

The Brand



Lowry High School

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Winnemucca, Nevada

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Theresa Thompson gives her opinion on medical marijuana.



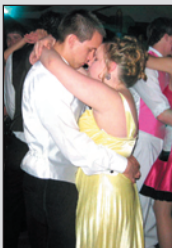
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Winnemucca veterans give advice to younger generation

By Camille Lyon, Victoria Fragione, Brittany Nielsen, Mary Granath

In a time of war it is important to be familiar with the current soldiers in your community. From World War II to the current war in Afghanistan, many veterans live in Winnemucca and they carry their experiences from the military. The military is a way of life for some, and many Lowry students choose some branch of the military for their after high school plans.



Courtesy Fragione Family
Albert Fragione, 1943.

One of the many veterans that live in Winnemucca is Paul Schlehr. Schlehr is a Vietnam veteran and served in the military for twenty years beginning November of 1958. Schlehr volunteered for enlistment, he wanted to go to college but could not support himself financially.

"The military gives opportunities for someone who is capable to be very much recognized," said Schlehr.

Schlehr served on the USS Anapolis as an EMO, Electronics Material Officer. The military may seem different now than how it was viewed during Vietnam, Korea, or World War II, but it still comes with many benefits.

"I believe it matures the individual," said Schlehr, "you see things most people don't, and travel and see environments most won't." However, Schlehr also be-

lieves there is a bigger emphasis on politics in the military than there was when he served.

After the military there are many programs and clubs veterans may associate themselves with. Schlehr is involved in American Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 744.

Yet another Veteran residing in Winnemucca is Albert Fragione who had over 31 years of military service and

see VETERANS page 2

Behind the mask: a behind the scene look at sports officials

By Savannah McDade and Victoria Fragione

Are you the screaming fan who sits in the grand stands shouting profanities at a referee who "didn't make a fair call"?

Sports officials are more than just men or women who call time outs, fouls, and enforce the rules; their job is anything but menial. The process of becoming a sports official is very comprehensive, it is not something you

merely get into by experience, although experience is essential.

"Knowing the rules and how to interpret them come from watching and playing. Generally, the higher level you officiate, the more you have to do. We take tests each year for high school basketball that we have to pass. A friend of mine is a referee in the NBA, and they get evaluated on film by representatives from the league," said Dustin Christean who has been refereeing for sixteen years, three of which for the High School basketball for the Officials' Association (NENOA).

Officials are great at multi-tasking, not only do they have to deal with the game in general but they also have to deal with angry coaches, players, parents, and fans.

"It's difficult to be indifferent to the pressure and responsibility that comes with reffing," said Christean.

see OFFICIALS page 4



Staff • THE BRAND

Referee Tim Connors looks on as Gerardo Covarrubias tries to get around a defender.



Ron Espinola • THE BRAND

THE NATIONAL PASTIME: Winnemucca Little League held it's opening ceremonies Saturday, April 24.

Obama to reduce weapons

By Mary Granath & Camille Lyon

Though the actual use of nuclear weapons has never been common in the world's history, these weapons continue to pose an imminent threat. It is for this reason that new treaties are being made and new legislation is being passed. Often referred to as the "nuclear club" there are nine nations believed to have nuclear weapons: the

United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, and Israel.

Reducing and protecting the nuclear weapons in the world has been a priority of the Obama administration. Earlier this month, with the expiration of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), with Russia, President Obama was quick to act and re-instated the same principles

see WEAPONS page 2

Veterans

fought in World War II (WWII).

"I wanted to fly planes in the beginning ... the group was canceled because there weren't enough planes to fly. So I figured if I couldn't fly them I would jump out of them."

Fragione spent a majority of his service during WWII in Okinawa, Japan. "When I woke up and I was scared, I wondered everyday if today was my last day."

However, Fragione has no regrets about choosing to go into the military, "I would never change anything I did, and my memory will never let me forget."

After retiring from combat service, Fragione spent three and half years in Reno, Nevada as a recruiter. He also

continues to be involved in the Marine Corps League in Fallon, Nevada.

Mr. Dunham, an additional war veteran in this community, has a different opinion on war.

"It has changed my life," he stated about his service in the Vietnam War. However he does not believe that it has changed his life for the better.

Dunham stated his service during the Vietnam War altered his point of view of life so much that he had difficulty returning to social networking areas. "It took me ten years to start working after I got out I didn't really want to work. I pretty much became a hermit I really doubted that I would ever come back to society."

There are many students at Lowry

who choose the military as their after high school plans such as Desirae Lemm. She chose to go into the military for all of its benefits. Having the military to be able to pay for school is definitely a deal-maker to most students because college is expensive. Lemm views the military as a chance to travel the world and experience new things she may have never been able to experience. She chose to join the army because most of her family is in the air force and she wanted to take her own route.

"I am more than happy with my decision," said Lemm, "after graduation I know I will be able to see the world, meet new people, and just start over basically."

Lemm plans on being a part of the military for 20 years. "I will be more than satisfied [when she gets out]," said Lemm, "I will have the best benefits, and a college career paid for."



Courtesy • WINNADAM

Desirae Lemm.

Depending on the person, the military can be a great option for a career. However, the commitment should not be taken lightly and one should realize that military service can change your life.

Weapons

of the treaty but with some new things added to it. This new treaty, signed in Prague, will be in effect for the next seven years. The treaty acts as an aid on arms control, and it improves the U.S. and Russian relations.

The treaty will lower the use of long range deployed nuclear warheads by 30%. The START treaty limits each side to 1,550 strategic nuclear weapons deployed and ready to fire, and to 700 deployed delivery systems (<http://www.guardian.co.uk>). However, ac-

cording to the Center for Arms Control this still leaves Russia and the United States with around 95% of the world's nuclear weapons combined. Nevertheless, this is certainly a step toward a nuclear free world.

On April 12 and 13 a nuclear summit was held in Washington D.C. to discuss the matter of protecting nuclear weapons in order to keep them away from terrorist groups. At this summit President Viktor Yanukovich of Ukraine agreed to dispose of all of

his country's highly enriched uranium, which is used in nuclear weapons, within the next two years.

Recently the country of Chile has also decided to rid itself of nuclear weapons therefore turning over its entire store to the United States. The NNSA assistant deputy administrator, Andrew Bieniawski, stated that "When the material is no longer here, terrorists cannot acquire the material [and] the country is safer. That's the bottom line." (abcnews.go.com)



Olivier Douliery/Abaca Press/MCT

US President Barack Obama met with world leaders before the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, DC.

Months later, Haiti still in desperate need of basic necessities

By Miranda Buttram

The earthquake on January 12, 2010 destroyed buildings and turned Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, into rubble. Almost three months have passed since that devastating day and the country of Haiti is beginning to

rebuild with the help of other countries.

The United Nations met in New York to pledge funding and assistance to help rebuild a demolished Haiti. Delegates from more than 130 nations are gathering, to acquire the support needed to secure financial resources

for the project.

When the earthquake hit, it killed nearly 300,000 people, and left one third of the country's nine million people in need of aid. The UN Development Programme is estimating \$7 billion worth of damages due to the earthquake (cananews.net).

The pledges from international organizations and 59 nations added up to nearly \$5.3 billion over the next two years, and a total of \$9.9 billion for three more years. The United States itself was one of the largest donors to the Haitian cause, committing to \$1.15 billion on top of the more than \$900 million already spent (nytimes.com). The country of Haiti has and estimated \$828 million dollar debt to international institutions. The debt relief is one of several approaches to help Haiti recover from the devastating earthquake (ap.org).

However Aid experts state that there is a lack of adequate shelter, which is a critical issue for safety and public health. Although most rebuilding efforts are still slow, the small country now has the funds pledged at the United Nations meeting to help speed up the recovery process of the devastated country.



Charles Trainor Jr./Miami Herald/MCT
Rubble from the collapsed University in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

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Senior privileges: Where have they gone?

By Megan Griggs



From the time a person enters high school, they can't wait for the chance to call themselves seniors. Being a senior has its own awe struck wonder about it, you are about to graduate, you get a little more freedom, and you get the chance to start a new chapter of your life.

Being a senior also includes the milestone of your 18th birthday, 18 is the glorified age where you are from now on considered as an adult.

For as long as I can remember being a senior came with a set of special privileges, that no other class received. These privileges included only having to take a minimum of four classes, and the chance to have your own parking spot in the lot closest to the school, another added privilege was having a fifteen minute

break before lunch known as TASK. Currently the graduating class of 2010 is receiving none of these so called "senior privileges".

It is kind of a let down to us seniors; to think that we made it all four years of high school and don't get any source of reward. To some it may not seem like that big of a deal, but it is. It seems like the only form of reward we get for being a senior is being able to have two off periods.

I think all the things that the se-

nior class gets to do the last week before graduating is the kind of stuff we should be privileged to do all year long. Activities include senior sunset, and a barbeque for both the graduating class and their parents. These kinds of things are what make senior year both fun and memorable.

Now I'm not saying that seniors should get a red carpet rolled out for them or anything, but making it to senior year is a big accomplishment, and our school should realize that.

Many are doing it, but is plastic surgery isn't really worth it

By Brittany Nielsen



No one is perfect, but in today's society people are trying to be. Everyone has a physical flaw, real or perceived, that they want changed. This can be done but does that mean it should be?

It is a relatively simple matter to alter your nose, chin, lips, eyes, etc. However simple the procedure is it can be expensive and should not be done except for serious disfigurements and injuries.

In today's society everybody wants to be a size 0 and have the perfect Jessica Alba lips or Jessica Biel facial structure. But not everybody can look like a movie star, nor should they.

If someone chooses plastic surgery, you have to really trust the doctor to not make a mistake otherwise you will have to spend more money on corrective surgery. Unfortunately, this does happen to some.

For some who cosmetic surgery becomes an addiction to get every flaw fixed. Most celebrities and models today have had some kind of surgery even when they do not need to get something done. How-

ever, they are in the spotlight all the time and their job depends on what they look like. For example, Michael Jackson was infamous for having his nose reconstructed so many times that it did not even look like a nose. Heidi Montag, who is just 25-years-old, had 10 surgeries in one day.

In these cases the surgeries were pointless, but in cases like Isabelle Dinoire, the first face transplant patient, the procedure can be justified. It is just absurd to try and fix every minor physical flaw to satisfy insecurities. People need to accept themselves and others for who they are not who think they should be.

The pro's and con's of the legalization of marijuana

By Theresa Thompson



Many of you have probably heard of cannabis, or marijuana. More than likely you know someone who has used cannabis. In a survey of three hundred people 96% have used cannabis at least once and 14% use it several times a week. This drug is so common and very easy to get a hold of, so should it be illegal?

Legalized substances such as alcohol and tobacco cause more deaths per year than cannabis. It is physically impossible to over dose on cannabis. For a human to consume enough cannabis to kill them, they would have to consume almost 40,000 times the amount of THC required to intoxicate them. It only takes about 5 to 10 times the amount of alcohol required to intoxicate, to be fatal. For example, it takes 3 beers to intoxicate you, and 15 to 30 beers to kill you. However, it takes you 3 'hits' of marijuana to intoxicate you, and would take 120,000 hits to kill you. (http://wiki.answers.com/Q/Can_you_overdose_on_marijuana_if_so_how).

In 2007, 12 states legalized cannabis for medical use. Cannabis helps people who suffer from multiple sclerosis (MS). 74 percent of people who started us-

ing cannabis after being diagnosed with MS said it either exterminated or regulated leg spasms, 54 percent said they used cannabis mainly for pain relief. (<http://www.annieappleseedproject.org>) This drug also has the potential to kill cancerous glioma cells. On Aug. 18, 1974, A Washington Post newspaper feature stated that marijuana's primary element, THC, "slowed the growth of lung cancers, breast cancers and a virus-induced leukemia in laboratory mice, and prolonged their lives by as much as 36 percent." (<http://www.lewrockwell.com>)

Medical use of cannabis is limited, as it should also be recreationally. By legalizing cannabis the government could regulate its usage and focus its energy on stopping hard drugs, such as methamphetamine, and cocaine.

People have the choice to use the substance. Just like alcohol and 'big tobacco' products, the use of this substance is a personal decision, and just as other legalized substances, the freedom should have limit.

Cannabis is not looked down upon as much as other drugs, and

doesn't have all the harmful effects of legalized 'big tobacco' products and alcohol either. In hard economic times, our country needs money, and if cannabis became legalized it would be a financial benefit for our country, by gaining money from the tax on cannabis. Overall cannabis would have more pros to being legalized than cons.

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Gray, Legarza, Thacker win at home meet



Mary Granath • THE BRAND

Adam Gray in the lead.

By Camille Lyon

Lowry hosted an invitational track meet on March 17. It was a sunny day for the invitational of over 13 boys teams and 17 girls teams.

Fernley came out on top with a total point score of 139 points. Adam Gray finished in first in the 800 meter with a time of 2:08. "I was proud of my win," said Gray, "I think I could have done better."

The girl's 4x200 relay team took second place. The team consisted of



Mary Granath • THE BRAND

Dillon Anderson clears a hurdle.

Mallorie Leal, Kirstie Ingle, Berenice Sanchez, and Alex Schirrick. The boy's 4x100 meter team took third with a time of 45.92 seconds. The boys 4x100 team consists of Blaine Case, Dylan Keller, Brandon Eldodt, and Luis Ramirez.

Senior Chris Pike took third place in the 3200 meter with a time of 11:05. Will Thacker took an amazing first in the shot put with a distance of 46-06.50. Emilia Legarza placed first in the pole vault. Lowry hosted a great invitational and will hopefully keep the success in the upcoming meets.

Baseball drops two to Truckee

By Brooklyn Thomas

With first place on the line, the varsity baseball team fell short against Truckee on April 22. Defensive miscues and poor hitting resulted in two losses, 6-1 and 9-8.

The Buckaroos had solid pitching performances from Bryan Noble and Anthony Chojnacki.

"All of our pitchers gave us the opportunity to win, but we didn't support them well," said head coach Ron Espinola.

In the second game, Lowry was behind 8-6 in the sixth. However the

Bucks rallied for four runs on hits from Noble, Jace Billingsley, Dusty Kraft and Mitch Pollock.

Pitching in relief, Billingsley, was able to keep the score at 8-6 going into the home half of the seventh. RBIs from Billingsley and Jesse Studebaker pushed the games into extra innings.

In the eighth Truckee was able to push across the go ahead run and Lowry's rally fell short in the final frame.

The players were disappointed with the outcome.

Kraft said, "For starters we weren't ready to play...I think we were a little over confident."

He added, "It's obvious they have no respect for us and our field and that's something we don't do here."



Brooklyn Thomas • THE BRAND

Mitch Pollock tags out a Truckee runner at the plate.

LHS Rodeo has high hopes for season

By Savannah McDade

Rodeo has been an important part of our community for many generations. Those who participate put in a lot of hard work and a lot of passion. The Lowry High School Rodeo Club has been working diligently on and off season in hopes of making it to the State and National rodeos. Freshman Shaynee Monchamp (who participates in barrel racing, pole bending, and rodeo queen competitions) practices on a daily basis, even in the winter, in hopes of becoming the state queen and running for Nationals.

Senior Lane Barton who participates in bull riding, has also been putting in a lot of hard work, "I just practice all the time and get on as many bulls as I can" said Barton, who, just like Monchamp, is eager to make it to the National Finals rodeo which will be held in Gillette, Wyoming.

Sophomore Bobby Hoenck participates in bareback riding and cutting (a form of horsemanship), both of which require a lot of practice.

"I've been doing cutting for eight

years," said Hoenck, who devoted his off season time to practice cutting.

Rodeo does not only require a lot of hard work but, like any other sport, it can be very expensive. Not only does one have to acquire an animal, but they have to pay for animal feed, tack, traveling, and various other things, such as clothing.

Regarding the queen competition, Monchamp said, "you spend thousands of dollars, my wardrobe already has cost me 5,000 dollars, and I have only had ten outfits."



Courtesy • WINNADAY

Quinn Mader.

Officials

"People love to hate refs and umps because they are passionate about their team's interests at all costs," said Christean. "When I'm not reffing, I am one of them... It's easy to criticize officials, so you can't let it bother you too much."

Tim Connors who has been an official since 1983 and has officiated within three different states (including Nevada) said that the hardest part about officiating is being in situations where fans, even coaches, do not wholly understand the game and as an official is it difficult to explain the technicalities to an angry coach who does not understand the foul.

"The bottom line is, you're no bigger than the game, go out and enjoy it... and have fun, yeah you're going to get yelled at, that's a part of it," said Connors.

While many people like to blame referees for faults in the game, one should keep in mind that a referee's job is very important. "If we don't show up, they don't have a game," said Bryan Mahoney who has been refereeing basketball for 42 years.

With all of these things to worry about, why would one want to become a referee? Is it the money? Is it the enjoyment? "The better officials that are doing the games aren't out there for the money, they're out there for the pure enjoyment of the game," said Connors.

Christean said that he officiates for the enjoyment, "I like staying active and involved, but more than anything I learned a lot of valuable lessons from sports that I apply in my own life every day. It's nice to give back to the game that helped me become a better person."

Mahoney takes pleasure in both aspects, "I really enjoy it, it's a thrill to do the games... and I don't win or lose... if you coach you win and you lose and then when you lose you grieve about it, but when you ref, you come, you do a great job, you get paid, (you) go buy a hamburger."



Courtesy • WINNADAY

Bryan Mahoney.

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AOI: Dana Pardovich

By Brooklyn Thomas

Junior Dana Pardovich has been chosen as the Athlete of the Issue, for her skills on the softball field.

Pardovich was born in Reno and has been playing her whole life. "I just started when I was really little and had fun and enjoyed it, so I stuck with it," said Pardovich.

She is a third year veteran on the lowry varsity softball team. Her parents have stayed involved with her all through the years.

"My parents go to all my games, my dad likes to help the team out. He makes sure we have Gatorade for the games and supports us all the way," said Pardovich.

Softball is not the only thing Pardovich has played at Lowry.

"I use to play basketball," said Pardovich. She stopped playing it after her sophomore year. "I just decide it wasn't for me, and I wanted to focus on softball," explained Pardovich.

She would like to continue playing softball in college.

"I want to go to college and play softball and join the Air Force and hopefully play softball for them. I hope if I keep playing I can play D1 [Division 1]," said Pardovich.

Her favorite college league team is the Texas longhorns, and for major league baseball it's the Anaheim Angels.



AOI: Paeden Underwood

By Brittany Nielsen

Senior Paeden Underwood has been selected as the Athlete of the Issue.

He participates in three sports; football, wrestling, and rodeo. He has played football and wrestled all four years and he started rodeo his sophomore year.

"I love sports; you could say they are my life" said Underwood.

According to Paeden, sports give you another way to express yourself. It gives you something to do with your free time and helps you strive to achieve your goals.

He started rodeo for a new adrena-

line rush. He competes in bareback riding.

"Bareback is amazing, you are not in control of everything; you are on an animal that has its own mind" said Underwood.

Out of the three sports that he plays, wrestling is his favorite and one in which he has two state championships.

"It is an individual and a team sport; you rely on yourself to achieve greatness." Underwood plans on wrestling for Southwestern Oregon.

With the sports that he plays his family is always there.

"My family supports me 100 percent, always at the games, meets, tournaments,

rodeos, everything"



Lowry swimmers faring well against stiff competition in the pool

By Miranda Buttram

Since the Lowry Swim Team's season began, the team has been competing well in the Zephyr League.

On April 24 the swimmers competed in a league meet and several had outstanding days. Andrew Stephen finished second in four events (50-Free, 100-Fly, 100-Free, 100-Breast) and third in another (100-Back). On the

girl's side, Johana Christensen placed second (50-Free), third (100-Back) and fourth (100-Free).

In their first meet they competed against Reed. Lowry High School's girls suffered a narrow loss by six points 121-127, while the boys won 121.5-110.5. At the meet, the team claimed a combined 13 first place finishes.

The following weekend LHS faced off against Manogue and North Valley.

Lowry's girls defeated Manogue, 145-116, and North Valley, 170-100. However, the boys lost to Manogue, 123-109, and North Valley, 120-118.

On March 27, the swim team traveled to Minden to compete against Douglas. Hopes were high and several members of Lowry claimed first in their in their races, such as seniors Mckenzie Gray and Stephen. With several first place wins Lowry lost to

Douglas 165-123.

At the April 17 meet, the boys team beat Truckee 117-86, while the girls fell 123-56. However, Lowry girls' 500-yard medley relay took first as did their 200-yard free relay. In addition the Boys 200-yard free relay also took first against Truckee.

Lowry will be back in the pool for Zone on May 8.

This year's Mr. Irrelevant might be relevant to the Detroit Lions

By Nicholas J. Cotsonika Detroit Free Press (MCT)

Three days after Nebraska defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh held up a No. 1 Lions jersey as the second overall pick in the NFL draft, someone held up another Lions jersey on stage at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

On this one, duct tape covered the No. 1 in the shape of an "I," honoring Mr. Irrelevant, the 255th and final pick in the NFL draft, Weber State wide receiver Tim Toone. Paul Salata made the announcement as he traditionally does.

He is the founder of Irrelevant Week, an annual five-day bash in Newport Beach, Calif., for the last man drafted. Why? To do something nice for no reason at all.

"I think it'll be fun," Toone said. "Just having fun with the whole situation will be a great opportunity."

But just because Toone is Mr. Irrelevant doesn't mean he will be irrelevant. The Lions made Alabama cornerback Ramzee Robinson the last pick (255th overall) in 2007, and after the parade and banquet and other events in Newport, he played 19 games for them. He has gone on to play for the Eagles and Browns.

Coach Jim Schwartz thinks Toone could be as popular as the colorful, intense linebacker the Lions picked in the seventh round (235th overall) last year.

"Zack Follett's going to have some competition for new favorite player, new cult hero in Detroit," Schwartz said, pointing out Toone not only had a lot of big numbers and honors from college, but was a "white guy with dreadlocks."

"I hope the fans will see the same thing that we saw in him," Schwartz said. Toone, 5-foot-10, 175 pounds, is 25 years old, having served a two-year Mormon

mission in West Africa. He's speedy. He had 95- and 90-yard punt returns for touchdowns in college.

"A lot of people tell me I'm like Wes Welker," Toone said. "Having him in the league has helped me out a lot because

he's not the biggest guy, but he's a hard worker, he runs great routes, he's quick. That's why people compare me to him, because I work hard. I try to find open holes and do everything I can to help the team win."

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Ways to improve your GPA

By Mary Granath



Robinson Kuntz/Santa Cruz Sentinel/MCT

Students in Watsonville, California.

In high school teens tend to let their GPA slip, especially in their first two years. A student's GPA is hard to bring up but not impossible.

There are numerous different techniques students can apply to increase GPA.

The easiest way to raise a GPA is simply by applying smart studying methods. Many teens may receive good grades on open book assignments, but when it comes to tests students find it much more difficult to earn an acceptable grade. Using flash cards is a study technique that has been used since kindergarten and the reason for this is because it's effective. It may seem juvenile but making ten flash cards to help you study for

a test may yield the results you are looking for.

Some students find writing papers especially difficult, however most teachers make those assignments worth more than any other. For students who have trouble writing a paper you should seek help from your teacher. Show them rough drafts of the paper to see if it is heading in the right direction and if they have any tips for you.

Staying on top of your homework is a vital factor to maintaining GPA. Make sure that you receive make up work before you leave so you can keep track of everything you need to have turned in when you get back. Also, complete worksheets the same day as the lecture when the information is fresh in your mind.

You may think that bringing up your GPA is impossible, but don't give up. It may be more work than you're used to but don't give up. Raising your GPA is an attainable goal if you put your mind to it.

2010 Prom will be one to remember

By Mallorie Leal and Mary Granath

This year Prom will be held on May 1 and it is shaping up to be an en-



Chloe Rusconi • THE BRAND

Karl Barensten and Kendra Plant at last year's Prom.

joyable event. The theme this year is 'a black tie affair', "It's going to be awesome," stated Student Body Historian Brandi Brooks.

Junior class officers and the Leadership class are in charge of putting on

the prom, Junior Class President Luis Gutierrez said "putting up the decorations," is the hardest part of preparing for prom.

The Convention Center doors will open at 8:30 and the dance will last until 12:30. However, if you have purchased pictures you can go at 7:45 to take them ahead of time instead of during the dance.

The royalty crowning ceremony will take place at 11:30, nominee's family members will be allowed in, but must leave after the crowning. A Prom breakfast is being held immediately after the dance and students who decide to stay will receive a wristband so they will not get in trouble for staying out past curfew.

Tickets for will continue to be sold at lunch on April 26 and 30. They will only be sold at lunch; no tickets are sold at the door. Ticket prices are \$65.00 for couples and \$50.00 for singles. Remember your student I.D. card and your date, couples will only be allowed to enter the dance with the person with whom they purchased their ticket.

Lowry Voices

By Victoria Fragione

What is your favorite thing about Lowry?



Dylan Ongert, Junior

"The sports and the weight room."



Elisa Higbee, Junior

"Pep assemblies and sports."



Sterling Snow, Junior

"All the smiling faces."

Guest Editorial: What is P.A.S.S.?

By Ryan Cushman



Ron Espinola • THE BRAND
Ryan Cushman.

A lot of people think that P.A.S.S. is a place where the losers and delinquents go because they are not good enough to be at the high school. This is not true.

While some of us are here because we get into trouble or just don't come to school, a lot of us are here because of tragic events that have befallen us while we were at the high school and just really need to make up for what they lost. We needed an alternate way to get our credits and that's where P.A.S.S. came in.

We can work at our own pace and don't have to deal with a lot of the drama we would normally have to face if we were at the high school.

There are two great instructors here and they can pretty much help you with whatever you need. We have tutors that come down quite often to help anyone who needs it. We have more freedom with our work and don't have to adhere

to a schedule when it comes to what class you want to work on. Doing all of our work on computers can get pretty boring, but if you stay concentrated you can fly right through it.

In conclusion, I would say that P.A.S.S. is hope for anyone that needs or wants a second chance at graduating.

By Ricky Wharff

What is P.A.S.S.? Contrary to popular belief, P.A.S.S. is not for drug addicts and social delinquents. P.A.S.S. is for students who want a fresh start.

The students came to P.A.S.S. because they had trouble at the high school, not because they were trouble. We are here because we weren't getting the credits we needed at Lowry, and can work at our own pace. The work environment is very calm and soothing, and can be very peaceful. Most of the work we do is on the computers, with some written assignments.

Yes the work can be a little tedious, but we P.A.S.S. students just grit our teeth and do our work, not because we have to, but because we want the education.

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Do's and Don'ts: How to make sure your prom is memorable

By Mary Granath

Don't go with someone you don't know- If you're going with someone you don't know that will only because you want a date, chances are you're going to be miserable. It's better to go with a friend and keep things casual than trying to make a big deal out of things by going with someone you haven't ever hung out with.

Do go- Some teens don't think prom is going to be any fun because they don't like dances. However, prom is more than just a dance, it's bonding time for you and your friends and a great time to make memories. Even if you don't like dancing you can just sit down and have a good time talking, don't miss out on this event just because you don't think you'll like it.

Do offer to pay (if you're the girl)- People assume that the boy is suppose to pay for everything but prom can be expensive. Girls should offer to pitch in at least a little, plus you don't want your date complaining the entire time about how much money he had to spend.

Don't go out to dinner- Going out to eat only adds yet another expense. Instead, try doing a progressive dinner; personally I think it's more fun than going out anyways. By staying in to eat your group can save money and all in all have a better time.

Do go all out- Prom isn't like any other dance. It's supposed to be extravagant, over the top, and an experience you'll never forget. Don't hold back when it comes to prom, take a chance on an elaborate dress, take thousands of pictures, and don't be worried about what other people are going to think.

Do be prepared- Have everything planned out about getting ready and whose house you'll be taking pictures at. Being rushed is not a good feeling and things always take longer than you think they're going to.

Don't be too serious- Try to keep things lighthearted so there's a fun atmosphere. Prom is the one day a year you can put your worries aside and just focus on having a good time and making some unforgettable memories.



FBLA members compete at regional and state events

By Emily Bonham

On April 19, and 20 Lowry High School's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competed in the state competition in Las Vegas, NV. They competed against 500 students from 38 schools across the state.

The Lowry chapter placed fifth in scrapbooking and 10th in sweepstakes. Robyn Shafer took fifth in Intro to Parliamentary Procedures, seventh in Creed, and seventh in Public Speaking I. Sarah Gillespie took fourth in Creed, fourth in Public Speaking I, and Word Processing I. Courtney Hammond, Amaya Drake, and Sarah Gillespie were 3 out of the 15 students to get National Business Honor Roll.

Courtney Hammond and Alta Smith all came away with fourth in Desktop Publishing. In the Emerging Business Issues competition Alyssa Parks, Alta Smith, and Marissa Alanis all came home with eighth place

in that category. Hammond stole second in Computer Applications, second in Word Processing II, second in Digital Career Portfolio, and ninth in Sports Management. Drake took third in Electronic Career Portfolio. In Digital Video Productions Alyssa Parks, Marissa Alanis, and Drake stole seventh to come back home to Lowry with. Overall Mrs. Scott is very happy with how her students competed.

Lowry High School's Future Business Leaders of America competed in The Eastern Region Spring Conference at Elko on April 1.

"The best thing about FBLA is gaining actual life skills", said Drake. Taking first in the Emerging Business Issues was Parks, Smith, and Alanis. In Digital Video Production Drake, Parks, and Alanis all took second. Other second place wins included Drake for

Job Interview, Hammond in Electronic Career Portfolio, and Gillespie for Public Speaking I. Drake took third in Electronic Career Portfolio. Also taking third in Public Speaking II was Alanis. Also in Public Speaking II Smith took fourth.

Mrs. Scott said, "I'm hoping to do very well in the competition this weekend as we did last year."



Courtesy • WINNADAA

Members of FBLA take a break from competition to pose for a group photo.

Buckaroos donate blood to save lives



Camille Lyon • THE BRAND

Wes Jones flashes a smile while he donates blood.

By Ben Norfolk

On Thursday April 22 Lowry High School held its annual a blood drive in

sponsored by the senior class

The requirements for males to donate blood are that you have to be healthy, 16 or older and 130 pounds. Female requirements are that you have to be healthy, 16 or older and 150 pounds. Also Aspirin can not be taken 48 hours before you donate.

"Every donation we get into our lab we can break down into three products, platelets, plasma and red blood cells," said a representative for United Blood Services.

After you are finished donating are free cookies and juice provided. Ac-

cording to the Red Cross less than 38 percent of the population is eligible to give blood and every two seconds someone in the United States needs blood. According to the Red Cross most donors feel fine before and after donating, but a small number of people may have a lightheaded or dizzy feeling.

"Lowry High School usually donates between 95 and 125, and when you figure that every donation can save up to three lives that is a lot of blood", said a representative for United Blood Services.

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'Dancing With the Stars' still entertaining after 11 seasons

By Megan Griggs

One of ABC's most popular week-night shows, "Dancing With the Stars" also known as DWTS has done it again. DWTS is on its 11th season and still one of the highest watched shows on the air today. For those of you that don't already know, DWTS is a show where 12 celebrities are paired with 12 professional dancers to compete with each other showcasing their ballroom dancing skills.

On last weeks show the nine remaining dancers and their partners take on either the romantic rumba or the passionate tango to get not one, but two scores from the judges. This

is an all-time first for the show. Dancers got scored first on technique and then on performance, for a total of 60 possibly points.

On the top of the leader boards with 52 points were Evan Lysacek and Anna Trebunskaya with their snazzy and lively tango. All three judges thought that their performance was both entertaining and well danced. Right behind them in second place was Nicole Scherzinger and Derek Hough who danced their way to a score of 50 with the best rumba on the show so far. Judges said Nicole had gorgeous lines and extensions.

Coming in last place in points was Kate Gosselin and her partner Tony

Dovoloni, they only scored a total of 32 points. But having a low score doesn't mean you will be voted off in the elimination round. If a contestant has a good fan base that calls in and votes for them, then they can still come out on top and stay in the competition.

Everyone expected Kate Gosselin to get the boot, since she has continually struggled with the dances, but she must have enough fans out there to keep her safe. Unfortunately Aiden Turner, a soap star, and his partner Edyta Sliwinska eliminated, due to not having enough fan response.

That just goes to show that you can never guess who is going home

and whose going to stay. That's one reason I like the show, it's excited and entertaining every week.



Chris Chavira/Courtesy ABC/MCT

Evan Lysacek has been teamed with Anna Trebunskaya.

Child pageants aren't for the children

By Sierra Sherburn

Fake tans, big hair, and nails all before puberty. That is the basis of all child pageants. All little girls, or even boys, love to dress up when they are little. It is pretty amusing, but when they are enrolled in a pageant, it gets a bit carried away. Pageants suggest that it is never too soon to be sexy, and also hint that everyone has to look gorgeous and go to extremes to be perfect.

Nothing teaches kids that looks

matter more than pageants. Everyone has caked on make-up and their spray tans done before they go out on stage. What is wrong with how the girls look already? If they are five-years-old, then they should look five-years-old, not twenty-five.

Another unsettling issue with pageants is how they encourage small children to be sexy. There is no other

reason to have a swimsuit section if it was not intended for being sexy. The children are showing off their bodies. They parade around with a perky smile. That is not what a young child should be doing and getting judged on.

These little children that get put on

display for pageants look nothing like how they naturally do, which suggests that they are not perfect the way they look already.

Children, who are very impressionable and still learning and figuring out things by what they go through and the type of environment they are surrounded in, should not be involved in pageants.



tlc.discovery.com

Pageant contestants from "Toddlers and Tiaras" on TLC.



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