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# The Brand

December 12, 2012 • Lowry High School • Winnemucca, NV

Guid

Service







# Service and giving

By JOLYN GARCIA & JUSTIN ALBRIGHT

Many people consider November and December to be times of giving. A time to give thanks for what we have, the people we care about, our good health, and to give to those in need.

Lowry High School has been doing an excellent job in helping those in need by holding annual food and clothes drives. Leaderships hosts the food drive every year. Seniors Renee Poole and Madison Waldie are in charge of the warm clothes drive. This year Lowry students will also be participating in a toy drive, which will help send toys to children whose families are unable to purchase them. The toy drive is a fundraising project hosted by the Junior class, which also included a Miracle Minute with proceeds going to help this cause.

National Honor Society adopts a family every year and donates clothes, food baskets, and toys during the holiday season and birthdays. NHS also hosts a community program called, You've Been Raked, where members clean up the yards of fellow citizens who are now unable to do so. Many members of the National Honor Society spend time tutoring kids who struggle in school and volunteer at community soup kitchens.

National Honor Society president Yoana Chavez believes that community service is something every student should be involved in. "I think it's very beneficial. You need to be out there in the community and do community service so people know who you are, and to get to know people in your community. You can't enter colleges without saying that you were really involved in your community, because if you're not involved in your community now you're not going to be involved in college," said Chavez.

The Winnemucca Boy Scouts also do a lot of giving in this special time of the year. Christopher Barta, who is almost an Eagle Scout, gave insight on what is required to move up a rank. "To become an Eagle Scout, it takes a lot of work. You have to get badges where you have to do certain things to get each badge," said Barta. The benefits of service are meeting new people, being more involved in your school and community, earning credit towards graduation and feeling like a greater part of your community. "It's also a lot of fun, it's not just boring and cleaning

up after people. You get to work with the elders or just people around your community," added Chavez.

Giving back to the town you live in is one of the most important things you can do. Giving back allows you to get the amazing experience of meeting senior-citizens, or even volunteering in a hospital, or just helping anyone in need.

Lowry High teacher, Don Walton, not only spends time teaching students, he participates in many community service projects, mainly involving sports.

"Stuff I do here at Lowry has to do with volunteering to coach the JV basketball team, that's a non-paid job.

I've taken on all of the mowing responsibilities for football. I usually take care of the baseball and softball fields during their season. All of that is stuff you have to do out of regular work hours. I don't know, around the community it's just things you're volunteering to do Little League games when they need it. In the past I've called basketball games. Most of the stuff I do is sports oriented, and it's stuff I enjoy doing. I don't ask anyone to pay me for it," said Walton.

Walton views making community service a requirement in schools as positive.

"Well, I really do think it's a good thing. I think a lot of our service groups already do that. Such as Key Club, Honor Society and I know those are good things. I know a lot of our football players go out and call those Little League games. Our basketball players and baseball players also go down and call Little League games. To make the entire student body responsible for doing community service, I really think that it's nice, but I really don't think it's all that necessary," said Walton.

Many of the sports teams at Lowry volunteer their time helping young athletes. In 2011, Varsity Girls soccer coach, Chris Entwhistle, started a Lowry High soccer camp. Members of the varsity and JV girls soccer teams, along with a few boys, volunteered five hours a day to train young soccer players. The camp is a week long and is held the first full week in August.

Many high schools in the eastern states have 40-75 hours of community service as a graduation requirement. Barta believes that adding community service hours as a graduation requirement would be a positive move by schools.

"I think it'd be a lot better if schools made it necessary for students to make students give back to the needy," said Barta.

Not only have high schools adopted the service requirement, but as early as 1993 many universities required service hours to graduate. Since then, there have been Supreme Court cases arguing that

"mandated service violated the prohibition in the 13th Amendment against involuntary servitude," according to the "New York Times".

When thinking of admitting new students colleges look at the extra curricular activities in which an individual was involved in; this includes community service projects. Admissions officers place a high value upon a student's long-term commitment to an organization or a cause. DoSomething.org releases a survey every year on the most important elements of an excellent college application, according to admissions officers from 32 of the "U.S. News & World Report's" top 50 colleges and universities. Out of the admissions officers, 75 percent preferred students to be committed and constantly involved in one issue, rather than many different ones. This percentage is 25 percent greater than last year's result of 50 percent. Nancy Lublin, the CEO of DoSomething.org is surprised every year by the survey results.

"Consistency is the new trend here. Students who support one cause over time show commitment and perseverance, both of which are stellar traits for potential co-eds," said Lublin, as according to usnews.com.

According to Volunteeringinamerica.org, Nevada is ranked 50th among the states, for percent of residents who volunteer, with only 20.9 percent of residents volunteering their time. In 2010, only 421,500 of Nevada's 2,700,511 residents volunteered their time. These individuals served 100.3 hours of service for either a nonprofit organization or through a community organization. The greatest project that Nevada residents volunteered in was fundraising.

The number one ranked state in volunteering is Nevada's eastern neighbor, Utah. With 44.5 percent of residents volunteering, totaling to 884,00 volunteers, Utah has double the number of volunteers than Nevada. The highest ranked activity that Utah residents participate in is tutoring or teaching. Other top activities in Utah include mentoring the youth, general labor, and

"...it's stuff I enjoy doing. I don't ask anyone to pay me for it." ~Mr. Don Walton

collecting and distributing food.

The holiday season is not the only time to be giving. There are always people who need help and there are many great organizations that need workers. Community service should not be viewed as something that is dreadful, boring, and only done because it is required. Nevada is in last place for service hours, that could change if residents began to help out others. Find out what organizations are in your community and that you're interested in. It's never too late to be a part of something great.




Chris Barta./Courtesy • Winnada



Yoana Chavez./ Courtesy • Winnada



Mr. Walton coaching the JV Boys Basketball team./ Ron Espinola • The Brand



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# Common Core State Standards come to HCSD

By JESSIE SCHIRRICK

Common Core State Standards or “CCSS” is making its way across the country. It’s mission? To better educate and prepare the students of America on a huge scale. What are they? How will they benefit us? And how will they affect us in years to come?

Tim Connors, Grass Valley Elementary School Principal, further explained the purpose of the CCSS.

“The purpose of the Common Core State Standards is to move a student to a 21st century learner and to help establish that all students are on an even playing field,” said Connors.

So far, 45 states and 3 territories

have adopted these standards. These standards have been designed to better prepare kids for the future. For some states, this will not ensue much of a change at all, but for others the change

“It [CCSS] will most definitely be a drastic change in almost every school district in the United States.”

~Dr. Bill Myhr

is drastic.

“CCSS is a national initiative pro-

posed by all the state governors and then followed through with by all the state superintendents. The goal was to create standards that are followed by all states and to create a national assessment that is taken by all students,” said Dr. Bill Myhr, Humboldt County’s assistant superintendent.

“What we have currently is 50 states with their own state standards and their own state assessments and there’s a wide range of difficulty; some are extremely easy and some are extremely high. This is an attempt to create a high standard for all states,” said Myhr regarding the current situation.

What about in our hometown? In

what way will this effect us? As Winnemucca is considered a rural area by most standards the change is expected to be extreme.

“It will most definitely be a drastic change in almost every school district in the United States because these standards are asking, literally, for 98% of our

See CCSS Page 4



Grass Valley Elementary School Principal, Tim Connors./Courtesy • GVES

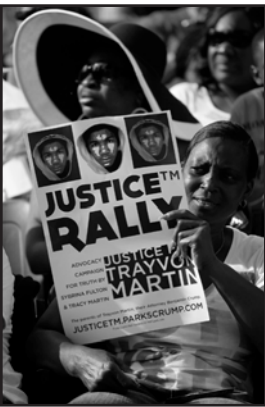


# 2012: The year in news in review

By MARCOS DURAN-SALCEDO

2012. Undoubtedly one of the most interesting years in the history of humankind. Many ups and downs happened this year, nationally, and worldwide.

## THE TRAYVON MARTIN CASE



Thousands gather at the Klipsch Amphitheater in Bayfront Park in rally in support for Trayvon Martin./Carl Juste • MCT

On the night of February 16, George Zimmerman fatally shot unarmed teenager, Trayvon Martin in Florida. Zimmerman made a 911 call, reporting that there was a “suspicious black man outside.” There was an apparent struggle between the two, and, a while later, Martin was dead from a gunshot wound from Zimmerman.

Several witnesses say that Zimmerman shot Martin in self defense, while others say that Zimmerman shot Martin for racial reasons.

Mary Cutcher, a Florida resident says “I heard a whining. Not like a crying, boohoo, but like a whining, someone in distress, and then the gunshot, Zimmerman was standing over the body with -- basically straddling the body with his hands on Trayvon’s back, and it didn’t seem to me that he was trying to help him in any way. I didn’t hear any struggle prior to the gunshot. And I feel like it was Trayvon Martin that was crying out, because the minute that the gunshot went off, the whining stopped.”

After the incident, there were several rallies around the nation, with people calling for justice for Trayvon Martin.

## THE DEATH OF WHITNEY HOUSTON

The beloved singer suddenly passed away on February 11, 2012 from a drug overdose. There were several things done in her honor, like a memorial service, and Jennifer Hudson sing-

ing Houston’s soundtrack hit “I Will Always Love You” during the Oscars and the Grammys from her movie “The Bodyguard”. The night of her death, Bobby Brown, Houston’s ex-husband, was heartbroken, and yelled “I love you Whitney” with tears in his eyes during a concert.

## SUPERSTORM SANDY



More than 100 homes burned due to Hurricane Sandy, on November 8, 2012./Carolyn Cole • MCT

What started as a storm soon became one of the deadliest and most catastrophic hurricanes of all time, battering the east coast. Hurricane Sandy caused damage of nearly 50 billion dollars, with 88 billion in real estate at risk, breaking hurricane Katrina’s record for damage. It is something no one will soon forget.

## THE LONDON 2012 SUMMER OLYMPICS

In these Summer Olympics, the United States was triumphant once more, with a total of 104 medals, followed by China, who had a total of 88 medals. There was rejoicing and tears from the athletes, and a whole lot of Olympic spirit.



Gabby Douglas performs on the balance beams during the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London, England./Brian Peterson • Minneapolis Star Tribune/MCT



Police officers stand watch at the Regal Union Square Stadium 14 Theater in Manhattan, Friday, following the Batman “Dark Knight Rises” theater shooting./Bryan Smith • MCT

## THE BATMAN SHOOTING

On the midnight premiere of the third movie of Christopher Nolan’s Batman trilogy, “The Dark Knight Rises”, in Aurora, Colorado, a gunman, James Eagan Holmes, killed 12 people and injured 58 others. About 30 minutes into the movie, Holmes exited the building through the emergency exit, then returned with a 12-gauge Remington 870 Express Tactical Shotgun, a Smith & Wesson M&P15 semi-automatic rifle, and a Glock 22 handgun, which he used on the audience. When arrested Holmes called himself “The Joker” and was imprisoned in the Arapaho County Jail.

## THE NEW LEADERSHIP IN AL QAEDA

Egyptian doctor Ayman al-Zawahiri stepped into the top leadership slot at al-Qaeda after the death of Osama bin Laden. Al-Zawahiri is a qualified Egyptian surgeon that was bin Laden’s personal physician and advisor, until bin Laden’s death. He took bin Laden’s place in the top most wanted men in the US as well, and now has a bounty of 25 million dollars on his head.

## THE PETRAEUS SCANDAL

David Petraeus, the decorated four-star Army general and former head of the CIA, resigned November 9 after admitting that he had an affair with Paula Broadwell who received jealous and threatening e-mails from Jill Kelley, who is believed to be involved in the affair as well. There are still doubts whether Petraeus passed on classified information to Broadwell which resulted in the FBI launching a full inquiry on the case.



CIA Director David Petraeus, a retired general, resigned November 9, 2012 after admitting to having an extra-marital affair./Olivier Douliery • MCT

## THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The most expensive election in history is now over. On Election night, Mitt Romney took an early lead in the electoral college and the popular vote, but as the night progressed, President Obama caught up to Romney, and even surpassed him. Around 8:00 p.m. 7 of the 8 crucial swing states declared their choice of reelection for the President, with Florida giving its 29 electoral votes to President Obama a week later. At 8:15, most major networks declared victory for the President, securing him four more years in the White House.



President Barack Obama and the first family enter the stage on November 6, 2012, in Chicago, Illinois, after the election results./Olivier Doulier • MCT

An hour later, Mitt Romney appeared at the Republican Headquarters in Boston to give his concession speech. Minutes after that, the President appeared at Democrat Headquarters, greeted with thunderous applause. In his victory speech he said “We are more than just red and blue states, we are the United States of America!”





# The election is over, now what?

By RYLEE MATHIS

There were plenty of candidates for president this year, but, ultimately, it came down to only two: Mitt Romney and Barack Obama. As we waited in anticipation for the final tally, most Americans knew who was going to win even if they didn't want to admit it. While counting the final votes, it was even said that it was 'mathematically impossible' for Romney to win.

Now that Barack Obama has been re-elected, our country is asking itself, "Now what?" He promised us so much while fighting for the presidency, now we're waiting for him to keep his promises. All we can do at this point is keep our faith and hope he makes the next four years worth while.

According to CNN, while Obama was making his speech after the votes were counted, he mentioned several times that America's journey will be long and difficult. He said we can expect positive change and growth, but only with a lot of time and a lot of hard work.

President Barack Obama meets with congressional leaders./Olivier Douliery • MCT

Whether Obama is willing to put in the work for this change.

Considering Nevada is a battleground state, it's not surprising Lowry High School students and staff are fired up about the decision our country has made.



Shannon Munk./Courtesy • Winnada

Shannon Munk. She continued to say that she thinks Romney would've managed jobs in America better than Obama will and that Obama will probably lead us into more wars.

"There's nothing anyone can do about it [now], so who cares?" said Munk.

English teacher Mr. Matthew Felshaw voted for Romney but it wasn't actually his decision.

"They're the exact same person to me," said Felshaw. He posted a poll on a site, Edmodo.com, for his English classes asking who students would vote for if they could vote. According to the site, 61.54% of the students who participated in the poll chose Romney and 38.46% voted for Obama. In result, Felshaw voted for Romney.

Felshaw continued saying that the two competitors' political parties tried to convince America that these men were two completely different people, when at

the end of the day, they're both the same.

In his last term, Obama failed to keep some of his promises he made on things like gun control and the war in Afghanistan.

This term, his campaign promises are mostly being kept or are still in the works. According to Politifact.com, Obama has already done things like extended child tax credits and marriage penalty fixes, created an Advanced Manufacturing Fund, created an international tax haven watch list, increased minority access to capital and much more.

As the President, there's a lot to be held accountable for, so it's understandable that he didn't keep his promises; the presidents before him didn't keep their promises either, but that was a different time. In this economy, politicians can't promise the people of this country something that we're all going to rely on just to find out it's never going to happen.

While there were promises broken, there were also a lot of promises kept. Obama passed a new health care law, pushed Wall Street reform, established a credit card bill of rights, expanded eligibility for Medicaid and much more. It's hard to tell what our future will look like according to the past.

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Supporters celebrate re-election at Obama's headquarters./Brian Cassella • MCT

## CCSS from page 3

students to become and begin to take or acquire college prep skills," said Myhr.

Myhr is confident the HCSD teachers and students can meet the new standards as testing begins in 2014-2015 school year.

"Yes we can, but it will take time. This is something that all of our teachers and all of our students are going to be able to do in the year 2014-2015, when the assessment begins," said Myhr.

In reality, the CCSS have already been introduced to the people of Winnemucca.

Connors seems to be confident in the school district that it can handle this and adapt to this successfully.

"I think we can do it. I think a lot of it we've already been doing, we just need to keep plugging along and try to

make sure that we meet the needs of all individuals," said Connors.

Myhr agrees with Connors' sentiment.

"Locally I'm providing all of our Humboldt County school faculties with four modules that I created from a number of sources in order to give them first, an overview of the standards and the philosophy, and then some strategies and how they need to look in a classroom. Also the specific assessment format to see how they look in a classroom and then some specific detail of how the assessment's going to look and how they can now change their own instruction and change the assessments within the classroom to help prepare their students for the assessment, as well as reasons why their curriculum needs change," said Myhr.

There are many reasons why the

government thought the CCSS was needed.

"So one of the major shifts in common core is over the last 40-50 years

**"We have excellent teachers and excellent students, we're just going to have to work together."**  
~Mr. Tim Connors

we have seen our American textbooks drop dramatically in terms of difficulty, where as we see college textbooks remain at the same lexile [reading] level. That is one of the major reasons why many of our students, even with honors and straight-A's, go to college and are unable to place into college level classes because we've literally allowed our level of standards within our classroom to drop," said Myhr.

Although the CCSS affects all areas of school, one of the main focuses is on literature and reading and writing skills.

"There is a major shift because of the global economy and because of the informational age that we're living in and technology, especially on a global scale, that we now need to shift what we read in the class room from 80-75% of literature, poetry, short stories, and we need to shift to more informational texts, historical texts, technical texts, because that is what our students are going to see in the real world. They will have to be able to read complex, high-level, informational texts for 80% of the careers that we now have or have not created yet," said Myhr.

"So because of that the biology teacher is going to have to make sure

our students can read informational texts and not only understand the vocabulary, but also read it and comprehend it and understand it. We need for all students to be able to go on the internet and read articles and listen to videos and be able to take different pieces of writing or multiple pieces of text and then draw conclusions and be able to defend themselves in an argumentative type paper or speech through digital text. That's one of the big emphasis is that by the time students graduate high school they are going to be able to read multiple texts, draw the information out, put it back into a speech or into major essays and be able to defend themselves based on what they've read or researched rather than what their personal opinion is or their values and personal experiences," said Myhr.

Connors gave an example of what will actually be expected of students.

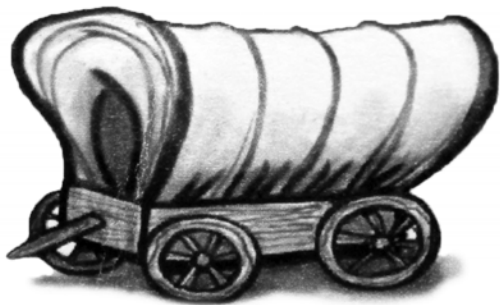
"The expectations are going to be higher; instead of two plus two equals four, students are going to have to be able to apply why does two plus two equal four and how does that apply to real life. I think that students will just get a broader range of knowledge for each standard."

Connors is confident that teachers and students are up to the challenge.

"We have excellent teachers and excellent students, we're just going to have to work together on it and do the best we can. Right now public education has a black eye, but public education is one of the greatest things this country's founded upon and hopefully we can just continue to move forward and produce some great people. When the changes come we'll just continue to get that much better," said Connors.

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## Enough with the PDA

By RYLEE MATHIS

We can all agree that there is a reasonable amount of affection people can show each other in public and an unreasonable amount. But for some people, like teachers and bitter singles, the line between the two is very thin.

Recently I was scolded by a teacher for giving my boyfriend a peck on the lips. The woman who scolded me claimed she'd been married 21 years and has never kissed her husband in public. If half the girls at this school can walk around with their butts hanging out of their booty shorts, I think I should be able to hug my boyfriend without all the dirty looks and rude comments.

Multiple times, friends have even shouted 'get a room' to us when we're just standing close together. I'm sure

most of them are just teasing, but it gets annoying. People like that are prudes.

Granted, it's different for the people in the relationship compared to the people outside of it. But I don't think hugging and closed-mouth kissing is so inappropriate that you shouldn't be able to do it at school.

The rule in our planners is that any affection beyond hand holding will be addressed, even hugging for too long. Mrs. Watts said that if she allowed kissing (which she does not consider appropriate) and what not, students would be tempted to push the limits and do



things beyond kissing. My opinion on that is if you respect yourself or your partner at all, you shouldn't try to do those other things in public. Some things are really meant to be kept private; sometimes they shouldn't even be done at all.

I don't expect Mrs. Watts or any other person running a school to change the rule in the hand book to 'kissing is allowed'; I just think teachers should save their breath when they see it. It's pretty much harmless up to a certain point.

The real problem is that while I'm getting in trouble for simply kissing someone, there are couples that suck face in the hallways between classes

and boys putting their hands up girls' dresses at the dances. Shouldn't these problems be addressed first?

As a student I try to make my way from one class to another without causing any inconvenience to anyone else, so it's got to mean something when I, of all people, notice a couple being inappropriate in the halls. One thing is for sure, I'm a lot more tolerant of public displays of affection than the authority figures at this school, so while teachers walk around searching for that kind of stuff, why aren't they seeing what I'm seeing?

It seems like the people who need to tone it down the most are the ones who aren't getting in trouble and vice versa. All I can say is: it's a different time; try to be more tolerant.



## Limit website blocking

By WESTON IRONS

There are several classes that Lowry has to offer that use computers as part of the class.

With access to computers in these classes, students can look up information for assignments, projects, etc., type essays, and finish work efficiently and with ease. The computer is a very vital and helpful tool. However there are restrictions to websites you can visit, some of which aren't necessary.

I don't have a problem with most of the websites being blocked, but there are a few exceptions. The school system wants to make sure everything we look up is appropriate and that students aren't wasting their time when they should be doing work which is fine. But the control should be limited. On a few occasions I haven't been able to visit pages such as Dictionary.com or Wikipedia just because

some of the pages have links to social networking sites. This makes it a lot more difficult to research. Another problem that I've run into is you are unable to view news stories because of "prohibited video content". Some of these websites include Yahoo and CNN. These examples are a couple of many.

I can understand where the school is coming from but it makes many students frustrated including myself when I can't visit a website for pointless reasons. Students who don't have the internet or a computer at home have it even more hard when they have to rely on a computer that might not even be able to access the information they seek. It would be much easier on the student body if they could enter these websites that contain the knowledge they need. So why not limit these restrictions holding us back?



## Everyone should vote

By JESSIE SCHIRRIK

Teens and young adults these days seem to be getting less and less informed on the political news of America. Only 50% of eligible young voters showed up to the polls for the 2012 Presidential Election. Many defend themselves saying "I am too busy," or "my vote doesn't count." What they don't realize is that the massive lack of political knowledge can effect the election and America in a big way.

The main reason non-voters don't vote is because they think they're opinion won't make a difference, but the reality is that only half of eligible voters in America vote.

If the other half would, the results would be very different.

Another common excuse used by non-voters is that they have more important obligations that occupy their time and they are too busy. Voting is the future of Americans, and America should always be a number one priority for everybody. It's not that hard to carve a

few minutes out of our everyday lives to get out to the polls.

Any minors who are too young to vote should start getting informed about politics if they aren't already. It's a good habit to make and keep so that when they are finally allowed to vote, they know a lot about political history and background.

We as Americans are so lucky to have this privilege when there are so many other countries out there that do not have his freedom, and do not have a voice. It's important that we take advantage of this opportunity while it's available to us.



## When, if ever, should you take a knee?

By JOLYN GARCIA

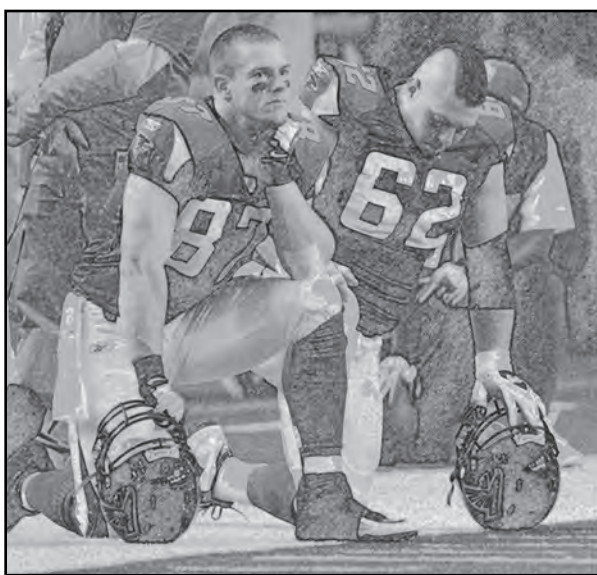
When a player gets injured while participating a sport, fellow players will get down on one knee. Taking a knee has been viewed a sign of respect for the injured, but is it really necessary? Taking a knee on the field may help bring attention to the fallen player. With fewer bodies moving around it is easier to notice that someone is injured. In a little league sports, children are instructed by their coaches, and even parents, to take a knee. This could be effective in keeping children under control while the coach tends to the injured. Other than that point, how else could this act be beneficial?

As you move up to high school and upper level sports you see fewer players taking a knee. Many high school coaches do not see it as a sign of disrespect if a team does not take a knee for an injured player.

Soccer coach Sarah Bull stated that her opinion on taking a knee "is that it's nothing. It is neither respectful to do it, nor disrespectful not to."

Coach Bull has instructed her players to not take a knee during an injury, because it is something that is not done in higher level soccer.

"Just mindlessly doing things because someone



said it's tradition can get people into trouble," said Bull.

No one is sure of the origin of this act but athletes have been instructed by others for years to take a knee. Football player Tytin Johnson disagrees with taking a knee for an injury.

"It's unnecessary. It's just a stupid rule that somebody made up," said Johnson.

When college football player Marcus Lattimore was injured, his entire team and the majority of the opposing team, stood up on the field to honor him. There were a few players who did take a knee and prayed for this player, like Tim Tebow has been known to do.

Taking a knee is something that could be done in little league without thinking twice about it. In high school and higher level sports, taking a knee is unnecessary. Whether or not you take a knee on the field, depends upon your views of this tradition and even your coach's.





## Nevada should not adopt the parent Trigger Law

By BRODY GOUCHER

Can parents really do a better job running schools then trained administrators and teachers? A trigger law is a state law that allows parents to completely overturn a school's administration and teaching staff when a school is not performing.

Parents could not do a better job than our administrators and teachers because they are not trained officials put in place to do the job. If a school is below national standards for a long period of time, the school's administration should be carefully looked at as well as the teachers, but not replaced as a whole. Parents should not get to make the final decision as to who is fired.

A study from Stanford University, found that 83 percent of charter schools and parents that have took over a school or have done worse or no better than their public school counterparts in making any gains

after the trigger law was enacted. Another problem with trigger laws is some of the charter schools that replace the public schools will not accept a child that is many grades behind their classmates and below where they are suppose to be academically.

According to "The Las Vegas Sun", Nevada is considering passing a parent trigger law that was proposed to Senator Michael Roberson of Las Vegas. The trigger law has not been passed, but many parents and private schools are trying to push it through Nevada's legislative system. The facts are this law is not even needed because we already have a federal law that states that if a school is under performing for over three years the entire staff and administration will be fired.

While parents' opinions should be taken into consideration, the entire staff should not be removed from the school, because there is no way that every

teacher in that school and every member of the staff can be doing a bad job. Teachers whose students are not performing well should be given some time and then, if after a period nothing changes, the teacher should be replaced.

Parents should have an active role in schools and their kid's lives, but saying they could do a better job than people who have been trained for years to do the job is rash to say the least. The people who are heavily backing this movement are charter schools because charter schools know they can make a profit off of schools that they take over, if they get enough parents to support trigger laws.

Many people think that trigger laws give more power to parents, but do they really? The trigger laws do nothing but give more power to private schools as well as charter schools who think that they can make money from parents.



## Parents put too much pressure on their kids

By CARLY BELL

Do you ever feel like your parents are trying to run you're life? It's like they didn't have a good enough childhood so now they are trying to get inside your life and control it?

"Some parents think their kids need to be a carbon copy of them when they were younger. They have to realize times have changed," said an a student.

Parents are just there for direction, not to control your life. It's the child's life and they should be the one in the driver's seat.

When parents manipulate you into doing things you don't want to do. Most children are not too bad. The parent is the problem not the child. If you pressure a kid to much its just going to make them want to rebel. Not every friend is going to pressure you into doing drugs, drinking and having sex. The world isn't all that bad.

A teenage girl asked her mom if she was proud of her. The mother answered, "Your breaking my heart." What lead up to this remark was all because she didn't want to do a sport. The girl just felt like she simply wasn't good enough. And even if she made

the team, she would be on the bench the whole season. She already wasn't feeling good about how she played but the mother should not add to the stress, sadness, humiliation.

I understand I am doing nothing but saying parents do everything wrong; but have you ever had that moment whey you complain, cry, or laugh with your parents? That moment is really great. You can open up to them. Maybe its about problems at school or your ex or maybe you guys are laughing about weird stuff. Parents have a tough job. Really, all they need to do is, realize times have changed and adjust there parenting according to that.

Parents have a problem with punishing a

kid for what they almost did instead on punishing them for when they messed up. I feel like parents have a hard job, but hey you remember when you were a child. Use the past to guide you through the future. Too much pressure will result in a child rebelling against everyone.

One of the jobs of a parent is knowing when to help and when to not. Ill give an example. A baby eagle is about to contract out of its shell. Its having problems. Over the egged baby is its mother, just watching, not helping. Because if the mother was to help the baby get out of its shell, the baby would never learn to fly. The muscles it develops while it is hatching are also the muscles the baby will use to fly. This is one of the only ways to gain this muscle. If the baby never flies it will not go far. High school is our shell and parents need to understand that now is the time where we learn by ourselves.



## Do's and Don'ts for the end of the world

By WYATT LESTER

Don't be scared...we all have to die some time.

Do try to survive as long as possible though. You want to have a good run at living.

Don't try to find out why the world is ending...that's knowledge for a higher power.

Do try to save your grandma or something. That's a little more in your league when it comes to being a hero.

Do have some form of weaponry to protect yourself.

Don't have strictly fire arms. Ammo is scarce.

Do try to kill all the zombies if there is a zombie apocalypse.

Don't let them bite you.

Do aim for the head.

Don't think taking out their legs will work...they have arms to crawl.

Do have a big ugly armored vehicle.

Don't have a fancy Ferrari. You will probably flip it while going 110 mph on a freeway and die.

Do try to get to high ground if there is a flood.

Don't try to build an ark...unless you're a carpenter.

Do try to uphold basic society when almost everyone is dead.

Don't try and keep our government running...it's a horrible system in the post apocalyptic waste-

lands.

Do try to play the "Fallout" games to practice surviving in the post apocalyptic wastes.

Don't trust the crazy religious radicals that want you to drink their Kool-Aid on judgment day.

Do trust your neighbor with a fallout shelter. He's probably a pretty smart guy in the end.

Don't follow Bear Grylls. The guy doesn't actually survive by himself...there's a camera crew.

Do follow Les Stroud from the TV show survivor man. The guy really knows how to survive and films himself.

Do follow me in real life when the end happens. Just like on twitter, I'm worthwhile to follow.

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THE "LUCK OF THE IRISH"  
By JUSTIN ALBRIGHT

By now every college football fan knows that the BCS National Championship game is set in stone, and will feature perennial powerhouses Alabama and Notre Dame.

Notre Dame fans are ecstatic in claiming that the Irish are "back". But even if the Irish pull out a miracle and defeat the Crimson Tide, this game is in reality, not even the real title game.

Everybody seems to be forgetting about the undefeated Ohio State Buckeyes, and their superstar quarterback Braxton Miller. Under first year coach Urban Meyer the Buckeyes have had one of the best seasons in school history, which is saying something since this is one of the most storied college programs in the nation. But it's all in vain because of the actions of a couple of players who decided to sell bowl game rings and a player that received a free tattoo.

In reality, how terrible is it to sell a ring to get a few extra dollars, or to even get a free tattoo because you can't afford to get one? The Buckeyes received a one-year bowl ban, three years of probation, and is stripped of scholarships for the next three seasons. Despite all these ridiculous penalties, the Buckeyes have had a season for the ages. Out of their 12 wins, 10 of those have been by seven points or more.

The Irish and Crimson Tide will be playing for the right to earn another Championship for their school, but this shouldn't even be considered the real championship. Ohio State is one of the best teams in the nation, and they won't even be able to try to prove it due to their ridiculous post-season ban.

Varsity girls look to improve before conference play  
By JUSTIN ALBRIGHT

Coming off a strong home-outing in the Winnemucca invitational, The Varsity girls basketball team traveled to a tournament in Reno with hopes of not only improving on their 1-2 record, but also improving on their skills.

The Bucks tipped the tournament off by playing against Damonte Ranch, a team that previously beat the Bucks in the Winnemucca invitational the week before. The Buckaroos had trouble getting anything going, which led to another loss against the Mustangs. "We couldn't buy a basket the whole game, and that makes the game difficult. You start to fail to do the little things which eventually add up," said sophomore Alyssa Jones.

The Bucks then faced off against The Buhach Colony Thunder. The Bucks played a better overall game, but couldn't pull out the 'W'.

"The game plan was to come out strong and play a solid four quarters. We

definitely played a more solid game than the previous night, but we weren't where we wanted to be," said Jones.

In hopes of closing out the tournament with a win, the Bucks faced off against the Summer-ville Bears. The Bucks achieved their goal and pulled out the win, ending the tournament on the right foot.

"We played solid for four quarters, made shots, and executed the game plan really well. Everyone stepped up and played a part with the win," said Jones.

The Bucks travel to Reno again Wednesday, as they play the North Val-



Top-Alyssa Dendary takes the ball away from a defender. Top Right- Carli Evatz (5) and Taylor Schwartz (21) play tight defense. Right- Carli Evatz puts up a shot while Taylor Schwartz look on./ Courtesy • Winnada



leys Panthers in their last non-conference game.

Lowry freshman girls basketball kicks off season  
By JOSH SHAVER

The Lowry girls freshman basketball team started their season on the road at Battle Mountain in a JV tournament.

Against the older competition they played well but went 1-3 with their only win coming against Carlin's varsity team.

"We played pretty well against those JV teams. It was really fun getting to be out their and get some experience against older girls," said Celeste Esquivel.

The first game they played was against White Pine which they lost. The next game was against Tonapah which they happened to lose.

On Saturday they played

again and beat Carlin's varsity team. After that win they played again against Eureka and lost that game also.

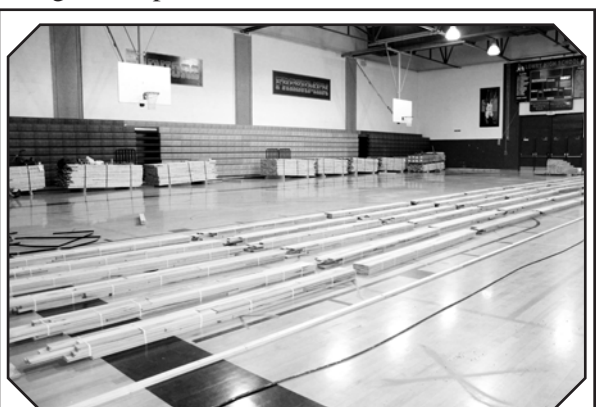
"The games we lost were pretty tough games they were fun though," said Esquivel.

The girls are back in ac-



Freshman girls basketball./ Courtesy • Winnada

tion December 14 when they host the Sparks Railroaders.



Work is underway in the Old Gym to replace the flooring. The project, paid for by Century Club, began December 4 and should be completed by January 5 when the Buckaroos play their first home game. The last time the court was refurbished was 10 years ago. After completion, all of the more than 100 "dead spots" should be gone./ Ron Espinola • The Brand

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# Athlete of the Issue: Josh Watterson

By MICKEY DONOVAN

Off the court, Josh Watterson is one of the most nicest guys you could ever meet but, when put on a basketball court with five other guys trying to defeat him, he is a lean, mean, 6 foot 8 inch, fast, trey-dropping machine.

Basketball has been in Watterson's life for a very long time. He started playing basketball around the age of four shooting on his little toy basketball hoop.

Two people really influenced his decision to play basketball.

When Watterson was a child he used to go watch his brother, Brian who is about ten years older, play at Lowry. He watched him shoot deep three-pointers and it got him hooked on basketball.

In his high school career, Brian played quarterback for Lowry.

Although Josh used to play football he gave it up to focus on basketball.

"I don't play football so I can focus on basketball and so I don't get injured

for basketball", said Josh.

Watterson also looked up to his grandfather.

"My grandpa always taught us to never quit no matter how down you are. Just keep going as hard as you can. Which is how I play now. You don't just give up. Keep playing as hard as you did when you were tied or ahead. If you're up by a lot just slow down and keep going," said Watterson.

Other than his brother and grandfather, Watterson said two professional players have influenced his game. Watterson always liked Allen Iverson when he was a younger.

"I liked the way he played and the way he handled the ball," added Watterson.

Now he likes the play of Kevin Du-

rant. He likes his tall and lanky style.

Watterson has many goals for this year in basketball. He wants to, "Win state again and be First Team All-State."

Watterson admits that winning state is not going to be as easy as it was last year.

"We added Clark and a couple of other teams that were 4A last year," he said.

The teams are definitely not going to be easy to beat.

"I think Elko will be mostly the same. They lost two of their

starters, but they play a lot of their subs. I think we will have the size-advantage this year, they lost one of their biggest and most athletic guys," said Watterson.

Watterson's biggest accomplishment of his sports career is winning the state championship last year.

Watterson wants to play Division 1

bas-ket-ball after high school. Watterson's dream school to play for is BYU. However, he simply wants to play at the next level and will play wherever he has the opportunity.

"My whole family are big fans of BYU and all of my uncles went there," he said. You can probably say it is almost a tradition for the Watterson family.



# Varsity boys basketball faces stiff competition in Las Vegas

By OMAR GUERRERO

The varsity boys traveled to Vegas this weekend looking add to last weeks success at the Lowry Invitational. The trip also gave the Bucks the chance to see some of the new competition in the 4A Division 1

Their first game would be against a very good Basic team, which was in the 4A last year. The Bucks did some good things but came up short in a 72-57 loss.

In the Bucks next game, against Moapa, Lowry

was on a mission. Moapa is the team the varsity football team lost to this season in the playoffs, so the Bucks were looking to get some revenge and show them how Lowry handles business.

The Bucks started off the game well but would pick it up in the third and forth quarter. The Bucks were able to beat Moapa by a substantial margin, 60-30.

Jesse Studebaker said, "We started off slow in the first half, but did good in the third and forth quarter. We moved the ball pretty well and did well on defense."

Lowry's final game was against Enterprise, UT.

The Bucks played well on both sides of the ball and won 56-38 wrapping up their Vegas tournament on a good note. The Bucks faced some good opponents and were able to do some good things.

Calvin Connors said,"We had our highs and lows. We got to play against some good teams and saw



Josh Shaver adds to the Lowry lead./ Courtesy • Winnada



Calvin Connors (20) passes to a teammate./ Courtesy • Winnada



Garret Naveran goes up for a shot./ Courtesy • Winnada



Varsity boys basketball./ Courtesy • Winnada

what we need to fix before we start our league games." Lowry has high hopes for this season and is looking forward to having another great year.

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## Athlete of the Issue: Taylor Schwartz

By JOSH SHAVER

**T**aylor Schwartz, a junior at Lowry, is a student athlete that participates in sports such as basketball and softball. If you saw her strolling through the halls you wouldn't look at her as an athlete. She is one of the most quiet people in the school and mainly just keeps to herself.

Taylor will be returning to this year's girls varsity basketball team and will be hoping to lead them to the playoff and hopefully a state championship.

"Every time I play a game or am I practice I go a hundred percent," said Schwartz.

Out of basketball and softball Taylor couldn't decide what her favorite is she loves them both equally.

"I've never really been able to de-

cide on which I like better. I've been around them both all my life," said Schwartz.

She was moved up to varsity both her freshman and sophomore year for softball for the playoffs. Taylor plays first base and is also a pitcher. She is

**"Work as hard as possible this might be the last time you ever get the chance to play sports."**

~Taylor Schwartz

left handed so that is a very cool thing and sometimes throws people off.

In basketball she plays post and was on varsity as a sophomore and made the team this year as well. Tay-

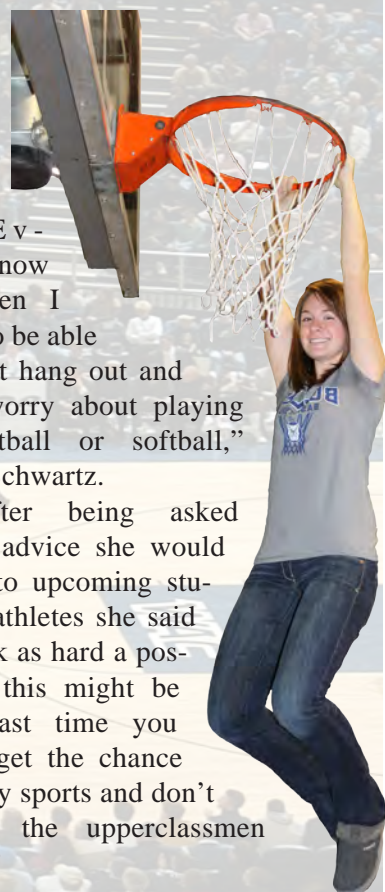
lors best memory from basketball was her freshman year when she was on junior varsity.

"We had to run a minute forty five drill because I missed a free throw," said Schwartz

Her role model is her dad. Dave has always supported her when she was growing and has gone to every event possible. Her dad taught her how to play basketball and still works on her game whenever she feels the need to.

"My dad is a great basketball player and he always can help me when something isn't going right," said Schwartz

When she isn't playing sports she likes to hang out with friends and watch movies. She enjoys spending time with her family also.



"Every now and then I like to be able to just hang out and not worry about playing basketball or softball," said Schwartz.

After being asked what advice she would give to upcoming student athletes she said "Work as hard as possible this might be the last time you ever get the chance to play sports and don't make the upperclassmen mad."



## Wrestlers continue early season dominance

By WYATT LESTER

**T**his weekend the Lowry Buckaroos headed to their second tournament of the season in Churchill County along with many other teams from the northern division including Hug, Dayton, North Valley, Spanish Springs, Fernley, Elko, Yerington, ROP, Fallon, and Silver Sage. Looking for another year of dominance in the 4A Division 1, the Bucks thoroughly showed that with yet another Jack 4 performance.

"I think we did pretty good as a team," said Jed Johnson.

The varsity took first in the tournament and held up their championship status. Since the tournament was a dual tournament, the individual

stats weren't as important but more the team's efforts combined.

"There were two duals we had a slight struggle with but Lowry came up on top," said Kirk Berentsen, "So far I think we've got a great team and there's always room for improvement but as long as everyone can look upon those mistakes we've made and try to do better I think we have a really high chance of a title under our belt. As long as we all try hard and give it our all, we'll have a good varsity and JV."

The Bucks showed an early look



Trace Bell controls his opponent./ Courtesy • Tim Grady



Daniel Pollock goes for the pin./ Courtesy • Tim Grady

at what might be another state championship, though it may be too early to tell, there is still the essence of a dynasty at large here in Northern Nevada. Lowry's Varsity looks forward to the Tournament of Champions in Reno next week.



Tytin "House" Johnson looks to pin his opponent./ Courtesy • Tim Grady

### JV Girls Start season off strong



The JV girls have started the season off with 3 dominant showings in a tournament in Lovelock, as they started the season off 3-0. The Lady Bucks are back in action Wednesday as they travel to North Valleys to play the Panthers. The Bucks start league play Friday and Saturday as they travel to play the Sparks Railroaders and the Truckee Wolverines. / Courtesy • Winnada

### JV boys start season off on the right foot



The JV Buckaroos had a quick start to the season as they played four games in three days, but managed to pull out a win in each of those games. The Bucks have had a long layoff in between games, but they get back on the court Friday, as they play the Sparks Railroaders, and will travel to Truckee on Saturday./ Courtesy • Winnada

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## Mr. Taua Cabatbat and Mr. Ty Lucas pick the bowls

By JUSTIN ALBRIGHT

For all you college football die-hards, this is the best time of the year. Not only is it almost Christmas, but it's also almost time for bowl games. Which means that it's time to see these college student-athletes put everything on the line in order to end the season with a win. Lowry is fortunate enough to have two great football minds in Taua Cabatbat and Ty Lucas, and they've provided this year's bowl game predictions.

**New Mexico Bowl: Nevada vs. Arizona**



Cody Fajardo of the Nevada Wolf Pack scores touchdown against Boise State./Joe Jaszewski • Idaho Statesman/MCT

Cabatbat: "I got to go with Arizona because I'm sick and tired of hearing 'Nevada this, Nevada that' Nevada whatever. Arizona."

Lucas: "Nevada is going to win because that's my alma-mater and I stay true to the blue."

**Hawaii Bowl: SMU vs. Fresno State**

Cabatbat: "June Jones is coaching SMU, and that's why they'll win because June Jones is going back home."

Lucas: "Fresno State is going to win because they are a far superior team and they have a better mascot."

**Alamo Bowl: (15) Oregon State vs. Texas**

Cabatbat: "That's automatic, Texas. Texas because Oregon State is overrated, Number 15, really? Who's Oregon State?"

Oregon State ain't nobody."

Lucas: "Oregon State will win because Texas is a major let down this year."

**Gator Bowl: (21) Northwestern vs. Mississippi St.**

Cabatbat: "I got to go with Northwestern. I don't know anything about them, but they might have cool uniforms."

Lucas: "Northwestern will win because they have far superior brain power."

**Capital One Bowl: (23) Nebraska vs. (6) Georgia**

Cabatbat: "I'm a Nebraska fan, so I have to go with Nebraska. The right person would choose Georgia, but I'm going to go with Nebraska."

Lucas: "Nebraska will win because the Black-Shirt defense is the best defense in college football."

**Outback Bowl: (19) Michigan vs. (11) South Carolina**

Cabatbat: "I'm going to go with Michigan. Dual-threat Quarterback, and South Carolina's running back is out, so Michigan."

Lucas: "Michigan is going to win because they're due for the big win on the big stage."

**Rose Bowl: (8) Stanford vs. Wisconsin**

Cabatbat: "Stanford is the best team in the Pac-12. Not Oregon, not Oregon State, not USC. Stanford."

Lucas: "I'm going to go with Stanford because Wisconsin got lucky against Nebraska, and Wisconsin just lost their head coach."

**Orange Bowl: (13) Florida State vs. (16) Northern Illinois**



Kansas State quarterback Collin Klein manages to get off a pass as Texas defensive tackle Chris Whaley weighs in on the matter./Shane Keyser • Kansas City Star/MCT

Cabatbat: "Got to go with Florida State. Northern Illinois is in one of those punk conferences, they ain't nobody."

Lucas: "Florida State will win because there's no absolute reason why Northern Illinois should even be in a BCS game, and they will be sorely embarrassed."

**Sugar Bowl: (4) Florida vs. (22) Louisville**

Cabatbat: "Florida. They have the real brothers down in Florida."

Lucas: "Florida easily against Louisville. Florida just has too many offensive weapons."

**Fiesta Bowl: (7) Kansas St. vs. (5) Oregon**

Cabatbat: "I got to go with K-State. It's that Pac-12 thing again. Oregon who? Everone says Oregon is the best team in the nation. That ain't true. Just because they can score points, they can't stop nobody."

Lucas: "This is an intriguing matchup, Oregon will win because they are far superior offensively. Kansas State is a boring team to watch."

**Cotton Bowl: (12) Oklahoma vs. (10) Texas A&M**

Cabatbat: "Johnny Manziel, I'm a fan now. I'm jumping on his bandwagon; I'm going to go with A&M."

Lucas: "Texas A&M all the way. They've proved that they can play in the SEC and Oklahoma is a Big-12 school, and Texas A&M will show them what they're missing out on."

**BCS National Championship:**

**(1) Notre Dame vs. (2) Alabama**

Cabatbat: "You've got to be kidding me. Alabama is going to punk Notre Dame so hard. I hope Manti Teo has a good game, but Alabama is humongous."



Alabama running back Eddie Lacy runs through Georgia defenders./Curtis Compton • Atlanta Journal-Constitution/MCT

Lucas: "I want Notre Dame to win because I'm sick of SEC schools. Notre Dame doesn't stand a chance, but I'm going to go with them as an upset. I want somebody to put the SEC in their place, and Notre Dame isn't the team to do it, but maybe they will have a four-leaf clover in their helmet."

There you have it folks, your very own predictions from the flyin' Hawaiian and Mr. Lucas. Stay tuned to see how accurate these predictions turn out to be.



Notre Dame linebacker Manti Te'o, left, intercepts a pass./Julian H. Gonzalez • Detroit Free Press/MCT



## Freshman boys perfect in Battle Mt. Tournament

By BRODY GOUCHER

The freshmen team came out on fire against Lovelock getting out to a great start and a 10 point lead, but Lovelock came out in the second half ready to play and came to within 3 points by the end of the third quarter.

In the fourth quarter the Bucks closed it out and won, 49-42.

At the half of the Lovelock game coach Grant Beatty said, "We're not setting things up and we look like a different

team than we looked in practice and I know we are a better team than that."

The speech rallied the team and they came out playing faster and smarter and kept the lead to close it out for the win.

The game plan early was to set up the offense and get things going right off tip off and then keep the lead throughout the game by running a flex offense and then playing good defense in a 2-3 zone. Another aspect



Brody Goucher takes a shot during a scrimmage./Ron Espinola • The Brand

of the game that went in the Buck's favor was turnovers created from Lowry's full court press trap.

In the final game, Lowry dominated both sides of the ball in a 59-14 win over White Pine. After a quick start the

Bucks separated quickly and were able to easily sustain the run by playing great defense and getting inside the paint to score easy points.

Lowry's next two games are at home against Truckee and Sparks.



Trey Marriot dribbles by Brian Shettler during practice./Ron Espinola • The Brand

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## LOWRY VOICES

By LETICIA GOMEZ

If you could be any Disney character, who would you be? Why?

Shannon Rose

"I would be Minnie Mouse because she is cute and likes bows. And I love bows!!"

Elizabeth Sims

"I would be Ariel because she is amazing, an awesome singer, and would do anything for the sake of love."

Jancy Ulch

"I would be Rapunzel from 'Tangled' because she has beautiful, flowing hair."

Harlie Coney

"I would be Mushu from 'Mulan' because he's hilarious."



## Jessie's Journal

By JESSIE SCHIRRRICK

I like the feeling of catching something. It brings me great joy and satisfaction. Like to catch a ball or a cumbersome object.

You would be more attractive if you would calm down.

I have no perception of time; I can never tell if something is going by really fast or really slow. Maybe all of my time is equal.

Law is such an open ended and mysterious word. Where did it even come from?

Somewhere crazy...

I don't know why people don't try to make something that will make everybody happy all the time. Like some kind of drug. Because nothing in the world could go wrong if everybody was always happy. Because if something

bad happened it wouldn't matter at all because you would already be so happy and then nothing would make you upset.

Life is made up of negatives and positives like seriously everything that the universe is made up of involves either a plus sign or a minus sign. That is all that life really means, I believe.

Men that wear dress pants only do so because it's respectable and they are uncomfortable with their bodies.

Freshman year was the peak of my entire life.

Bones are people too.

How is it that some of the smallest things can hurt the most? Like cutting my thumb off would probably hurt a lot more than cutting my whole arm off.

How did languages even happen? Why did everybody think of everything

so different than anybody else in the whole world like 300 times?

These would make sense if I could be more explicit.

There is a large, diverse variety of eyelids. More than I ever realized until recently.

I don't know why everyone's so worried about the trees, I got at least three spare ones in my backyard.

Strawberry Milk. The Best Milk.

I just want shiny hair.

I've always thought that one and two were brother and sister, and that three was two's best friend and three and four are step sisters. Their dad is five and five and six are best friends but six is seven's little brother. Eight and nine are six and seven's parents, and then ten is the grandpa.



## PUTTING AN END TO THE END OF THE WORLD THEORY

By WESTON IRONS

December 21, 2012: The day many people believe the world will come to an end. Apparently, Hollywood can make a movie about the end of the world and it is suddenly thought true by more people than what seems possible. This strange idea needs to be put to rest.

The Mayans ancient calendar, which is inscribed in stone, ends on December 21, 2012. When these were found, people began panicking about how the world would officially end in December. Since then more Mayan calendars have been found that go on for much longer than 2012. Yet this lie is still believed by many. This theory of the end of the world isn't convincing for several reasons.

The end of the world has already been incorrectly predicted multiple times. In fact, in just the last twelve years, 27 false predictions have been made, the latest being May 27, 2012. So why do people believe the world will end this time? I have absolutely no clue.

Some of the "End of the world" enthusiasts seem like they actually

want the world and their lives to end. Again this makes no sense to me.

Some events of the coming "end of the world" include alien invasion, zombie apocalypse, a large supernova destroying the earth, nuclear war, and more. These events are highly unlikely and absurd. Even the Mayans themselves said that none of these events are possible.

Although I have my opinion on the end of the world. Students at Lowry have their own ideas about this theory.

"The world will end when Chuck Norris decides it will end," said freshman Gavin Swanson.

"I'm not sure if the world will end or not, I'm not a psychic," is sophomore Austin Jenkins response to the end of the world.

Do you really believe the end is near or are you simply going along with what the media says? If you're not sure what you think of this, don't worry about it. In nine days time, the Earth will still be intact and we'll still be alive. Eventually, your life will end. Whether it's because of the end of world or death. Enjoy life while you have it.

## Photo of the issue

By TAYLOR LATRAY

"The Brand" staff has put their heads together to decide on a photo of the issue. A photo of the issue is one found on a site such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. If one thinks this photo is worthy their will be a vote between the reporters and editors for "The Brand". Winning this issue is Madison Mayo. Madison is a great photographer who has many of photographs to choose from and this one in particular just stands out as amazing. The usage of editing is part of what makes the picture that Madison takes amazing, however, this one contained close to no editing. Mayo has a talent in photography and an eye for great pictures.



## The junk in your trunk

By JOLYN GARCIA

Many high school students are too busy with work, extra-curricular activities, or just don't care about it, and allow their trunks to get quite messy. Below are two of the messiest trunk's at Lowry High.



Dusty Hamilton's trunk contains various clothing items, including hotdog underwear, a basketball, a stethoscope, Homecoming decorations, snacks, antifreeze, and a rented movie./Jolyn Garcia • The Brand



Miguel Zepeda's trunk is filled with many random items including: water balloons, snacks, a speaker, a skateboard, a beanie, extra shoes, extra clothes, a sports-bag, and drumsticks./Jolyn Garcia • The Brand



Makayla Lopez

How do you like high school so far?

So far high school is a blast! The work is honestly not that hard and there are tons of hotties.

What's your favorite class? Least favorite?

My favorite class is Health. I love learning about body parts. My least favorite is math, it's hard.

Who is your favorite teacher?

My favorite teacher is Mrs. James. She is super crazy, but also caring. She is a good time.

What's your favorite thing about high school?

My favorite thing about high school is the atmosphere of the football games.

How was your first homecoming?

My first homecoming was amazing. I tore it up on the dance floor with a bunch of people and getting ready with my girls was lots of fun.

Do you play any sports? If so what are they? If not why?

I am in cheerleading. It's super fun



and yes it is a sport. Enough said.

What are your electives?

I'm in Spanish I which is muy bueno and Leadership which is honestly such a good time.

Are you involved in the school? Why or why not?

I am really involved because I feel like getting involved and bonding with your class is what will really make your high school experience great.

Was high school everything you expected it to be?

So far high school has been pretty great. I expected it to be a lot harder as far as academics, but it really isn't. I was also scared I was going to get lost, which I do, but oh well.

Do you think that there is less drama in high school?

Once you get to high school the drama level definitely goes down. There are a lot more people, and if you just keep to yourself no one really cares about what you do.

What do you hate about high school?

Well I hate waking up early so if they would start school at like 10 it would be a blast.

Celeste Esquivel

How do you like high school so far?

Well, I gotta say high school is better than the Jr. High.

What's your favorite class? Least favorite?

My favorite class is sewing. My least favorite is algebra.

Who is your favorite teacher?

My favorite teacher is probably Mr. Sagers.

What's your favorite thing about high school?

My favorite thing about high school is being able to leave campus for lunch.

How was your first Homecoming?

It wasn't too shabby.

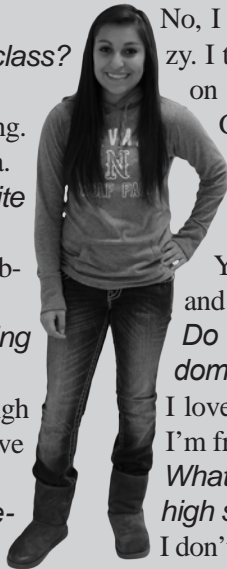
Do you play any sports? If so what are they?

Yes, basketball and track.

What are your electives?

My electives are Spanish for Spanish Speakers, Art 1, and Sewing 1.

Are you being involved in the



school? Why or why not?

Yes, I play sports.

Was high school everything you expected it to be?

No, I thought it was going to be crazy. I thought it was going to be more on the terms of the movie "Mean Girls".

Do you think there is less drama here than at the Jr. High?

Yes, because we've grown up and learned to deal with it.

Do you like having more freedom?

I love having more freedom because I'm free!

What would you change about high school?

I don't think I would change anything.

What's one thing you hate about high school?

I dislike that the art building is way the heck up the street!

Do you like having a full year of PE?

I miss having a half year of it but at least I'll be keeping in shape!

Nick Maddox

How do you like high school so far?

It is amazing!

What is you favorite class? Least favorite?

It would probably be Algebra.

Who is your favorite teacher?

Ms. Kottke is my favorite.

What's your favorite thing about being in high school?

Being able to leave for lunch.

How was your first homecoming?

It was so much fun!!

Do you play sports?

I play baseball that's about it.

What are your electives?

I have Accounting and Finance, Art, and Spanish.

Are you getting involved? Why or



why not? I kind of am, If I have the time I will.

Was high school what you expected it to be?

It was everything I expected it to be!

Do you think that the drama level has gone down?

No, I think that it's getting higher.

Do you like having more freedom?

Yes, yes!! A million times yes!

What do you hate about high school?

I hate having more homework.

Do you like having a full year of PE?

I hate having a full year. It should be half.



Think you know Mrs. Rorex? Think Again.

By RYLEE MATHIS

Mrs. Courtney Rorex has been teaching at Lowry for 22 years and plans to retire in four. We know her as a quiet art, sewing, and crafts teacher but there's a lot more to her than just that. Rorex has some pretty interesting and unusual opinions and hobbies. Rorex was asked many questions and all of her answers were unique, but there were a few in particular that caught us all off guard.

She said she would bring back corporal punishment, or physical discipline, if she were the principal; however, she would never actually want to be the principal because she lived with one for so many years. She explained that she just thinks corporal punishment has merit. She continued to say that she thinks there would be less 'second-time offenders' if this was brought back. The humiliation factor played a big role back then but she realizes times have changed. She said that her father was her principal for several years, that's where this idea comes from. Both her parents are her role mod-

els.

"You know what? I love to travel," said Rorex. One of her most common forms of transportation is on the back of her husband's Harley wearing her black helmet with pink metallic flames on it. She also loves basketball and was



Mrs. Rorex helps Freshman Brittany Partee with her project./Jolyn Garcia • The Brand

on the drill team in high school. These are just some of the many unexpected things most students don't know about Mrs. Rorex.

She likes to play pranks on her husband with the help of students, believes chivalry is still alive, has a phobia of black cats, loves the number 13, hates F-bombs and although she's never been to Burning Man, she loves the artistic creativity associated with it.



THE ULTIMATE SURVIVAL GUIDE

By JESSIE SCHIRRICK

In order to make it in this world, one must attain collective knowledge of defending oneself against horrifying phenomena and supernatural and/or extra-terrestrial beings.

In light of the zombie/bath salts incident that occurred in Florida this year, many have been preparing themselves for a zombie apocalypse.

Zombies are the living dead and they feed off of human brains. In order to correctly kill one, their own brains must be destroyed. A common method is stabbing or crushing it with a large object, like in the popular TV show, "The Walking Dead"

Zombies would probably be easier to ward off than beings from another galaxy.

According to historical artifacts (ancient monuments, paintings, etc.), aliens have been trying to contact Earth for thousands of years. Many ancient civilizations have recorded these attempts. Even some people of modern times say they have actually experienced an alien encounter. Some were pleasant encounters, some were the exact opposite.

A common claim made by alien abductees is that some of their DNA and organs were harvested and used to create an alien-human hybrid. We

can all protect ourselves from this by avoiding metal implants, as they can be used by aliens to track our location and movement. If you do ever find yourself abducted by an alien, the best you can do is stay calm and cooperate because they will inject sedatives into your bloodstream, making you helpless.

To survive an alien invasion, however, the mother ship must be destroyed by means of explosives, for the mother ship is always the base of any alien colony.

But even this is nothing compared to translucent and sometimes invisible specimens.

Ghosts and spirits make appearances in people's lives everyday. Some people dedicate their time to talking to them and/or exterminating them, fascinated by the possibility of another universe among our own. However, there can be a problem when our universes collide. The first step to ridding yourself of an unwanted spirit is to identify if it's affecting you negatively or positively, and then finding out what it wants. Some spirits are not ghosts, but guides through life, like guardian angels. If this is the case, take advantage of this spirit as it will probably guide you through many obstacles. If you realize this spirit is a demon...run.



Zombies on "The Walking Dead," on AMC./Carolyn Cole/Los Angeles Time • MCT



## Lowry Then and Now~Mrs. Ludlow

BY LETICIA GOMEZ

Since 1993 Lowry has changed dramatically, and one teacher gives some insight to how much change she has witnessed.

Technology is one of the biggest changes Mrs. Lynn Ludlow has seen so far.

"The biggest change I have seen at Lowry in the past 20 years of being here is the rise of technology. When I started working here pencils, pens, and typewriters were the common tools in the classroom. I even remember the first computer I had in my classroom. It freaked me out because I was afraid I was going to break it," said Ludlow.

Students have changed, but the biggest change is the way we think and act.

"I have always loved the students at Lowry, and I still do, but they don't interact with us teachers as much. Teachers and students

have always had their differences and I don't see much change there. Kids are more bored than they use to be. Getting an education is not essential to some kids. Not as much as it used to be. And the students seem so unsure of where they want to go after high school. They don't know what path they are going to take. Also the way they talk, the F-word is used so casually now," stated Ludlow.

Ludlow also seems to think that student don't get involved as much.

"School spirit was always seen at Lowry and now there are some apathetic kids who don't want to be seen doing anything school related," Ludlow said.

Another change is the way students dress.

"The kids clothing has gone from super baggy pants and belly-barring shirts to skin tight pants that look as if they were applied while lying down. I enjoy seeing the cute clothing and bright shoes some girls wear," said Ludlow.

Lowry has most definitely had its changes over the years. Thanks to Mrs. Ludlow we know of a few.



Left: Mrs. Ludlow and Señora Godinez posing for as twins in 1992. Right: Present day Mrs. Ludlow and Señora Godinez./Courtesy • Winnada



## Dealing with exes

BY CARLY BELL

Dating tip: Don't be overly dramatic after the break up, you will regret it.

I took a survey not too long ago, it included the questions, "Why did you guys break up? Have you ever been in love? Do you miss them?" Not all the answers were the same, but the most common response was, "It's a long story." This made me want to ask more questions. If they were willing to open up to me, I got some funny stories and some sad ones. Stories like, "He cheated on me", "I didn't like her mother", "It wasn't the same", and "Horrible kisser".

Some of the stories the student told me were humorous and some sad. When the person described to me how they felt after their boyfriend or girl friend had cheated on them. It was rather heart breaking, so much time, and so many lies. I be-

lieve nobody deserves to be cheated on. It is a heartless and a selfish thing to do. It not only breaks their heart, it destroys the way they look at relationships. Being cheated on is like a wound that never really heals. The scar will always be in sight.

Dating tip: Don't hide who you are because you never know who might actually love you.

Saying you want to be a friend after a break up is like saying you want to keep the dog after it dies. It just won't work. Of course some couples might be friends, but you never will be as cool as you once were. Don't say, "I don't want anything to be awkward between us." Also, don't reference your girl to cars, especially if you are planning to date them, "Babe you're like a new car, I want to test drive you before I buy ya." Do NOT say that to a girl. EVER.

## Advice Column

BY RYLEE MATHIS

Kylie L. asks, "Rylee, I've only been in one high school relationship although I've seen my friends go through plenty, but none of them last. Why?"

Well Kylie, it's been my experience that the majority of boys are looking for a physical partner rather than a soul mate. As girls, we trust too soon and fall in love too easily when a guy says the right things. Not all girls are like this, just the majority. We naively fall for a guy and eventually he gets what he wants or gets bored. Most of them ditch after that; leaving girls cynical and insecure. Instead of going through a hundred relationships and trying to make all of them last, don't just date anyone who asks or pays the smallest amount of attention to you. Wait for someone who genuinely wants to be with you and wants to work at the relationship just as hard as you do. This helps to avoid harsh break-ups and ruined friendships.

High school relationships also end due to an unequal

amount of feelings between the two people. While one is head over heels, the other is planning the break up. Sometimes it's hard to see it coming. The uninterested person doesn't want to hurt the other's feelings so they don't say anything until they decide to tell them it's over. That problem can also be reversed: the couple could be too honest with each other and that causes fights. Other reasons are things like jealousy, cheating, and trust issues- on both parts, not just the girl's.

Always remember: You certainly don't have to find your soul mate in high school. You've got the rest of your life to find the right person just for you.

Anonymous asks, "Rylee, what would you do if there was something you didn't like about your friend but you didn't know how to tell them?"

Sometimes it's hard to tell a friend that something they're doing is bugging you because you're afraid of their reaction. Don't let it build until you blow up on them one day for doing whatever it is that bothers you.

Just calmly and nicely try to tell them you'd like them to do this annoying thing less when they're around you. If they're a good friend, they'll understand. If they're an acquaintance, just try to ignore it.

Keeping things like this from a best friend can really cause problems in the friendship. Once they start annoying you, you start telling other people how annoying they are, it gets back to him/her that you were talking behind their back and then you're not friends anymore. It's the vicious cycle of high school that can easily be reversed by simply talking it out with your friend.





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# Wyatt’s Rock and Roll Hall of Fame: Wolfmother

By Wyatt Lester

My pick for this issue is Wolfmother. An Australian band that started out with three members in 2000 and a sound that seems to be 30 years late for modern rock. The band’s lead man (guitar and vocals) Andrew Stockdale led this group into their first EP back in 2004, least to say it was a very successful debut into today’s rock and roll scene.

The original band members included Andrew Stockdale (guitar and vocals), Chris Ross (bass and vocals),

and Myles Heskett (drums). They produced the band’s first album in 2005 titled “Wolfmother”. It has hit songs on it such as “Woman”, “Joker and the Thief”, and “Mind’s Eye”. “Wolfmother” won a Grammy award for best hard rock performance and many other different awards for the album. After a few years of touring and some stress concerning musical differences the band split up but Stockdale carried on the name to rebuild this colossal name in rock. He added members in 2008 to tour with and

produced their second studio album in 2009 “Cosmic Egg” that had the same sound as before and felt close to home for many Wolfmother fans. They have a sound similar to Mars Volta, The White Stripes, and many bands from the seventies as influence. Many even compare their sound to rock and roll legend Led Zeppelin. They may have been criticized for being 30 years late in the genre of rock but the majority love it. There have been many other band members in and out of the group but



The original lineup of Wolfmother performing at the Beale Street Music Festival. Courtesy of Lindsey T. • Flickr.com

Stockdale has held it together keeping the rock alive in this modern age.



# Letter to Santa

By Wyatt Lester

Dear Santa,

You need to step it up. I have no idea what you’ve been doing these last few years but it’s not a big success in my book. If global warming is the problem, talk to Al Gore about it. Also I believe I’ve found a possible worker with good building skills named Matt Roloff from that TLC show “Little People Big World”. He’s a real hoot.

Now for the real stuff: I want world peace, a cool president, a car that doesn’t get me pulled over for going too fast, and maybe the Cubs winning a World Series. I want to see you do the impossible. Got it? Good. Now Espy wants things like Derek Jeter to marry him, the New York Yankee’s stadium moved into the Coliseum in Rome, and maybe a few inches on his stature. I want this list checked twice and completed by the morning of Christmas. If it isn’t I’ll send up the BCA (Bureau of Christmas Affairs) and they’ll do some real Christmas miracles for your staff. I’m also going to bring an Occupational Department of Safety and Health guy to check out if you’re on top of everything. Were in the 21st century, let’s get things together.

Now for some more important things I want:

Save the Twinkies.

I want a fast pass for Lindsey Lohan to get her through another round of rehab.

I want a muzzle for Bill O’Reilly and maybe an “on the left” friend who could follow him around all day.

I want “Star Wars” to be made by George Lucas. He has all the knowledge for the “Star Wars” universe.

Give Newt Gingrich a Slim Fast diet plan. Also give him a share of all the annual revenue from Michelin tires. I mean he did all that modeling in those commercials for the Michelin man, he should get a cut.

Give Greece Money Mutual’s number. Montel Williams will get anybody out of debt.

Have Kristen Stewart fall in love with Vladimir Putin. They both have the same dry personality. Seriously... straight faced all the time.

Please get rid of Magic 95.5. It has to be the worst radio station on planet earth.

Take a “Rock ‘em Sock ‘em Robots” toy to the Israel and Palestine border...lets settle this Mattel style.

I want it all and I want it now. It’s my money and I need it now.

Can you give me a tour of your place up north? Well, without the safety guys. It would be more of a history of the place kind of tour. That’d be nice to know how the place was built.

Thanks for your time. Expect more letters of my other concerns.

Sincerely,  
*Wyatt Lester*

# Student poetry submissions

## The Gears of Winter By Lilly Moravec

Keep the gears of life turning...

Time is kept and winter comes  
Nothing will grow  
Rusting within  
Letting us know that it shall snow

A new earth shall be upon the ground  
But there is just no sound

The season takes care, making anew  
A beautiful stillness  
Skies at night such a gorgeous baby blue  
Snow melts, the world wishes to grow, the earth she warms

Clink, clank, can you hear that?  
Clink, clank, can you feel that?

The sound of ticking, the drop of its hand...

The gears unlock...her inner workings that of a clock...

The clock keeps time, rust crumbles away  
At the sound of a chime, the gears turn away

## What is it like? By Miranda Lausch

Tell me what it’s like,  
To be the same as you.  
To have emotions and a heart,  
With nothing else to do.  
Do you love someone?  
And more than just care?  
Unlike me and my acquaintances,  
Who wouldn’t even dare?  
How does it feel?  
To be welcomed and praised?  
While I stand watching,  
Lost in such a daze.  
What is it like?  
To be just like you?  
Although, on the inside,  
I know nothing’s true.

## You Found Me By Ari Saunders

You finally found me,  
so you do see,  
me in the shadows,  
lurking in the dark,  
looking for love,  
you finally came,  
you sparked a flame,  
in my heart...



Members of Psyche at the Poetry Slam at Global Coffee./ Courtesy • Vickie Meissner

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Dennis Zimmerman,  
Diesel Technology Graduate





# What to wear this Winter

By CARLY BELL AND TAYLOR LATRAY

**P**uffy feather jackets, wool scarves, and ear warmers, doesn't that sound like the perfect fashion recipe? Wrong! Winter is just another season to show off different fashionable styles and here's what's in. "KNIT, KNIT, KNIT. Everything knit is awesome, from knit sweaters, knit dresses and even knit headbands are great. Leggings and boots are also always a great look during the winter," said Allison Barron daughter of the owner of Shoreline. "Be sure to mix it up with both your bright colors and your neutrals as well. Guys look good in a more relaxed style with nice fitting



Laid-back Heston Barela/Taylor LaTray • The Brand

jeans of great brands with some nice Sanuks and a sweatshirt, or even a nice flannel." Each ingredient to your outfit is very crucial to the whole look, and it's important not to over accessorize. Pea coats for both men and women are stylish, along with cute scarves, rockin' boots, hot head bands and cozy dresses. Normally, winter is associated with more neutral colors like tan, brown, and black; this season color is part of a great fashion statement. "I'm a man of colors, but not too crazy of colors. Colors like yellow. I have a relaxed style and I wear brands of jeans like RSQ, Lucky, and Aspire & Create. I usually wear them with a sweatshirt and some Sanuks,"

said senior Heston Barela. "Also, girls look good in knee high boots with skin tight jeans and a pea coat." It's not that anybody does not want to dress the best they can. Some people simply can not afford brand names. However, a fashion statement is not brand names, It's the incorporation of the right items put together. The amount of money spent on an outfit is nothing to brag about, you can create a bomb outfit incredibly cheap these days, you just have to look at the right stores. Check out department stores like Ross, JCPennys and Kohls. They won't let



Fashion Diva Allison Barron/Taylor LaTray • The Brand

you down and you can get more for less. You can turn any look into a fashion statement whether it took you hours or seconds. Incorporate patterned scarves with solid colored shirts and add a pair of boots or slippers that tie in. Red lip stick adds a pop of color to the wintry days, but that's typically for cities. So, if you're feeling dangerous try it out. Sanuks, jeans, and a sweatshirt can also never do a man wrong as long as you fit your attire appropriately to your body. It makes you look fresh and ready. Nobody is stopping you from starting new. A couple scarves, plenty of boots and a beanie, will do you right for the winter. Go for the gold and start new.



# The mystery of Santa

By TAYLOR LATRAY

**I**s he, or isn't he real? Santa, or good old St. Nicholas, remains a mysterious man that many children believe bring them presents on the night before Christmas. Well, that is not the complete truth. This is the real story of Santa. Santa hasn't always been fat, in fact, back in the 1800's he was a very skinny man, he didn't even wear a red suit. It was not until the first few years of the 1800's that Santa plumped up his size. Later in the 1800's he adopted that good ol' red robe. You see, it was cold back in the day and clothing designers weren't all that creative. They wore robe like material and Nicholas had fur trim added to his to keep him warm and magnetize the ladies. It obviously worked because Mrs. Claus was the best of the best and it attracted her. The fur trim to his coat was considered forbidden and because of this Nicholas was cursed to live in another realm where he could only en-

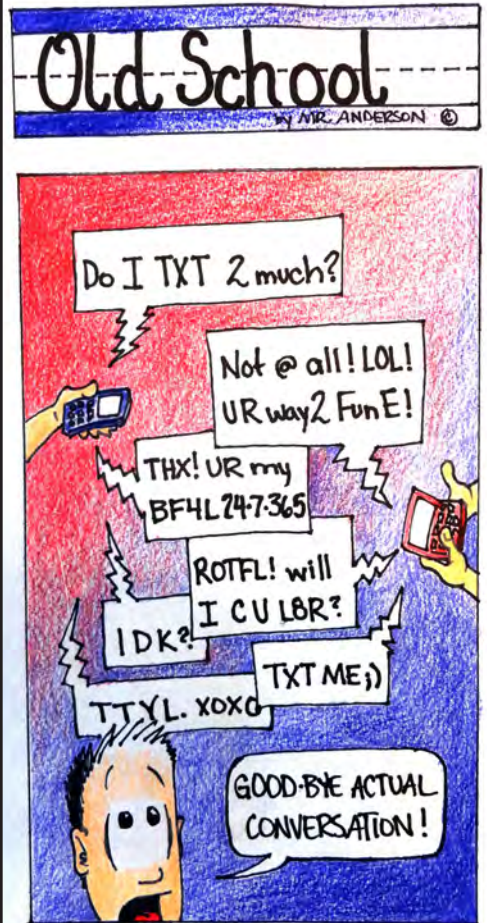


ter Earth for the week of Christmas each December. Since Mrs. Claus, or originally Jessica Mary, was so bewildered by this fur trim, she too was banished. They were praised by little midgets and magical creatures in this alternate realm and St. Nicholas adopted the name of Santa. Here's the biggest difference between the stories you're told, and the truth. During the week of Christmas in December Santa saddles up his magical creatures and begins his journey to the land he was exiled from, Earth. People of all ages love this week of December, it's a time for families to bond and enjoy each others company while eating loads of food, and the best part, receiving gifts. Nicholas wants to get revenge on each living human, but since he only has a short time the revenge is not so harsh. Now, quickly, back to reality, Santa does NOT deliver any sort of gifts to your house, that is a ridiculous myth, your parents



The Lowry High Band performing at their holiday concert. The concert was held in the auditorium rather than the old gym, due to renovations. Despite the crowded stage, the band had a wonderful performance as well as the guitar students. Mickey Donovan • The Brand

do it. There is a reason why you never get all of the gifts you do want for Christmas, Santa gets his revenge by stealing one gift from each person. Ancestors have wanted to hide this evil secret from us and have therefore made Nicholas seem to be such an amazing jolly man. Really, he's a stealing fraud.



# Lowry Memes

By OMAR GUERRERO



# Review: 'The Dark Knight Rises'

By Marcos Duran-Salcedo

**T**he final installment of the "Dark Knight" trilogy came out as the biggest blockbuster of 2012. "The Dark Knight Rises", directed by Christopher Nolan came out this summer to finalize Nolan's Batman trilogy. It showed how Batman (Christian Bale) rose again in Gotham City after having the police chase after him for a crime he didn't commit, having presumably killed Harvey "Two-Face" Dent, the DA who turned into a criminal, and other victims, who were killed by Dent. A new super-villain, Bane (Tom Hardy), threatens to destroy Gotham, But with help from Catwoman (Anne Hathaway), Alfred Pennyworth (Michael Caine), Lucius Fox (Morgan Freeman), and Commissioner Gordon (Gary Oldman), Batman stops Bane and brings peace to Gotham. "Dark Knight" would not be what it is without Anne Hathaway. She was named the best actress in the film by many, including President Barack Obama. Christian Bale, the star of the film, acted well, and is praised as one of the best Batmen in history, following Michael Keaton and Adam West. Overall, "The Dark Knight Rises" was the best film of 2012. You can rent or buy it on DVD and Blu-Ray.