

The Brand

Lowry High School

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Winnemucca, Nevada

INSIDE

New leaders, ideas for 2009-2010

News



Mrs. Killion's preschool is back for another year.

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Softball sweeps Truck-ee

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Courtesy•WINNADA
President, Andrea Vaca



Courtesy•WINNADA
Vice President, Oscar Gonzalez.



Courtesy•WINNADA
Secretary, Alicia Kelly



Courtesy•WINNADA
Treasurer, Shanel Brown



Courtesy•WINNADA
Historian, Brandi Brooks

By Camille Lyon

After the elections in February, there is a whole new bunch of students to lead the school for the next upcoming year. The election process is very difficult. It is not always a popularity contest. The candidates must be interviewed, evaluated by their teachers, maintain a high grade point average and prove to their classmates that they are qualified for the office.

After this long election process, seventeen students have filled the open offices and will be serving their class next year. Students from the Winnemucca Junior High School ran to be officers for upcoming freshmen year. Representing the freshmen class are Whitney Waller, Jordan Thomas, and Sarah Gillespie. Representing the

sophomore class are Chase Estes, Megan Guild, and Tyler Duran. Officers for the junior class are Luis Gutierrez, Gaudy Castañeda, and Kailynn Winheim. Representing the senior class are Skylar Estes, Amaya Drake, and Brad Pearce. Representing the student body offices are Andrea Vaca, Oscar Gonzalez, Shanel Brown, Alicia Kelly, and Brandi Brooks.

Many students run for office to try to enlist some change in Lowry, but what could these fresh faces want to change? The newly elected student body officers and class presidents attended the 2009 Nevada Association of Student Councils State Conference to obtain some leadership training. At the conference they attended various workshops, listened to keynote speakers, and had the opportunity to mingle with

other school student councils.

Student Body Present Andrea Vaca hopes to bring in some different activities to have during advisory to try to give students a better attitude toward advisory. Vaca hopes to have more interaction between the classes. For Vaca the election process was easier than she thought. Overall the favorite part of the election process for Vaca was giving her speech. "I found out that I like to speak in front of people," said Vaca, "just getting them excited excites me."

As being a part of the Student Body officers, they plan all of the pep assemblies Lowry has throughout the year. "I am really excited and I want to hear what people want to see during the pep assemblies because it is one of the main things I may have power over," said Vaca.

President Obama making progress in campaign promises, economy

By Stephanie Cochrane

Three months into his first term in office, President Barack Obama has made steps toward reform of various issues such as the national and worldwide financial system and the modernization of the nation's energy policy. It is still too early in his term to accurately grade his progress, yet citizens across the world have formulated opinions of the new president's plans.

Lowry senior Cameron Kitras said, "I am undecided (on Obama). I don't agree with pro choice or gay marriage, but we have him in office for four

years so let's hope for progress." Kitras recalled a favorite quote to emphasize his opinion, "You know I always hope for the best but plan for the worst -The Bourne Ultimatum."

Lowry government teacher, Mr. Carstensen voiced his opinion on the president's progression. "I think he is facing the worst economic crisis the United States has seen since the Great Depression. He is off to a good start with some things, like the



Courtesy•WINNADA
Cameron Kitras

stimulus package." Carstensen believes the auto industry bailouts are necessary, even though they aren't right. "Think of all the jobs that go along with the automotive industry, we need those," said Carstensen. On an optimistic note, he said "I see things getting better in the short run, but you can never tell about the long run. The deficit we are in is scary and drastic measures are crucial."

The opinions on President Obama's progression



Courtesy•WINNADA
Mark Carstensen

vary, but there are ways to grade his progress in an unbiased manner. Once again, the St. Petersburg Times' Obameter proves to be the best source for tracking Obama's campaign promises. "Reporters and editors from the Times fact-check statements by members of Congress, the White House, lobbyists and interest groups and rate them on our Truth-O-Meter," said the Times.

The economic recession is a hot topic across the nation, yet many do not know what measures are being taken to solve the issue.

see OBAMA page 2

FBLA comes to Lowry

By Esmeralda Aguilar

Something new has come to Lowry, something students can get involved in— FBLA.

FBLA, which stands for Future Business Leaders of America, is a new club being offered at LHS. In its first year as an active club at Lowry, it has gained eight members.

Mrs. Lisa Scott, who was an advisor for FBLA at Carlin and Spring Creek High Schools, originally decided to bring up the topic to her Yearbook students, who liked the idea of an FBLA club. From there, students continued to run with the idea.

President Alyssa Parks said, "We're kind of new and we're just trying to figure out what we're doing right now." In the future Parks would like to see more students interested in joining FBLA.

Students who have an *Alyssa Parks* interest in business administration, have had or are



Courtesy • WINNADA

taking business or computer classes, or want to be involved can join the group. Currently most of the students are also members of Yearbook.

"I like being able to make relationships with other people from other chapters. And, of course, learn more about businesses because that's what it's all about," said Courtney Hammond, FBLA secretary.

Members are able to participate in many events, but to be eligible to participate, members must take tests. The tests analyze their skills and qualify them to attend regional and state conferences. Mrs. Scott, FBLA advisor, said, "I make them take a lot less tests than other advisors."

In order to attend these conferences, FBLA members must also pay a fee. Membership fees, which are fifteen dollars per student, help pay for many expenses, but sponsors help too. So far, CarWil, Newmont, and La Bistecca have been generous donors for FBLA.

The club hopes to raise enough money to be able to send all members to each conference. The regional conference was held in Elko. Those who place in competitions can qualify to compete at the state conference.

In its 26th year, the Lowry Preschool continues to be a success

By Esmeralda Aguilar

The Lowry High School Preschool program has once again opened its doors to the public. On Wednesday, March 4, the Child Development I and II classes met their prospective students and parents.

Mrs. Marlene Killion, the Child Development teacher, said that the

program was intended to be a learning experience for both the Lowry students and the preschool students. Killion has offered the program for twenty-six years and has said, "We do it because it's fun."

Each Child Development student must create a lesson plan, which includes a fun activity for the child and a snack. Child Development

Obama

On April 7, 2009, Obama concluded his eight day trip to Europe in hopes of restructuring the global financial system. Jennifer Loven, AP White House Correspondent reported that, "in London, Obama joined other world leaders in trying to tackle the spiraling global economic crisis. In France, he sought help from NATO allies in dealing with the deteriorating war in Afghanistan. In the Czech Republic Obama pledged to end the threat of nuclear weapons. In Turkey; he sought to repair America's dismal standing in the Muslim world. And in Iraq, he pushed for Iraqis to "take responsibility for their own country."

Attacking issues like environmental awareness has been a popular agenda item with which Obama has progressed. The stimulus package that was signed in February included a tax credit for consumers for plug-in hybrid cars, capping carbon emissions and creating 5 million "green" jobs. His 2010 budget called "A New Era of Responsibility" by the Office of Management and Budget includes modernizing the nation's power grid and investing in clean energy technologies.

Also to come in 2010 is the planned withdrawal of troops from Iraq. Robert Farley of the St. Petersburg Times re-

ports that by August 31, 2010 all combat troops have been promised to be removed, but the plan keeps 35-50,000 military personnel in Iraq for the training of Iraqi Security forces. Obama also plans to increase the Defense Department budget by 4% to support 92,000 new Army and Marine Corp troops. "You and your families have done your duty — now a grateful nation must do ours," Obama said. "That is why I am increasing the number of soldiers and Marines, so that we lessen the burden on those who are serving."



President Barack Obama meets with HUD secretary Sean Donovan, and Gail Johnson during a housing refinance roundtable at the White House April 9, 2009. (Nancy Stone/Chicago Tribune/MCT)

students take turns planning the lessons and activities during their scheduled teaching date. Students are given two weeks to prepare for their teaching session.

The regular preschool days are every block Wednesday and Thursday during Child Development hours. Preschoolers may be dropped off by their parents and picked up shortly before the school hour ends.

For many first year students this program seems like a nerve wrecking experience. Sahul Acosta, stated, "At first I was nervous, thinking that I wouldn't do very well. But, then once it started, it was a lot of fun. It was pretty cool."

Many children agree, stating that preschool is an enjoyable experience. "Preschool is pretty good," said four and-a-half year old Tommy Mosser. He added, "I like snack time and stuff."

Three year-old Justin Scott, Acosta's student, agreed and said that crayons, books, and snacks are the best part of preschool.

Students and parents alike enjoy the preschool atmosphere. Killion hopes that in years to come the program continues to be successful as it has been in years past.

The program will conclude in May.



Esmeralda Aguilar • THE BRAND

Junior Mary Vassar helps her preschooler write her name.

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Open Your Eyes: Whatever Man

By Stephanie Cochrane



A grueling bike ride at sunrise is not the ideal way to start a Saturday morning according to many teenagers. Something more acceptable may be hiding in bed until two in the afternoon or adventuring out to the sofa to explore the world of HDTV. What causes stereotypical teenage laziness and what can be done to change it?

Russell Foster, chairman for circadian neuroscience at Brasenose College carried out a study to investigate teenage behavior, as reported by Rob Sharp of The Independent. Various researchers concluded that hormones are to blame for teenage laziness and behavior, and Foster agrees. Untidiness, self-consciousness, moodiness, and rudeness are all attributed to hormones, yet it seems that there should be productive ways to counter these emotions.

Hormones can't be used as an excuse for immature behavior, but can show insight into erratic conduct. Knowing the cause of the teenage demeanor is a good start at correcting it. The body is going through a whirlwind of changes from age 10-20 so some concrete habits can help to anchor emotions. I attend yoga to offset the craziness of college preparation, work responsibilities, and school demands. Maybe finding one hobby to integrate into your schedule could be a good start at balancing those hormones.

A healthy lifestyle is a forgotten thought for many teenagers. Taking advantage of one's metabolism is an excuse readily used when a teenager is asked about their bad eating habits; because it doesn't look like the teenage lifestyle affects the body students think their decisions are inconsequential. These decisions create bad habits for the future and actually hinder the performance of the body's systems.

Young adults should spend more time exercising instead of gathering on couches to gorge on junk food and watch mindless shows on MTV. Sure the simple entertainment is satisfying, but is it beneficial?

Our dependency on technology

By Amy Balagna

Each morning as you slap the snooze button on your digital clock for the second or even third time, and you stumble out of bed, your day has begun with the miracle of technology. Perhaps your father texts you to get out of bed each morning, as mine does. Could we live a second without technology?

We have incorporated technology in every aspect of our lives, from health to education. And these advances should certainly not be opposed. The life saving technologies that have been created thanks to the technological revolution have saved countless lives. The change came swiftly and it was welcomed by most. But, having this technology for my entire life, I have begun to wonder if I can live without it. Can you?

Throughout the past there has been opposition to our technological ad-

Headband controversy?

By Camille Lyon

A new trend for our generation is the stylish headband. For the various dress up days many wore headbands in a variety of colors, but to their dismay they were told to remove them because it was against the dress code or it was "gang related."

My problem with this: why should it be against the dress code? Shouldn't we be focusing our attention on revealing clothes rather than a hair accessory? "Gang related" clothing should not be permitted, but within proper judgment. A headband can be used to keep hair out of the face, and it can add color to an outfit; not to make a statement about a certain affiliation.

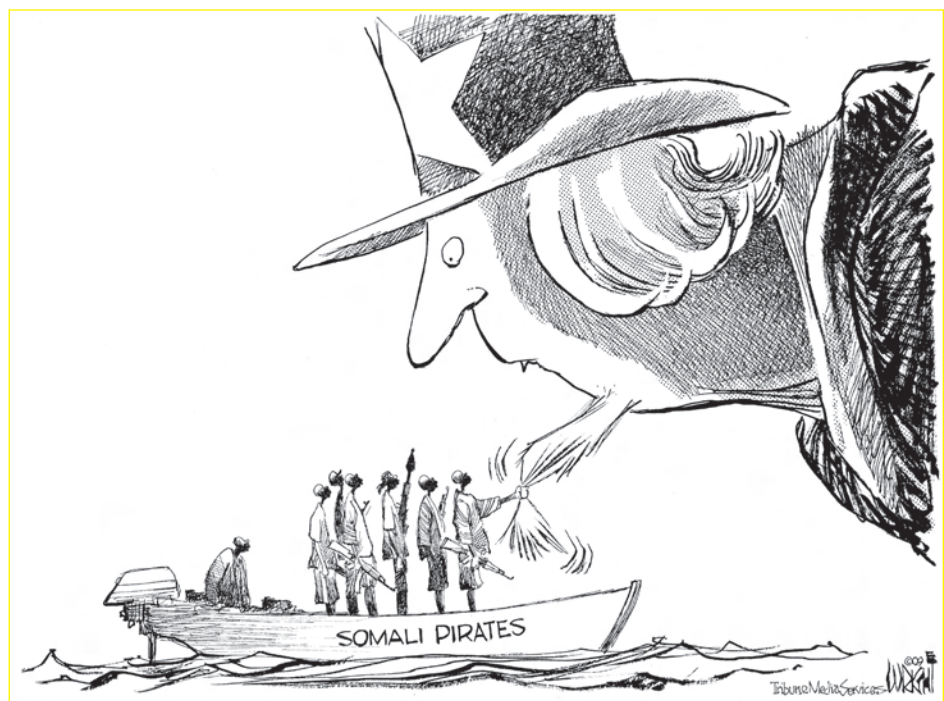
I will be a good student and comply with the dress code, but I will still wonder why. Many wear headbands across their foreheads for a hippie look, so how is the hippie look representing something controversial such as gangs. Headbands are not proving anything to students besides giving the same effect as a necklace or belt. Students with pink sparkly headbands are being told to take them off because they are once again "gang related." The day I see a gang wearing pink sparkly headbands in Winnemucca is the day I will stop wearing them.

vances. Ted Kaczynski, the Unibomber, for example, took his anti-technology ideas so far he killed 3 people and injured as many as 23. In the beginning of his manifesto, which he published shortly before being arrested, he explains the detrimental effects the industrial revolution has had on the human race. The manifesto warns us of the innocent beginning, and the rapid growth, and eventually the painful downfall the technological revolution will have. "We are going to argue that industrial-technological society cannot be reformed in such a way as to prevent it from progressively narrowing the sphere of human freedom. But because "freedom" is a word that can be interpreted in many ways," writes the Unibomber in the 93rd point in his manifesto. Has technology actually narrowed our freedoms? Not constitutionally, but personally? Are we en-

slaved by our cell phones and laptop computers?

There is constantly chatter in the hallways of Lowry about the poor teenager who feels lost after her texting has been taken away, or the convulsions felt after the music student forgot their iPod. Although this is exaggerated, it's frightening. It shows how young we have become dependant on the luxuries of technology. This horrifying realization only supports claims that the modern world is built on the base of technology.

Kaczynski's ideas were extreme, but I can see the validity in his argument. Perhaps we should be wary of so many quick technological advances. Sudden changes can be dangerous. When will it stop, and how? Perhaps there will be no end, technology will evolve with our needs creating an easier, happier life. Who knows?



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Varsity Lady Bucks sweep Wolverines during Spring Break

Staff Report

Although Lowry won three games in Truckee and is well-positioned for the playoffs, they are still looking to improve.

Sophomore catcher Dana Pardovich said, "It went pretty well, but we could have done a little better offensively."

In Friday's game, Lowry used the 10-run rule to end the game in the sixth inning, 11-1. The Bucks jumped to an early 3-0 lead in the first inning when Lynsey Johnson drew a leadoff walk and stole second. She was driven in by Pardovich's double. Lexi Gonzalez singled and to plate Pardovich. Gonzalez

came home when Masie Kemp reached on an error.

The Bucks added two more runs in the second and one in the fifth before breaking out with five runs in the sixth.

The team is focussing on playing together and that seemed to be accomplished. Sydney Sundahl said, "We played pretty well as a team."

In the first game on Saturday, Lowry trailed 1-0 until the top of the fifth.

Jenae Neu lead off the inning with a walk and was scored on Missy McKinnon's triple. Pardovich added another RBI with a single. She scored the third run of the inning on Kemp's double to left.

Head Coach Dustin Christean said, "Dana had a great weekend...probably the best she's played all year."

In the final game the Truckee bats were kept in check by Gonzalez, Neu, and Dani Chavez.

The Bucks tallied nine runs to Truckee's five.

The three wins put the Lady Bucks in good position for the playoffs.

Johnson said it puts us in a good spot because we



Courtesy•Brooke Thomas

Sophomore Dana hits a single.

could get home-field advantage for zone [with wins over Sparks and Spring Creek].

Johnson added, "Our defense is good but we need to work on more situational hitting."



Courtesy•Brooke Thomas

Senior Masie Kemp slides into home.

Why I love sports and why you should too

By Mary Granath



Most people cry at the end of The Notebook, but I never did. Instead I shed my tears when the boys soccer team lost to Incline in the last two minutes of the Northern 3A zone championship game (on an offside goal I might add), or when the girls basketball team was narrowly defeated for the State title last

February, I even let a few tears trickle out when our beloved football team lost to Spring Creek in their final game the year. This is why I love sports. No, it's not the crying I enjoy, it's the personal connection you feel to the team and to the game.

I might wager that, at times, watching the game is more fun than playing in it. You can feel the adrenaline rush when a player on the team steals the opponents pass, and you can scream and about it too. When you're playing in the

game you're focused on the upcoming play and how you're involved. However, when you're in the stands you have free reign to yell at the refs, ridicule the opposing team, and go ballistic when your team makes an amazing play.

Despite the numerous reasons why sports are entertaining, there are still those who have never been to a Lowry Bucks' sporting event, claiming that sports just aren't for them or sports are too boring. In reality, these people simply haven't felt the elation of watching

the wrestling team take state, the astonishment when the football team completes a pass, or the satisfaction when the volleyball team defeats their competitors for a hard earned win.

So my challenge to you is this: Go watch some sports, at the very least you'll be supporting your school. If you're someone who regularly goes to the football games, try watching a volleyball game. Explore the limitless world of sports; you just might be your newfound obsession.

Lowry swim team, heroes of the halls

By Brandon Connell and Amy Balagna

The Lowry swim team is composed of extremely fit, highly skilled students, that dwarf the skill level of

other athletes. They condition and meticulously perfect their techniques to succeed at the highest level. The select few, the noble, the ever so proud Lowry swim team are the true athletes of Lowry.

No other sport faces the resistance

of the water, the perilous waves constantly trying to counter your every move. As most of you know, you can't breathe in water, therefore the constant struggle for air is always present. The Lowry runners' only excuse for their lack of a breath is an insignificant lung capacity (excluding the Lowry distance runners).

Nearly every muscle in one's body, including the brain is used throughout a swimming workout. Is there more than one way to run? No. Is there more than one way to swim? Yes, there are four different strokes to master and enjoy. Butterfly exploits the shoulders and abs; back stroke centers on a strong kick, breast stroke is all in the thighs, and freestyle combines them all.

There is a strong mental component to swimming along with the physical aspect. A 500 meter race (20

laps) takes patience and the knowing of your own limitations. The constant waiting for a race and the results of said race takes a toll on your nerves. You step onto the diving blocks, practically naked and wait for the whistle. Confidence is key. A 200 meter freestyle race is the longest sprint, eight laps of all out swimming. Perhaps the hardest of all, the 200 IM race includes fifty meters of each stroke. Every stroke and every turn must be completed perfectly or you will be disqualified.

Everyone knows Lowry athletes are skilled warriors, all I'm saying is that the swimmers are the most skilled, the top of the pyramid; after all if all of Lowry's sports teams were stranded on an island, the swim team would not only be able to swim to the mainland, but carry the others on their backs.

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Varsity baseball drops three games to Wolverines

Staff Report

The Lowry varsity baseball team finally had good weather to play in last weekend. However, the result of the three-game series was anything but sunny.

The Bucks dropped the important league series to the Wolverines 11-21, 1-5, and 8-19.

Sophomore first-baseman Anders Pace said, "We had a lot of errors. We didn't hit too bad, but not good enough to overcome our errors."

In Friday's game the Bucks jumped to a 1-0 lead when David Eastman singled to left and moved to second on Jace Billingsley's bunt. He was then brought home by a sacrifice fly from Jamie Walton. The lead, however, was short-lived.

In the bottom-half of the inning, Truckee responded with three-run homerun. The Wolverines added five more runs in the second to take a com-

manding lead.

Although Lowry did rally back from a 12-run deficit, they couldn't quiet the Truckee bats.

The Buckaroos mounted another rally in the fifth with consecutive hits from Eastman, Billingsley, Walton and a double from Gus Ramasco. However the defense faltered again in the bottom half of the inning.

Billingsley, Terrell Messerly, John Wells, Nate Shearer and David Eastman pitched for the Bucks and only 7 of the 21 runs were earned.

Pace said, "I don't think we go out there and play loose. When we do play loose we play good."

In game one on Saturday freshman Bryan Noble took the mound for Lowry and delivered a solid performance. He kept Lowry in the game only allowing two earned runs and Collin Messerly pitched one inning of scoreless relief.

This game was a reversal of the

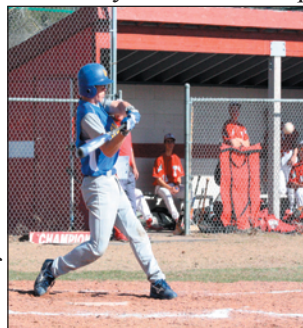
first however. Although Lowry's defense was better, their bats were cold and could only muster one run on three hits.

The second game was a eerily like Friday's game with Lowry committing eight errors but also getting nine hits including a two-run homerun from Pace.

With the three losses the Bucks are 5-7 in league with six games left.

Senior Tanner Schmidt thinks they can still make the playoffs but it won't be easy. He feels they need to sweep Sparks this weekend at home.

Schmidt said, "We need to do it ourselves instead of letting other people do our work."



Ron Espinola•THE BRAND
Freshman Jace Billingsley singles against Truckee.



Ron Espinola•THE BRAND
Junior Terrell Messerly delivers a pitch in Lowry's 11-21 loss on April 17.



Ron Espinola•THE BRAND
Senior John Wells delivers a pitch in Lowry's 11-21 loss on April 17.

A piece of paper is not going to keep student-athletes from drinking

By Katy Granath

Lowry students are held to a standard, the honor code, which asks them not to drink, not to abuse harmful substances, and not to cheat. Athletes are held to an even higher standard as they sign an additional code of conduct before they are allowed to participate in sports. Student athletes are supposed to be pillars of exemplary behavior in the community. They should be following their code of conduct and respecting themselves, their coaches, and their school, but is a piece of paper really going to keep athletes from taking a swig of cheap beer?

Underage drinking is nothing new; it's a common social activity for kids long before it becomes a rite of passage at 21. In fact, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism reports that three-fourths of high school seniors admit having had more than a few sips of alcohol in their lifetime. In Humboldt County more than half of high school students surveyed for the Youth Risk Behavior Survey reported they consumed alcohol in the past thirty days.

The unfortunate truth is that a code of conduct isn't going to keep student

athletes from drinking, let alone going to parties or places where alcohol is readily available." [A code of conduct] isn't going to stop us from drinking," said one Lowry athlete, "it's just going to make us try harder not to get caught."

So why put in so much effort to participate in an activity that's illegal? Athletes who were interviewed said that they drink responsibly, and that for them drinking isn't about getting smashed or having a hangover. They say having a few beers isn't going to hurt anyone, so why not? These athletes said drinking irresponsibly is something they

never do. They're not getting behind the wheel of a car, they always have a designated driver, and they're having fun in someone's home, not vandalizing city property.

The school thinks upholding the honor of our school should be reason enough to abstain from drinking, athletes don't think so. In addition to possible legal and academic repercussions, drinking has all kinds of detrimental physical effects that especially impact athletes. Having quick reflexes and being in tip-top shape is important to an athlete's game, but alcohol has long-

term effects that lower a player's performance ability.

Although drinking may be fun, and going to parties is a traditional social activity, the costs of drinking, especially to an athlete, may outweigh the fun of downing Mike's Hard Lemonade. The NIAA can spit out stat after harsh stat about the detrimental effects of alcohol, but the truth is that students, even if they're athletes, are going to drink, whether or not a piece of paper says they can. So unless more realistic measures are taken to prevent students from drinking, nothing is going to change.

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Class mascots: Meet the students behind the costumes

By Stephanie Hageman

Winterfest and Homecoming are exciting and fun weeks for Lowry during the school year. During our pep rally's everyone gets loud and spirited, especially our class mascots. Getting the crowd pumped is their goal.

The freshmen class motto is, "there's nothing we can't do, we're the class of 2012." Their mascot, Mr. Incredible, is Alan Mezenen. Mezenen likes being a mascot because it gives him a "chance to make the crowd laugh" and to show his spirit. His favorite part of his role as a mascot is to "just not have to be

sitting in the stands and the way the crowd cheers." Mezenen thinks being a class mascot has a confidence effect because as a mascot you're in front of a lot of people. "It's a good experience," said Mezenen.

The sophomore motto is "class of 2011, we're intense like 007." The class mascot, Dylan Ongert, volunteered because he thought being a mascot would be a fun experience. Dylan's character is James Bond and his costume is a black and purple suit. "I love my outfit, it's stylish," said Ongert. Ongert would encourage others to be a class mascot, "it's a fun thing to do."

"The other mascots are my rivals," said Ongert.

The junior's class motto is, "we'll beat you till the end, we're the class of 2010." The mascot is Andrew Soderstrom, who sports a boxer costume and has been his class mascot since freshmen year. "I like my costume but I wish had real boxing gloves," said Soderstrom. He enjoys being a mascot because he likes to represent his class, his favorite part is when, "the crowd gets all fired up and does the wave." Soderstrom would definitely encourage upcoming freshmen to be their class mascot, "it's like a tradition and it's

good to be a participant in your school, I like the other mascots, but they don't have the most spirit," said Soderstrom.

"We're so fine we'll blow your mind, we're the class of 2009" is the senior's class motto. The class mascot is Travis Sadler, who wears a dynamite costume that was constructed by Mrs. Rorex. Sadler likes being his class mascot because, "it's fun and I get to do crazy things." He has been the dynamite mascot since freshmen year and enjoys motivating class spirit at the assemblies. "The other mascots aren't as good as me," he said. They all agree that being a mascot is a great experience.



THE BRAND

Freshman mascot Alan Mezenen



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Sophomore mascot Dylan Ongert



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Junior mascot Andrew Soderstrom



THE BRAND

Senior mascot Travis Sadler

What's cooking inside Lowry's Al's Diner

By Joey Lester

Each day when the bell rings at 11:45 students rush out to eating establishments in the community or to Lowry's own Al's Diner. For those who stay at school lunch consists of exchanges of money at several different times from friend to friend until finally a student receives their lunch or that along with eight other students that they buy.

At this point the process appears to be over and the students viciously

consume what ever they had desired for that day. That was it from the time the bell rang to the time they got their food the whole process is over. However it seems that one of the biggest influences has been over looked, this step being the wonderful women that prepare food for hungry kids on a daily basis.

The lunch ladies are the sole contributors and yet day by day, they seem to be overlooked. It is time that they are given some credit for what they do, but what is it that they do? They

are the ladies at the cash registers who take money and distribute sustenance, but that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Every morning the lunch ladies arrive to start preparing the food for the day, some arrive even before the students and they must start planning the meals for the day. It seems like an easy task but with cuts in the budget and strict government regulations on what can and can't be served this can be quite the chore.

Along with meal planning they

have to factor in how many students they will have to serve each day and what events are happening before lunch on the given day. For example on days that pep assemblies are held their job becomes even harder. They have to plan meals that are easy to disperse to students knowing that the whole crowd will be coming at once. Finally once all the meals are planned and prepared they have to deal with some of the teenage "attitudes" that most students have and don't even think about while talking to these fine food servers.

Through all of this they do their job everyday and provide students with their second wind to help them conquer the tasks of the periods after lunch. The next time you go to dine on your mid-day meal think of all the time and effort it took to get it to where it is.



Joey Lester • THE BRAND

The Lowry cooks take a break from their busy day.

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For some Lowry students, the military is the right choice

By Camille Lyon

After high school, teens will usually go to college, take a year off, pursue their career, or possibly join the military.

At the ripe age of eighteen many choose to enlist in the military. Whether it is the Navy, Army, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or the Air Force, many find their plans after high school to include some sort of independence.

Some say military recruiters convince naïve, young high school students to enlist without telling them the whole story. Many who feel negatively

toward war think the military recruiting teens is not fair. On the other hand, many soldiers may feel that joining the military after high school was one of the best decisions they ever made. I myself would never even consider joining any branch of the military when I am done with high school, but I have seen how joining the military can be beneficial to one's future.

My own sister, who graduated last year, joined the Navy with many other students in her class. She has already gone through the necessary boot camp and is now attending her "A" school. My sister was someone whom no one

fathomed would join the armed forces, but now that she is somewhat involved in the military one can see how much it has changed her for the better.

Many join with the intention of having their tuition paid for after serving for around four years. This may seem like a trick to reel in students who are struggling to find some means of financial support for college. Lowry students such as Ryan Mathes and Oscar Arechiga have joined the military and are planning to attend after they graduate. The military provides many benefits for their soldiers. They are being given free meals and an educa-

tion along with healthcare when they are in the program. The military also has many jobs that anyone may feel interested in. Jobs range from medical fields to science research to law enforcement to arts and media. The military may not be all about just shooting a gun. It may help teens mature and focus more on their future.

The military is also a great way to meet new people and travel to far away places. College doesn't always have to be the next step after high school; there are always other choices that could be just as beneficial.

With a Mardi Gras theme, Prom is coming, are you ready?

By Mary Granath

With prom less than two weeks away, are you ready?

This year Lowry High School has chosen a Mardi Gras/Masquerade theme for the prom. Prom will be held on May 2 at the convention center East Hall. Junior class officers along with Mrs. Dawson, Mrs. Grady, and other volunteers spend Thursday and Friday

setting up decorations and preparing the Convention Center to be turned into a wonderful venue for the dance.

Brochures regarding all prom information, including requirements for formal attire, are available in the attendance office. Students planning on going to prom must have these brochures signed before purchasing prom tickets.

Tickets will be on sale starting

Monday, April 20 through May 1 at lunch only in front of Mrs. Dawson's classroom in the English hallway.

Tickets cost 60 dollars for a couple and 45 dollars for a single, but if you want to buy a memorable souvenir gel candle glass, it is an additional eight dollars.

Start making those appointments and get ready to make this a prom you won't forget.

Skills USA is a club for everyone

By Camille Lyon

There are many different clubs at Lowry that can suit any student's interest. One of these clubs is Skills USA, or what was formerly known as VICA. Skills USA is advised by Mr. Aberasturi. Skills USA is a student organization to ensure America has a skilled workforce. Skills USA is common to FFA and FBLA.

The club was started by Mr. Aberasturi to help develop leadership skills and quality workers. There are about fifteen students at Lowry who are involved in Skills USA. Students that are career oriented and interested in building trades are usually the ones found to be involved in Skills USA.

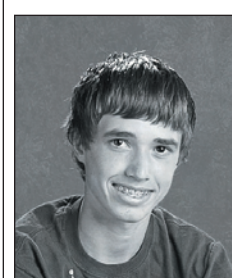
Skills USA helps to develop leadership and workforce skills. Students have the opportunity to compete at

conferences against other schools in Nevada. There are around fifty different competitions that range from categories such as small gas engines, welding, janitorial, and law enforcement. Students who win gold medals are able to compete in the national tournament.

"Anyone could do it," said advisor Mr. Aberasturi. To qualify for competitions, Mr. Aberasturi takes the five highest grades in each class.

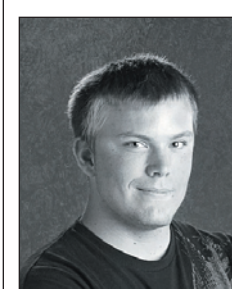
Lowry Voices

What was the best April Fool's joke that you played on someone or was played on you?



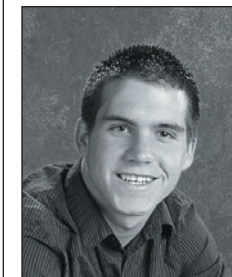
Courtesy•WINNADA
Chase Estes

"You put tape around the sink thing that you pull out, the hose and you tape that open, so when they turn on the sink it sprays them." (Pulled prank on his mom)



Courtesy•WINNADA
Corbin Crouch

"I put green hair dye in my parents shampoo."



Courtesy•WINNADA
Andrew Soderstrom

"There was a morning and my brother went up and told me I was adopted and I didn't know it was April Fools 'cause it was morning I just woke up and then later on that day after I was all angry he told me it was April Fools then it was all okay"

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Marley and Me, a good, emotional read

By Rachelle Dennis

"Marley and Me", by John Grogan, is a heartwarming and unforgettable story of a family in the making and the most neurotic dog who teaches what really matters in life. Marley is a wild, ambitious and an entertaining dog. He rips up couches, eats necklaces and breaks through screen doors.

How does a dog like Marley teach a couple like John and Jenny? The only answer I can find to that question is a quote from the author.

"Marley taught me about living each day with exuberance and joy, about seizing the moment and following your heart. He taught me to appreciate the simple things....And as he grew old and achy, he taught me about optimism in the face of adversity."

This story has brought a new meaning of life to me. It has taught me to enjoy the little things, don't stress the little things and just go with the flow.

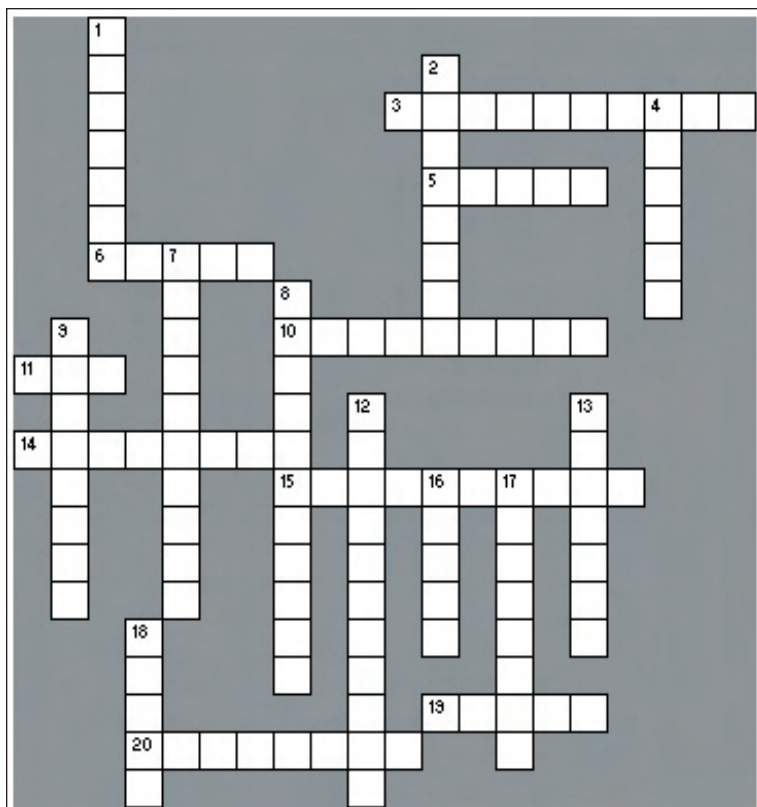
Jenny and John have been through a lot together and every memory they have has something to do with Marley. From the time he chewed up the wall in the garage because of a thunder and lightning storm.

From when he was young and reckless to when he was old and losing his eye sight, he was still the Marley that they fell in love with the day they picked him.

I would recommend "Marley and Me" to anyone who is looking to laugh hysterically and cry a little.

Lowry Crossword

By Chloe Rusconi



Down

1. Mr. Welters favorite football team.
2. Last all-state athlete for cross country. (2 words)
4. Need info on a scholarship talk to Mrs. ____?
7. Teaches shop.
8. The swim team coach. (2 words)
9. The Athletic director.
12. Says announcements each day.(2 words)
- 13."Dont go home and kick the dog."
16. The bookkeeper and the math teacher with the same name.
17. Teaches health, PE and Key Club.
- 18 The Youngest teacher.

Across

3. Recites the pledge each morning. (2 words)
5. This is how many married couples work at Lowry.
6. Character is made by what you ____ for.
10. Last year, Lowry was a high _____ school.
11. You are fined ____ dollars for illegal parking.
14. What we have every Wednesday.
15. The first time to get all dressed up.
19. Spanish teacher.
20. Teacher that draws cartoons for the Lowry Newspaper.

Community gets involved with student art show at local gallery

By Camille Lyon

Students from all grade levels displayed their artwork in a student art show at the local art gallery in March.

Artwork was classified by grade level, class, and medium.

The small art gallery was packed with art lovers, parents, and students to see all of the selected art pieces. The displays included ceramic figures, scratchboard designs, photo shop designs, and many other different variations of displays.

"I really liked the array of art the whole show made my day; art is good, very good," said JD Christinson who came to the show to see his sister Ca-

mille Christinson's art.

Senior Kacy Shearer was awarded with the Best in Show prize for her fashion design concept. She also received the Judge's Choice award.

Junior, Ashlee Lee, received first place for her linocut print.

Sophomore, Dillon Bryan, received the first place prize for his color pencil display he made in Ms. Kottke's Art class.

There were many prize recipients.

"It's fantastic," said Lowry Art teacher, Mrs. Rorex. Junior High Art teacher, Mrs. Rust, commented that twice as many people came to this years art show than last year. She was really happy to see such a big turnout.

There were 400 community members that came to the art show to view local student's art pieces.

Overall, the art show was a great success for the community and the students. Everyone seemed to have a good time admiring the art work for all different age levels of students.

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