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The Brand

May 9, 2018 • Lowry High School • Winnemucca, NV



America and its guns

Unfortunately gun violence is something that Americans are all too familiar with. Turning on the news, gun violence is one of the most widely broadcast topics. Whether it is a school shooting, mass shooting outside of school, other gun violence, or suicide. The sad thing is how accustomed to this news Americans have become.

Although mass shootings are a big problem, they actually encompass only about 2% of gun related deaths in the country. Maybe they are just more widely covered, whereas the daily deaths on the nation's streets and homes are overlooked as just another day.

Not many people realize that gun laws could also lower suicide rates in the country. The vast majority of people who attempt suicide are not successful. According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, 25 people attempt suicide for each person who is successful. If people who are mentally unstable or suicidal were not able to buy a gun, the chance of committing suicide could decrease. Each year 44,965 Americans kill themselves and 51 percent of these involve a gun.



GW Coleman./Courtesy • Winnada

In an email interview, Associate Professor of Political Science and Emeritus Director of Governmental Relations Robert Dickens of the University of Nevada Reno shared his opinion on the subject.

Professor Dickens be-

lieves there are several steps that could be done to reduce gun violence.

"Background checks at any purchase site. Assault weapon licensing, contingent on training, similar to that for a concealed carry permit. An additional class of permits for such weapons, as is the case for concealable firearms," said Dickens.

Brayden Jensen, a senior at Lowry, believes there several things that could be done to reduce gun violence.

*A well regulated Militia,
being necessary to the security of a free State,
the right of the people to keep and bear Arms,
shall not be infringed.*

"In order to reduce gun violence, a couple of things could be changed. For example: enhanced background checks, required testing for gun handling and gun laws, require insurance

for liability in wrongful deaths, network gun sales database. Testing should also be required yearly," said Jensen.

Other countries like Australia have strict gun laws that work well. Jensen thinks similar laws would work well in the U.S.

"When looking at countries with gun control, Australia stands out. In April, 1996, 35 people were murdered in Tasmania by a semi-automatic gun wielding lunatic. Instead of wishing people would be 'safer' with their guns, Australia pushed some of the most comprehensive firearm laws in the world," said Jensen. "They banned all semi-automatic weapons and shotguns. Although the laws were specifically designed to stop mass shootings, the rate of homicide and suicide decreased as well."

THE SECOND AMENDMENT

For those who don't know, the Second Amendment created in 1789 states that the right of people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. It is a much different world now and many American citizens be-

lieve it is time to amend the second amendment. Banning guns such as the AR-15, the primary gun used in recent mass shootings, has been widely discussed lately.

Amending the Second Amendment is something Professor Dickens claims will solve nothing for the problem at hand.

Amending the Second Amendment would be an extremely difficult task.

Guns have been a big part of senior Gary Coleman's life and his family even owns a hunting business.

"I think we could use some changes but I don't know if it's going help a whole lot. If they want to take semiautomatic weapons away, if they do that then it's going to be a whole lot harder to defend against the



Braden Jensen./Courtesy • Winnada

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A demonstration organized by Teens For Gun Reform, in the wake of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School./Courtesy • Lorie Shaull



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government, because we are only going to have one shot and they are going to have all kinds of automatics," said Coleman. "I think it would help taking away some semiautomatics within the country it would stop mass shootings but not gun violence. Then again, if we take that away there will still be bombs and pistols, so they would have to take pistols away."

Brayden Jensen does think it would help but does not believe it will be possible to do so.

"Listen, not many sane people pushing for gun control want to appeal the Second Amendment. It is and has been a fundamental part of our country. However, it definitely should have been amended when the number of semi-auto and automatic guns increased. I think it is too late to amend or repeal the Second Amendment because we would have a bunch of angry hillbillies shooting federal officers," said Jensen.

Coleman's fear of amending the Second Amendment is that it would leave citizens defenseless against the government.

"I believe it should not be infringed upon because it's mostly for protection, not just against people or like people but against the government, because that's our last defense against the government, if they take our guns than we are pretty much defenseless," said Coleman.

Many recreational hunters worry that amending the Second Amendment could affect them, if certain guns are taken away.

"I've been a hunter ever since I could walk, my dad owns a hunting business, so that's a huge part of our lives; having guns, and that's what I plan to do for the rest of my life is hunt and provide for my family," said Coleman.

Changes in gun laws could impact Coleman's future.



Colt AR-15 Semi-Auto 9MM./Courtesy • colt.com

"It could, it depends on the restrictions, such as if they choose to take all guns away it would affect it,

but if they just raise the age limit it wouldn't affect it that much because kids go out with their parents," said Coleman.

ARMING TEACHERS

According to the Washington Post, in the two months following the most recent mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Republican legislators have introduced 25 measures to arm teachers and staff members in schools. President Trump and the National Rifle Association called on states to arm teachers just days after the last school shooting.

Although nothing has actually been enacted yet, this possible solution is still on the table. Teachers would have to be firearm adept and undergo annual training. Although there are supporters for this, many believe this solution would not fix anything. This includes the teachers union who believes states should focus more on implementing background checks for gun sales.

Arming teachers is another idea that Professor Dickens does not think will work.

"Arming teachers is not a solution. Take a look around. Would that make you feel more secure? Additionally, their job is conveying information and training students. They are not peace officers," said Dickens.

Jensen on the other hand thinks arming teachers could be useful.

"I think arming teachers could be a very useful tool, but only if it is in the right hands. Teachers should face tough mandatory training and mental health testing before being allowed to bring guns into the classroom," said Jensen.

THE YOUTH ARE TAKING A STAND

School shootings in the United States have been happening for years. After the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High in February, students immediately took a stand against gun violence. They spoke on the news and gave speeches in their community, some that were televised. They organized a march and on March 24th students took to the streets of Washington D.C. According to USA Today an estimated 800,000 people attended the march. There were also an estimated 800 sibling events throughout



The Houston Gun show at the George R. Brown Convention Center/Courtesy • www.flickr.com/photos/glasgows/

the country that day. Aside from the march, students nationwide have also posed walkouts from their high schools in protest for gun control. Some of these kids have become public figures and their voices are being heard. They are doing things in a way that may have an actual impact for change. More kids are registering to vote as they turn 18 and their stamina has not slowed. It will be interesting to see the lasting impact this movement will create over time.

Jensen is excited to see students finally taking a stand against violence in an attempt to make change.

"Seeing all the protests stemming from the Florida shooting makes me very happy. It's about time students start to take a stand on political issues and educate themselves instead of letting old-timers do as they please," said Jensen.

Professor Dickens thinks the students of MSD and schools nationwide have an effective movement going.

"I appreciate the role of grass root movements in American politics. Traditionally, progress is made that way in our democracy. It does not always work well, as with prohibition, but our political system seems to make progress over time," said Dickens. "Walkouts and the MSD students are mobilizing effectively. What remains to be seen is if they can sustain the movement, keep it focused, and direct their political pressure at traditional channels of protest and change in the American political system," said Dickens.

Stricter gun laws could take the guns off of the streets. Yes, criminals will still get guns no matter what, but stricter gun laws could slow down the black market sales of guns as well. This means less easy access to violent offenders. According to vox.com, more people in the U.S. are killed by guns than killed by AIDs, drugs, war, and terrorism combined.

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Local man reveals secret to long life

The lifespan of the average human being has gone up over 30 years in the last century. In 1900, the life expectancy of a human was only 41. In 2000, the life expectancy was about 74. Now, in 2018, it's 79; and only going up. But what's the secret to such a long and fulfilling life?

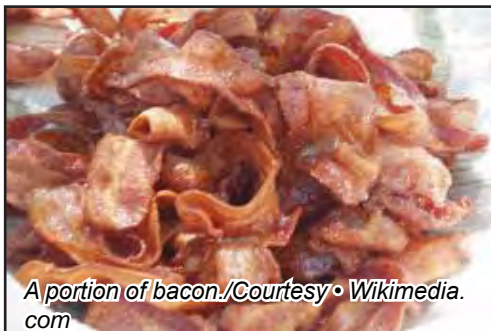
Most senior citizens will tell you the key to a long life is something like an apple a day, or a to have fun and be adventurous. Maybe chugging three cups of coffee every morning. Local octogenarian, Mike Floyd, said he knows the "real secret to living beyond your years".

Floyd, who will turn 85 this year, blames his age on three major things; his diet, exercise, and daily activities.

Floyd's diet consists of two pounds of bacon

(per day), smothered in brown sugar throughout the day and for dinner he eats Spam and brussel sprouts. Occasionally, he will eat an avocado, but only if it is extremely over-ripe. Floyd avoids carrots at all costs, as well as most fruits.

Floyd's doctor, Albert Hector, does



A portion of bacon./Courtesy • Wikimedia.com

not approve of his lifestyle choices.

"If Mike continues this diet and habits, he's not likely to live passed 86. He's only 84," said Hector. "Mike is

also on strong painkillers and should not be taken seriously."

Floyd's exercise regime is something along the lines of moving his arm up and down to pick up the remote and change the channel, then putting it back down. Every few hours, he walks to the kitchen for food, and pro-

ceeds back to his recliner to continue watching TV.

Floyd said the most important part of life is activities. In the time period of twenty four hours, Floyd spends seven of them watching television; mostly "CSI: Miami" and "River Monsters". He smokes three Brazilian cigars every day, and brushes his teeth with vinegar.

Despite Hector's suggestions, Floyd insists that he will live beyond his years.

"I have no doubt that I will live to be 85 or even 86. My lifestyle is top-notch, and I refuse to stop eating bacon," says Floyd. "Bacon is the meal of champions."



Melania breaks silence accuses president of cyber bullying

Melania Trump, the First Lady, decided to finally speak out about her husband's cyberbullying.

For example, President Trump tweeted at Rosie O' Donnell saying, "I feel sorry for Rosie 's new partner in love whose parents are devastated at the thought of their daughter being with @Rosie--a true loser."

Now the President's wife is taking a stand; to stop cyberbullying, and to call out her husband, Donald Trump.

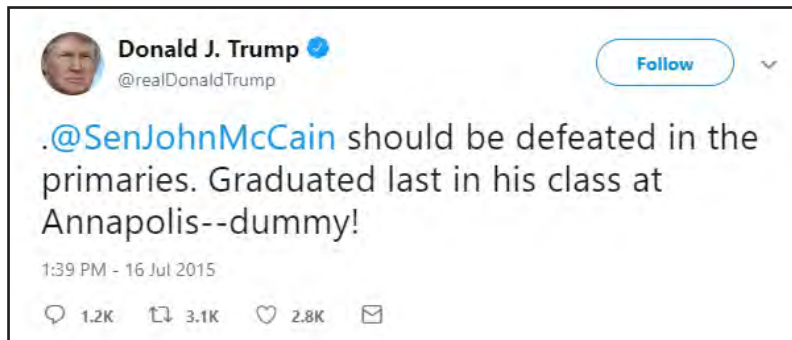
Even before becoming the President of the United States, Donald Trump was an active Twitter user and cyberbully. He is, however, a nondiscriminatory and creative insulter.

Harry Hurt was called a dummy for writing a "failed book about Trump". While also calling people phonies and making fun of people's appearances.

He called Senator Rand Paul a light weight while referring to others as clowns and fakes for various irrelevant reasons.

In March the First Lady held summit for technology leaders to address the issue of cyberbullying and online safety.

She tweeted, "Enjoyed meeting with leading social media and technology representatives last week. Together, I know we can make a difference



The Story is fake but the tweet is real.

for children!"

However, her husband continues to use his social media reach to more than 51 million Twitter followers without repercussion.



Is the government taking it too far?

Rumors are everywhere on social media that the government is tampering with flu vaccinations. In the past, vaccinations have come under fire for causing autism according to some antivaxxer groups. Now critics are accusing the government of using flu shots to sterilize the general public,

Reportedly this is being done to cap the growth of the population.

Why would the government do this? Is it because of things such as the Tide Pod challenge? Is this a message from the government telling the population to shape up, or are they trying to weed out the bad and make room for the good of the US. The people of this country have made a lot of "not smart" decisions.

Concern is being raised ut now that the government has decided to step into the situation. Will anyone get flu shots after they hear what has been put into the shots?

Concerned mother Elizabeth Thatcher explained

her fear of vaccinations.

"Vaccinations are dangerous, we don't really know what they put in there and if this is true, then my children and myself are never getting vaccines again. I may want more kids, and most definitely want to have grandchildren someday. This is unacceptable, and I refuse to allow anyone into the clinic until they agree to stop giving flu shots," said Thatcher.

Statistics show 59% of people under the age of 18 in the United States received flu shots in 2016-17. With numbers as large as those, this could be a catastrophic situation and could cause serious damage to the population. If the statistics are anywhere close to previous years, the US may not be able to come back from it. The only logical conclusion is that we will have to increase immigration.

Local Physician Jack Thornton M.D. explained his thoughts on vaccinations.

"The vaccinations are absolutely fine, I fully trust them and even received one yesterday. There is nothing to worry about and if the government did tamper with them than they had a legitimate reason," said Dr. Thornton.



Courtesy • pexels.com



State Leadership Conference ends with success

This year, Lowry hosted the Leadership State Conference from April 26-28. Eighty-five schools from Nevada sent over 1200 student representatives to Lowry.

Lowry's leadership students and advisors put in all their effort to make this year's conference one to remember. They have been planning and preparing for months. Decorations were made weeks before and the students spent a week putting them up.

Throughout the three days at the conference, general sessions were held, motivational speakers came, there were workshops, JC groups, and many more activities occurred.

Advisor Tanya Grady is happy with the outcome of the conference.



Signs for those participating in state./Celest Castellanos • The Brand

"It went very well. It was three long days of hard work by our entire leadership class and all of the feedback we received from those who attended has been very positive," said Grady.

Freshmen, Araceli Galarza enjoyed her second state conference.

"It was a cool experience. I got to attend state in Vegas last year and this year as the host school, I got to experience all the hard work and effort that goes into hosting it," said Galarza. "It was really quite an experience hearing stories and hearing all the speakers motivate you to become a better leader than you already are. I overall enjoyed state and thought it was a blast."

Freshman class Secretary Anjolie Karrer had a good experience as well.

"When the time for schools to start registering, watching the list get bigger each day I think that's when we realized we are actually hosting a conference with 85 schools attending. Sadly I couldn't help with the conference, but I was a delegate which means I could be in the conference and see it from a different perspective," said Karrer.

Attending a conference lasting memories for the students.

"Being able to go to state last year and then putting on and attending a conference this year was probably something I'll remember. Attending a conference is something I think every student should experience. The energy, positivity, and friendships made within the conference leaves you with a powerful feeling. My favorite thing is that it doesn't matter what school you come from or how large that school is, we come together and try to make our schools the best they can be," said Karrer.

Junior Class President, Erin Acosta appreciated the outcome of the conference.

"Overall everything went better than expected. Everyone in leadership worked very hard the entire year for this conference, so it was pretty rewarding to see it all come together," said Acosta. "I was able to have fun and learn more about leadership. I hope everyone who attended had a good time as well."



Fabian Ochoa helps put up signs for state./Celest Castellanos • The Brand



All leadership students join together for a general session./Celest Castellanos • The Brand

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COFFEE: BENEFICIAL OR NAH?

Every morning, there are several people in line or in the drive through to get a latte just before school or work. No one stops to think what they're drinking, or where it came from; just the thought of the awakening caffeine found in every cup. Countless myths about coffee and its effects cause people to be blindsided to what it really is. There are actually many benefits to drinking this internationally-consumed beverage.



According to healthline.com, caffeine is a stimulant that can enhance brain functions and boost metabolism. This stimulant is loaded with antioxidants and beneficial nutrients that can improve health, including: Riboflavin, Pantothenic Acid, Manganese, Potassium, Magnesium, and Niacin. These nutrients in coffee, along with its other properties, help protect the body against Type 2 diabetes, liver cancer, and possibly decrease cardiovascular mortality. (mayoclinic.org) There have also been studies showing that people who drink coffee are at lower risk of being diagnosed with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. (healthline.com)

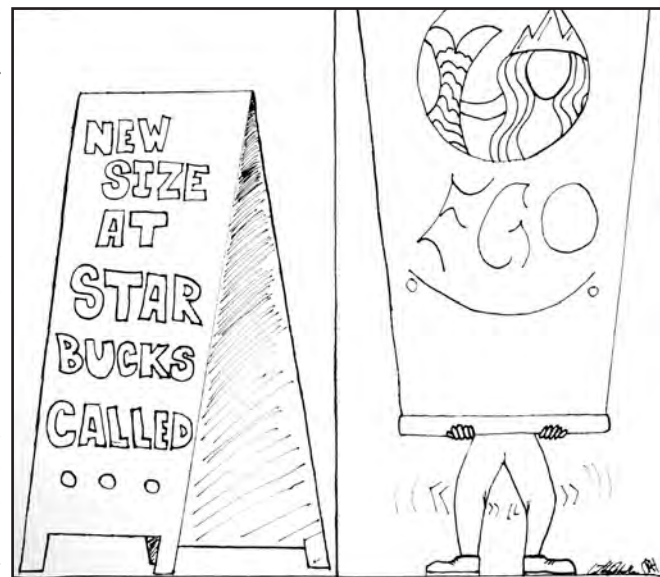
Therefore, it's safe to say that coffee drinkers have a lower risk of multiple serious diseases.

These medical benefits however, only come with taking the coffee in its purest form. Adding milk, sugar and other additives may diminish the value of the coffee beans because it's no longer in its purest form.

Since many people usually take their coffee from home, unknown calories aren't a huge issue in their minds. Those who go to Starbucks and order something like the Caramel Macchiato though, are probably oblivious to the fact that this Grande-size drink contains 33 grams of sugar, according Starbucks.com. This is more than a Snickers candy bar. Or maybe they know that but just don't care because it's so good. Instead, one should opt for the Caffè Latte, which only has 18 grams of sugar and serves the purpose of caffeine without as many the unnecessary calories.

In all, coffee is in fact healthy and beneficial to add to one's lifestyle; unlike many other people have said. It is also a helpful alternative for those students who stay up countless nights a year to finish homework and study. Personally, I wouldn't stay

awake in first period on some days if I didn't have that morning cup of joe. So, take some time to get away from those stereotypical "coffee facts" and try it for yourself. You'll either agree with the norm or you'll learn to love the coffee beans that nature provides.



FROM A "STUPID" FRESHMAN

I hear it all of the time. "Stupid freshmen" this, "stupid freshmen" that. And every day, it's always the same. Some of the nicest upperclassmen I know have said it and never even batted an eye. When I told people I was writing this, they just laughed. Nobody seems to think it's a big deal. I've even heard teachers say it. It's all good fun, but not everyone sees it that way. In fact, a lot of us are quite offended by the completely uncalled for discrimination.

I know the only reason you think I'm complaining is because I'm a freshman. Yeah, I'm a freshman. Everyone was at one point, but that's just the excuse. Everyone else got pushed around as a freshman and so now they push us around too. They say that's fair then never give us a real reason.

I would just love to ask where the logic in that is, but I have much better things to do with my time.

I am a freshman, and I work really hard to achieve what I have. I spend entire weeks in late nights in order to excel in everything. On occasion, I've even stayed up all night without having procrastinated, and I'm definitely not the only one. I'm proud of that. Then people go and call us stupid, and not even get to know us. I'm sure you understand how good that makes us feel about ourselves. I happen to know a lot of freshmen, just like me, who put in way more effort than many upperclassmen, but we're just stupid freshies, right?

Apparently, it's completely okay to treat someone as if they have no

mental capacity or reliability simply because they're a few years younger? It's really not any different. I think I'm going to call it class-ism. Yes, there are a few freshmen who are rowdy, make extremely poor choices, and exercise little to no common sense. Yeah, a few out of how many hundreds? Are the rest of us just supposed to take that?

I'm sure you've all met people in your own class who embody the freshmen stereotype worlds better than any of the current freshmen do. Would you want to be seen as being the exact same way as them just because they're in your class? How would you feel if you just started in a new school just trying to fit in, and immediately when they met

you, everyone just turned away without giving you the slightest inclination as to why? It's called judging, Lowry, judging. The exact same judging we all claim that we never do.

Get off your high horse, Lowry. Class superiority is not a thing. The fact that someone is a senior, a junior, or even a sophomore, doesn't make them any better than anyone else. That is something that has to be earned, and treating underclassmen as inferior is definitely not going to do just the opposite. It just makes people extremely self-centered and self-important and frankly just hurts people's feelings. We don't have to push the rest of us around to feel good about ourselves, Lowry. We are better than that, but what do I know? I mean, I am just a stupid freshman.



COLLEGE IN THE US

If you are planning to go to college you should start saving. The United States has the highest tuition fees in the world. For an in state student according to Paul F. Campos, tuition is on average \$20,000 in the United States. If you attend college out of state in the United States then tuition increases to \$34,200. To afford this many students are forced to get loans. Student loan debt has increased to \$1 trillion in 2017, with over 25 percent of the students that entered school dropping out in the first semester and 64 percent take longer than six years to graduate according to NCES.

You may be able to slide through a university not

spending thousands of dollars with a scholarship of some sort. If you or thrive in some-school is competitive all depends on the grants that you letes that thrive get free education the school. If you are too lazy to put in for scholarships or grants then you are going to have to pay the full tuition which on average will be about \$30,000 a year.

In countries like Germany and Sweden students

can go to college free of charge, but Denmark takes expenses to a whole new level. Students in Denmark get to go to college free of charge and receive \$900 a month to cover all of their living expenses from a program called Statens Uddannelsesstøtte which means state education. Brazil also provides free education to students to attend three of the top five colleges in South America, located in Brazil.

US education is expensive, but there are many and opportunities to lower the costs of tuition for everyone. It's just if you want to put in the extra time to receive scholarships.





WHAT REALLY IS RACISM?

Everyone in this country is so quick to shout about racism. A white cop shoots an African American kid. A white boss doesn't hire an African American man. A white voter doesn't vote for an African American candidate; all racist. It couldn't possibly be for any reason other than the color of their skin, could it? The truth is, America, we don't understand what racism is. I mean, only a white person can be racist, right? That's what racism is to us. Today, the term "racist" is ignorantly and disrespectfully overused and misinterpreted.

This is the part where you decide that my opinion is invalid because I'm white, and therefore couldn't possibly know anything about racism. Now that, ladies and gentlemen, is completely and utterly racist.

The definition of racism, as recognized by Merriam Webster Dictionary, is "a belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race; racial prejudice or discrimination." Race is not a characteristic limited to black

people. Anyone of any race can be racist against anyone of any race. That includes black on white. People can be hateful too, and it does happen. Everyone can be hateful and prejudiced. It's not something that is defined by the color of your skin. To assume otherwise as we are accustomed to, is in fact racist by definition.

Funny as it is, nobody seems to ever remember the real reason an issue. Slavery, segregation were that happened. It disgusting the way go around screaming at each other about racism. Disagreeing with something a propaganda promise given by a black politician isn't racist, just as it wouldn't be if they were white. It's just having an opinion of your own, which is an inalienable right that we possess, as humans. Beating, killing and forcefully indenturing people to brutal servitude for nearly 250 years because of the color of their

skin was and is racist. Segregating people into different bathrooms and shops is racist. Not letting black children go to school is racist. These things are serious and actually happened. Children actually grew up like this. Racism is not the silly little trifle our politicians and media run on about with their head screwed on backwards, yet in our society, it is all we know.

As Americans, we need to get over ourselves. If everybody is truly as equal as we so often push for, the color of someone's skin should be nothing more than a meaningless physical feature such as the freckle on the back of your hand. It should be so insignificant as to not notice it. It shouldn't be any kind of defining factor. It shouldn't even be something we take notice of when electing a president, or hiring an employee, and it doesn't even matter if you're white or black. We've been waging this racism war for years, yet we still manage to do nothing but be hypocritical. America, you don't know what racism is, so you can't possibly hope to go and "fix" the rest of us.



OVERUSE OF SMARTPHONES

We all are aware that technology has become a big part of our lives. But it seems that it's getting to a point where it is taking over our lives; especially for teens and younger kids.

In the past you would see kids playing outside with siblings or friends. Now, most kids stay indoors just on their phones.

Technology can be useful and important, but we have abused it.

At social events or family gatherings, most people's phones are glued to their hands. Or when I go out to eat, most of the family members on their phones while waiting for the food, instead of talking to one another. When I hang out with friends, most of the time, we're just on our phones, not even speaking to each other a lot. It's like technology made us forget how to actually socialize. Phones are making it easier for us to talk with friends through text, instead of in person.

Cell phones also interfere with sleep schedules and school work. At least, for me personally and I bet a lot of other teens too. We put off homework until "later" just to

stay scrolling through Instagram and Twitter, watching YouTube, or snapchatting our friends. We also tend to stay up late doing the same thing.

Technology also causes laziness in most kids and teens. It's not that hard to spend hours laying in bed, watching Netflix or Youtube instead of getting physical activity.

It's sad to see little kids fall into this problem at a young age. There are iPad games made specially for kids under the age of five. Many little kids rely on their iPads to have fun. This is affecting their childhood. I remember when I was young, I was always outside playing and had the best imagination. I never even had a clue what a smartphone was.

I mean, it's not really the kids fault. They were born into a generation where technology is at its highest. They are surrounded by it.

We need to focus on the actual importance of technology and not go overboard with it, where it interferes with how we socialize. We need to minimize the effects that comes along with technology and keep the uses of it positive.



TATTOOS AND PIERCINGS DON'T MAKE YOU LESS OF A PERSON

Tattoos and piercings have become more and more popular throughout the years. A lot of people have one or two, and some of them have been covered head to toe. Why do people see these modifications as degrading, rather than just a different way to express art?

Tattoos and piercings have been a part of human culture for thousands of years. According to smithsonian.com, many ancient Egyptians (4000-1300 BC) had tattoos. There is also a mummified head of a woman located in the Azapa Museum in Arica, Chile, with a facial tattoo. In 1991, a mummified body found in an Austrian glacier had ears stretched to 7-11 mm in diameter.

Even though these modifications have been around for literally thousands of years, they are still unfortunately seen as unprofessional and are negatively stereotyped (by most people) in our culture. If you

have tattoos or piercings, you're less likely to get a job. According to careers.workopolis.com, 77% of employers will/might be less likely to hire you if you have tattoos.

Tattoos and piercings have become more and more popular, but there is still a social stigma. A lot of people are more concerned with what other people do with their bodies rather than their own. Basically, what other people do with their bodies isn't your business, and you don't have the right to degrade them for the choices they make.

As a girl with nine piercings herself, I understand what the 'trend' is about. I love my piercings and if you told me that in 20 years I'd regret it, I wouldn't believe you. As we grow older, skin that has been tattooed may wrinkle and not look so good. But if that tattoo really means something to you or has affected you in some way, does it even matter?



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Varsity Softball finishes 2nd, heads to regionals

After having a successful regular, the varsity softball team will be heading to regionals and hopefully state to end the season. With only six losses, which were mostly at the beginning of the season, and 18 wins so far, softball coach Ty Lucas is confident with his team entering the playoffs.

"So far the season has gone really well. They've been right on par with what our expectations have been. They've put themselves in a good position," said Lucas.

Lowry finished the regular season in second place behind Fernley which gives them a first round bye in the playoffs. The six-team tournament begins on Thursday and the top two teams will advance to state.

"We expect to be one of those top two teams," said Lucas.

Sophomore Kelcey Cooper believes that they have been doing well this season.

"We have worked really hard for 2nd place in the league. I think we have met most of our expectations

this year. One, being beating Fallon in the series," said Cooper. "If we all do our jobs, I think we will finish on top at regionals."

Junior Macy Katzenmeyer agrees that they will do well at regionals.

"We held ourselves at high expectations this season, to get better and we did. I think as long as we come into regionals with great mental prepared-



The team celebrates another homerun./The Brand • Ron Espinola



Sylvie Prokasky delivers a pitch./The Brand • Ron Espinola



Sierra Maestresjuan slides into home./The Brand • Ron Espinola

ness, we will do well," said Katzenmeyer. "When we play loose and confident, is when we win games."

Senior Kyllie Sappington is coming to the end of her last Lowry softball season. She is confident with her team going to state.

"Our main goal was to be one of the top two teams for regionals and of course go to state so I'd say we have met our expectations so far," said Sappington. "I think we will do well at regionals as long as we hit we will have a very good chance in going to state."



Golfers conclude regular season this week; state tournament May 14

A remarkable season is coming to a close for the boys golf team.

Last week they competed at Edge-

wood Golf Course in a fundraiser tournament. The scores did not count but they placed fourth as a team. On the first day of the tournament they played at South Tahoe's golf course

and placed fourth as a team.

Peyton Capellen shot 83, Zane Fifield shot 88, Dillon Patterson shot 93 and Kobe Stoker shot 92 Seth Duncan shot 118 and Max Mavity shot 105.

Senior Zane Fifield was happy with his team's score in the league tournament.

"This tournament turned out pretty well. Our team had an

off day, but we were still in contention and put together a good score" said Fifield.

Fifield added that he hopes the team can maintain their position going in to the state tournament.

"We are currently in second in the region, and hopefully will keep that position going into state on the 14th and 15th. The top three teams automatically qualify" said Fifield.

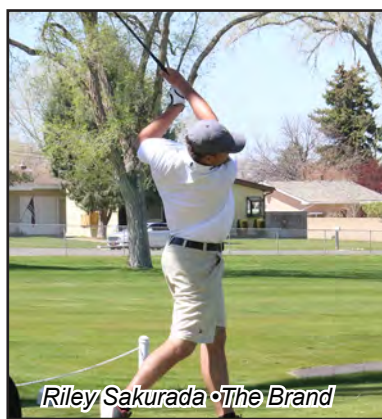
The Bucks have one more league tournament in Truckee on May 9 to wrap up the season. They are in second place in league and have secured a spot at the state tournament in Pah-



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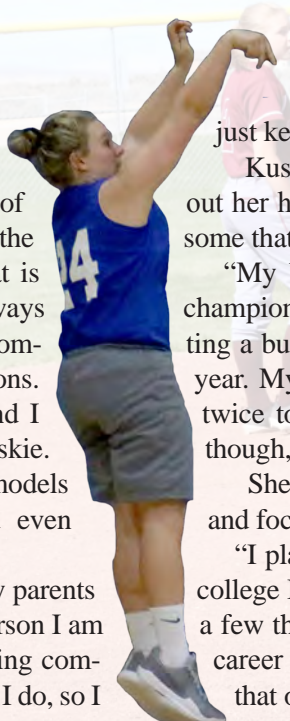
AOI: Alyssa Kuskie

Maintaining the passion for a particular sport after so many years isn't something many people do. Some grow out of it or simply do it because everyone in their family may have done it. This issue's athlete has persistently kept up with, and excelled, in the sports she's chosen to play in high school. Alyssa Kuskie was on JV volleyball and basketball and on varsity softball freshman year and all varsity sports since her sophomore year. She has played softball and basketball growing up, but did not start playing volleyball until junior high.

“That is how I found my love for the game; I've always loved it.”
~Alyssa Kuskie

sports because of her parents' interest. “My parents were really into sports and my dad was a referee for the little league of basketball, so I would always go down to the gyms and play with him at halftimes. That is how I found my love for the game; I've always loved it. I also spend most of my time and commitment towards basketball on my off seasons. I just love it for some reason and I have a big passion for it,” said Kuskie. Every athlete has their role models that encourage them to exceed even their own expectations. “My role models would be my parents because they've pushed be the person I am today. My motivation would come with being competitive. I always want to be the best in what I do, so I

just keep on pushing myself,” said Kuskie. Kuskie has made plentiful memories throughout her high school years, but there are definitely some that have stuck out. “My best memory was winning the regional championship against Fallon in basketball by hitting a buzzer beater three-pointer, my sophomore year. My worst is losing the state championship twice to fallon in basketball. I have no regrets though,” said Kuskie. She plans to play her favorite sport in college and focus on her possible career. “I plan to play basketball after high school in college I am not sure what school yet but there is a few that I am interested in. I am not sure what career I want to do yet I am still trying to figure that out,” said Kuskie.



AOI: Nathan Perkinson

Senior Nathan Perkinson has been involved in sports his whole life. At the age of three, he was already learning how to swim laps in a swimming pool. Perkinson has excelled in his sport of choice; breaking the school record of one minute and ten seconds in the 100-yard breaststroke. Throughout his life, he has played baseball, wrestling, basketball, football, track and golf. Growing up in California, Perkinson enjoyed playing basketball but grew out of it and began taking swim seriously when he moved to Winnemucca. Perkinson role models are his par-

ents. “I've always looked up to my mom and what she's done in her past, when she swam. I've looked up to her and my older sister; when she started swimming,” said Perkinson. Throughout his passion and love for swim he had a lot of motivation. “I just learned to love it. I wasn't really pushed by my parents, but they gave me the choice until I got older. When I was little, it was my choice whether I wanted to swim or not, until I got into high school. They wanted me to play a sport; I chose swim,” he said. Perkinson tried a variety of sports throughout his life. “Football I started freshman year,

wrestling I started when I was in seventh grade. I started track in fifth grade, but most of the sports I started playing in my middle school to high school years,” said Perkinson. As a kid he enjoyed swimming because of the motivation and support he gained but loved it because of the competition and his coach, Shelby Ruff, has seen his competitive nature. “Nathan is highly competitive and one of those athletes who really strives for peak performance. He constantly monitors his technique, and works hard year-round both in and out of the pool to be in top condition for his races,” said coach Shelby Ruff. Breaststroke is one of his favorite techniques.

“I started focusing on breaststroke when I started my sophomore year. Before that, I didn't focus on just one. I did all of the strokes and just did my best in them,” said Perkinson. Perkinson is motivated to disprove people's perceptions. “The things that motivate me are the people who tell me I can't do something or that I'll never be able to do something. People don't see that passion in me, or that motivation I guess. My dad always tells me that you don't want to have the 'I want it now' attitude; it's all about patience and perseverance,” said Perkinson. Perkinson feels that sports have had a positive impact on him by keeping active and healthy while introducing him to new people.



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Swimmers heading to state

Along with all other Spring sports coming to end, Lowry's varsity swim is wrapping up its season.

Most of the team headed to regionals in Carson the weekend of May 4-5. Eight people will advance to the second day and only three will make it to state. State will be in Las Vegas.

According to coach Shelby Ruff, the season went well.



Evan Jeppsen at swim practice. / Halle Sullivan • The Brand

"As a team, we're still a little too small to be very competitive at the team level, but everyone had a great season individually," said Ruff.

More than half the team qualified

for regionals at their first meet and continued to drop time throughout the season.

"Regionals is always fun because it's a different atmosphere than the regular season meets with so many teams there," said Ruff.

This year, Ruff expects Nathan Perkinson and Hunter Lewis to go to state in the 100 breast stroke and 100 freestyle. Perkinson broke the school record in the breast stroke this year.

"Nathan has a shot in the 100 freestyle. The boys medley relay has a really good chance as well as both 400 freestyle relays being possibilities," said Ruff. "I think a lot of teams will make finals in at least one event, but it's going to be really tough to place top three to qualify for state."

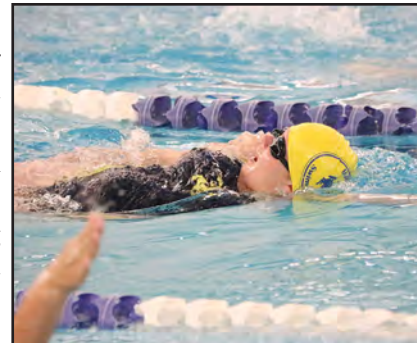
Sophomore Hunter Lewis feels his season went well.

"I progressed a lot more than last year. I feel our team also made a ton of progress throughout the

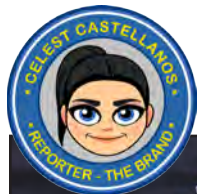
year considering most of our team has made it to regionals," said Lewis. "I'm feeling confident in making it to state since I am 3rd in the region and I'm making improvements every meet."

Sophomore Aiden Maher also feels like he did well this season.

"I had lots of improvement in speed and form. My best races were the 500 freestyle and probably 50 freestyle," said Maher. "As a team, I definitely felt improvement and stronger bonds with everyone."



Adaya Goldblatt./Halle Sullivan • The Brand



JV softball



Kayleen Urain./Ron Espinola • The Brand

The JV softball season has flown by and has come to an end. The Lady Bucks have grown strong together as a team and progressed throughout the season.

Shannon McClellan coach of JV softball is very proud of her team.

"We have a pretty young group of girls this year, I only have two returners. We have been working really hard on getting them to have fun with each other, and it is happening for the most part," said McClellan.

All the players have different performances throughout the game.

"We have a lot of great athletes and each one of them has an awesome skill set. One thing we'd like to do most is to figure out how to knit it all together," added McClellan.

The girls have played differently with every game and some were stronger than others.



Mckenzie Begay prepares for a pitch./Ron Espinola • The Brand

"We didn't play our best games on Saturday against Fallon but the rest of the season has been nothing but improvement every

day. We are pretty excited for Truckee this weekend and Fernley on Tuesday. Those Vaqueros will give us a great redemption game," said McClellan.

Many Lady Bucks are pleased with how the season is went. Sophomore Amanda Franklin is proud of all her teammates hard work.

"The season is going very well, we have been working hard as a team and we are ready," said Franklin.



Lowry's third baseman tags out Greenwave./Ron Espinola • The Brand



JV baseball wraps up season

Junior Varsity baseball played Truckee at Truckee High School on May 5. The final score of the first game was 4 to 5 Truckee. The second game ended 4 to 3 Lowry.

Sophomore Luis Duarte was unable to make it to the games on Saturday, but has lots of confidence in his team.

"I'm always excited about every game we play. We're a really good team so I'm confident that we're gonna end the season on top," said Duarte.

Freshman Tristen Schmitt said he has a few things he could work on.

"My Batting wasn't as good as I expected but my out-fielding was good. As a team we did good. Everyone is always picking each other up and always there for one another," said Schmitt.

Sophomore Levi Christopherson is a member of the Varsity baseball team, but filled in for JV on Saturday. Christopherson said he thinks JV is a good team overall.

"Our pitching was good and our fielding was good. We (the team) just needed to swing the bat more. We also had too many looking strikeouts," said Christopherson.



Garette Hinshaw./Ron Espinola • The Brand



The team celebrates a walk off win over South Tahoe./Ron Espinola • The Brand



Luis Duarte makes a catch./Ron Espinola • The Brand

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Track hosts home tournament displaying season-long accomplishments

On May 5, Lowry hosted the Lowry Invitational on their home field. There were 12 teams in attendance included Lowry, Battle Mountain, Churchill County, Dayton, Elko, Eureka, Gabbs, McDermitt, Owyhee, Pershing County, Sparks and Spring Creek.

"You never see this many schools here at once," said senior thrower Edie Sanchez. "It's pretty neat to see."

Among the victories were the women's 4 x 400 team and men's vaulting.

The women's 4 x 400 team consisted of Adia Bengochea, Shelby Garrison, Hailey Hinkle and Hailey Fernan-

dez brought home a first place finish, with a time of 4:12.

"Our girls 4 x 400 group is really strong," said coach Grant Beatty. "We've got three seniors returning from a state championship last year, and we plugged in a freshman. She's done really well. They've done a good job of meshing together."

Men's vaulters brought home PR's all across the field. Bryan Day finished 3rd with 11'6 feet, 6 points. Eduardo (Lalo) Aguilar tied for 4th with 11 feet 4.5 points. Sean Betz snatched 6th place with 9'6 feet, 1.5 points. Robert (Lee) Shoenecker came in 13th with 7'6.

"We had a good day with our vaulting," said Beatty. "We have a new coach, Alesha Heizer, and she's done an exceptional job with our vaulters. All four of our boy vaulters PR'd, and a lot of them just started this year."

The team has been pushing their way passed chal-

lenges all season.

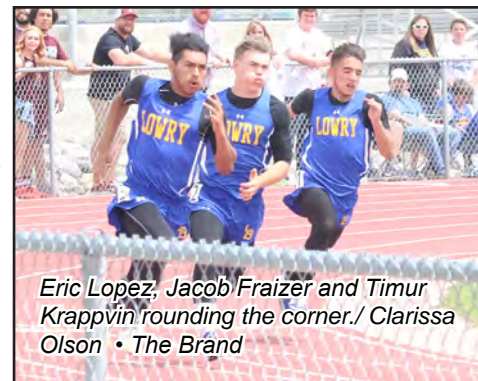
"We always had little injuries here and there, but I guess the biggest struggle has been the poor weather," said Beatty. "It's either been really cold or really windy. That makes it hard on your body to try to perform at top-level."

Beatty also commented on the outstanding leadership displayed by the senior most members of the team.

"We may not be as deep as last year, but we do have some good quality athletes, and strong leaders on both sides," said Beatty. "We've had some girls that have set good examples in the sprints, jumps and distance. Everything really trickles down with the younger athletes."

Many students avoid track because of the work it requires, but the work can be worth it.

"I run because I love the challenge," said senior sprinter and jumper Shelby Garrison. "I like how it feels afterwards and that little sense of accomplish-



Eric Lopez, Jacob Fraizer and Timur Krappvin rounding the corner./ Clarissa Olson • The Brand

ment."

"I throw because it's another sport I can do," said Sanchez. "When I first started, I wasn't very good, but it's fun to see my self improve and know that I can always get better."



Shelby Garrison pushing off the blocks in the Women's 200 m dash./ Clarissa Olson • The Brand



Austin Nelsen competing in the long jump./ Clarissa Olson • The Brand



Varsity baseball barely miss playoffs

After a regional playoff drought for the Buckaroos, this year's team had a good shot at making it to the postseason. Sadly those hopes came to an end after Truckee swept the Bucks in the last regular season series.

In the first game the Bucks lost 7-2 followed by a loss of 10-0 and a loss of 16-6 to wrap up the series.

The Buckaroos finished the season with a 10-19 record overall and a 9-15 record in league play.

Outfielder and pitcher Brendan Domire thinks this season was a big improvement over last year.

"I think that this season went a lot better than last year. We had a lot more team qualities that helped us win more games," said Domire.

Brendan will be a senior next year and has high expectations for his final season.

"We are definitely ready to make a run for next year with how much we have improved in just the span of a year and with almost all our guys return-

ing," said Domire.

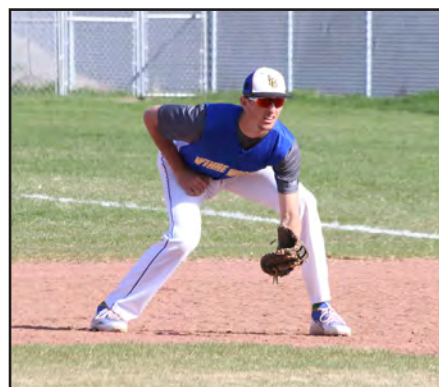
Pitcher and 1st baseman Jacob Marriott also agrees that the team played together much better this year.

"For once in my Lowry baseball career we learned how to play as a team as it got to about the middle of the season. Every player was behind each other and wanted to win as a team, not as an individual," said Marriott. "Our baseball motto 'whatever it takes'. Towards the end everyone was there for each other and played

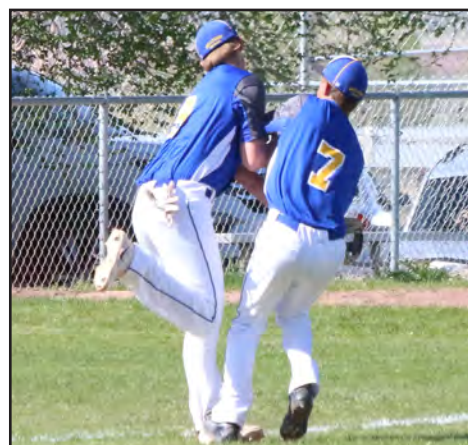
like brothers."

Senior pitcher and 1st baseman Ren Mattson enjoyed playing with his team this year.

"I think as a whole team not only do we play better as individuals but we also play well as a squad. We all began to play more loose and had more fun playing the game and it worked out in our favor," said Mattson.



Ren Mattson gets ready at first base./ Ron Espinola • The Brand



Riley Sakurada and Ridge Rickets fight to catch a ball./ Ron Espinola • The Brand



Jordan Parker hits the ball./ Ron Espinola • The Brand



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POI: Colton De La Mora

Colton De La Mora was chosen for the Performer of the Issue by Mr. Paul Criddle. He is a first-year member of swing choir but is also part of the track team, soccer, and art club.

This year, De La Mora has participated in Honor Choir in Elko and auditioned for All-State choir. He also took part in the festival trip to San Francisco only two weeks ago (see page 13 for more information on the San Francisco trip) and said swing choir has affected him in

the most positive way.

"I was really nervous to audition," said De La Mora. "I wasn't sure I'd be good enough or if I'd be able to sing in front of people. It's something I've never done before, and it has given me more confidence in myself to do things I wouldn't normally do."

Swing choir director Mr. Criddle said he is amazed by De La Mora's progress this year.

"He came from not always being able to match pitch or sing the right notes to being able to sing harmony parts and learning his part easily. That's pretty difficult to do if you've not had any prior musical experience," said Criddle.

De La Mora said he was not an experienced singer, but realizes how far he has come.

"I've always sang in the car and in the shower but never really for an audience other than in front of

family and friends," said De La Mora.

As mentioned above, De La Mora is extremely invested in art. According to Ms. Julia Topholm, he embodies what an artist is.

"Colton is truly a creative, self-motivated, joyful spirit," said Topholm. "He challenges himself with every project and creates pieces beyond expectations, taking on different styles and mediums seeking perfection in his artwork."

Mr. Paul Criddle's last concert that includes all his classes will be on May 18 in the Old Gym.



De La Mora running through 'More Today Than Yesterday' while on Swing Choir tour./ Samm Sharp • The Brand



De La Mora goofing off in a gift shop./ Samm Sharp • The Brand



Career Profile: Cosmetologist

Cosmetology is a field that focuses on hairstyling and makeup, as well as skin-care and beauty products. Cosmetology can also offer other expertise such as dying hair, extensions, and perms.

According to cosmetologist, Taylor Jimenez, styling people is a great, fun career to do.

Jimenez graduated in 2014 and throughout her whole high school career, she knew that cosmetology was the type of career she wanted to do her whole life.

"My mom has been in the salon for several years of my life and would al-

ways bring me to work with her when I was little, I learned a lot when I was young and just loved the idea of working as a stylist," said Jimenez.

Many cosmetologist all do their own unique things in the saloon and it takes a lot of practice and skill to learn these things.

"One thing that I love doing in the hair salon is eyelash extensions. I get many clients for this part of my job and love the process of it," said Jimenez.

Growing up in the salon came with a lot of bonding moments for Taylor with her mother, she has been with her since she was little and now she is working

with her today at the Allure salon.

"I enjoy working with my mom very much, we have some rocky moments but majority of the time we have a lot of fun times together and make lot's of memories together," said, Jimenez.

Statistics have shown that many people choose to take the route of cosmetology as their career and end up enjoying their choice. Taylor enjoys her job and everything she does.

"I plan on doing this for the rest of my life and I could not imagine doing anything else. I am entertained everyday and I love what I do," said Jimenez.

Not only is cosmetology a good ca-



Taylor Jimenez applying eyelash extensions./ Celest Castellanos • The Brand

reer to work in, but cosmetologists can be well compensated. Depending on experience, pay can range from \$8-23 hour or \$15,000-\$42,000 annually according jobmonkey.com.



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What To Watch: 'This Is Us'

"This Is Us" is a show that first aired two years ago on NBC. The show is watched by twenty-six point eight million people and is rated a 9.3.

With many great reviews, it is about the Pearson family generational story, talking about all the drama and emotional events that take place. The show has earned many awards such as: Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series, Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Drama Series, and People's Choice Award for Favorite New TV Drama. In the show there is a lot

of love and care that all children receive from parents Jack and Rebecca. The kids are triplets, Kate, Randall and Kevin. Once they grow up, they find out about tragic events that happened in their past childhood. These are some of the many storylines that happen today.

A very tragic event that happens is when the triplets' dad dies in a fire that started in their house while they all slept. The father passed away by getting his whole family out of the house and going back to save the family dog. Once this tragic event happens, the mother, Rebecca has to take care of the children and struggle with



(l-r) Lyric Ross as Déjà, Sterling K. Brown as Randall./Ron Batzdorff/NBC

the pain.

While watching, you have to acknowledge many different scenes, because it switches from the triplets childhood to adulthood every single episode. There are two seasons so far but more seasons are being filmed. Season one has 18 episodes and season two has 17 episodes. "This Is Us" has a sad, unique storyline to it and will take an hour to watch each episode.

Do's and Don'ts: Mothers' Day

Do make your mom breakfast.

Do spoil her.

Don't disappoint her.

Do wash the dishes.

Do get her a gift.

Don't be rude.

Do compliment her on everything.

Don't ask her to do anything.

Do tell her to take the day off.

Do remember that Mother's Day is actually a thing.

Don't let on that you didn't know it was Mother's Day until your dad told you.

Do call your mom.

Don't just text.

Do come up with something genuine, she's your mom.

Don't just be nice to her because it's Mother's day, respect should be an everyday thing.



Lowry Then and Now: Prom 1968

Prom has always been a one-time life experience, where classmates will have a good time and most of the time, it will be their last dance of their high school careers. Here is a comparison of prom from 1968 and now.



Courtesy • Winnada



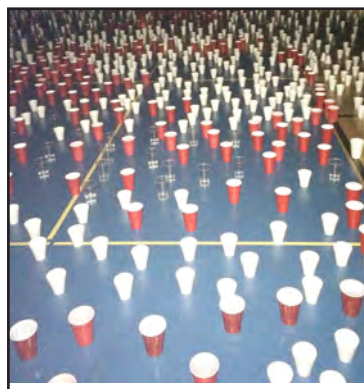
Courtesy • Matthew Souza



Whatever happened to

Okay, so we all know this year has been anything but easy as a senior. There has been a lot of stress and worry about graduation, but there is one day where you can let all that stress go and take it out with a prank. Well, at least that's the way it used to be.

A senior prank used to be a harmless prank and a fun going away prank for the graduating class has turned into vandalizing the school. There are plenty of pranks kids have pulled that very well verge on destructive, such as the class of 2017. The definition of a senior prank is A senior prank is a type of organized prank pulled by the senior class of a school, to cause chaos throughout the institution without vandalizing or causing



The prank from the class of 2015, cups of water in the Old Gym./ Courtesy • Anonymous

permanent harm to the school. The pranks are usually carried out at the end of the senior

school year as a going away mark on the school, and in some cases have become something of a tradition.

The class of 2017 did not use that definition as a guideline to their prank. They went on to the school campus after hours. It was all fun and games until they pulled out glue and put it in the locks and duct taped doors. As a result, many seniors involved were suspended.

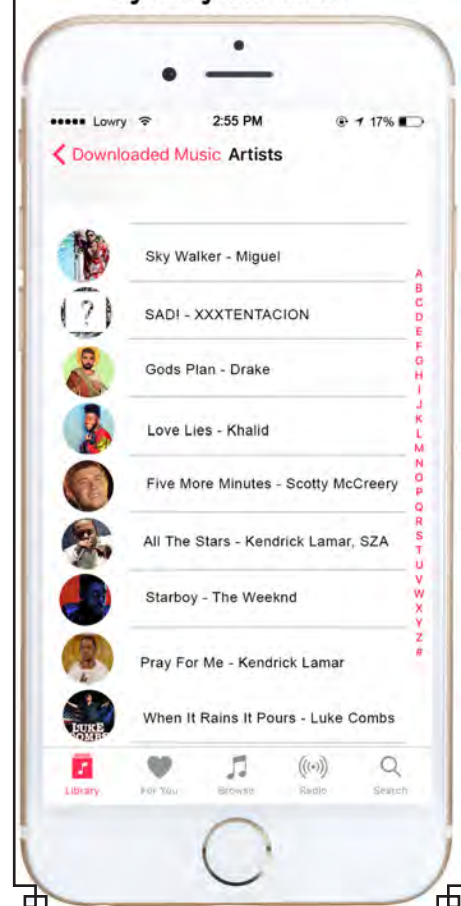
If you get the urge to do these kinds of senior pranks, let your parents know you may not walk at graduation or worse. You don't want to destroy your college plans over a senior prank. Whatever happened to harmless senior pranks? The senior prank used to be a friendly tradition that did no harm to the school or anybody in the school. Let's get rid of the vandalism and bring back the practical jokes that have no permanent damage on the campus. There are many different pranks that the class of 2018 can do. For example, our class could also bring our pets to school for our senior prank. That is harmless and surely the principal won't mind having a few furry friends at the school for a day.

Some seniors from Wyoming decided to fill the gymnasium with party balloons before their end of the year assembly. Senior year is anything but a breeze why not leave on cloud 9?

Stay classy, 2018.



What's on your playlist? By Riley Sakurada



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**Jeremy L. Hurst,
FNP-C**


Family Practice
Infants to Adults

623-3575

118 E. Haskell Street - Rural Health Clinic

C. Robert Westling, MD

Full Spectrum
Family Care



623-3554

118 E. Haskell Street - Rural Health Clinic



UNLV School of MEDICINE

HGH
Humboldt General Hospital

Rod Sholty, MD
Christopher Vlasek, DO
David Cummings, MD
James Denisar-Green, MD, PhD

Family Medicine Residency Clinic

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**Echo Mathews,
FNP**

Adult Medicine



623-3543

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To access the **Rural Health Clinic**, park in the HGH parking garage; take the elevator to the second floor. For Dr. Li and the Walk-In Clinic, park in the main hospital parking lot.





Who knows you best with: Mrs. Shelby Ruff

Mrs. Tanya Grady

1. Who is Mrs. Ruff's favorite celebrity? "Michael Phelps."

2. What is Mrs. Ruff's favorite thing about science? "Making things explode."
3. What would Mrs. Ruff do in the event of a zombie apocalypse? "She would try to figure out how to clone the zombies and make them into world-record breaking swimmers."
4. What card game is Mrs. Ruff best at? "Poker."
5. If Mrs. Ruff could have any job in the world, other than the one she has, what would it be? "Being a personal trainer."
6. What is Mrs. Ruff's favorite genre of music? "Classic Rock."
7. What is Mrs. Ruff's favorite word? "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious."



Mrs.

Alexis Mattson

1. Who is Mrs. Ruff's favorite celebrity? "Hey Ruff, who's your favorite celeb? She doesn't have one."
2. What is Mrs. Ruff's favorite thing about science? "Chemistry of course."
3. What would Mrs. Ruff do in the event of a zombie apocalypse? "I guarantee you she would find some way to blow them up. She'd take a bunch of chemicals and put them together to blow the zombies up."
4. What card game is Mrs. Ruff best at? "I would have to say poker."
5. If Mrs. Ruff could have any job in the world, other than the one she has, what would it be? "A biochemistry engineer."
6. What is Mrs. Ruff's favorite genre of music? "I know this one. Hey what's your favorite music genre... I know I'm cheating, but we talked about this the other day at lunch now I can't remember. I'm going to say all of them, because she doesn't have just one."
7. What is Mrs. Ruff's favorite word? "I remember this because she always says it. What are my options? I know she always goes 'eh', or 'hmm' and stuff like that."

~PROM~



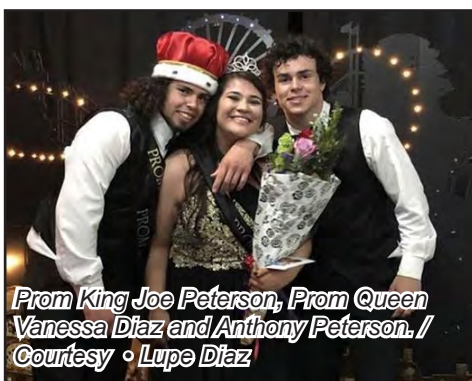
Courtesy • Halley Fernandez



Courtesy • Lupe Diaz



Courtesy • Erin Vandemark Diaz



Prom King Joe Peterson, Prom Queen Vanessa Diaz and Anthony Peterson. // Courtesy • Lupe Diaz

750 Grass Valley • Road Suite A

623-2625

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Mrs. Shelby Ruff Answers

1 "I don't know if I have a favorite because I don't pay attention to that." 2 "I like being able to explain everything that goes on in the world around me and to be able to go out hiking or something and go 'oh, that's this kind of tree' or 'oh, that's why the weather is doing this.'" 3 "Kill all of the zombies. Hide and try to stay alive." 4 "I'd say I'm kind of a card shark. I'm good at cribbage and hearts; group games like that." 5 "I want Bill Nye's job. I don't know if that counts as not being a science teacher, but I think it would be really cool to do the TV or Youtube science class show thing without all of the grading that goes with it." 6 "I like oldies. I don't think that's what you guys would call oldies now, but I like the 50's, 60's, 70's kind of rock and roll stuff." 7 "I like facetious a lot. Facetious is fun."



Lowry Voices:

What are you most excited for about Summer?



Anayeli Huerfano
Reporter - The Brand



Vanessa Beltran,
Freshman




Jake Evans,
English Teacher



Andrew Dickson,
Math Teacher



Anayeli Huerfano,
Sophomore



Samm Sharp
Reporter - The Brand

Lowry's band and choir place at festival

On April 19-23, members of the Women's choir, Swing Choir, and Concert Band traveled to San Francisco for the music festival, Music in the Parks.

Director Paul Criddle said it was a great experience, and a "memorable last trip".

"The sightseeing activities and Great America was fun. All the students performed well, and the judges gave positive feedback," said Criddle.

Both choirs and band performed at the Milpitas High School on Friday evening and awards were given Saturday at the amusement park, California's Great America.


Women's Choir received the ranking of superior and placed first, Swing Choir received the ranking of excellent and placed first, and Concert Band received the ranking of excellent and placed second.

Senior Kyron Williams is a member of Concert Band and Swing Choir. Williams said he enjoyed the trip and thinks the music department became even closer.


"We (the music department) sang and played well," said Williams. "I think this trip made our already tightly knit music department into an even tighter family who will persevere through everything; the good and the bad."




Band playing "Last Ride of the Pony Express"./ Clarissa Olson • The Brand



Women's choir singing "The Lonely Sea"./ Clarissa Olson • The Brand




Paul Criddle conducting Swing Choir./Clarissa Olson • The Brand



Band and choir posing in front of Great America./Courtesy • Andrea Davidson

Buckaroo Round Up



Riley Sakurada
Reporter - The Brand

Cody Noyes

If you were a vegetable, what vegetable would you be?
"I would be a tomato."
If you woke up tomorrow as an animal, what animal would you choose to be?
"I would want to be a mule deer."
If you could choose an imaginary friend, who would you choose and why?
"Nacho Libre, so we could fight all the liberals for trying to take our guns away."
If you could sit on a bench in the woods, who would you like sitting next to you on the bench and why?
"Alexandra Daddario because she is hot and I would have technically gone on a date with her."
If you could choose your age forever, what age would you choose and why?
"I would choose 21 because it seems like a pretty sick age."
If you could be in the movie of your choice, what movie would you choose and what character would you play?
"I'd be Captain Jack Sparrow from Pirates of the Caribbean."
If you could meet any historical figure, who would you choose and why?
"Captain Jack Sparrow so I could ask him what eyeliner he uses."

Alex Manzo

If you were a vegetable, what vegetable would you be?
"A carrot."
If you woke up tomorrow as an animal, what animal would you choose to be?
"A bird so I could fly."
If you could choose an imaginary friend, who would you choose and why?
"Donkey from 'Shrek' because he is funny."
If you could sit on a bench in the woods, who would you like sitting next to you on the bench and why?
"My mom because she is my best friend."
If you could choose your age forever, what age would you choose and why?
"I would choose to be 21, so I can go out and celebrate."
If you could be in the movie of your choice, what movie would you choose and what character would you play?
"I would be Wonder Woman from 'Justice League'.
If you could meet any historical figure, who would you choose and why?
"George Washington because he is cute."
If you were a city, which city would you choose to be and why?
"Las Vegas because it is a city that never sleeps."