develop an alternative to President Bush's Military Commissions Act on handling detainees, clos-

ing the Guantanamo Bay Detention Center, end the use of extreme rendition, end the use of torture, invest in electronic health information systems, create a tax credit of \$500 for workers, and change standards for determining broadband access.

While Obama has not taken action in matters of education, civil rights, federal budget, social security or military, one month into his term, he has begun to address critical issues such as the economy, energy, and government efficiency.

Perhaps the most advertised issue in America right now is the economy. Obama has taken little action on the economy, but his \$790 billion dollar stimulus bill recently took its first steps through Congress. "We're at the doorstep of getting this plan through Congress, but the work is not over," Obama said to Yahoo! News. "When we do, the challenge will shift to administering successfully this endeavor of enormous scope and scale."

To continue tracking the President's campaign promises, visit www.politifact.com.

WINTERFEST

The second annual Mr. Lowry competition took place Tuesday night. Senior J'mar Tarafa won the competition.

Twin day was on Wednesday, and there were many duplicates around campus. During advisory the Letterman's club beat the faculty in a basketball game. A halftime activity took place during the game in which freshman Mark Lennel won a cash prize.

Students sported a classier look on Thursday for "nerd" day. Karaoke was that night and the auditorium was packed to maximum occupancy as many came to see Lowry students and faculty sing. Hailey Samms won first place.

The whole school was pumped Friday for blue and gold day and the assembly. The pep assembly included both cheerleading and dance team performances, a royalty game, and the presentation of the Honorary Buckaroo, local Tom Peters. Friday night also included the Winterfest game where crowning took place. Amaya Criswell and Freddy Bernabe were crowned as Winterfest Royalty.

Al-Qaeda, bin Laden, hiding in Afghanistan, not Iraq

By Katy Granath

During the Bush administration the invasion of Iraq was characterized as an assault on al-Qaeda, the terrorist organization responsible for the 9/11 attacks. In 2003 Vice President Cheney said the invasion had "struck a major blow right at the heart of the base...the geographic base of the terrorists who have had us under assault now for many years, but most especially on

9/11." As it turned out, Cheney wasn't telling the truth.

In March 2008, five years after our invasion of Iraq, the military finally began its first investigation into whether or not Saddam Hussein actually had ties to al-Qaeda. This was the first and only investigation into Hussein's terrorist ties ever conducted by the United States military. After searching through more than 600,000 seized documents, the investigation reported that no ties

whatsoever could be found between the fallen Iraqi leader and the terrorist network.

The front lines of the War on Terror should never have been set in Iraq, because the true center of Al Qaeda operations is in Afghanistan. While the US turned its attention to Iraq, Afghanistan began to fall back into the hands of the Taliban, aided by al-Qaeda. The terrorist network and its leader, Osama bin Laden, have been in Afghanistan and Pakistan, while our military invaded Iraq. Top military experts have always place Obama's hideout as being somewhere on the Afghan-Pakistani border.

General Michael V. Hayden, director of the CIA in 2006, called the border al-Qaeda's "jump-off point for its guerrilla forays into Afghanistan."

President Barack Obama now faces a challenge in re-taking control of Af-



Jim Landers/Dallas Morning News/MCT

U.S. Army's Alpha Platoon stationed in Afghanistan. These Cavalry Scouts say there aren't enough American troops here to cover a country the size of Texas.

ghanistan. Although the new president has promised to remove troops from Iraq, he has pushed for a troop surge into Afghanistan. Obama has also pledged to renew US efforts to locate and bring terrorist leader bin Laden to justice. Obama's advisers have promised that the new president is looking to increase military force and intelligence in Afghanistan, and plans to include the border areas as part of our new assault on al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

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Do test scores actually indicate your knowledge?

By Katy Granath



The rise of standardized tests brings with it the rise of more and more students being left behind. After all, if you aren't above average, if you're not exceptional, then why would anyone waste the time, spend the money, or expend the energy to help you be more successful if you're not successful already? The problem really stems from the fact that standardized tests, especially tests from College Board, don't truly test your knowledge of a subject so much as they test your knowledge of how to take a test.

With basic test-taking skills just about anyone could get away with a decent score on the PSAT. College Board standardized tests say that if you can't take their test then you don't know your subject, which isn't entirely true. Countless colleges offer full-ride scholarships that cover tuition, room and board, and books and meal costs to students who pass the PSAT with a high score.

A new test for eighth-graders could be disastrous. College Board says that the scores will only be shared with the students, their parents, and their school, but what kind of repercussions could follow if a student doesn't score well on this test? Already students are denied admissions to colleges on the basis of standardized test scores alone. Could high schools offer higher quality classes only to students who score well on the ReditStep test? Could students who score poorly be shunted into lower-level classes for kids labeled as low scorers? Enough pressure is placed on high school students to achieve high scores on a test that can determine whether or not they will be able to continue their education at a higher level. Eighth-graders should not be subjected to unnecessary stress and anxiety over a standardized test.

There is something for everyone at Lowry

By Mary Granath



You can complain about Lowry not having a tennis or lacrosse team, how there aren't enough clubs, and how there isn't anything to do in Winnemucca. However, the truth is that there are many things to get involved in at Lowry and there are many benefits that come with it.

Getting involved in a sport is not as hard as most believe. In fact barely any people get cut from the team during tryouts. Ok, so maybe you don't make varsity, but who cares? Playing sports is about staying active and having fun and you can do that whether on varsity or J.V. Lowry incorporates a variety of sports including football, soccer, volleyball, golf, swimming, basketball, wrestling, softball, and cross country.

Another prominent feature at Lowry is its clubs. These range from math and science club to language clubs to Key club. Lowry has an extremely victorious Academic Challenge Team that took home the State title last year and is well on their way to doing the same this year. Or perhaps you feel you participate enough in academics at school so you're looking for a club to just sit back and have a little fun in. If that's the case, check out the Paintball club or the Art Club? Maybe you're a student who has a voice and is just looking for a way to speak out. There is a Young Democrats club and a Young Republicans club that are just waiting to hear your opinions. I feel like you're a leader and have what it takes to take charge then maybe Teen Court is for you. Are you involved in a sport? Then Lettermans club is a very easy organization for you to join. If you're interested in

computer and business classes, or taking them, then FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) is an excellent choice of club for you. There are a dozen more clubs just waiting on a horizon of opportunity. Getting involved in these clubs is as simple as showing up for a meeting. If none of these things interest you what about running for a class officer? Or merely joining the Leadership class? It's an easy way to stay involved in your class, your school, and your community. Even if you don't want to join Leadership you can always show up for your monthly class meeting. It's a simple way to stay aware of what's going on in your class.

The point is that saying there's no easy way to get involved isn't a valid excuse. Everyone deserves a little fun. The doors of opportunity are wide open; all you have to do is walk through them.

Americans need to break the fast-food habit

By Amy Balagna



There is no doubt that obesity among Americans is on the rise. Nearly two-thirds of Americans are now considered overweight according to CBS News. We have shifted our eating habits from homemade meals with our family to rushed fast food drive-throughs and it is clearly taking a toll. Is the fast food industry the reason for the spike in obesity rates?

My health, mind and body, are near the top of my priority list. Fast food rarely touches my lips and I exercise daily. It's the way I was raised. As a child I was involved in various athletics and was exposed to a vast array of vegetables and fruits. An early education and healthy habits instilled in children is the key to preventing an obesity problem in the future. However, many Americans now put this early education in the hands of strangers, day-care centers, and schools. The purpose of a school is not to be a parent; it's to give systematic instructions on various fields, in my opinion, not including the importance of eating your veggies.

Sole responsibility cannot be placed on parents for parents are being influ-

enced by the world. Some of the most wealthy and successful corporations serve us food. The fast food industry may have been built with the thought of customers in mind but that was somehow lost along their journey to the top of our economy. They lost the integrity and the foundation they were built on by being consumed with the prospect of wealth. They advertise a false image that fools consumers. The healthy person running through a meadow while eating a hamburger is not a reality. The fast food industry has sin-

gle-handedly altered the image of the traditional American dinner. Instead of sitting down to a home-cooked meal, the majority of Americans unwrap and eat their over processed, nutrient stripped hamburger in a hurry.

Something has to be done. With American life expectancy decreasing due to weight related illnesses, our children must be taught the importance of exercising and eating right. The fast food industry had gotten into the minds of Americans, influencing our once healthy eating habits.

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Muslims are Americans too

By Katy Granath



It was early afternoon on January first and the nine members of the Irfan family were taking a vacation to Orlando, Florida, to meet up with some relatives. They bought their tickets, boarded AirTran flight 175, and took their seats. Atif Irfan, a tax attorney from Virginia, commented to his brother that sitting near the engines might be unsafe. Two teenage girls overheard the remark and told the flight attendants and the pilot, who alerted the two federal marshals onboard, who called in the airport police and FBI. Not only was Mr. Irfan removed from the plane, but his entire family, and a friend who had coincidentally booked the same flight, were all taken into custody for questioning.

The Irfans, who have five small children between the ages of two and ten,

were all detained, the rest of the passengers were de-boarded and screened, and every suitcase was removed from the cargo hold and searched as a thorough sweep was made of the plane. Does the airline's overreaction to a passenger's passing comment seem extreme? Well the Irfans are Muslim and they had dark complexions, beards, and headscarves. Naturally, the airline assumed they were terrorists.

This kind of incident is not uncommon in the US. In our post-9/11 world, we are afraid of anything that bespeaks that terrifying land called the Middle East, an unfamiliar language, or dark skin, or Arabic lettering. We all remember 9/11 with a reverent fear, a sense of duty to never let such tragedy happen again.

After two hours the FBI determined that the Irfans were completely harmless, but AirTran would not allow the detainees to re-board the flight. The three men, the mother, and the five children were told they could no lon-

ger fly on AirTran Airways. The FBI stepped in and attempted to reason with AirTran officials, but the airline stubbornly refused to budge.

The Irfan's situation was not an isolated incident. In 2006 Raed Jarrar was stopped at the airport security checkpoint while en route to his flight. The young anti-war activist was wearing a shirt that said "we will not be silent" in Arabic and English. Mr. Jarrar was eventually allowed to continue to his flight, but only after he purchased a new shirt to wear over his previous one. The airline also insisted he sit in the back of the plane.

Does this kind of prejudice sound familiar? Muslims are treated as second-class citizens in America, and it is absolutely wrong. Our fears should never be used as an excuse to treat some American citizens worse than others, should never be used to take freedom away from an American citizen, and should never be used to mistreat Muslim Americans and their families.

Media have more influence than we know

By Esmeralda Aguilar



Have you ever thought of the impact the media may have on you? Think about it; what do most people do for entertainment? We watch TV. It influences what we wear, the music we want to listen to, even our political convictions. We even watch reality shows; which, as we all know, aren't anything like real life. Let's face it, we're hooked on TV.

Perhaps the hardest question we'll ever have to answer on the matter is this: If we know TV is so phony, why does it control so much of what we do and believe? It's like video games - once you're hooked, you're hooked. How can we control our addiction?

It begins in childhood when parents sit their children in front of a TV to keep them occupied; then it progresses to developing favorite shows; then it becomes a part of a daily routine. People look to the media for inspiration, guidance, and entertainment. But why does it develop into a brain draining cycle so many people say isn't so bad?

Some argue that the media isn't a big influence on us or it's not as bad as many think. Yet, let's take for example Daniel Petric, the teenager who attempted to kill his parents over his Halo 3 game. That game obviously influenced his actions. He let a concrete device control himself so much that he ruined his life.

Everyone knows examples of addicts, and knows the various harms with too much media influence; yet, we still

go back for more. The truth is, we have nothing better to do, so why don't we just watch TV. It's lazy; it's mindless entertainment. We watch TV because we can, and no one can stop us; but we can stop ourselves. Limit media influence to necessities like the news, and if you don't feel satiated, watch mentally stimulating channels like the History Channel and leave it at that. There are many better things to enjoy in life than sitting on a couch.



Open Your Eyes:

Baby Grace

By Stephanie Cochrane



"After Riley was killed, the couple bought a plastic container, partially filled it with cement, stuffed her beaten body inside it and stored it in a shed at their home before dumping the remains in Galveston Bay," said authorities of Galveston County Sheriff's Department to Houston News.

A young couple was indicted for brutally murdering their toddler, Riley Ann Sawyers, in an attempt to teach the girl discipline. Imagine the thought process in the minds of these sick beings that would propel them to take that action on an innocent child, nevertheless a child of their own. Unfortunately, many adults struggle to find appropriate and effective ways to discipline their children.

Properly raising a child is the single most important responsibility a parent will have in their life. In essence, they are molding an infant's future. Children are products of their environment; therefore, they must grow in a nurturing and mentally stimulating way in order to achieve success. Growth begins with discipline and continues once that foundation is set.

Discipline varies in each home; however certain principles propel every parent to take action. First, the parent wants to stop the wrong-doing, second, the re-occurrence of the action must be stopped, and third the child must learn a lesson they can apply to their future. A parent must sympathize with the learning process the child is going through, yet must remain firm at the same time.

Honestly, there is no single way to discipline a child that each parent can apply except to do it with integrity, respect, and love. Discipline must be age appropriate; children at young ages do not have the neurological development to make instant application of a first time corrective measure. Repetition and patience must be applied in parental guidance, as is applied in the scholastic learning environment. As children age, it becomes easier to determine what methods are appropriate in discipline, but from the start, the best thing to practice is love.

Billingsley, Duncan and Grant named Athletes of the Issue

By Mary Granath

Varsity wrestlers Trevor Grant, Jace Billingsley, and Gus Duncan sat down to share their thoughts on the season, the coaching, and the anticipation of a State title.

A good word to describe Lowry wrestling would be 'intense' stated Grant. "The intensity has improved from last year," said Grant, "a lot of it has to do with having Jim [Billingsley] there. As a coach he expects a lot more, the mentality is different. Everybody expects to win."

Since childhood these athletes have been surrounded by the aggressive world of wrestling. Grant said he has been participating in wrestling for 13 years, "Since I could walk."

A strong influence on Grant has been his older brother Justin, who now wrestles for Colorado State University. "I look up to him in every way... everything that he accomplished I try to accomplish," said Grant.

Duncan started wrestling in 5th grade, "I didn't wrestle up until then just because I didn't enjoy it," he said.

It was Duncan's father who encouraged him to pursue the sport, "When he took the job at the high school he told me to come in, wrestle, have some fun, and I've just enjoyed it since," Duncan explained

Similarly, Billingsley's father was also a pull factor for the freshman. "He put me in wrestling when I was really young and then I just started to like it more and more," said Billingsley

For Duncan and Billingsley this year brought an entirely new frontier. Going from Junior High wrestling to Varsity High School wrestling is a sig-

nificant change. "Junior high is fun and everything, but high school is just way more intense," said Duncan. "It's more serious," Billingsley added. All three wrestlers have goals for the season.

"My personal goals are to get in the 50 win club and win State," stated Billingsley. Duncan and Grant agreed with Billingsley and Grant added that he also wants to try and reach 200 wins for his career.

Lowry's biggest competition this year is Spring Creek. "For the past five or six years they've completely dominated Northern Nevada wrestling... We

beat them once this year but now we have a bullseye on our back," said Grant.

With wrestling being such a large commitment it's difficult to balance the rest of what's going on in life. It's hard get motivated to do homework because you're so tired after a long, grueling practice. However, when it isn't wrestling season these three athletes like to stay busy. Grant, Billingsley, and Duncan play football and during their spare time enjoy indulging in their various hobbies. Snowboarding, wakeboarding, camping are what Grant prefers to do in his spare time. "I like to sleep, and eat," said Billingsley

If one thing is certain about these committed athletes it is that they will do whatever it takes to get the job done. "A lot of people say it's [wrestling] not really a sport it's more of like a lifestyle," stated Billingsley in agreement with Grant and Duncan.

It's a sure fact that skill, intuition, and a fair amount of determination, will follow these three individuals wherever their lives may lead them in the future.



Courtesy•WINNADA
Freshman Jace Billingsley



Courtesy•WINNADA
Freshman Gus Duncan



Courtesy•WINNADA
Senior Trevor Grant

Yankees should focus on being a team, not spending

By Ron Espinola



I have been on this earth for 38 years; 32 of those years have been spent as a Yankee fan. Growing up in the 70s, few teams had the mystique of the Bronx Bombers and I bought in at an early age. Of course the 1977 and 1978 World Series titles were a big part of this.

I remember Reggie's three homeruns, Nettles' incredible defense at third; crying when Thurman died, and yes I did actually eat a Reggie Bar. I lived with the ridicule of the 80s, watched Don Mattingly perform in obscurity (but what should be a Hall of Fame career), and loved every minute of the mid to late 90s.

My time following the Yankees began with the era of free agency in baseball, but the most meaningful teams were composed of players that were developed within their system. When the Yankees won their first title in 18 years the key players were homegrown. These players (Mariano Rivera, Derek Jeter, Andy Pettitte, Jorge Posada, and

Bernie Williams) would serve as the core for three more titles. There were free agents, but there was never the feeling that they had to have the biggest name no matter the cost. Maybe I am disillusioned but these were teams, not collections of individuals. It takes more than names, dollars and steroids to win. Look at the self-dubbed idiots of 2004 (no, I can't say the name). On paper were they better? Did they shell out a quarter of a billion dollars? No, they were a team.

The Yankees have now returned to their tried and failed strategy of getting the biggest free agents possible (in the case of CC Sabathia this is literal). One year of using their own talented but young players and not making the playoffs has somehow proved it doesn't work. They now have Sabathia at \$161 million for 7 years and the often injured AJ Burnett for a cheap \$82.5 million over 5 years, and Mark Teixeira for 8 years and \$180 million. This brings their total payroll to about \$207 million for next season.

I am not one to argue that players aren't worth the money. You're worth whatever someone is willing to pay you for your skills, whether that's playing

a game or teaching. But with a billion dollar stadium opening next year, people out of work, and the stock market in the tank, it wouldn't be a bad idea to show at least a little financial restraint; especially when you are asking for an additional \$400 million to help with a new stadium.

Yes I contributed to this by paying for my tickets as well as some souvenirs and food last summer when I took my son to a game; but it has been proven that spending millions does not translate into championships (ask the Dallas

Cowboys). Teams have a responsibility to their fans to keep their product affordable. Or fans need to wise up and stop shelling out the ridiculous prices for tickets, jerseys, and TV packages. Better yet, find the time to support one of Lowry's athletic teams or enjoy a performance by drama, band or choir. If you do, rest easy knowing that the performers are there for the right reasons, not the almighty dollar.

But if the Yankees don't make the playoffs this year they can ask congress for a stimulus package.

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Wrestlers win state team title: Five individual champions



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Lowry wrestlers celebrate the state title, February 14 at Winnemucca Events Center.

By Katy Granath

Lowry High School swept the NIAA 3A State Wrestling Championships on Saturday, February 14, emerging victorious with an overall team championship, five individual champions, two second place wrestlers, and six wrestlers who placed third. "I feel relieved," Coach Brooks admitted later. "I knew we had the kids to do it, but you just don't know if something will go wrong."

Lowry sent sixteen wrestlers to compete at the tournament: seniors Tyler Spriet, Tanner Schmidt, Trevor Grant, Wacey Chabot, Sean Raynor, and Jake Manzo, juniors Jake Maga, Paedon Underwood, and Skylyr Bleck, sophomore Bobby Marley, and freshmen Ryan Nelson, Chris Pike, Eddie

Poole, Jace Billingsley, Daniel Raynor, Gus Duncan, and Ivan Ramirez. Of those sixteen, seven athletes continued to the final round to compete for the title of state champ in their weight class.

Daniel Raynor, a freshman in the 103 weight class, took second in the finals after being pinned during his tough match.

Poole pinned his opponent for third place in the 103 division. At 119 pounds, Marley also placed third with a pin.

Weighing in at 125 pounds, Lowry's Billingsley battled sophomore Blaine Tibbals of Yerington. Throughout the match Billingsley retained control over Tibbals. At one point Billingsley caught one of his opponent's legs and as Tibbals danced to keep his balance,



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Ryan Nelson controls his opponent.

the Lowry wrestler cut his opponent's legs out from under him with a sweeping kick to the back of his knees. Tibbals went down and Billingsley went for the kill, keeping Tibbals under his thumb until time was called and he took first in his division, 9-1.

Lowry junior Maga, also in the 125 division, claimed third place after pinning a senior wrestler from Virgin Valley.

Sean Raynor took second in the final round in the 130 division. Duncan claimed third place with a 14-4 decision in the 130 weight division. At 140 pounds Jake Manzo also took third with a pin.

Bleck, a junior, became Nevada's state champion in the 145 weight division by pinning Spring Creek senior, Alex Baker. Nelson, a Lowry freshman, competed in the 152 division and defeated a junior from Boulder City 4-3, in a match Coach Brooks described as "incredible". Schmidt took third by pin in his 160 weight class.

In the 171 division, Lowry senior Grant brought home his second state title. Grant, who was undefeated in league this season, made his state championship win the 186th win of his



THE BRAND

Trevor Grant works his opponent

high school career as a wrestler. A.J. Estrada, a Fernley junior who had previously faced off with Grant at Zone and was defeated, came out looking for revenge. "I planned on winning," Grant said, "but I knew I would have to wrestle hard for it." Estrada fell victim to Grant once again, 6-2.

Lowry senior Chabot, wrestling at 189, defeated his opponent 4-3 to take third.

Underwood, a junior at Lowry who wrestles at 215, won his state championship match against one of Virgin Valley's senior wrestlers, Wyatt Robinson. Both wrestlers battled aggressively, but Underwood eventually triumphed by a 5-3 decision.

The Bucks ended the night with a total of 221.5 points, more than fifty points ahead of the closest competition. Lowry's wrestling team was particularly proud of their win over their arch-rivals, the Spring Creek Spartans.

"For the last couple of years Spring Creek has had some studs- wrestlers- and we've been battling them," said senior wrestler Schmidt. Wrestling season has come to a close, but for the athletes, the thrill of winning the state championship is going to linger.

3A realignment proposal under consideration for 2011 season

By Jayna Hill

Under the current realignment there are ten 3A schools. However, there are soon going to be schools that are moving up from or dropping out of the division. This is a major problem specifically in Northern Nevada where school populations are smaller than and not as dense as schools in the south.

There must be at least eight teams in a league, in order to hold a state tournament. The 3A league is pushing that; as of right now there are exactly eight teams that will be in the division next

year, which leaves little competition and few choices for scheduling.

Although, a solution has been proposed to solve this problem. The proposal calls for 3A schools to move up to a league called 4A Division 2. 4A Division two will potentially consist of the current 3A schools excluding Yerington, and some of the current 4A schools such as Fallon, Elko, Wooster and South Tahoe.

As of right now there are only ten schools left in the 3A division, which makes game scheduling very difficult. Mr. Vince Mendiola, the Athletic Di-

rector at Lowry High School said that by moving the 3A division up to 4A Division 2 "takes away the scheduling nightmare".

In addition to easier game scheduling, a bigger league also means more competition. With this new proposal the teams that are in the 3A league will get to compete within a wider range of schools, and participate in tougher competition.

If this proposal is accepted it would be implemented in the fall of 2011. This will be the start of new league realignment in Nevada.

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Why do coaches become coaches?

Beck: 'When you see all the hard work pay off that's the reward I get out of it.'

By Joey Lester



Courtesy • WINNADA

Coach Don Walton

Many students in high school can be glorified for their accomplishments in a given sport; whether it's being the best quarterback in ten years, the most successful runner of the dynasty, or the most outstanding pitcher ever born.

Many overlook the key to all of these players' success; no one person regardless of how talented they are can become great without the structure and the guidance of a good coach. It seems so much attention is paid to the players that the coaches have been overlooked.

It makes one wonder why coaches coach if there are no straight forward benefits.

Don Walton has coached seven years of baseball and in the most recent season of basketball started coaching as a volunteer. Walton also coached in the city leagues and is known as seasoned coach.

Walton said that on the JV level it's really just giving kids the chance to participate and to improve their skills so that he can see them make it to the varsity level. When it comes to the varsity level, Walton said, "There is less of an emphasis on just playing the other team. It's ... to get where we want to be as a program."

It's not all about the competitive aspect for Walton. He tries to use the fact that each player is a part of the team to teach them things that can be applied to real life. "We're not individuals out

there [in life], we're parts of teams whether it's in our families or our work atmospheres where everyone has a certain thing that they have to do."

He also tries to teach how much work it takes to be a part of that team. "Much like if you're in a work environment if you don't get to your job on time or you don't do what you're expected to then you won't get paid, that's the reality of it." Walton also said, "At the high school level... part of being part of a team is keeping your grades up, and if they don't do that then you don't get to participate, that certainly folds into later life."

Ron Beck, like Walton, has been coaching for a fair amount of time. He has coached 19 years of football and coached baseball for several years.

"I view sports as an extension of the classroom; like in the classroom, in sports you're taught new concepts,"

said Beck. "You teach it, you drill at it, and you practice at it."

Coaching brings certain emotions to Beck who said, "Seeing the development and the progress of the athletes over time... can be rewarding."

The most satisfying aspect

came later when Beck finished, "When you see all the hard work pay off that's the reward I get out of it."

Whether it's teaching concepts that can be applied to real life or the joy their players bring to them, it seems that most coaches do it to see their players improve. This is what makes the coaching all worth while.



Courtesy • WINNADA

Coach Ron Beck

Another one bites the dust: A-Rod's rep ruined by 'roids'

By Mary Granath

On the night of February 10, 2009, Alex Rodriguez admitted to ESPN that he had used performance-enhancing drugs from 2001 to 2003 while playing for the Texas Rangers. This confession comes as quite a shock after he famously denied the use of steroids to CBS anchor Katie Couric over a year ago in an interview that was prompted by the release of the Mitchell Report.

In that same interview A-Rod verified that he hadn't even been tempted to use steroids, stating that he "never felt overmatched on the baseball field."

However, on February 10, Rodri-

guez attempted to sell a completely different story. "When I arrived in Texas I felt an enormous amount of pressure," said Rodriguez, "I needed to perform, and perform at a high level every day."

Notoriously known for being the highest paid baseball star in the league, Rodriguez is now making 300 million-plus playing for the New York Yankees. Rodriguez is claiming that he never used steroids while with the Yankees and his team stated that they will "take him at his word," nevertheless, the rest of America won't.

A-Rod isn't the first beloved baseball player to have his reputation tarnished by the alleged use of steroids. He now follows in the footsteps of many great players, among them are Barry Bonds, Mark McGwire, and Yankee teammates Jason Giambi and Andy Pettitte

In a well rehearsed apology to his fans Rodriguez said "I did take a banned substance, and for that I'm very sorry and deeply regretful." Well Alex, that's really nice of you, unfortunately, we don't want your apology, just our money back for every time we paid to watch steroid user play baseball.



Al Diaz/Miami Herald/MCT

Alex Rodriguez

Varsity basketball teams have high hopes for State

By Mary Granath & Rachelle Den-
nis

The varsity boys basketball team wrapped up its league season on Friday February 13 with a 61-53 victory at Truckee. Lowry finished their regular season in third place.

"The game went as planned. The kids played really well." Coach Lee Bosch said. "It was an intense and physical game, but we were able to pull it off."

The Bucks are going to be working on their defense in practice this week. They will also be focusing all their practices on Fernley.

The Bucks face Fernley on Thurs-

day. The winner will then play the number two seed, Sparks. Two wins assures a state tournament birth.

The varsity girls basketball team wrapped up their season on February 13 as well, however it ended in a loss to Truckee. Despite this, the Lady Bucks finished in third.

They will play Dayton, the number six seed. The girls face the same task as the boys. They must win two games to get to state. Coach Smith, however, thinks they are ready for the challenge.

"We're confident," said varsity coach Jack Smith, "We're ready to roll."

The Zone tournament will be held at Reed High School.

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Jeff & Patty Herzog

Winterfest pep assembly raises Lowry spirit

By Camille Lyon

The Winterfest pep assembly was held on Friday, January 6. With loads of spirit, students came dressed in their blue and gold outfits. The pep assembly began by having Student Body Treasurer, Jordan Sloan, announce the beginning of the assembly. The school song and national anthem proceeded. A new dance was performed by Lowry's varsity dance team. The rousing jazz

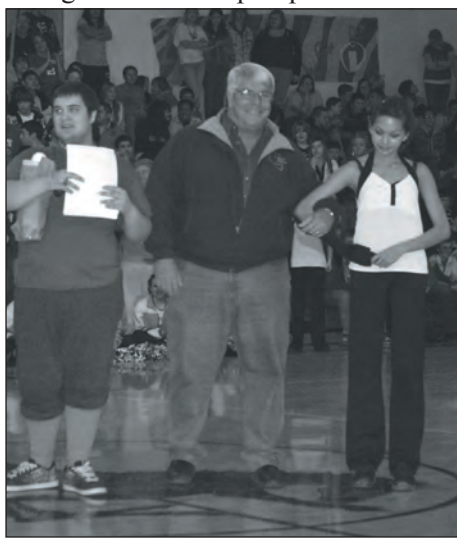


Ron Espinola•THE BRAND

Royalty candidates compete at the pep assembly.

routine performed was a true crowd pleaser. After the entertaining performance, Student Body president, Elizabeth Aguilar, and Vice President, Nate Betteridge, presented an Honorary Buckaroo award to Don Peters. Don Peters was surprised as he was escorted to the floor and presented with his award.

After the Honorary Buckaroo was named, the cheerleaders performed their routine to a mixture of songs that got the crowd pumped. All of the



Ron Espinola•THE BRAND

Don Peters is awarded with the Honorary Buckaroo award.

winter sports coaches came down to the floor and presented their teams. Coach Brooks, who coaches Lowry's wrestling team, was proud of his entire lineup and introduced each wrestler individually. When he declared that Lowry's wrestlers would take state this year, the gym erupted into cheers.

When the wrestlers had found their seats, Student Body Secretary, Hayley Noble, then introduced the next event to be the royalty game. All of the Winterfest royalty candidates had to come to the floor and have their arms and legs duct taped together for a three-legged race as they had to rush down the court and make as many baskets as possible.

The assembly was coming to a close, but one of the last things on the agenda was a special award for Lowry's athletic director, Mr. Mendiola, presented by Chad Peters of the century club. Chad Peters announced many of Mr. Mendiola's accomplishments. This will be Mr. Mendiola's last year at Lowry. Finally, the pep assembly concluded as Mrs. Dawson announced the ranking in the class point competition. Surprisingly, the freshmen were in first place for the class of the year award.

From Bacău to Winnemucca

By Mary Granath

This year Lowry has welcomed many new students, some coming up from Junior High, some from other states, and a rare few from other countries. Eighteen year-old Daeryl Mezmen has joined us at Lowry all the way from Romania. Mezmen had lived in the small town of



Courtesy•WINNADA

Bacău near the Carpathian mountains. But when his brother was given the chance of a lifetime his family decided to move to the United States.

"My brother Maurice has ice-skated since the first steps of his and he got offered a spot with the United States Olympic Ice-Skating team for upcoming Olympics 2012," said Mezmen.

His family moved to Reno but Mezmen's parents found the schools and the city to be too large and dangerous for their taste. His father soon discovered Winnemucca and found it to be the perfect place. "Maurice is home schooling now and does most of his homework in my mother's automobile when going to Reno for skating."

Mezmen and his younger sister Hil-ton now attend the High School and the Junior High respectively. "I begin to acclimate to life here," said Mezmen, "This town is very much larger than Bacău," However, Mezmen has found many things that are different here. "In Romania not very many people drive. I was surprised to see almost every learner here has a car, sometimes even if they don't have licence!"

Overall Mezmen stated that he feels very welcomed at Lowry. "When I first come to school David Eastman and Terrell Messerly showed me school. They were kind; they even invited me to their basketball game. I think we're going to be great friends, kind of like candy bar Three Musketeers," Mezmen hopes for more good memories and plenty of learning.

NOTE: This is fictitious. Can you guess who the picture is?

Seniors, think like Cap'n Jack, have an adventure

By Katy Granath



Dear Senior Class,

This year is supposed to rock; it's supposed to be the best year of our high school careers, the year we look back on and say, "Wow, high school was awesome." The truth is senior year isn't about winning Class of the Year. I know, I know, what a bold thing to say, but it is true, and you know it. Senior year isn't about being crazy and pulling pranks; it isn't even about having ownership of the coveted senior hallway or being the big bad bullies of Lowry. Senior year is about living a year worth living.

If you're interested in an A+ senior year, I say we do it Captain Jack Sparrow style. (And in case you're a little confused at how Cap'n Jack fits into your senior year, let me explain.)

First of all, Jack Sparrow knows what he wants. Remember that compass he has that points him in the direction of his heart's desire? Well it only works if he has a goal in mind. So ready your compass, and put together a list of goals you'd like to reach this year. We have the rest of our lives ahead of us for those long-term "become an astronaut" goals or the "reach level 80 of World of Warcraft" goals, so put challenging short-term goals on that list of yours. Make it a goal to get into college this year, or pledge to participate in lunch-time activities; maybe you want to take a road-trip this summer, or learn how to make crème brulee. Well it's your senior year, so this is the time to do it. Chase your goals- it's what Jack Sparrow would do.

Not only is Captain Sparrow good at getting what he wants, he never passes up the opportunity to try something new. Jack would tell you to "wait for the opportune moment" and

then grab that chance before it passes you by. Since this is your last year in high school, enjoy it, and maybe do something you've never done before. If you've never been to a high school dance, go! If you've never sung the school song at pep assemblies, sing it once before you leave; if you've never camped under the stars, or been ice fishing, do it.

This is our last year in high school, so make it one to remember. Chase your goals, achieve your dreams, and try something new. Don't be that person Jack Sparrow would say "If you were waiting for the opportune moment, that was it," to. This is our opportune moment, our opportune year, don't waste it pining away for summer and then college; enjoy your last semester of high school with great gusto. Pull out your compass, take a look at these last few months ahead of you, commandeer a few friends, and say, "bring me that horizon."

The inside scoop on what they really want

St. Valentine was a guy you know

By Kole Kracaw



Courtesy•Winnada
Kole Kracaw

Men are majestic and mysterious creatures who are mind-numbingly complex. They are fickle and persnickety; it would be impossible to adequately describe everything that men desire, but in honor of the most loving day of the year, it is time to spill the beans on what men want in their female companions.

Men come in a slew of varieties; they can be very picky about their companions or they may be open to anything. It is safe to say, however, that men want their women to go out with them and do big manly, burly things with them. Men want women who aren't afraid to go and shoot innocent animals resembling Bambi and Thumper with monstrous guns and huge tire-toting trucks. They want women who would love nothing more than to spend

a romantic evening at a motorcycle rally, women who aren't afraid to have hamburger grease drip down their designer dresses.

Men want women who will watch testosterone packed sports like NASCAR and pro wrestling! Yeah! Men want women who like jets, fire, and explosions! Men desire women who like movies filled with nonsensical death and violence with guitars and lasers and Samuel L. Jackson!

Most of all men just want some good, old-fashioned love from the woman who's not afraid to be herself.



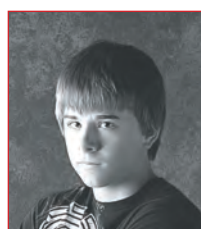
Amanda Raymond/The News Tribune/MCT

Lowry look-alikes

The Brand staff has found some recognizable Hollywood faces here at Lowry. See if you can see the resemblance.



Zac Efron



Courtesy•WINNADA
Terrell Messerly



Whitney Port



Courtesy•WINNADA
Hayley Noble



Howie Mandel



Courtesy•WINNADA
Mr. Espinola

Featured Club: Inside Lowry's Paintball Club

By Joey Lester

Lowry has many different clubs for students seeking an extra activity at school. One of which is Lowry's very own Paintball Club.

Heather Yaden, a Lowry alumna, started the paintball club in 2004 which has gained more popularity as it has been a part of the many clubs at school. There are between 20 and 25 students involved in the Paintball Club currently, but they could always use more.

"Having more players just adds to the fun, it creates more of a target rich environment," said Mr. Storm, the advisor of the Paintball Club. The club has extra equipment such as paintball guns, masks, pads, etc. for those wanting to play but do not own any paintball equipment.

The club's courses are out Junco road and off of Reinheart drive on land provided by Tim and Beth Thompson, and Garly Amos. The club uses these sites on a regular basis.

The club is lead by, senior, Sean Raynor who is vice president and, junior, Chris Pike, who is the President.

By Lindsey Tattersall and Sophie Kristof

Thanks all you boys for the gifts of candy, balloons, etc. on Valentine's Day. The attention was much appreciated. And those thoughtful gifts, the photos or personal favorites were charming and from the heart, making them of greater sentimental value.

Now let's take that concentration of affection, the ocean of flowers and red, and spread it throughout the year shall we?

What a girl really wants is creativity, imagination, spontaneity and surprises. Gentlemen, take your pick. A thoughtful surprise is appreciated by any girl on any day of the year. We don't need February 14 to enjoy a bar of chocolate. The simple fact that you remember to get us those "special" gifts only because this Hallmark holiday is celebrated somewhat mitigates the sentimentality of the otherwise

mindful bestowings. You went to the trouble of buying us boxes of chocolate, yes, but we're all getting the same box of chocolate for the same greeting card reason.

If you want to say "I care about you, babe," if you want to say "I love you," put some thought and creativity into it. We'd love those roses on any old day, just as we'd love to know you care on March 14 as much as February 14. So on an average day of the week as you tank your car with gas, stop in and grab your girl a Go-Bar.

And with that we leave you enlightened and saturated with insight on how to keep your sweetie happy, not just on Valentine's Day, but throughout the rest of the year.



Courtesy•Winnada
Lindsey Tattersall



Courtesy•Winnada
Sophie Kristof

Pike said, "it's a great activity which can create many opportunities in school."

Paintball club can actually help you improve in school with help from the advisor Mr. Storm. Chris, like Storm also encourages other students who want to come out and play with the club. The more people they have with them while they are out playing, the more fun they will have.



Courtesy•LARRY STORM

Paintball Club members prepare to do battle.

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Dancing is true dedication

By Jayna Hill



Dancing is more than moving around; not only does dance require muscle strength and technique, it takes determination, will power, grace, and dedication. Anyone can be a good dancer if they truly put their mind to it and with practice of course. But the best dancers not only practice for hours a day, they dance from their hearts.

Although there are many types of dance, the most well known at Lowry is the dance team. The dance team spends at least an hour and a half a day perfecting their dances, Coach

Jane Studebaker said, "To complete one full dance it usually takes the girls about a week, sometimes longer or shorter all depending on the difficulty of the certain piece."

Studebaker enlightens us on how she feels about dedication "You can come here and be a dancer but the more dancing you do outside of school, the better perfected you will be in everything. You will be more dedicated to the point in making it to practice on time, and wanting to be good. I think the girls that just come here and think it is just something to do in school; they don't take it as seriously."

"Dance team usually lasts all year long, so dedication is vital for a good

team," said Varsity dance team captain, Camille Lyon, "we sometimes have to extend our practices to the weekends or make them last later."

However there are many other forms of dance besides dance team. For example studio dance is taken by a couple of the dance team members. I attend classes four nights a week at a dance studio, so I know first hand the immense dedication that is involved.

Styles such as ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, ballroom, technique, hip-hop and more are taught at the studio Encore Dance Academy. It is a great thing to get involved in whether you want to do it to improve your dance technique, or just to have fun.



Courtesy•THE BRAND
The varsity dance team performs at the Winterfest pep assembly.

Mr. Lowry Pageant proves to be a big success

By Chloe Rusconi

Lowry's Varsity dance team hosted the second annual Mr. Lowry pageant on Tuesday February third. The eight contestants hoping to win the prestigious title of Mr. Lowry were: seniors J'mar Tarafa, Brandon Connell, and Ryan Mathes, juniors JD Christianson, Adam Gray, Alex Schumacher, and Andrew Soderstrom, and freshman Al-len Mezenen.

The pageant consisted of a talent portion, a question session, and a dance-off. During the talent portion Tarafa sang "Your Name" by The GooGoo Dolls and Connell sang "Banana Pancake" by Jack Johnson. They both evoked screams and claps from the enthusiastic audience. Mezenen also showed musical talent by play-

ing his guitar, but didn't sing. When asked about his talent, Christianson revealed that he could perform karate and fight crime when he beat up Gray and Schumacher in slow motion. Gray read a Robert Frost Poem, Schumacher played drums, Soderstrom sang a song from the movie "Step Brothers," and Mathes showed off his super strength.

After the talent portion, the Q&A session began. The contestants were asked a variety of deep and insightful questions. Mezenen would take Britney Spears to a deserted island. Gray would change his name to Megatron or Optimus Prime from Transformers.

In the final dance-off round each contestant showed the crowd how they could move to the beat. This portion brought out their inner dancers, bringing laughter throughout the au-

ditorium. Andrew shook his booty and made everyone laugh. After that it was time to vote and decide who would be this year's Mr. Lowry. The wait was short and in the end J'mar Tarafa won over the crowd. "The pageant was like a bunch of clowns getting into a fist fight, hilarious and tense at the same time," said Tarafa.



Courtesy•WINNADA
JD Christensen performs his talent.

Lowry Voices

By Camille Lyon

What is the worst thing you have ever received for Valentine's Day?



Leikkona Jensen
Sophomore

"Kandy sent me a tattered heart that when you put it together...that spelled out 'this is your brain when I am through with you.'"



Arline Franco
Sophomore

"The worst thing I have ever received for Valentine's day is probably a pair of socks."



Corbin Crouch
Junior

"Mine was Probably a hat."

Courtesy•WINNADA

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Twilight sparks interest, but fails to ignite

By Katy Granath

The human bares her tempting throat to the vampire, who lowers his mouth to her neck, his teeth moving ever closer to her pulsing jugular. As he approaches her soft flesh the tension mounts, but the fanged vamp just kisses her throat and pulls back.

This is *Twilight*, a piece of tantalizing fiction from author Stephenie Meyer, brought to the big screen at the request of millions of desperate fans. The hero of this film literally sparkles, has “smoldering” eyes that change color, and says things like, “I hate you for making me want you so much.” Edward Cullen, Meyer’s vampire hero, hasn’t necessarily captured the imaginations so much as he has invaded the fantasies of every preteen girl on the planet who, at the mere mention of his name, will sigh and whisper “Oh Edward”.

Twilight stars the lovely Kristen Stewart as Bella Swan, who has just moved to constantly overcast Forks, Washington. When Bella starts school she immediately takes notice of the impossibly beautiful, very mysterious Edward Cullen (played by Robert Pattinson), and soon discovers that Ed isn’t your average high school teen—he’s an immortal vampire. Of course she falls for the vamp, and they decide they can’t fight their love. Unfortunately, their love is punctuated by constant reminders that Edward is a guy who is constantly fighting the urge to sink

his fangs into his girlfriend’s neck and suck her blood. When a vampire who hunts humans for sport starts hunting Bella, Edward fears he may not be able to protect her.

Although *Twilight* the book was an interesting read, the movie is what you’d call boring. Most of the movie consists of Bella and Edward staring deep into one another’s eyes, frolicking in the forest, and playing vampire baseball with the Cullen clan while the audience waits for some kind of plot development. In addition to the glacially slow-moving plot, I should mention the poor casting and poor direction of the four unfortunate actors playing Ed Cullen’s siblings, Jasper in particular. Either Jackson Rathbone (who plays Jasper) is a terrible actor, or he was poorly directed, because throughout the film he appears on the verge of vomiting a small animal at any moment.

Despite its flaws the film isn’t half bad. In fact, the chemistry between Pattinson and Stewart as star-crossed lovers is so raw it’s dripping with the blood and guts of great acting. The couple may be the next Fred and Ginger, the next Depp and Burton, the next long-term cinematic partnership that could have great results. Pattinson, who portrayed Hogwart’s golden boy, Cedric Diggory, in the last two Harry Potter films, is a rising star in Hollywood. With acting ability far exceeding that of his peers, the *Twilight* series may be able to catapult Pattinson to the fame and acclaim he deserves.

As for Stewart, she starred with Meg Ryan and Adam Brody in *In the Land of Women*, and worked with Emile Hirsch on *Into the Wild*, films most people have never heard of, but were critically acclaimed for the actors’ performances. These two kids are packed with charm and charisma, good looks, and serious talent.

Twilight is going to provide Stewart and Pattinson the chance to cement their status as gifted actors. *Twilight* itself may not be a particularly fantastic movie, but its stars are. Even though the story might be a bit dull at times, the two lovers make it interesting. It’s the moments between the two main characters that make up for the otherwise egregious casting and the slow plot. Let’s hope that with Stewart and Pattinson at the helm, Bella and Edward turn out to be the next powerhouse couple of cinema.



British actor Robert Pattinson, left, plays perfect vampire boyfriend Edward Cullen to Kristen Stewart’s Bella, in “*Twilight*.” (Summit Entertainment/MCT)

I think I love I Think I Love You, Beth Cooper

By Amy Balagna

Who doesn’t imagine high school to be the classic story of the nerd, the boy covered in acne that has a secret love for the extremely popular, beautiful, varsity cheerleader? To be honest until this book I wasn’t a fan of the cliché high school love stories like the many John Hughes [director of *The Breakfast Club* and *Sixteen Candles*] movies, but Larry Doyle has added the perfect comic twist.

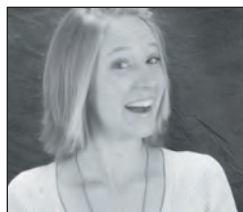
Larry Doyle’s, *I Love You, Beth Cooper*, has a rather simple, predictable plot, the book keeps you interested. The author goes into the mind of a squeamish, “master debater”, valedictorian, Dennis Cooverman, who declares his love for Beth Cooper at their high school graduation, much to the dismay of Beth’s army boyfriend. But, Dennis is not discouraged, scenario’s pump through his brain, all ending with the majestic first kiss. He thinks he just might be prepared until the opposite of what is expected happens, and Dennis gets beat up... again. This seems to happen quite frequently.

This quick read is well worth your time, it will appeal to many different tastes and ages as I assume the high school experience has not changed much throughout the years. It’s extremely entertaining and at one point left me laughing out loud.

Senior Katy Granath wins Winnemucca Lions Club speech contest

By Camille Lyon

Recently, two Lowry students were given the opportunity to demonstrate their speaking skills in a contest sponsored by the Winnemucca Lions Club.



THE BRAND

Winner Katy Granath

The contestants were seniors Katy Granath and Cameron Kitras, who spoke on the topic of “how we can solve the oil crisis”. There was a preliminary round on January 29 at LHS. Kitras began his speech and presented

his ideas on solving the oil crisis. He encouraged the use of fuel cells as he explained their efficiency. As his speech concluded, Granath was introduced to give her prepared speech.

Granath’s speech emphasized using alternative fuel vehicles. She also explained how we should not depend entirely on oil. The lack of contestants ensured both Granath and Kitras would move on to the next round to determine the winner.

The final contest took place on the evening of February 11. Kitras and Granath presented their speeches to a panel of judges chosen by the Winnemucca Lions Club. The judges were local community members. After

both contestants spoke, the judges deliberated, and Granath was named the winner and was awarded a \$75 prize.

Kitras was awarded a second place prize of \$25.

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Art Club is community oriented

By Esmeralda Aguilar

Community service projects, art shows, workshops, murals, school improvement projects, with all these activities the Lowry High School Art Club should be overwhelmed, but the club is thriving. The Art Club has progressed from the emerging stages it was once in to the chaotic state it is in now. With three large projects currently under way, Art Club is busier than ever.

Andy Anderson, the Art Club's advisor, has been leading the Art Club since he brought the program back in 2007. "There was an Art Club before, but it died out a few years before I came. I didn't really establish the Art Club, I just brought it back from the dead," Anderson stated.

Participation in Art Club has also grown dramatically since Anderson came on board. In the three years since it has been reestablished, Art Club has gone from having dwindling numbers to almost thirty members.

Upcoming projects include a large, two wall mural in the Career Technology building and an Art and Career Technology Showcase on May 28. Anderson describes the planned showcase as "a combination of the art department and the career tech department showcasing all their work and student talent." Katy Granath, art club president, stated, "We are definitely community oriented. We are really, really active."

The annual County Student Art Show, which the Art Club is involved in, will take place this spring.



Courtesy•WINNADA
Ashlee Lee, a member of Art Club

30 Seconds = \$3 Million?

By Chloe Rusconi

Each year commercials for the Super bowl are anticipated by many. Sponsors think of fun and creative ways to make people want to buy their product. This year the dominating company who advertised in the super bowl was Anheuser-Busch.

According to usatoday.com the best commercial of the Super bowl was a Doritos commercial made by two unemployed brothers. Their ad won them 1 million dollars from the Frito-Lay Company. It was unique in that it was comical and it wasn't about beer. In this apparent economic crisis it is puzzling wonder why these companies are spending over a million dollars for commercials about beer.

The Doritos commercial broke the Anheuser-Busch 10 time winning streak according to usatoday.com. Anheuser-Busch managed to get second place featuring the horse saving his girlfriend from the Circus. Last year

the commercials cost the companies \$2.7 million for a 30 second ad. This year the cost went up to \$3 million for the same amount of time Last years 97 million world wide viewers was nothing compared to this years one billion said tampabaysuperbowl.com

Career Builder.com came in third with their 'if you hate going to work, exc.

According to an informal poll on "The Brand" online Mr. and Mrs. Potato head won 37% of veiwers over.



A Clydesdale is prepped for a Budweiser commercial in Los Angeles, California, on November 18, 2008, for Super Bowl XLIII. (Budweiser/MCT)

Band, Pierced, brings rock 'n roll to their church, school, and community

By Stephanie Hageman

If you could form your own band what would be its purpose?

About six months ago local Eddie Dimock helped several Lowry students attending his church form a band.

They call themselves Pierced, and perform Christian rock music at their church, Grass Valley Baptist, and at community events. The group's band name refers to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and exemplifies the importance their Christian faith has to the band.

The band's members include sophomore Niko Tarr, junior Robyn Wadleigh,

igh, senior Lauren Dimock, and Lowry graduate Tommy Rushing. Each member has a strong love for their faith and their church.

Pierced began performing at their church on Sundays and Tuesdays and were widely accepted by their church and their peers. "Tuesday worship turned into something that changed all of our lives and other peoples' lives around us," said Tarr.

Wadleigh said the band was formed "to see where it takes us and to help our community." Pierced does not currently have any sponsorship, but the band does accept donations and help from

parents and church members.

"The songs we play are all very upbeat Christian songs," said Wadleigh. Pierced also plays at fundraisers like Relay for Life and the Cinderella Pageant. The band will be performing a benefit concert for 13-month-old Mykenzie McMaster, who has been diagnosed with Hurler's Syndrome, and is undergoing treatment that may save her life. The money raised at these events goes directly to the cause.

When Pierced plays a normal concert, the money goes toward their church's youth group, or toward band equipment. Pierced will be holding a

concert in March. Pierced merchandise will be available for purchase, and proceeds will go toward making a demo CD.



Courtesy•WINNADA

Three Members of the band Pierced: sophomore Niko Tarr, senior Lauren Dimock, and junior Robyn Wadleigh

