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December 16, 2015 • Lowry High School • Winnemucca, NV

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Football: A Dying Sport

Participation declines while
revenue increases; as does the
death toll

Rich Glickstein • The State/MCT



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Football: A Dying Sport

L u k e Schemm, Tyrell Cameron, Ben Hamm, and Cam’ron Matthews. These names may not mean much to the average person, but to the families, teams, and communities they represented they mean everything. What they have in common is that they all played high school football and they all died as a result of playing the sport.

It’s obvious to even the casual fan that football is America’s game, if not it’s passion. It far surpasses baseball and basketball in terms of popularity and revenue.

The top 10 most watched TV programs for 2015 are all football games. In 2014 the NFL recorded \$12 billion in revenue (CNN), Major League Baseball brought in \$9 billion (Forbes), the NBA recorded \$4.8 billion (NBA), and college football \$3.4 billion in 2013 (Business Insider).

However, will this trend continue considering the reduction in participation? According to the National Institute of Health, in the six years ending in 2013, participation in youth football is down 29 percent. Many think this is just a statistical aberration; the game can be made safe; there is inherent risk; or the injuries are the result of poor coaching/training of players. Others argue that a collision-based sport cannot be made safe.

Lowry football coach Shaun Murgel played and coached the game at the college level.



Shaun Murgel./Courtesy Winnada

“I don’t think that there is much more that you can do for safety. There are always going to be tragic events where kids are going to die from any sport,” said Murgel. “It could be that they have a bad heart that was never diagnosed or they might get hit wrong. There are always going to be risks in anything that you do.”

This downward trend started with the proliferation of head injuries in the NFL. Of course these injuries had been occurring for years, but chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) wasn’t diagnosed by Dr. Bennet Omalu until 2005 and the NFL denied its relationship to football for years. Will Smith is playing Dr. Omalu in the upcoming film, “Concussion”.

Dr. Leonard Perkinson is a local doctor at Humboldt General Hospital who specializes in family and maternity care, Dr. Perkinson is also a strong supporter of football and believes that the pros outweigh the cons of the sport.

“First off I would like to say that I am very pro foot-

ball, I played and I think that football has evolved over the years to be safer mostly driven by the equipment,” said Perkinson.

CTE has been one of the biggest issues with the health of football players that are further into their careers or even retired.

“CTE is basically a bruise on the brain and just like any bruise there is an area of swelling, that part of the brain is injured and if you get another injury right on top of it then you’re going to get a worse bruise then you had before, so it’s not the first time it’s the second time when the hit happens that really causes the damage because the brain needs a certain amount of time to heal. When these things happen over and over again eventually it starts to affect the neurons and they don’t have the same connections that they normally do anymore,” explained Perkinson.

Perkinson strongly believes in improving the techniques and equipment of football rather than radically altering football to make it safer.

“Part of the danger just comes with the risk of the game but to be perfectly honest, just teaching better techniques, altering equipment, and simply teaching people not to lead with the head would go a long way in improving the safety of the game,” said Perkinson.

Common sense says that the risk cannot be removed from football, just as it cannot be removed from any other sport. Football, however, increases the risk of traumatic injury more than other sports. Out of the major sports, football had the highest amount of head injuries with 46,984 in hospital emergency rooms according to the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. Football has the highest rate of head injuries because there is contact on every play; contact is the point of the game. In other sports such as basketball, baseball, and soccer intentional contact is often penalized.

Lowry vice principal, Tim Connors, played and coached college football. Connors is an advocate for the sport because of the many lessons football taught him, but at the same time he acknowledges the risks of playing football.

“I learned a great deal about life, I learned about dedication, discipline and determination. I became a better person through perseverance from playing football,” said Connors

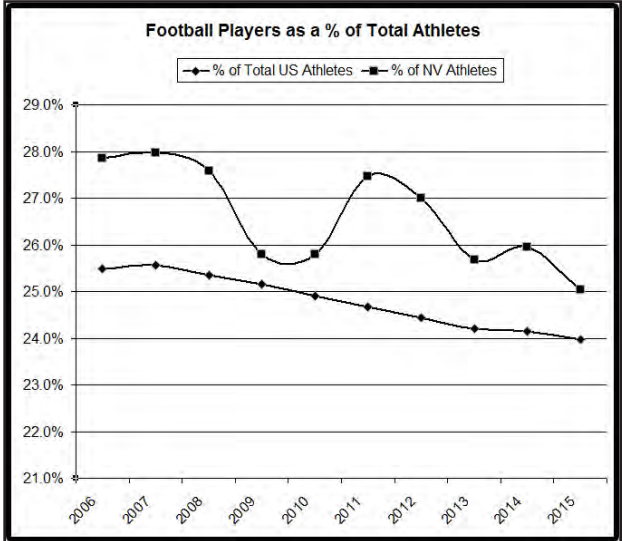
For kids aged 5-14, there were more than 215,000 cases of youth football head injuries in 2009 according

to Stanford Children’s Health. The earlier a player sustains a head injury in his or her life increases the chance of more concussions and CTE later on in life.

Former Lowry football player and current college football player Jace Billingsley thinks some of the head injuries are preventable with better helmets.

“I think the one thing they can do better is get these newer, better helmets out to more people. They’ve been around for a couple years now and you still don’t see very many players wearing them. However, the newer and better equipment also allows players to play faster and more reckless which in return causes more injuries,” said Billingsley.

Pop Warner is a youth football organization that has enacted various rules in order to curb the amount of concussions and brain injuries by introducing sounder tackling techniques as well as limiting contact during practice. Pop Warner hopes the techniques will not only protect kids now but also in the future by encouraging all players to continue to practice safe tackling



form and to continue “heads up football” in order to make football safer at the high school, collegiate, and pro level. Results have been mixed on whether all the efforts by Pop Warner and the NFL have been working, concussions and other brain injuries have declined, but long term effects of playing football are still uncertain.

Billingsley knows that football is dangerous sport, but believes participating at a younger age could encourage safer play down the road.

“I would encourage kids to play who are 12 and under. Kids who play at that age are not at as high of a risk for serious injury. Of course, they are more likely to play when they are older if they start at a young age. But it may be beneficial for kids to play at a young-

SEE FOOTBALL ON PAGE 3

NEWS QUIZ

By Nico Espinola



Mikhail Metzel • TASS/Abaca Press/TINS



Charles Fox • Philadelphia Inquirer/TINS

1. Tensions between which two countries are high because of a plane being shot down?
- A. US and China
 - B. Turkey and Russia
 - C. France and Syria
 - D. North Korea and South Korea



Tribune News Service



Luis Sinco • Los Angeles Times/TNS

3. What popular food chain had an E. coli outbreak?
- A. Taco Bell
 - B. Panera
 - C. Jack in the Box
 - D. Chipotle

4. In which California city was there a mass shooting?
- A. San Francisco
 - B. Los Angeles
 - C. San Bernardino
 - D. Sacramento

Football

er age, this way they can learn how to play the game properly and in a safer way. This is better than having to learn once the competition is at a higher level,” said Billingsley. “There is also a very big emphasis on the coaching at this age group which is good. Coaches are now encouraged to teach kids to play keeping their head up, which reduces head injuries. In many places I think that this type of coaching is even monitored in some way.”

Pop Warner did major concussion prevention reforms in 2012. It mostly prohibits full on head-on-head tackles, full speed tackles, face tackles, and spearing. This goes especially for practice.

Just like in Pop Warner, head injuries have decreased in the NFL due to rule changes and fines but there still are not enough studies on whether players will sustain long term injuries just from the sheer amount of contact from the sport. The NFL didn’t change their tune on the issue until multitudes of studies came out showing the relationship between concussions and CTE which obviously leads to brain diseased related deaths.

As far as the NFL is concerned they claim that concussions are down 36 percent from 2012 although the NFL largely ignored the issue until recently and downplayed concussions and head injuries in general. However, according to ESPN’s “Outside the Lines”, concussions have actually increased 9 percent if you include the preseason.

Competition Committee Co-Chairman of the NFL Rich McKay believes that the league has made tremendous progress in injury prevention because of the 36% number and that as players go through the game playing with new safety rules the game will be made safer.

Connors also believes that football is becoming a safer sport and points to the improvements since he has played that have been made to the game.

“When I played there were a lot of things that weren’t in place, for example the concussion rule wasn’t really enforced and if you got dinged you still played, very seldom did you sit out during a game for a concussion, I only sat at once in four years of playing college for a concussion,” said Connors.

While participation in football is decreasing, there is not a proven cause behind the decrease. The popular belief is that parents are holding their kids out because of the risks. However, the popularity of two sports with heavy contact is increasing. Both lacrosse and ice hockey have seen their participation rates increase despite the fact that it’s the third most likely sport cause concussions in boys. Hockey participation is also increasing although it has the second highest rate of concussions. Interestingly, most of the increases for hockey have been credited to the changes the sport has made in relation to travel and participation. When USA Hockey found 43 percent of players quit by age nine it reduced travel, banned body-checking, made the game more accessible, and encouraged players to



Jace Billingsley (R) runs the ball or Eastern Oregon University./Courtesy • Tim Grady

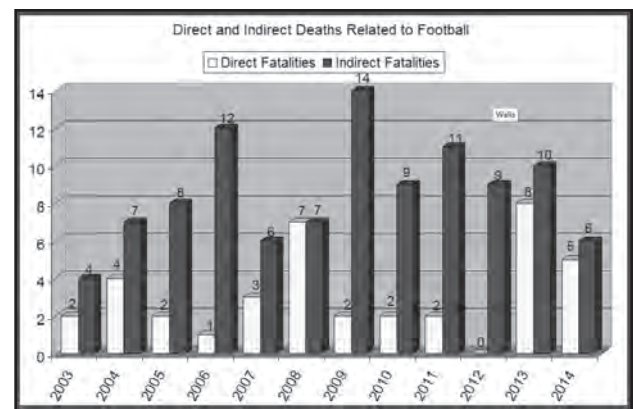
play other sports rather than focus on year-round play and single sports specialization according to Sports Business Daily.

Murgel thinks kids learn a lot from participating in sports.

“If you can provide kids a structured environment in which they are learning a lot of valuable things from participating. They are learning to work as a team, they are learning that there are expectations to show up when you make a commitment to participate. I would rather have my kid participating and learning valuable skills than sitting at home in front of the TV,” said Murgel.

So maybe it’s not about injuries; maybe it’s just about the current generation of kids. Data from the Sports and Fitness Industry Association show that all participation in youth sports is declining across the board except in rugby, hockey, lacrosse, and gymnastics. Children simply are not as active as they use to be.

According to The Aspen Institute, an educational and policy studies organization, nearly 3 million fewer children aged 6-12 played popular sports such as football, baseball, basketball, and soccer from 2008 to 2013. In addition, less than 33 percent of children



participate in a calorie burning activity at least three times a week.

While participation in youth and high school football is declining, it’s hard to finalize that it’s because of the risk of concussion. This can be countered by the ever-increasing participation rates of lacrosse and ice-hockey, both high school sports that have high concussion rates. So either parents are only aware of the risks of football and not other sports, or it’s not just football that is the dying sport. Pop Warner, an organization that pretty much holds a monopoly over youth football, has enacted head injury prevention rules to protect child players. It’s also too soon to assume what’s going to happen to the NFL’s talent pool as a result of this. The deaths of former players due to brain disease will continue, but may itself die out eventually because of all the precautions the NFL is taking, but anyone can tell that the NFL’s concussion problem is far from solved. All-in-all, football is probably not going to go away anytime soon. We can be sure football and all of its risks will be back in full swing next season.

Billingsley feels fortunate in that he has not sustained any major injuries and did not miss a college game due to injury but still feels the effects of years of playing.

“There are a lot of times where I feel like simple tasks such as getting out of bed or even walking probably shouldn’t hurt as bad for someone as young as me. For myself and others who continue playing football after high school, there comes a time when you have to decide if the game means enough to you that it is worth putting your body through all the rigorous activities involved in football that often result in pain or injury,” said Billingsley.



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The year in news in review

2015. Undoubtedly an eventful year in the history of the world. Many ups and downs happened this year, both nationally and worldwide.

Donald Trump's candidacy



Republican presidential candidates Ben Carson, left, and Donald Trump./Robert Gauthier • Los Angeles Times/TNS

In a surprise announcement, multi-millionaire Donald Trump announced his candidacy for the 2016 US Presidential elections for the Republican ticket. Since then, his campaign has been surrounded in much controversy, such as when he referred to illegal Mexican immigrants as "rapists and criminals", promised to build a massive wall on the Mexican-American border, forcibly ejected respected Univision reporter Jorge Ramos from a press conference, and referred to women he doesn't like as "fat pigs, slobs, and disgusting animals" on his personal Twitter account. Trump quickly rose to the top of the polls, beating out then-top candidate Jeb Bush, but recently he has been overtaken by Dr. Ben Carson, another presidential candidate. There is still a long way to go to get to the elections, so it will be interesting to see what Trump does to stay ahead in the polls.

Umpqua Community College Shooting

On October 1, at Umpqua Community College near Roseburg, Oregon, gunman Christopher Harper-Mercer, a 26 year old enrolled at the school, opened

fire on the students and faculty on campus, killing 8 students and an assistant professor, injuring several others. Before doing so, he allegedly asked the students what their religion was before promptly shooting them. Harper-Mercer then proceeded to kill himself when police arrived on the scene to neutralize him. This shooting led to rise of more debate on gun control, with Congress still at a stalemate on the issue.

US wins Women's FIFA World Cup

The FIFA Women's World Cup, held every four years, was held this year in Canada, to much jubilation. All of the qualifying teams gave their all in the sweltering heat and the new artificial turf, but in the end, the United States emerged victorious with a victory over Japan in the finals. As we bring the Cup home, the world eagerly waits for another chance to hoist the Cup for their country.



Becky Sauerbrunn and Meghan Klingenberg celebrate winning the World Cup./Vaughn Ridley • PA Wire/Zuma Press/TNS

Attack on Paris

On November 13, another terrorist attack on Paris developed when several groups of ISIS members simultaneously attacked the Stade de France, the Bataclan Theatre, the Rue Bichat, and the Rue de la Fontaine-au-Roi, among others. There were three explosions outside of the Stade de France, during a soccer match between France and Germany. In Rues, several armed gunmen opened fire in the streets, and in the Bataclan Theatre, more armed gunmen stormed the place and took all of the concert-goers hostage,

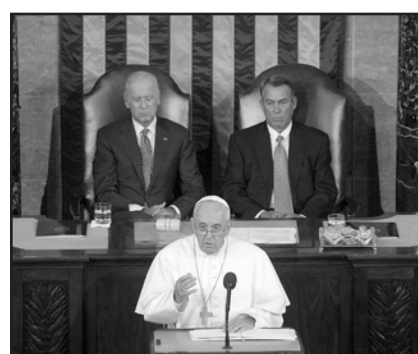


Thousands of people gather during a demonstration march in Marseille, France./Launette Florian • Maxppp/Zuma Press/TNS

causing the French RAID team to intervene and liberate the hostages. The hostage-keepers committed suicide by blowing up their explosive vest when it became clear that they had lost. In these tragedies, a total of 130 people died, including an American.

Pope Francis visits the US

Pope Francis visited the US for the first time since he became the head of the Catholic Church. He was greeted by cheering crowds when his plane landed in Washington D.C., where he proceeded to meet with President Obama. He also delivered a heartfelt message to a joint Congress and canonized Junipero Serra. His visit was followed by many people of all religions, and his messages touched many hearts across the nation.



His Holiness Pope Francis addresses a joint session of Congress at the U.S. Capitol./Olivier Douliery • Abaca Press/TNS)

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*The stories on this page are purely satirical and are not meant to be taken seriously.



Identity theft helps local woman

Jessica Green, a mother of two, was recently a victim of identity theft. She just had her second child and money was extremely tight.

“We’ve never had the best credit so when I found out my identity got stolen I was scared that it was only going to get worse,” Mrs. Green said.

The family had traveled to Oregon recently to visit family for Thanksgiving, the husband went to a “shady” looking store and used their credit card.

“He didn’t even really have that credit card scanner thing, he just wrote down my credit card number and said he would take it to the bank and just withdraw money from my account. Looking back I probably shouldn’t have let him do it,” the victim added.

Although the story looks bad now, this incident actually took a positive turn.


“So obviously this guy isn’t the brightest crayon in the box. He’s pretty big on online shopping, but when he put my credit card number in everything he bought came directly to us. I never thought I’d need 78 golf clubs, an endless supply of subway gift cards, and 15 of the panda Pillow Pets, but finders keepers,” Mrs. Green said.

Eventually the family reported this strange activity to the police and they caught the man who was doing it and he was later arrested. He had to pay back their money and they did get to keep all of the items that were sent to them.

“It was that same guy from the store in Oregon, in case you haven’t figured that out. But we didn’t have to return any of the stuff that was bought for us, and we got some free things out of it. At least we’ll have some Christmas presents,” the victim said.

Joe Cavanaugh, the person who stole their identity, is facing up to ten years in prison for this. The Brand got an exclusive interview with Joe before his trial.

“All I can say is, I just want my Pillow Pets back if I get out of here,” said Cavanaugh.



Setzer to hit the road solo...with hair

Mr. Jeff Setzer has been a loyal teacher to Lowry High School for many years now. Over these years he has changed his looks a little, but now he is taking it to a whole new level.

“I know that I have done many changes but I need something new because change is good,” said Setzer.

For years Setzer has been a member of the band Bald and Beautiful. However, with Ron Beck’s retirement he feels he wants to strike out on his own.

“When we perform I want nothing more than to kick my drums aside, go up to front center stage, and sing my heart out,” shared Setzer.

He thinks a new look is needed for his new solo career, but not everyone agrees.

“I was unaware of this preposterous act. However, I think Mr. Setzer can pull off any look, so good for him,” said Victor Rosas.

Others don’t like the idea at all.


“I like the way his head glistens in the sunlight, it is very majestic,” said sophomore Victor Rosas. “Hair will just be a distraction in class.”

Setzer had been thinking about getting hair plugs for quite some time and finally decided to go through with it.


“I could not tell you how long I have thought about getting these hair plugs, let’s just say I lost my hair before I could ride my bike,” said Setzer.

So Setzer is going to pull a Zayn Malik and leave the band, but instead of letting his talent go to waste he’s going solo. Setzer thinks his new look will be just the thing to make him popular, like Miley Cyrus.

After the procedure Setzer will get back to teaching and riding his bike.



Mr. Setzer’s projected look./ Darrin Nelson • The Brand



Mayo actually adopted; Heir to Lucky Charms fortune

DNA testing has proved Lowry teacher and coach Austin Mayo is indeed adopted and may be a leprechaun.

Many of the students know Mayo as a teacher, but some are not aware he has a younger sibling, Maddie Mayo, who is currently a senior. There has been a lot of controversy about Mayo’s luscious red hair and Maddie’s dull brown hair.

One question everyone has been asking is where did Mr. Mayo get his beautiful red hair?

“I don’t know where he got his red hair, it certainly wasn’t from either of our parents,” said Maddie.

The history of red hair originates in Scotland or Ireland which can mean one of two things, Mayo is adopted or a leprechaun. Most people know that leprechauns are very mean and protective, Mayo is neither of those, so the only possible answer is he is adopted.

“I can assure to you that I am not adopted. I fit in with my family perfectly,” said Mr. Mayo.

Maddie seemed a little unsure that Mr. Mayo is in fact her brother when researchers started asking her questions she couldn’t answer.

“The last time I checked my brother didn’t have any other parents, but I am not entirely sure,” said Maddie.


Many students have been noticing that Maddie and Austin don’t act alike. Brothers and sisters usually act similar but there is that rare case when they don’t.

“I was becoming concerned for my brother, he started acting like I wasn’t important to him, so I took immediate action and had him tested to actually see if the rumors of him being adopted were true,” said Maddie.


Maddie and Mr. Mayo are several years apart. Mr. Mayo grew up taking care of Maddie and taught her right from wrong.

“My whole life I have known him as my brother if he in fact does have different parents I don’t know what I will do with my life,” added Maddie.


After extensive research through Ancestry.com and other sources, researchers have found the answer to Lowry’s biggest question, Mayo is adopted. The reason for his red hair was a recessive trait that his ancestors had and that only he possesses. The trait came from a different bloodline which proves even more that Mayo is adopted. After finding out that he was adopted Mayo tracked down his birth parents. Apparently Mr. Mayo is the sole heir to the vast Lucky Charms fortune.




An artist’s rendering of Mr. Mayo’s ancestors./ Courtesy • flickr.com/jeepersmedia



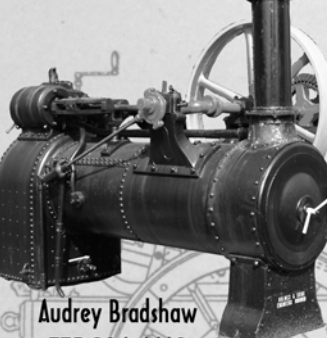
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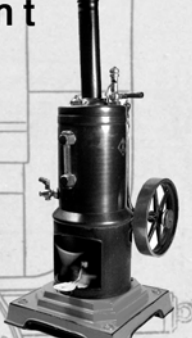
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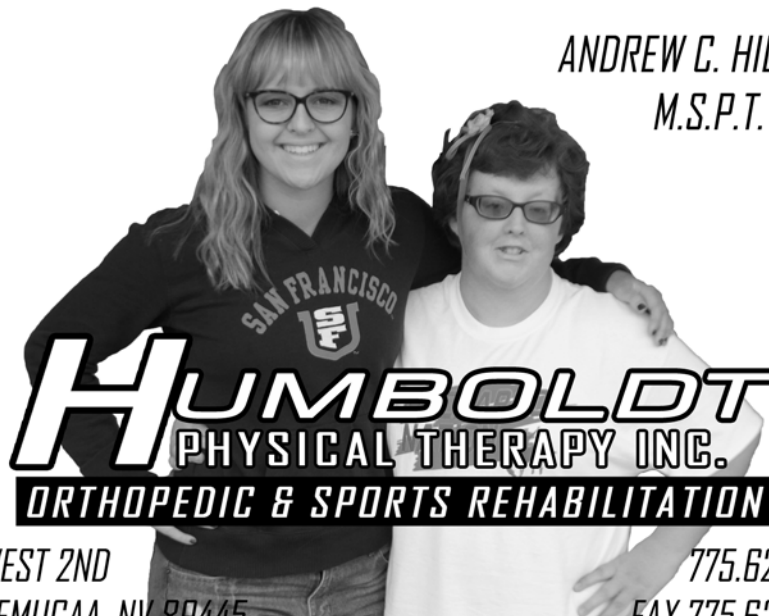
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Why Caitlyn Jenner Shouldn't Be Woman of the Year

“Woman of the Year.” Just saying that statement, many people come to mind. Women who have made a positive impact in the world we live in or a woman who has overcome obstacles to get to where she is today. Caitlyn Jenner should not be a woman that comes to mind.

Though Caitlyn was incredibly brave to make this transition for the whole world to see, it was nothing to be awarded for. Some people seem to forget that many other women (and men) have made that exact same transition and haven't had the support that Caitlyn Jenner has had.

Caitlyn Jenner did something for herself, and though it was an incredibly brave thing to do, she

didn't do this for anyone else except for herself.

Being “Woman of the Year” should mean that you have done something or many things for other people that has changed the world that we live in. For example, Malala Yousafzai. You may not recognize the name right off the bat but she is an activist for female education and at just 18-years-old she is the youngest person ever to win the Nobel Prize. Another possible candidate would even be the first ever professional female football coach Jennifer Welter who coached linebackers for the NFL team the Arizona Cardinals. These are women who have made a difference in our society and showed



Is Christmas Starting Too Early?

People are often annoyed of Christmas music before the season even starts, and that is the result of Christmas music stations starting their run in November. Yes, there aren't many Thanksgiving songs about stuffing the turkey or the Indians and the pilgrims; but it is important for Thanksgiving to have its time to shine.

If you listen to the radio, you have probably heard all of the Christmas songs already. People would be less irritated by hearing the same old songs over and over if radio stations would play Christmas music later.

Junior Mariana Gonzalez expressed concern from hearing the cheery songs of winter early.

“I think November is a time to be thinking about fall changing; but when you hear Christmas songs it's rushing the seasons,” stated Gonzalez.

Other holidays and events seem to continue the trend of rushing seasons as well. When you go to Walmart during any season, the store always seems to be stocked up with material for the upcoming season, even if it is a month away. After the first week of school, they started to shelve goods for Halloween, despite the current event still being going

back to school. The day after Halloween, Walmart already started to stock on Christmas related goods.

Walmart associate Kaydie Tervort said, “I think it ruins the current season because everyone is rushed to get to the next season. It ruins the magic of the season going on in our lives now. But, it is good for sales.”

It is an intelligent move for corporate industries to start selling items which correspond with the current season, but at what cost? Walmart may be accumulating more money from early holiday promotion, yet what makes Christmas special is drawn out longer than it needs to be when it is pushed onto Thanksgiving holiday.

Everyone just needs to stop jumping on the boat to get ready for the next season. It is understandable that some people cannot contain their Christmas spirit before the season itself; but for the sanity of others do not listen to Christmas music before Christmas, or at least listen to it privately. And if that's a problem, create a hit song about Thanksgiving that captures the theme of the season, so society can be less annoyed of Christmas music and more annoyed by Thanksgiving music.



The White House @WhiteHouse · Dec 10

"A Christmas miracle: A bipartisan bill signing right here." —@POTUS: on.fb.me/1NikY2l #ESSA

RETWEETS 461 LIKES 844



Paul Ryan @SpeakerRyan · Dec 8

Reducing the federal role in education. Restoring local control. Empowering parents. 1.usa.gov/1XHbzXY #ESEA

RETWEETS 60 LIKES 116

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DRUGS TESTING IN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS: THE DOPE DEBATE

Recently in high school sports a startling debate has caused controversy across the country. A current problem at most schools is drug use, and a big question on people’s minds is whether our student-athletes are doing drugs, and if so, should the school districts be implementing mandatory drug testing?

At least three high schools have joined a new association called Drug Free Sport. In Texas, Illinois, and New Jersey, the program is nearly in full swing.

“Athletics participation is a privilege, and athletes cannot be allowed to abuse drugs at their expense, the expense of their teammates or at the expense of their sport,” according to todrugfreesport.com

One case of a drug scandal gone wrong in high school sports is the case of Taylor Hooton. Hooton was a 17-year-old student athlete who took his own life on July 15, 2003 after using anabolic steroids. Since then his family has started a program called

THF (Taylor Hooton Foundation). Their goal is to inform people about the dangers and risks of using illegal drugs such as anabolic steroids, HGH (Human Growth Hormone), unregulated dietary supplements, and other appearance and performance enhancing drugs (APEDs) in high school and collegiate sports. Hooton’s father, Don, was one of many who lobbied lawmakers for drug-testing programs in high school.

“We have a real problem here, but we’re not getting to it,” said Hooton to the New York Times. Even though we may be blind to the problem, this has been an ongoing issue for many years. In 1995, the Supreme Court ruled drug testing in high school’s constitutional. Districts who have implemented testing think this influences kids to say no to drugs by giving them an incentive to play sports.

The New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJIAA), which was the first governing

body in the country to enact drug testing, is in its ninth year of testing. Every year around the championship season of all sports, they test around 500 student-athletes at a cost of about \$100,000. The rate of positive tests has never exceeded one percent. This cost is astronomical, but it is still cheaper than dealing with students who end up being addicted to drugs.

“I think the process works. We’re proud of the fact we’re doing this. We are trying to look out for the health and safety of our student-athletes. I think we’re trying to send the right message,” said Steve Timko, the Executive Director of the NJIAA, according to New York Times.

The NIAA should follow the example New Jersey has set and start looking out for the safety of its athletes. Although athlete’s need to be responsible to make the right decision, we know kids don’t always do this. Therefore, if the NIAA is not willing to require drug testing, Lowry needs to step up and do it.



PARENTS ARE THE REASON TO BLAME FOR EDUCATIONAL DROP OFF

Let’s face it America, our education system is broken and if we don’t act fast to fix it then America is going to start falling behind further than we already are in more ways than just test scores.

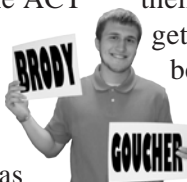
Who are the ones to blame for America’s teens doing so poorly on tests like the ACT and SAT? Everyone is blaming teachers, when in reality parents are the ones failing their kids. According to “U.S. News” 23 percent of high school dropouts cited that there was little to no encouragement or support at home from their parents, which is the reason why they dropped out. News flash parents, you are the number one reason why students drop out, so let’s stop blaming teachers and administrators when you are the ones largely at fault.

America is not even close in math, reading, and science standardized test scores to other countries. The US ranks 14th in overall education while countries like South Korea, Japan, and even Canada, all rank in the top 10 above America according to Pearson Education. How are we as a country suppose to sustain being the world’s superpower when even kids in Canada are smarter than

those in America?

While there are certainly issues with America’s educational system, there are problems in every system and the one thing parents can control is themselves and their kids. Make sure your child is actually doing their homework and if they simply don’t get it then have them stay after school, believe it or not teachers actually do want to help their students no matter how much you’ve heard about how all teachers are idiots and just fail your kids for no reason.

It’s time to stop looking for other people to blame and own up, parents are the number one problem with our education system, so if your child is failing classes or dropping out then take a look at yourself as a parent.



ARE CURSE WORDS LOSING THEIR VALUE?

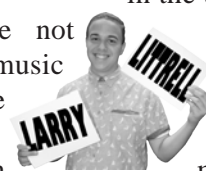
In the year 2015, some of the most popular songs heard on the radio have included inappropriate song titles. This is possibly due to the fact that swear words aren’t nearly as hurtful or inappropriate as they used to be. Over the course of time, it has become a popular belief that swear words have become less hurtful and more commonly used.

Curse words have not only taken over the music industry, there have even been television shows released with rather inappropriate vulgarities in the title of the show. But aside from all the curse words being included in the media, many people believe that it is this generation of parents and elders who are negatively influencing the way the younger public speaks. Parents and elders influence the way we speak and have had a large impact on their offspring and have given children the impression that curse words

are no longer for stubbed toes and long stressful nights after work. In many households, parents curse around their children as if it’s nothing. This has done nothing to improve the minds of youth and has actually had a negative impact, in terms of swearing, on the people who will one day teach, lead, and rule this fine nation in the upcoming future.

Curse words have gone from words of hatred and repulsion to words of endearment and friendship. A possible reason that curse words have become less insulting is because of the evolution of technology. Websites such as “Urban Dictionary” have made vulgarities seem like they are no less appropriate than a documentary about kittens.

Frankly, cursing has become a major problem worldwide and people need to make a huge effort in ending the curse-word generation.



#CROPTOPMOVEMENT

As I’m making my daily commute to third period I notice a girl wearing a crop top. I hear another girl say “put a shirt on, it’s dress code!” For those of you who don’t know what a crop top is, a crop top is half of a shirt. You could wear one with a high waisted skirt or shorts. It shows a half inch of your stomach and they can either be long sleeve or short.

I personally love crop tops, and I don’t think anyone finds a half inch of your stomach ‘sexy’. If it’s

hot outside, wear a crop top. If it’s cold outside, wear a crop top. There is nothing wrong with expressing your fashion sense or who you are, regardless of what society says. Most schools prohibit crop tops because of how much skin they reveal. In my opinion, crop tops are cute and stylish. Some people don’t feel comfortable wearing them because of their insecurities, but I think anyone could rock one any day. Strut

your stuff. Anyone can wear a crop top, including boys.

All over the nation, school administrators enforce a school dress code and crop tops always seem to be on that list of ‘what not to wear’ because it’s “too revealing” or a “distraction” but instead of teaching girls to cover up, we should teach boys to stop sexualizing women.

In Toronto, Canada a student, Alexi Halket, changed views across

the nation on crop tops with a hashtag on Twitter, #CropTopDay. Halket was sent to the vice principal’s office and was told that she was dressed ‘inappropriately.’ Instead of covering up, she wore something similar the next day. Over 5,000 people across the city wore crop tops for support.

Wear what you want to wear, because it might just change some people’s view on it. Be confident and express yourself. Have fun with your style, or even start a trend.





Early season adversity and success for JV boys

The JV boys basketball team began their season with a tough loss against Reno but they have won two of their last four games since.

“We started off slow, but we have made many steps forward since the Reno game. The win over Fallon was a big accomplishment but we can’t be satisfied with that, we need to keep on grinding and get some wins,” said sophomore Ren Mattson.

Another sophomore and teammate of Mattson, Riley Sakurada agreed with him saying “well we’ve had some struggles, but getting a win for our first league game will set the tone for the rest of the season.”

Sakurada believes that the team had “a few bumps in the road, it took us a while to get in the mode.”

On Tuesday, December 10, the JV boys played Churchill County at home and won 44-43 proving that they indeed are now in the mode.

“We put in our best effort and worked hard, but only when it was needed, if we did it the entire game we wouldn’t have been in the close game situation that we were but the key is effort and hard work,” said Mattson about the effort that was given by the team.

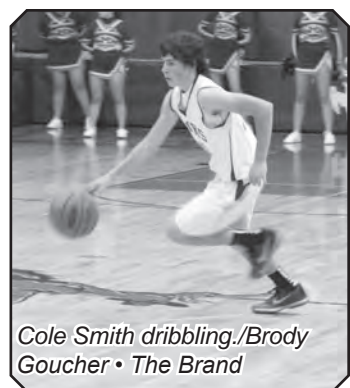
Sakurada agreed with Mattson again, “It was very intense and took a lot of hard work but in the end we pulled out the W.”

Looking ahead, the team

expects to be successful and compete with everyone they play during the rest of the season.

Mattson believes that two of the biggest competitors in the league are “Fallon and Elko, as always, they’re the two league games we want to win.” He also thinks that Reed High, a Division 1 team, will be good, and he would like to see Lowry play well against them.

Sakurada said that as the season progresses, “[We] just to get better and keep the intensity up.” He believes that if they do that, they will continue to be successful throughout the season.



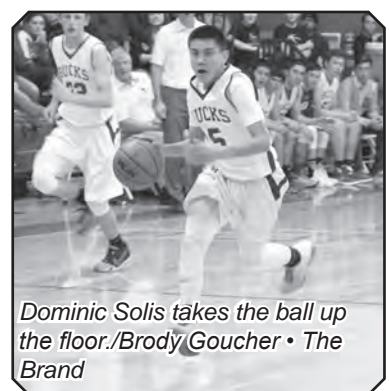
Cole Smith dribbling./Brody Goucher • The Brand



The 2015-16 JV boys./Aimee Brandon • The Brand



Dorsey Naveran defending against Fallon./Brody Goucher • The Brand



Dominic Solis takes the ball up the floor./Brody Goucher • The Brand



Lady Bucks pick up two wins

The Lady Bucks showed Fallon what they were made of and set the tone for this year’s season.

In the season opener against Fallon the Bucks beat them 61-35.

“Our defense was clicking and that gave us multiple opportunities on offense,” said sophomore and returning player Kyllie Sappington.

The girls continued play at Lovelock on Thursday, and they continued to take it to the hoop beating them 43-25.

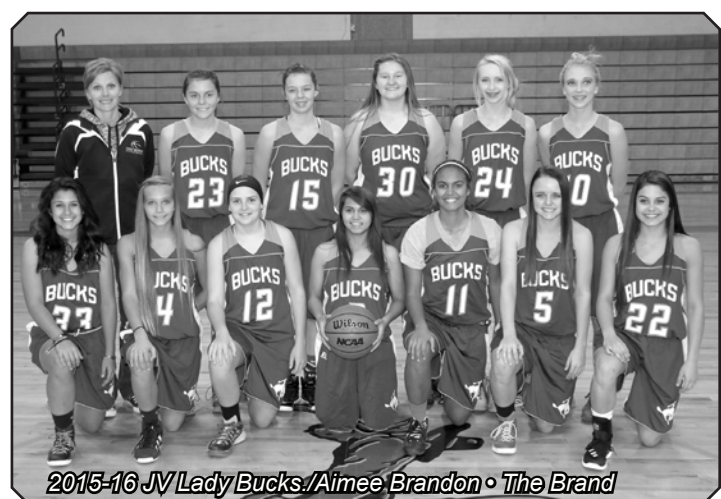
With an all new season the girls hope to be unstoppable this year and many of the upcoming players

were undefeated on the 2014-15 freshman team and coach Amy Jenkins who hasn’t lost a game in almost two complete seasons.

With three new freshmen and nine experienced sophomores the team looks promising.

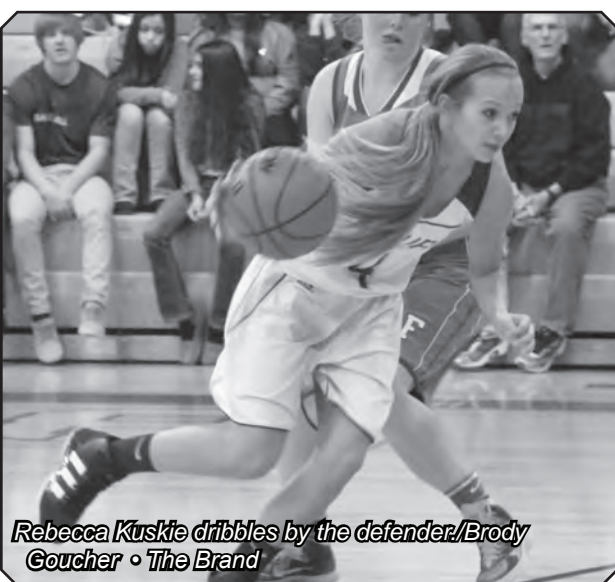
“We have a good connection, most of us have been playing together for quite some time now. The three freshman are doing great and adjusting to the way we play. Things are going smooth right now, and we hope to continue that throughout the season,” said Sappington.

The roster: Samantha Diaz, Rebecca Kuskie, Taylor West, Hailey Hinkle, Kyllie Sappington, Sydney



2015-16 JV Lady Bucks./Aimee Brandon • The Brand

Connors, Emily Cook, Kepa Bengochea, Shelby Garrison, Alily Klierwer Madison McClellan, and Bailey Sapien.



Rebecca Kuskie dribbles by the defender./Brody Goucher • The Brand



Kepa Bengochea brings the ball up the floor./Brody Goucher • The Brand



Bailey Sapien looks for a pass./Brody Goucher • The Brand

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Freshmen girls basketball off to good start

For the last couple years the Bucks have been a dominant force in girls basketball. Each level features a wide variety of players that are all very talented in every aspect of the game. The Freshmen team is no different. This has been a group of players that have been playing together for most of their lives and it definitely

shows on the court. The Bucks are just coming off of a three game tournament which featured contests with Eureka, Lovelock, and West Wendover. The Bucks won all three games defeating Lovelock, 34-27 and West Wendover, 34-24. The score of the Eureka game was not available. Juli Garcia is content with the way the season has gone so

far and believes the team is a force to be reckoned with. "It [the season] is going pretty good, we have only lost one game to Fallon. We all get along pretty well and we play really great together. We need to work on talking on the court though," said Garcia. Fellow freshman, Hailey Fernandez, agrees with Garcia and thinks the season is headed in the right direction and looks forward to the remainder of it. "The tournament went pretty good. There's stuff that we need to work on obviously, but overall we did really good for it being our first tournament." said Fernandez.

Fernandez went into the specifics in what she believes the team needs to work on but knows the team has great chemistry on court. "We need to work on shooting the most, we could work on defense too but definitely shooting. We are really good at just working together, we all are. We never argue, and we always know someone else is telling me something to help me," said Fernandez. In the one game the team has lost this season, Fernandez believes nerves were to blame. "We lost to Fallon by two points. I think we were mainly just nervous for our first game, we didn't have the best start to that game," concluded Fernandez. The team's next home game will be January 2 and the Bucks will be playing against school rival, the Elko Indians.



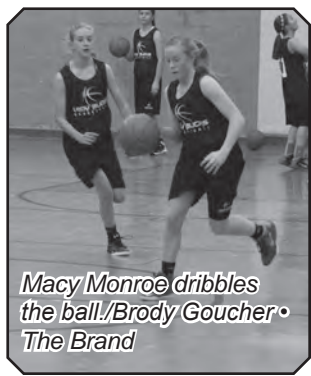
Brooke Hansen goes in for a layup./Brody Goucher • The Brand



The 2015-16 freshman Lady Bucks./Aimee Brandon • The Brand



Heather Hall./Brody Goucher • The Brand



Macy Monroe dribbles the ball./Brody Goucher • The Brand



Freshman boys looking to improve on season so far

The freshman boys basketball team is looking to improve on their season. As the season continues they sit 2-3 overall and 0-1 in league play. "We haven't been doing too great this season so far, even though we've won two games and lost three it's still not that great of odds for us and we definitely have a lot to improve on," said forward Josiah Chapman.

has improved on a lot since the beginning of the season, but also has a long way to go to get to where the team wants to be. "One thing we really need to work on is our team chemistry. We need to be able to read each other on the court, it will open up a lot more scoring opportunities," said Oscar Juanes. Teamwork is something Chapman knows the team should work on but is aware that their offensive skills need work too. "I think that if we improve our offense and running plays because we're having trouble setting everything up right now because kids are forgetting what to do," said Chapman. Though the season could be going better the boys remain optimistic and

know that they have their work cut out for them. "Overall I think we have a really good team and we're continuing to work harder and harder each practice so I'm really excited to see what this season has in store for us," said Juanes. Lowry played Fernley on Tuesday. Details were not available at press time. The roster includes Brenden Domire, Kyle Sappington, Jakeb Snyder, Ethan Radmanovich, Jacob Means, Miguel Barajas, Oscar Juanez, Mario Lopez, Rene Flores, Scottie Smith, Evan Jeppsen, and Josiah Chapman.



Evan Jeppsen tries to intercept a pass to Jake Snyder./Aimee Brandon The Brand



Kyle Sappington puts up a shot./Aimee Brandon • The Brand



The 2015-16 freshman boys team./Aimee Brandon • The Brand

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR (nnvd1a.org)				
Activity	Date	Time	Vs.	Location
Choir Concert	12/16	6:00 pm	NA	LHS
Wrestling: Varsity	12/18	TBA	TBA	TBA
Wrestling: JV	12/19	TBA	PCHS	Pershing County
Wrestling: Varsity	12/19	TBA	TBA	TBA
Wrestling: JV	12/20	TBA	PCHS	Pershing County
Bball: Boys Frosh	12/22	3:00 pm	TBA	Reed High School
Bball: Boys JV	12/22	4:30 pm	TBA	Reed High School
Bball: Boys Varsity	12/22	6:00 pm	TBA	Reed High School
Bball: Boys Varsity	12/28	TBA	TBA	Desert Oasis High
Bball: Girls Varsity	12/28	TBA	TBA	TBA
Bball: Boys Varsity	12/29	TBA	TBA	Desert Oasis High
Bball: Girls Varsity	12/29	TBA	TBA	TBA
Wrestling: Varsity	12/29	TBA	TBA	Reno Events Center
Bball: Boys Varsity	12/30	TBA	TBA	Desert Oasis High
Wrestling: Varsity	12/30	TBA	TBA	Reno Events Center

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ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE:



PAYTON NAVERAN

Payton Naveran is one of Lowry's best basketball players and everything that young athletes should look up to.

Naveran has played four years of varsity basketball and won a state championship with the team. She has dedicated all of her extra curricular time to basketball, she doesn't play any other sports and she has been playing basketball since she can remember.

"I've been playing basketball for-

ever, even when I was just a little kid. I had a tykes basketball hoop in my basement that I would play on," said Naveran.

Basketball has had a major impact on Naveran's life, it has pushed her to succeed off the court and has been something that she could always fall back on.

"Basketball makes me strive to do better...whether it's with grades or really anything; and I'm always looking forward to playing the sport and the upcoming season.

“They [parents] have always been very supportive of my choices and have always come to my games and pushed me to be better.”

~Payton Naveran

Naveran's family has been a big influence in her life as well; everyone in her family was an athlete.

"My mother actually walked on to UNR's basketball team but ended up breaking her arm a couple months into it, so she didn't get to play that much. Both my parents were very athletic growing up and my dad coached me a lot throughout my childhood. They have always been very supportive of my choices and have al-

ways came to my games and pushed me to be better," said Naveran.

While Naveran says that she doesn't have a particular player that she models her game after, she credits her coaches with shaping the player she is today.

"Chelsea [Cabatbat] and Vince [Mendiola], have definitely sculpted me into the player that I am. They have a certain way that they want us to play offense and defense that I try to learn from," said Naveran.

Naveran has big expectations for this year's team, she is one of the only five seniors on the Bucks this year and plays a big leadership role on the team. Make sure to catch Naveran playing this year as she and her teammates try to make it to the state tournament once again.



ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE:



NATE NELSON

The Student Body Secretary, FFA Treasurer, and your Athlete of the Issue: Nate Nelson aka Nater Tater.

Nelson has been a part of varsity football for three years, varsity wrestling since his sophomore year and played two years of JV baseball. Nelson has also been a part of a Leadership for two years and is currently serving as the Student Body Secretary. He has also been active in FFA all four years.

Nelson started out his senior year of football as the starting wide receiver/cornerback and finished the season as the starting quarterback. Although the Bucks didn't have the season they had hoped for, it didn't stop Nelson from shining on the field.

Nelsons wrestling coach is one to thank as to why he is the athlete he is today.

"Coach Brooks has pushed me to be the athlete I am today and has influenced my life greatly. Even though he sees me struggle he always pushes me to work harder and be more successful," said Nelson.

Nelson's has an impressive wrestling history, as he competed at the state tournament both his freshman and sophomore year, then continued to win the regional title in his weight class and place third at the state tournament his junior year. He was a part of the Lowry wrestling dynasty helping to win six straight titles and then the state record of most consecutive dual wins.

As the season continues for his final year of wrestling, Nelson hopes to finish off his career with a state championship, not only as an individual but a team title as well.

Nelson participated his freshman and sophomore year of JV baseball, but took his junior year off. Nelson looks to continue his baseball career this spring.

Nelson has learned many things being a Student-

athlete and thanks sports for teaching him important life lessons.

"Sports have taught me many things, how to push myself, how to work as a team, how to make sacrifices, learning discipline but mostly how to deal with failure. Learning how to get up and learn from your mistakes and to try again," said Nelson.

Nate's biggest supporters on and off the field, attending as many wrestling matches as possible, cheering him on no matter what, is his family.


"The biggest supporters in my life is my family. My Mom, Dad and my two brothers Aaron and Ryan. They have always been there when I needed them most," said Nelson.

Sports have been a big part of Nate's high school career and will always have those memories, his favorite being his wrestling career. Specifically, winning a team state championship two years in a row and being a part of the greatest wrestling team in Nevada.


After graduating high school Nate is going to continue his education at Great Basin College in Elko through the MTC program and diesel mechanics.

“Sports have taught me many things...but mostly how to deal with failure.”

~Nate Nelson



The bowls according to Cabatbat and Lucas




Royal Purple Las Vegas: (22) Utah vs. BYU

Cabatbat: "I think that it will be BYU's defense vs. Utah's offense. BYU's defense will edge over Utah and take the win."

Lucas: "Utah, because I think BYU got lucky all year."

San Diego County CU Poinsettia: Boise State vs. NIU



Cabatbat: "I have been a Boise State hater since I moved here so I am going with NIU."

Lucas: "NIU is going to win this game, because Boise is overrated as always."

NOVA Home Loans Arizona: Colorado State vs. Nevada

Cabatbat: "Same thing with Boise State I am a hater of Nevada so I am going for Colorado State."

Lucas: "Nevada is obviously going to win they are the best"

SEE BOWLS PAGE 12

Clemson quarterback Deshaun Watson scrambles for yards./Ethan Hyman • Raleigh News & Observer/TNS

Alabama's Derrick Henry, breaks away from Georgia defenders./Curtis Compton • Atlanta Journal-Constitution/TNS



Trace Bell (back) in control./Maclyn Crnkovich • The Brand



Shaun Mentaberry tries for a fall./Maclyn Crnkovich • The Brand



Jimmy Rackley tries to escape./Maclyn Crnkovich • The Brand



Bryan Day with the take down./Maclyn Crnkovich • The Brand



Lowry wrestling looks toward successful season

Lowry wrestling has truly been a dynasty. Recently, they beat the Nevada state record for consecutive dual wins with 109. This year, Lowry has been struggling more, but they are looking to return the program to its previous stature.

This past weekend, Lowry hosted the Cody Louk Invitational. Many teams including Elko, Reed, Wooster and others from across Northern Nevada came to compete. The tournament was definitely one to watch, and the community sup-

port was great as well.

The team will get back in the wrestling room and get back to work.

“We did okay, it would have been nice to have kids place a little higher than what they did. We got beat by Spanish Springs, Reno and Carson, but over all a good tournament and tough competition. We will be fixing a few things in practice this week and it’s still early in they year and we have a young team,” said Grady.

Individually, Lowry did well too. Matthew Souza placed 5th in the 106 pound weight class. Ridge Ricketts

placed 4th in 113s. Bryan Day placed 3rd in 126s. Trase Bell finished in 2nd place for 132s. Quint Bell placed 5th in 138s. Cameron Okuma placed 6th in 145s. Shaun Mentaberry placed 5th for 170s. Micah Somers won his weight class of 220s and Chris Karchella placed 3rd for 285s. As a team, Lowry placed 4th with 149 points, Reno was 3rd with 173 points, Carson was 2nd with 197, and Spanish Springs won with 204.5 points.

“I feel this weekend went pretty good. We had some tough battles but we

all pulled through and wrestled well,” said Mentaberry, who serves as a captain for the team along with Trase Bell and Nate Nelson.

“We all need to work on getting to our feet when we are on the bottom. I think that will help the whole team out a lot,” explained Mentaberry.

Nelson has high expectations for the team.

“We still have a lot of hard work ahead of us and I believe that we have hard working kids on the team this year to make that happen,” said Nelson.



Varsity boys open league with big win

Lowry’s boys basketball team is looking forward to a great season with a new and improved team. Last year they had a few juniors on varsity and they kept a few down on JV. That decision made for a lot of strong seniors for this year’s varsity. The experience of those seniors combined with the skills of the juniors is expected to make for a big winning season.

“Well this season right off the bat I had high expectations for this team. We’re better than last year, bigger and more athletic. It’s going to be a special season and we will make it to state tournament for the eighth straight year. We play for the fans and we want to give them a fun game to watch,” said captain Omar Guerrero.

They haven’t had many wins yet this season, but that doesn’t say much considering most of their game so far have been against Division 1 schools and Lowry is Division 1A. The Bucks have won some of those games and in the rest they strongly com-



Nathan Lutzow with a put back./Aimee Brandon • The Brand

peted. Their first game was November 28 against Reno resulting in a 60-56 win. In a tournament in Reno on December 3-5 they had a few losses, River City 59-47, McQueen 44-40, and Galena 64-46. Yet, as all these scores show, the games were close. Their first league game was Tuesday, December 8 against the Churchill County Greenwave. This was a high energy, competitive game and the boys finished with their first win of the league season, 48-46. One highlight of this game was a dunk by Lowry’s 6’5” post, Nathan Lutzow.

“So far this season has been great I’ve really enjoyed it, but it hasn’t quite started the way we were expecting. We had a chance to win every game so far, we just couldn’t quite get it done,” said captain Jared Taylor.

The goal this season is the same as always, plain and simple, state.

Taylor continued, “I hope to win a state championship and believe we can, but also to have a great

time with the team and for everyone to get better.”

The team has a game plan and knows what they need to improve on to reach their goal.

“I think we will do very well for the rest of the season we have been doing a good job feeding the post and having patience. I think we need to have better mental focus while we are playing because a lot of times we turn the ball over on careless plays,” said captain Nathan Lutzow.

Guerrero had similar things to say, “we can always improve on everything, biggest thing is our offense. We have people that can make plays, we just have to execute and limit turnovers.”

“Our season has been going pretty good...we’re expecting to go undefeated in league and make our eighth straight state appearance,” said senior guard Dominic Diaz.

The Buckaroos played Fernley December 15. Details were not available at press time. The Buckaroos will not be at home again until 2016. It’s the big Elko game on Saturday, January 2 at 2:30 p.m.



Jared Taylor goes in for a layup./Aimee Brandon • The Brand



Jacob Hernandez grabs a rebound./Aimee Brandon • The Brand



Girls drop game to Churchill but down Pershing County

Girls varsity basketball played Churchill County at home December 8, and traveled to Lovelock December 10. Lowry’s first league game was

against Fallon, one of the top teams in the league. The girls put up a tough fight, but lost 65-31.

“Our game was alright. We played good defense. Our shots weren’t falling and we needed to work more as a team and running our plays,” said K e n a d e e Jepps.

Brooklyn Waller lead the

team with seven point while Payton Naveran chipped in six.

The Bucks are working hard on doing the little things such as closing out, boxing out and running their plays until someone is open and not just forcing the shot or the pass.

Lowry’s second official game for the season was against Lovelock.

“I think the game went well. We as a team put in a much better effort than in previous games and as a result he came out with a win. Our good defense really got us going on offense. It was a much better team effort,” said Audrey Snow

Working harder as team was a huge



Jillian Albright goes by a Green Wave player./Aimee Brandon • The Brand

improvement that the girls wanted to work on. They executed this on the defensive side of the game by closing out and having great help. Overall the game was much better and the girls got a big win 43-25.

The Lady Bucks returned to league action yesterday when they traveled to Fernley. Details were not available.



Brooklyn Waller raining threes./Aimee Brandon • The Brand



Audrey Snow fights off a defender./Aimee Brandon • The Brand



Why hunt?

Hunting is a sport that thousands of Americans participate in every year. From deer to ducks and even buffalo, there are hundreds of species of hunt-able animals. What is it that draws us towards the hunt? I personally hunt because it is a family tradition. Also, I quite enjoy the venison our deer hunts yield. These are just a few of the reasons we hunt.

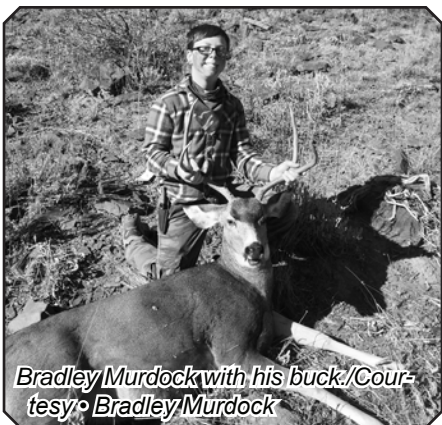
To some, hunting is all about trophy animals. Many hunters refuse to shoot anything less than a three-point. But in the words of Fred Bear, “A hunt based on trophies taken falls short of what the ultimate goal should be”. Others care mainly about the meat. I hunt largely because of the family aspect of hunting. Spending time together with relatives you rarely see while working toward the common goal of coming home with animal is truly what hunting means to me.

I remember when I was about six-years-old, my dad bought me a 4-10 shotgun and took me chukar hunting. We used to go hunting every week. Then, as I grew older, I began hunting

with my uncle and grandfather. We would hunt things such as quail and ground squirrels. Finally, at the age of 13, I hunted my first deer. While the thrill of the hunt is also enjoyable, almost all the hunting I’ve done has been alongside a family member. Hunting is a large reason I have the bond I do with those in my family.

Venison (deer meat) is another reason I hunt. The indescribable taste of venison is perhaps one of the greatest sensations I know. Whether in jerky or steaks, venison is an amazing-tasting food. Also, venison is very nutritional. Having a very low fat content but being high in vitamins and minerals, venison deserves the title of a superfood.

A sport that many Americans participate in every year, hunting is a great bonding experience and a chance to gain a semi-rare and quite enjoyable meat. Our reasonings for hunting are diverse in ways, but are mainly the same. Hunting draws us together, tightens our bonds, and allows us to obtain a fair quantity of food in the process.



Bradley Murdock with his buck./Courtesy: Bradley Murdock

On Deck: ‘Hack-a-Shaq’

Guess what everyone? It’s finally basketball season again and teams are actually playing meaningful games unlike the summer league and preseason games which are torturous to watch.

While I am as excited as just about anyone for basketball season, I feel like the NBA didn’t address a huge issue that occurred during offseason. Last year, the end of close games in the NBA were a joke because teams were just fouling the other team’s worst free throw shooter in order to get an edge in the final moments of a game.

Watching players like Dwight Howard and Deandre Jordan constantly go up and shoot twenty free throws at the end of their games really took away from the late game heroics that we are accustomed to seeing from exciting teams.

A lot of “experts” call the technique ‘Hack-a-Shaq’ because Shaquille O’neal was one of the earlier examples of the technique being played out in games. Teams use it because it makes sense, if you can get a thirty to fifty percent free throw shooter on the line then they are most likely going to miss at least one of their free throws which gives the other team a huge advantage.

However, the technique has not

been overwhelmingly successful, in the 2000 playoffs the Lakers and Shaq faced the Trail Blazers and the Pacers, both teams relentlessly used the ‘Hack-a-Shaq’ technique against Shaq but both teams ultimately failed and lost in the games that they used it in.

While the technique might not always be effective, teams still seem to be using ‘Hack-a-Shaq’, it is truly frustrating to watch these horrible free throw shooters end games when we could be watching players like James Harden, Chris Paul and Kevin Durant hit game winners.

What can be done to fix this issue? The NBA said they talked extensively over the offseason about ‘Hack-a-Shaq’ but apparently those “talks” yielded no solutions to the issue. For me it’s simple, in the last five minutes of the game only, give a team the option to either take the free throw or to keep possession of the ball. This would not only keep the pace of the game faster but it would also keep the games from going over three hours long.

If the NBA wants their best players making the most exciting plays at the end of games then they need to crack down on ‘Hack-a-Shaq’ because it is making the game less watchable for fans everywhere.



Bowls from page 10

Capital One Orange: (1) Clemson vs. (4) Oklahoma

Cabatbat: “I am going for Oklahoma upsetting Clemson.”

Lucas: “Oklahoma is going to upset Clemson.”

Goodyear Cotton: (2) Alabama vs. (3) Michigan State

Cabatbat: “One thing I like about Michigan State is they are a blue collar team and they always work as hard as they can. So Michigan State is going to win.”

Lucas: “Michigan State is going to win because I never vote for Alabama.”

BattleFrog Fiesta: (7) Ohio State vs. (8) Notre Dame

Cabatbat: “Another easy one I am

a Notre Dame hater so I am going with Ohio State.”

Lucas: “Notre Dame is going to upset Ohio State.”

Rose Bowl Game: (5) Iowa vs. (6) Stanford

Cabatbat: “I think Stanford will pack the house with fans which will give them the winning edge.”

Lucas: “Stanford is going to win because you can’t stop Christian McCaffrey.”

Valero Alamo: (11) TCU vs. (15) Oregon

Cabatbat: “Mr. Corak this one is for you, I am going with Oregon over TCU.”

Lucas: “TCU over Oregon because they are playing in Texas.”

CFP National Championship Semifinal Winner vs. Semifinal Winner

Cabatbat: “Oklahoma vs. Michigan State and Oklahoma is taking it all.”

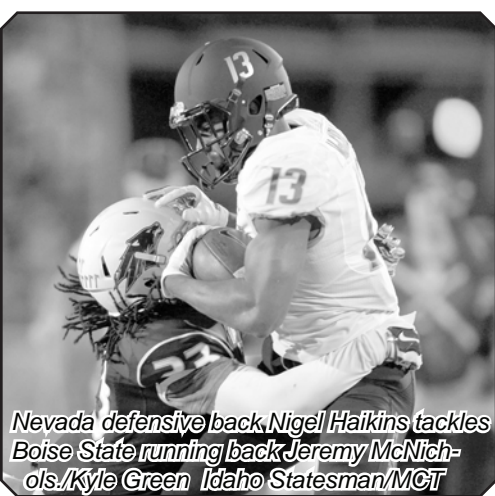
Lucas: “Oklahoma vs. Michigan State and Oklahoma is winning.”



Stanford's Christian McCaffrey runs against UCLA/ Nhat V. Meyer Bay Area News Group/TNS



Michigan State quarterback Connor Cook runs for a first down against Indiana/ Kirthmon F. Dozier • Detroit Free Press/TNS



Nevada defensive back Nigel Haikins tackles Boise State running back Jeremy McNichols/ Kyle Green Idaho Statesman/MCT

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What to buy: Battlefront vs Fallout

Games are getting more advanced and more complicated. The games of 2015 are more complicated than most other games you have played. A new generation of games, stories, and much more have been released this year and two of the most popular games out are “Star Wars Battlefront” and “Fallout 4”. Test your blasting skills with the new game “Star Wars Battlefront”. This game is a big first-person shooter featuring an online multiplayer mode based on “Star Wars”. You can choose to side with the Rebel Alliance or the



A screen cap from Battlefront./Courtesy • starwars.ea.com

Empire. Travel across the galaxy fighting other players, or test your skills in the game’s survival mode where you alone will have to defend against waves of enemies. This game makes you feel like you are in the movies and not many other games can do that. It shows you multiple views of the battles. For a recreation of a game this one takes the gold star, it has much better graphics and a lot of thought was put into it. For all these great features there has to be one bad one, and that is the removal of space battles like they had in the original games and those were some of the most fun features. Even counting this one flaw, I would think this game would be a 9/10 just because of how classic it is and how much thought went into it.

“Fallout 4” was released on November 10 as one of the most highly anticipated games of the year. Bethesda Softworks

started working on it right after “Fallout 3” in 2008. This game has had a lot of thought and feeling put into it to give the player the best experience possible in a big apocalypse. There is one thing we do know, kill whatever moves to ensure your survival. This game has a lot of new things added onto it such as better weapons, more weapon enhancements, new monsters, modding functionality, and much better graphics. In addition to the various play modes it also gives you many hidden tricks and weapons.

Even after you beat this game there is so much more to explore and discover it seems never-ending.

In the end, “Star Wars Battlefront” and “Fallout 4” are completely different games and are almost incomparable. If a player enjoys massive multiplayer experiences and is looking for something within the realm of the Star Wars universe, “Star Wars Battlefront” is the only way to go. However, if a player wants a more in depth game comple-

mented by a captivating story as well as numerous additional features, “Fallout 4” takes the cake.

Both of these games are for \$60 not including tax. If I had only \$65 I would recommend getting “Star Wars Battlefront”. It is based on a classic game that many people have played on the original Xbox, Playstation 1 and 2, as well as the PSP. This game may have one flaw, but the changes they made were well thought out.



A screen cap from “Fallout 4”./Courtesy • youtube



Lowry Code

What’s up guys it’s Aimee. I’m sure you’ve all just been dying to read some more about our thoughts on Lowry. Well your prayers have been answered Brody and I are ready to make your wishes come true.

Brody: I love how only a couple teachers still enforce the dress code, I could literally come to school half naked and I wouldn’t get a second look by the majority of our teachers. Dress codes are pointless anyway, we need to let students express themselves and if showing off your puberty torn body is how you want to, then that is just fine by me. If you really want to properly dress then just take a look a Mr. Espinola, wear a dad shirt and Walmart khakis to school every day.

Aimee: Brody makes a good point. And if you’re going for the Espy attire then you better not forget about the tie with pictures of random Walmart children, but seriously our dress code. I don’t think our school is doing anything wrong by not enforcing a dress code, it’s not like anyone is taking it to the extreme. I’m sure if some girl showed up wearing shorts with her butt hanging out someone would say something, wait people do dress like that. One thing we forget about when talking about a dress code is those shirts with pornography on them, I don’t want to see that. Or I know a kid who has it on his shoes, real clever. Please Lowry, don’t start enforcing a dress code anytime soon, I like wearing whatever I want.

Brody: I live by four simple words in my life “what would Brody do”, now obviously I am Brody and to my knowledge I have never been wrong

about anything which any of my classmates and teachers would agree with. So what would Brody do about Lowry’s lack of Christmas spirit? We should have Christmas trees in every hallway, lights strung up on every wall, and at least eight Santas throughout the school giving away candy. I know our good school constable (Officer Jones) wouldn’t mind wearing a Santa suit, considering most of the time he is just walking around the halls anyway. Basically Lowry needs to step up its game and bring Christmas to Lowry, like Sponge Bob did to Bikini Bottom.

Aimee: I disagree with the whole “Brody is always right”, but I wholeheartedly agree with the bringing Christmas to Lowry. Instead of announcements they should just play one of the many amazing Christmas songs over the intercom, and candy grams are cool and festive, good job National Honor Society. We should all put stockings on our lockers, that’d be cool. Oh and there should be a school-wide secret Santa. Imagine the random stuff you’d get. But it’d be great we’d all get to know each other so much better.

Brody: As the second most wonderful time of the year comes to an end (the first being my birthday) we need to take a look back at 2015. Personally I think 2015 was the best year in recorded history, the Patriots won the Super Bowl, Donald Trump threw his hat into the presidential campaign, and Weston finally got a girlfriend. It just goes to show if Weston can get one, anyone can.

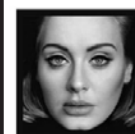
Aimee: Damn that was a hardcore subtweet. Yikes. Anyways, yeah, I definitely enjoyed 2015. A lot has changed this year. And heaven knows 2016

will bring even more changes. Despite 2015 holding some good memories, I won’t miss it too much because January 1 brings the chance to start new. So goodbye 2k15, you won’t be missed.

While everyone knows that our administrators won’t see any of these suggestions, we can always hope that Mr. Parks or Mr. Connors will stumble and see our lowly paper on the ground somewhere. The one goal that Aimee and I have when we write this is to bring a smile to at least one person’s face and if we accomplish that then the whole article was worth it, and this is especially true during this time of year. I’m also going to take a risk and say something politically incorrect. Merry Christmas everyone! Have a great Christmas break and until next time, as my good friend Clay would say, stay frosty.

music downloads

Week ending December 8, 2015



#1 Album
25
Adele

Top tracks

- Somebody To Love**
Jordan Smith
- Hello**
Adele
- Believe (The Voice Performance)**
Jeffery Austin
- Big Girls Don't Cry**
Madi Davis
- 9 To 5 (The Voice Performance)**
Emily Ann Roberts

Source: iTunes

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-One Sip & You'll Flip!



'A Few of My Favorite Things' begins tonight

Lowry High's Drama & Stagecrafts is ready to share some of their favorite things with the Winnemucca community. They will be putting on a production, "A Few of My Favorite Things" on Wednesday, December 16 and Thursday, December 17. The night will have everything from monologues to comedy to musical performances and all who come are guaranteed to leave filled with Holiday spirit.



Jorge Bernal, Omar Guerrero, and Nathan Lutzow in "Who Spiked the Eggnog"./Aimee Brandon • The Brand

"I think it will be a great opportunity for us to try out a different genre of acting. I'm also excited to sing our hearts out," said drama student, Kenzie Johnson.

Stagecrafts has been working diligently the last few weeks to create props and a stage to wow the

entire audience.

"I love Christmas time and this production involves so much Christmas and the stage is beautifully decorated with lights and so many other surprises," said stagecrafts student Kenadee Jeppsen.

The production will be different from any other Lowry has ever put on.

"It's going to give everyone an opportunity to shine alone on stage and have their own presence. I think it will be a whole new experience knowing everyone's eyes are on you and no one else," said Shaelyn Forney.

This production is not recommended for easily of-



Shaelyn Forney, Devan Latray, and Kenzie Johnson waiting on stage for their parts./Aimee Brandon • The Brand

fended audiences. It explores many struggles of teens today. It will begin at 7 p.m. and they will be seating at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$3 for students and \$5 for adults.



Press Release: Shooting the West offers photography scholarship

College is a big expense that can be seen as a burden for some. Shooting the West (STW) wants to help with this expense. They are looking for students that love photography. They are giving

out scholarships to several people that want to do photography as a hobby or a career.

In a press release from Shooting the West, the premier photography exper-

ience held annually in Winnemucca, the organization offered aspiring High School students the opportunity to apply for a \$300 scholarship to future Shooting the West events.

Created almost 28 years ago by renowned, local photographer Linda Dufurrena and the late Sheri Allen, the event brings world-class photographers to Winnemucca for a week-long learning experience to students of all ages, walks of life, and levels of photographic experience and interests.

The release continued, two High School students from Humboldt, Lander and Pershing counties, who show an interest in photography as a future profession or hobby, will be able to enrich their knowledge by attending Workshops and/or the Friday-Saturday Symposium through the generous donation of Bill and Debbie Origer of Albany, Oregon, enthusiastic Shooting the West and Shooting the Fair participants. The Origers know, firsthand, the contribution that knowledge, learning and the encouragement of others can mean to one starting out in photography. STW is a friendly place to learn and share our passion for photography.

According to the press release, "We want to give back and support this event," said Bill and Debbie.

"You are never too old to learn or too young to start," added Brenda Heintz, STW's Executive Director. "This is going to be a wonderful opportunity for two lucky young photog-

raphers to learn new techniques and to meet others who share their passion."

Students must be from 14-18 years of age and currently attending their local high school or show proof of enrollment in an alternative school or homeschooling. Applications for the 2015-16 Shooting the West Scholarship for Aspiring High School Photographers can be downloaded from the website www.shootingthewest.org beginning October 30. Completed applications will be accepted from November 2, 2015 thru January 4, 2016, with the winners being notified in time for Shooting the West registration, which opens January 18th, at 6:00 a.m., for the event being held April 25 – May 1, 2016.

For more information please contact the office at 775-623-3501 or info@shootingthewest.org.



A picture from Shooting the West 2014./Kaity Sample • The Brand

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Asleep for ten years, ‘The Force Awakens’ December 18

Ten years after the release of “Revenge of the Sith”, the much anticipated and newest installment of the Star Wars saga, “The Force Awakens”, premieres Friday, December 18.

The release of the official trailer has fans all over the world excited for Episode VII. The two and one-half minute trailer featured brief scenes with many characters both new and old. One well-known character who has yet to make an appearance in any

trailer is Luke Skywalker. With little information known about him, fans are left wondering what kind of role he will have in “The Force Awakens”.

The film is set to take place thirty years after “Episode VI: Return of the Jedi”. At this point, little information is known about the plot. There will be two main groups, The Resistance and the First Order. The film will have many new characters such as the new villain Kylo Ren, played by Adam Driver, or the new hero Finn and Rey, played by John Boyega and Daisy Ridley. It will also have plenty of returning characters from the original films such as Chewbacca, played by Peter Mayhew, Han Solo, played by Harrison Ford, and Princess Leia, played by Carrie Fisher.

The Resistance is the group that took over after the Rebel Alliance that everyone knows from the previous Star Wars films. The Resistance shows similarities with the Rebel Alliance such as how they both are led by characters such as Han Solo and Princess Leia.

The First Order is the group that takes over after the Empire. They still use stormtroopers and TIE fighters like the Empire did. Now that Darth Vader and the Emperor, the leaders of the Empire, were killed, Supreme Leader Snoke, new villain Kylo Ren and Captain Phasma are here to finish what they started.

But due to the fact that little information has been released, what happened to the Empire and Rebel Alliance is still unknown.

“The Force Awakens” will be the first movie in a new “Sequel Trilogy”, to be released every other year, that was announced after Disney purchased Lucasfilm for about \$4 billion in 2012. One reason the film is expected to do well is that Disney is using models and real effects, as was done for the original trilogy; rather than using mostly CGI, as was done for the prequel trilogy that was dis-



Kylo Ren leads First Order stormtroopers./ Courtesy • starwars.com

appointing to many. On the first day of ticket sales, Fandango had already sold eight times as many tickets than the previous record holder for first day ticket sales showing fans’ high anticipation and excitement for “The Force Awakens”.



Rey and Finn run from First Order stormtroopers./ Courtesy • starwars.com



Chewbacca and Han Solo chillin’./ Courtesy • starwars.com



Movies for your wish list this Christmas

Christmas break: two weeks that every student has looked forward to since late November. Two weeks of staying inside all day, drinking hot chocolate, gift-giving, and of course— watching movies. But watching the same old Christmas specials and movies can get old year after year. It seems to be an epidemic that most of us can’t get around, but who said you needed to just watch seasonal films? Sure the holidays are important, but you need something new and fresh to watch. You need to watch something that’ll enlighten you, something that’ll make you more well-rounded in a cultural sense. Don’t know which movies to choose to get started? Fret not! We’ll give you the recommendations that you need for your wishlist this year. Unwrap the wrapping paper, plop the DVD into the tray, wrap yourself up into a cozy blanket and settle down for two must see movies for you to enjoy.

GAVIN: Casablanca (1942)

Set in World War II German-Occupied Morocco, Rick Blaine (Humphrey Bogart), owner of a nightclub in Casablanca, runs into a former lover and her husband who happens to be a famous resistance leader. The two need to leave Casablanca be-

fore German officials capture them, and only Rick can help them leave the city. Watch the bittersweet emotions between Rick and his former lover, Ilsa (Ingrid Bergman) and their mental recovery from their past. The film’s greatest feature are its strong and relatable characters, performed by award winning actors and actresses. It won Best Picture, Best Directing, Best Screenplay, and Best Acting in a Leading Role for Bogart’s on point performance. It’s a film that passes the test of time and can be watched with the family, friends, that special one, and by yourself; it’s one that you’ll want to watch over and over again. A tale of redemption filled with some of the most iconic performances, scenes, and quotes in cinema history. Here’s looking at you, kid.

MARCOS: The Godfather (1972)

This movie combines powerful music, excellent dialogue, stellar actors, with spectacular direction from Francis Ford Coppola, to create what might possibly be the greatest film of all time. Originally a book by Italian author Mario Puzzo, the film starts out by introducing the Corleone Crime Family, which Don Vito (Marlon Brando) leads with an iron fist. He, however, is growing old and wants to pass on the “family business” to one of his sons. His youngest son, Michael (Al Pacino), starts out as a hard-working honest guy who just returned from serving his country in the military. Seeing as

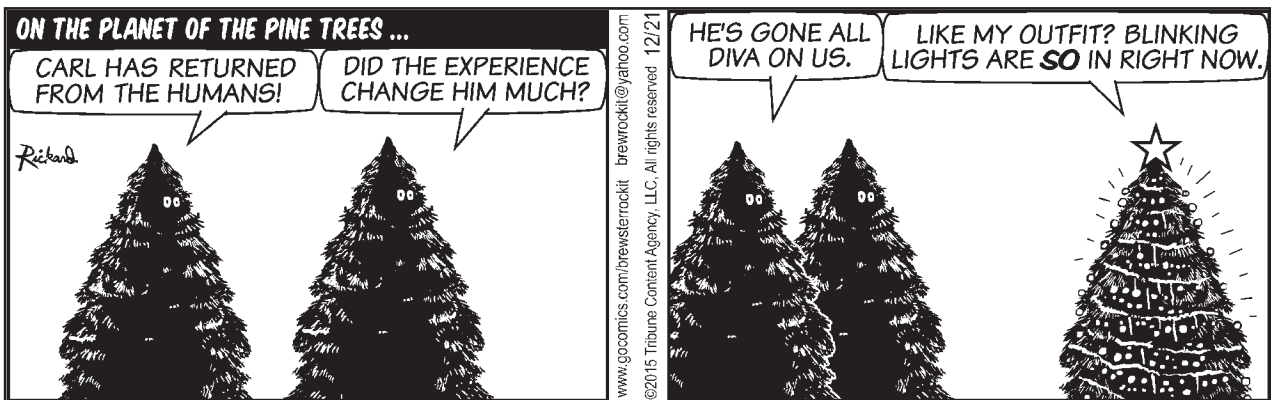


The famous “Here’s Looking at you, kid” scene from “Casablanca” (1942)./Courtesy • Warner Brothers Entertainment Inc.

he has other sons ready and willing to take on the role as the Don of the family, Vito wants nothing more than for Michael to pursue an honest life. However, some backhand moves by rival crime families cause the death of Michael’s brothers, forcing him to slowly fall into the darkness that his father wanted to save him from. By the end of the film, he has become a cold-hearted criminal, ready to destroy anyone who gets in the way of his goals. Rounding off the rest of the cast are notable actors such as Robert Duvall, Diane Keaton, and James Caan. While not exactly a family film, this movie has won Oscars for Best Picture, Best Actor in a Leading Role, Best Adapted Screenplay, is sure to captivate audiences for many years to come. This is an offer you can’t refuse.



Marlon Brando as Don Vito Corleone in “The Godfather”./ Courtesy • Paramount Pictures/MCT





Performer of the Issue: Josephine Moreno

Josephine Moreno is a junior who loves listening to and making music. She is heavily involved in Lowry’s music programs and if you’re looking for her, there is a good chance you would find her in the band room.

Moreno hasn’t always lived in Nevada, in fact she spent the majority of her life on the other side of the country.

“I’m not originally from Nevada. I moved here from Lavonia, Georgia, which is northeast of Atlanta, in 2012,” said Moreno.

Moreno was not entirely sure what to expect out of the silver state, the new school, and the new band program. But she embraced the change and has not looked back since.

“It wasn’t as big as I was used to and so it was a smaller and less appreciated band but Lowry’s band is growing and it is becoming a lot better. I really enjoy spending time with the people in there,”

said Moreno.

Moreno plays a plethora of instruments and is also involved in several different activities, all of which involve music.

“I play piccolo, flute, bass clarinet, baritone sax and a couple of other instruments. I’m also involved in pep band, concert band, jazz band, and honor band,” said Moreno.

Band advisor and teacher, Mr. Paul Criddle has nothing but praise for one of his star students and commends her ability to learn fast and learn well.

“She switched to piccolo this year and she kind of taught herself to do it. She adds a lot to the band and plays that extra part. She has a great attitude, she works hard to develop her skills and her technique, she tries out for honor band all-state, and she is always trying to go one step further than what is required,” said Criddle.

Moreno credits her elementary

school teacher for getting her into music.

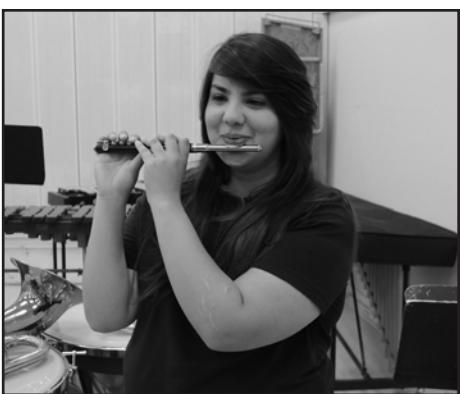
“My elementary school music teacher inspired me to start playing music. She’s a very good teacher and she really wanted me to continue on with it,” said Moreno.

Moreno has joined the band on numerous trips all across the state including a trip to San Francisco during her freshman year.

“We performed in San Francisco for a competition. We got a silver placing and we were competing with bands from all over California. My best memories are when we go on trips and play card games” said Moreno.

After Moreno graduates from high school, she is not entirely sure where she wants to continue her schooling but knows she wants to continue down her music path.

“After I graduate high school, I want to go to college for music education,” said Moreno.



Josephine Moreno playing the flute./ Weston Irons • The Brand

Although Moreno enjoys all different kinds of music, her biggest inspiration comes from the British band Jethro Tull.

“My biggest inspiration is the lead man from Jethro Tull. He is British, he plays flute, and he’s awesome,” said Moreno.

Moreno believes that anyone and everyone should try out to be in the band and be part of a great group.

“It is a lot of fun and they will work with you and with other things like if you have sports. It is also very rewarding,” said Moreno.



That’s Christmas to me!

The snow is finally falling, and the fires are crackling as Christmas makes its annual visit into many people’s lives. With Christmas comes many Christmas traditions, such as, the stockings hung on the mantel above the fireplace, or the popcorn strung along the Christmas tree. Last but most certainly not least, comes all the amazing Christmas songs heard on Pandora, Spotify, the radio and other music streaming devices. But if you are one of the people who enjoys special festive treats, then you absolutely must attend the annual Holiday Concert performed by the Lowry High School Swing and Women’s Choirs on December 18, 2015.



Shayla Myers and Steven Townshed singing to each other./Larry Littrell • The Brand

The swing choir will be doing an assortment of Christmas medleys to help prove that Christmas really is the most wonderful time of the year. Some

of the most popular Christmas songs sung all around the world will be included in the choir medley. Including popular titles such as “Frosty the Snowman”, “Blue Christmas”, and “Jingle Bells”.

Not only do the jolly choir kids perform at the high school, they also will be touring all over Winnemucca. From the senior citizen center, to French Ford and the Junior High.

Haydn Sullivan (junior) and Julie Mendoza (senior) are both very excited to perform, “You’re My Christmas Angel”, which is a mellow Christmas tune.

While travelling from school to school, the choir kids will select a festive name for themselves to humor the young children. What this means, is instead of introducing themselves around town using their real names, they will select the name of a Christmas character, for example, Rudolph or Frosty.

“I get very excited this time of year. It makes me

happy to see all those smiling kids when we go on tour,” said senior and four-year choir student Shayla Meyers.



Women’s Choir./Larry Littrell • The Brand

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HOLIDAY SPIRIT STRIKES BUCKAROOS

Give the perfect gift this holiday season.

Every three seconds someone needs blood. The annual blood drive took place on December 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The procedure took about an hour. Blood was donated to help save several people's lives. With every donation, there was a free cholesterol testing.

With everyone in the holiday spirit FFA held a food drive from November 1 to November 24 to get food to families in need.

"The turnout wasn't so great but we tried our best, hopefully we get more food when leadership host a food drive

during december," said Julia Laird

The food drive held during November was to get food for Thanksgiving even though the food drive didn't turn out as planned, Western Title donated 60 turkeys.

"It was for a great cause and we are always looking to help others in need," said Steve Hunt, head of the Winnemucca Branch

National Honor Society hosted a "You've been raked project".

"Honor society has groups that will receive a request from someone who tells us about their neighbor or grandma or someone who they think needs help so that we can rake their yard and help them out a little," said

Elise Rose.

Leadership held a food drive throughout the month of December, and they encouraged students to show their holiday spirit and help out. All cans were collected during fourth period to help families in need of food for a good Christmas dinner.

"The Ministerial Association really depends on us to do this for them. It is always a good cause to help make the less fortunate have food for the holiday season," said Maddie Mayo, Student Body President.

When the town of Winnemucca needs help we all find a way to come together and help people in a time of need.

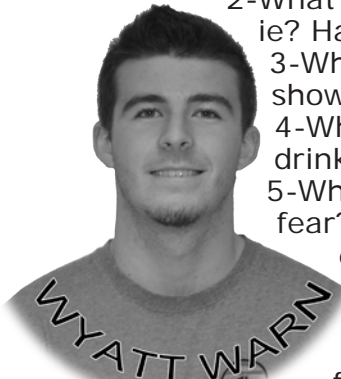


Mr. Jeff Setzer and students participate in the food drive. Top-Donovan Swanson, (L) Brett Sakurada, (R) Noah Walker./ Hailey Hinkle • The Brand

Who knows you best with Nate Chapman



- 1-What color are Nate's eyes? Greenish-brownish.
- 2-What is Nate's favorite movie? "Birdman".
- 3-What is Nate's favorite TV show? "That 70's Show".
- 4-What is Nate's favorite drink? Water.
- 5-What is Nate's biggest fear? Nothing.
- 6-What is Nate's favorite color? Green.
- 7-What does Nate do for fun? He blobs.
- 8-What is Nate's favorite food? Fruit and nuts.
- 9-When is Nate's birthday? June 29th, 1999



ANSWERS ON PAGE 20

- 1-What color are Nate's eyes? Green.
- 2-What is Nate's favorite movie? "Half Baked".
- 3-What is Nate's favorite TV show? "Cops".
- 4-What is Nate's favorite drink? Honey.
- 5-What is Nate's biggest fear? Fear of the unknown.
- 6-What is Nate's favorite color? Orange.
- 7-What does Nate do for fun? Livin' life with friends.
- 8-What is Nate's favorite food? -Fruit.
- 9-When is Nate's birthday? May, I think?



Career Profile: Heather Fischer; Central Control Operator

There are many jobs in a jail, but one employee that controls all of the jail doors and knows everything about the inmates is the Central Control Operator. A Central Control Op-

erator also checks the inmates in and out and examines their histories.

"It takes a lot to become a Central Control Operator" Heather Fischer informed. "I get to have access to a lot of sensitive information and be

able to see people's criminal histories."

To be a Central Control Operator a person needs a high school diploma or a GED. However, you will have to pass an expensive and extensive background check.

A lot of what Fischer has to do is paperwork. Most of that consists of criminal records, as well as the inmate's license and registration. Fischer has to book the inmates in and out. Fischer also has to go through the person's criminal records.

However, there are aspects of the job Fischer doesn't like.

"I see people at their worst, but I love my job," Fischer stated.

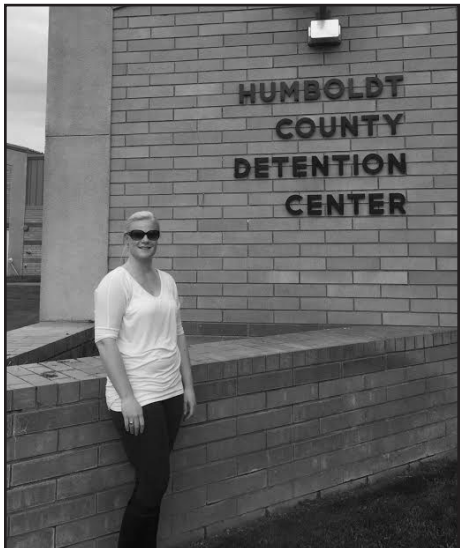
Fischer doesn't just look at the inmate's criminal records. She also enters all the arrest warrants.

Fischer doesn't just fill out paperwork. She also operates all of the doors throughout the prison and works with several other Central Control Operators.

Operating all the doors and cells in the prison is just the beginning of what Fischer has to do. Fischer and her colleagues have to keep an eye on 34 cameras that are located inside

and outside the jail. She also has to watch the housing areas for problems during the booking process. Fischer and her comrades also have to watch the medical cell constantly when it's occupied or not to make sure the inmates don't attempt to hurt each other or any of the cops inside.

To be a Central Control Operator it takes a lot of time and effort. A Central Control Operator has control over the whole jail with a push of a button.



Heather Fischer in front of her workplace./ Courtesy • Heather Fischer



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Buckaroo Round Up:

Holiday Edition



RYAN BOURLAND

1. What's your favorite thing about Christmas/the holidays? The Christmas lights on all the houses.
2. What has been the best gift you've ever received? Chubbies.
3. What has been the worst gift you've ever received? Not answered.
4. What is your favorite Christmas carol/song? "Redneck Christmas Carol" by Larry the Cable Guy.
5. What is your favorite Christmas/Holiday movie? "A Christmas Story".
6. What is your favorite Christmas tradition? Eating fudge.
7. What is your best Christmas/Holiday memory? Not answered.



8. What is your worst Christmas/Holiday memory? Not answered.
9. What would you ask/say to Santa Claus if you had the chance? Where the heck is my pony?
10. Who is your favorite Reindeer? Chet the reindeer from "The Santa Clause 2".
11. Do you believe in Santa Claus? Yeah, he's my homie.
12. What are your plans for Christmas break? ****
13. What do you want for Christmas? A million dollars.
14. What are you doing for New Year's Eve? Watching the ball drop at home.
15. Who would you want your New Year's kiss with? My girlfriend or Kate Upton.

ERIN ACOSTA

1. What's your favorite thing about Christmas/the holidays? Being with family.
2. What has been the best gift you've ever received? A trampoline I got when I was eight.
3. What has been the worst gift you've ever received? Socks and boxers.
4. What is your favorite Christmas carol/song? All of them. I hear them enough on the radio.
5. What is your favorite Christmas/Holiday movie? "How The Grinch Stole Christmas".
6. What is your favorite Christmas tradition? Decorating.
7. What is your best Christmas/Holiday memory? When Santa actually ate my cookies and milk.
8. What is your worst



Christmas/Holiday memory? When I was six and the Christmas tree fell on me.
9. What would you ask/say to Santa Claus if you had the chance? Why didn't you eat my milk and cookies?
10. Who is your favorite Reindeer? Rudolph or my dog.
11. Do you believe in Santa Claus? Maybe.
12. What are your plans for Christmas break? Watch Netflix.
13. What do you want for Christmas? Gift cards.
14. What are you doing for New Year's Eve? I'm probably going to watch Netflix.
15. Who would you want your New Year's kiss with? Channing Tatum or Scott Eastwood.

NOAH CLYMENS

1. What's your favorite thing about Christmas/the holidays? The snow. I like it when the whole ground gets covered so you can make a mess in your mom's car.
2. What has been the best gift you've ever received? A skateboard.
3. What has been the worst gift you've ever received? Four of the same video games in the same year.
4. What is your favorite Christmas carol/song? "Silent Night".
5. What is your favorite Christmas/Holiday movie? "A Christmas Story".
6. What is your favorite Christmas tradition? We get pajamas the night before.
7. What is your best Christmas/Holiday memory? When we got our new house and we got tons of new presents.
8. What is your worst



Christmas/Holiday memory? When my dad forgot all of the presents at his house.
9. What would you ask/say to Santa Claus if you had the chance? I would ask him if I was on the naughty list.
10. Who is your favorite Reindeer? Rudolph.
11. Do you believe in Santa Claus? Yes.
12. What are your plans for Christmas break? To go up to Washington and hang out with my dad.
13. What do you want for Christmas? I want some new art supplies and possibly a PS.
14. What are you doing for New Year's Eve? Probably just staying home.
15. Who would you want your New Year's kiss with? I don't know.



It's the thought that counts, but...

To start this list off, let's just let it be known you should not buy someone a calendar. Especially the kinds with cute baby animals on them. No matter how cute they are the last thing people want to open up on December 25 is a cheap calendar you bought at Walmart for half price. You are worth more than that. Instead, you should buy them a puppy. I don't think I need to explain my reasoning for that one. Who doesn't love puppies?

BORING WHITE WALMART SOCKS. No one wants monotonous socks for Christmas unless they are



Holiday gift-giving is rife with potential disaster./ Fotolia • TNS

super snazzy and have cute decor on them. Or unless you're elderly and need nice socks to keep your feet warm during the harsh winter months. Instead, buy them a cute pair of booties or moccasins. Not only are they super hip and in style, but it's like walking on a cloud. Also available in gender friendly types.

"Hey mom, look what I got for Christmas! A box of pencils!" Do. Not. Buy. School. Supplies. For. Christmas. The only time this is acceptable is when you are buying gifts for broke college students, which will be me next year. So buy me all the pencils you want. Instead, buy them cool electronics such as a Kindle or iPad. You can't mess that up in any way, shape, or form.

I can recall at least 8 out of 17 Christmases of my lifetime have been spent sledding with my family. With that being said, I normally receive at least two reasonable winter devices to use for the day. Most of the time, these included items such as hand warmers, hot chocolate packets, and sleds. My point is don't buy someone extremely reasonable winter trappings that they

can only use a limited amount of times. Although hand warmers are a kind and thoughtful gesture, buy something that will make hours of entertainment such as an automatic pancake maker. Not only are pancakes more American than apple pie on the Fourth of July, but they are delicious and make for a wholesome meal.



Apple's iPad Pro./Courtesy • Apple/TNS

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Everybody celebrates, but in different ways

With seven billion people on earth, the world is a place of distinct and unique people. Everyone celebrate Christmas in a different way.

Local students Jacob Palmer and Grace Nielsen share their Christmas traditions.

Senior Jacob Palmer celebrates a traditional Christmas by attending the Christmas Eve service at his church.

“We go to a Christmas Eve service at church. It’s Christmas; we have a tree and open presents all night,” said Palmer.

Sophomore Grace Nielsen sets up seven different Christmas trees around her house.

“There’s [sic] seven trees in my house. They’re mainly made out of tinsel. They’re pink, blue, white, and silver. And they’re all decked out in vintage Christmas ornaments, preferably shiny brights. We have a pretty tiny house, so they’re packed in there!” said Nielson.

Other countries commemorate Christmas in unique ways.

Samantha Wells from Australia has a warm Christmas.

“The weather is warm to hot depending on where you live. Our food tradition is seafood and barbeque. We make remixes of traditional Christmas carols, and the day after Christmas we go shopping for the cheap sales,” said Wells.

She continued on to explain her own personal family traditions.

“My family goes to Christmas Eve church and then opens one present at midnight. We give out rum balls—they’re like biscuits—to the people who work the corner shops around us on Christmas Day,” continued Wells.

Paige Bailiss from the United Kingdom has a very traditional holiday with presents in stockings and plenty of food.



Maybe it's time to alter, or ditch, some traditions in favor of new ways./Courtesy • Fotolia/TNS

“It’s very traditional to have stockings on the end of your bed overnight, so that you open the presents left in the stocking when you wake up before breakfast,” said Bailiss.

Bailiss further explained how Christmas feasts vary from family to family.

“Ours is fairly similar to a normal day. We have a huge Christmas dinner that is usually in the early afternoon, but most of the morning is spent cooking it,” said Bailiss.

There is a variety of food they consume, much of it being traditional.

“Roast turkey is the most traditional meat for Christmas, but some people will have a three bird roast that is chicken, turkey, and duck all together. We all have roast potatoes and carrots, cabbage, and other vegetables. Brussel sprouts are the most traditional Christmas vegetable, everyone has them, but no one really likes them,” said Bailiss.

A personal favorite of her dinner is “pigs in blankets” and the dessert.

“The best bit of Christmas dinner is ‘pigs in blankets’ which are little sausages that are wrapped in bacon. After the meal we have Christmas pudding, which is a fruit cake thing that traditionally has money hidden in it and we eat it with cream,” said Bailiss.

Bailiss continued to describe the Christmas crackers her family has.

“We have Christmas crackers that are cardboard tubes tubes that we pull with our family, and they make a bang and when they break, they have paper hats and little gifts inside,” said Bailiss.

Joe De Jaeger, also from the UK, celebrates a Belgian Christmas which is similar to a UK Christmas, with the exception of food.

“We eat something called beef wellington, which is a fillet steak covered in mushroom sauce with puff pastry on top,” said De Jaeger.

De Jaeger’s family also unwraps presents in a slower and more appreciative way.

“We go to church, come back and we drink tea [and] coffee . . . and eat biscuits. Then we open one present at a time, which is taken from under the tree in age order. [It] takes ages, but it means we focus on others as opposed to ourselves,” said De Jaeger.

It is facile for one to believe the world having vast different traditions. Once one looks past the superficialities of something as little as the race of a person, it is easy to realize that the world does not have many differences when it comes to celebrating the holidays.



Then and Now: Lowry Leadership 1985 and 2015



Lowry’s Leadership class pictured in 1985 and 2015. 20 years ago, there were 19 kids in the class. Today, there are 33. The Leadership class is the backbone for school spirit and participation at Lowry. They make posters, hold assemblies, and host the Academic Assembly./TOP-Courtesy • Winnada BOTTOM-Courtesy • Leadership



LOWRY VOICES: What is your New Year’s resolution for 2016?



“To eat a whole pizza by myself.”

Tatyana Carlson



“Not to do to many bad things. It’s classified information though.”

Nathan McKinnon



“To get a boyfriend because God knows the most important thing in life is a boyfriend.”

Amanda Brandon



“To get into a good college. I have to get out of this town!!”

Kenzie Johnson



ANSWERS FROM PAGE 18:

- 1-Hazel.
- 2-“Toy Story”.
- 3-“Southpark”.
- 4-Water.
- 5-Not being remembered.
- 6-The rainbow.
- 7-Fruit.
- 8-June 22nd, 1999.
- 9-Hangout with the ‘wolves’.

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