

# THE BRAND

December 19, 2023 • Lowry High School • Winnemucca, NV

## NEW TEACHERS START THEIR JOURNEY AT LOWRY HIGH SCHOOL

By Helena Monreal

Mr. John Brooks is a teacher here at Lowry High School who returned after retiring from Winnemucca Junior High School. He returned to teaching Algebra after being a PE teacher because he always believed that math was his strength and would like to share the knowledge with his students.

"I always felt that math was my strength in school so that I could share the knowledge," said Brooks.

Even though he shares his knowledge with his stu-

dents, he also believes that high schools have a more extensive and higher

an aid to help them learn and understand different things.

**"The staff and administration have been very welcoming." Ms. Kaile Sullivan**

school spirit.

"I think that school spirit, especially in high school is a bigger thing than Junior High, so I enjoy the prep rallies and all of that," said Mr. Brooks.

Ms. Karina Cazares is a new staff member of Lowry High who works as an aid for Spanish classes with Mr. Clay Sagars. She likes helping with older kids, it seems easier for her, and she likes helping students and getting to know them.

"It been excellent helping out a lot which is nice to get to know students," said Cazares.

Although she likes helping them, she enjoys being

"Mostly helping the kids and helping them understand and learn different subjects," Cazares.

Irene Plaisted used to be a sub for Lowry High, then after she saw an application to be a CLS teacher she told Principal Mr. Shaun Taylor she would love to take the spot.

"I told Mr. Taylor I would take the position if no one licensed applied," said Plaisted. "I love working with children and do my best in preparing them to succeed in their future."

She teaches different subjects and enjoys working with the students as well as with her aids, she also wishes that she could work as a CLS teacher.

"I have enjoyed working with each of my students and aides," said Plaisted. "I hope to take on this class



Ms. Irene Plaisted. /Winnada

next year."

Ms. Marcel Johnson has returned after retirement.

Johnson comes to Lowry after working for Humboldt County for 27 years and recently was working for Humboldt Ford. She loves the kids and staff here at Lowry, and she enjoys being around the community. She will be working with Ms. Debra Whittaker in the Communities in School program (see story on Page 5).

"I love working with all the kids and Staff to help better our Community here

See Teachers page 4



Mr. John Brooks. /Winnada



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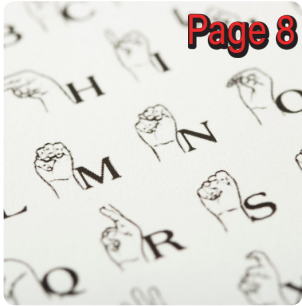


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# WHO'S WATCHING?



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Drama & Stagecraft







## Starring

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# LHS GIVES STUDENTS OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL OVERSEAS

By Caitlyn Peters

Spanish teachers Mr. Clay Sagers and Mr. Byron Jeppsen are leading a trip to Peru in the upcoming school year. This gives the students of Lowry High School a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to an exotic location.



Lennox Zebroski. /Destiny Medicine Cloud • The Brand

"I'm looking forward to immersing ourselves in the culture," said Sagers.

The most notable place they plan to visit is Machu Pichu, a 15th-century Inca citadel. Peru is known for having the start of the Amazon River and a vast cultural history. The trip will be approximately nine days long

in mid to late July 2025 giving students and teachers alike something to look forward to in the next year.

"I'm looking forward to going to South America, I've never been before," said Jeppsen.

Traveling is essential for students to dive deeper into learning about new cultures. Junior Lennox Zebroski went on the previous trip to Costa Rica and plans to attend the Peru trip.

"After I went on the trip to Costa Rica, I realized how helpful travel is in learning a language," said Zebroski.

Close to 10 students are planning to go on the trip and learn more in-depth about Peru's exotic culture.



Mr. Clay Sagers instructs his Spanish for Spanish Speakers II class. / Luz Magaña • The Brand

## TEACHERS FROM PAGE 1

at Lowry High School," said Johnson.

Ms. Kalie Sullivan is a new staff member and she likes that the staff and administration have been welcoming and that there is a lot of support in this school.

"The staff and administration have been very welcoming and there is a lot of support from others," said Sullivan.

Not only does she like how supportive this school is, but she also loves how

she can connect with the students in ways that bother teachers can't and is always there to help them accomplish their goals.

"I can connect with students in ways other teachers may not

be able to," said Sullivan. "I currently have small class sizes and can independently help students as they accomplish their goals.

Other or recently added staff members include Ms. Michele Doyle in Science Ms. Karen Lawson in Math and Ms. Michelle Garrison in Special Education.



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Good luck, graduates!



Ms. Kalie Sullivan. /Winnada

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# DEBRA WHITTAKER; A HELPING HAND WITH COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOL

By Alexis Galarza

Spread throughout Lowry there are some students who do not have the accessibility to necessities they might need.

Our school has worked hard to ensure these students do not have to go without. Debra Whittaker has beautifully created this safe haven for the students of Lowry.

Communities in School is a nationwide non-profit organization that is separate from the Humboldt County School District.

Any student is welcome to stop by and grab things such as school supplies, clothing, and snacks. Communities in schools have already made their way around the nation and now have arrived at Lowry High School.

"So community in schools has been around the nation for about forty-five years and it was developed by a gentleman who was a school teacher," said Whittaker. "He saw that there were basic needs that were

preventing children from successfully showing up to school."

The children of our school could be lacking anything from a pencil to a full stomach.

"Sometimes a kid is just hungry, or maybe they had the school lunch and are still hungry before a test," said Whittaker. "Or they didn't have warm clothes or shoes or any of those basic needs."

However, Whittaker is not working alone. Many teachers across the nation have been given supplies to help their students succeed.

"Teachers are already so committed and dedicated to serving the students," said Whittaker.

There are three tiers of support Communities in Schools provides. The first tier included snacks and materialistic needs.

"There's the first tier where I can provide the snacks, the clothes, every-



Ms. Marcel Johnson. / Winnada

thing you see in this room is free to take to the entire school," said Whittaker.

The second tier can consist of connecting to the student on a more personal level.

"Then tier two is like maybe someone just needs a little more encouragement to excel further

which can look like an attendance check-in, and I would do this a couple of times a month to give them an accountability partner," said Whittaker.

Tier three is the highest of the three when someone just needs someone to talk to or a more one-on-one situation.

"Tier three could be one-on-one or a very low level of counseling," said Whittaker. "I am not a counselor but if someone comes to me and says Mrs. Whittaker I don't know where to find this resource. Maybe I can refer them to the tutoring program or another community resource," said Whittaker.

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# LOWRY HOMECOMING BRINGS OUT SPOOKY SPIRIT

By Juliana Blatzheim and Luz Magaña

This year's homecoming took place between October 9 to October 14 and was filled with spooky fun as students portrayed their Lowry spirit for the haunted theme.

The first spirit day began with Ghost Day, which saw many students dressed in white attire, as well as players in jerseys prepared for the Powderpuff game. This day featured a homecoming kickoff assembly, boosting excitement for the beginning of the week. The assembly featured performances from band, dance, and cheer, as well as competitive class games.

"Watching the performances from cheer and dance as well as the games that are played make the assembly a lot more fun and exciting to watch," said Alexa Silva.

The homecoming after-school event, Powderpuff, took place next. Powderpuff allows students to bring out their competitiveness and take it out into the football field as well as the sidelines. Girls get into their best football gear as well as boys into their best stunt. Teams are made based on grade level with freshmen and seniors on one team and juniors and sophomores on another. This year the juniors and sophomores dominated the field leaving the

participating in and are memories that I will forever cherish", said Jacqueline Sanchez.

The next spirit day was Terrifying Twin Day, a day to dress up with your friend in matching outfits. Many pairs were seen walking together wearing their twinning attire.

"My boyfriend and I wore matching sweatshirts," said Rebecca Stevenson. "We didn't go all out but it was still fun."

Wednesday gave students the option of dressing as a superhero or as a villain. Many students chose to wear the colors of their favorite superhero or villain, and some students even went all out and wore costumes of characters such as Spiderman.

"I like the Marvel movies and comics because the artwork is so vivid and the whole universe is never-ending so I wore a Marvel shirt," said Isabel Upton. "My favorite series is Loki."

Wednesday night, the He-man game took place. He-man was once again dominated by Juniors leading them to the win.

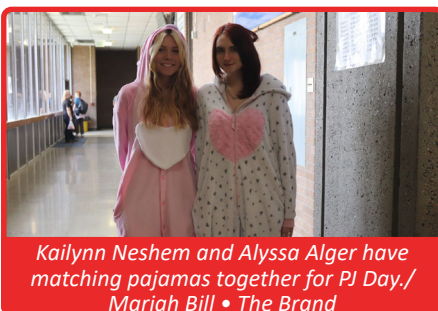
"It was a lot of fun and finally being able to win some games in He-man compared to other years was a great time," said Gabe Lange.

Thursday was a day of comfort,

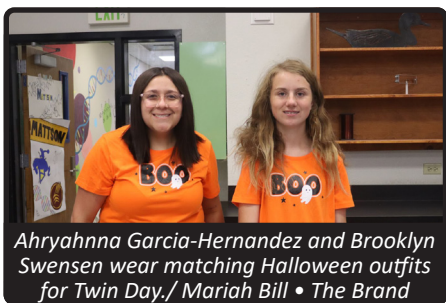
NEWS



Senior class rides the homecoming parade float together on their way to the Powderpuff game./ Ron Espinola • The Brand



Kailynn Neshem and Alyssa Alger have matching pajamas together for PJ Day./ Mariah Bill • The Brand



Ahryahna Garcia-Hernandez and Brooklyn Swensen wear matching Halloween outfits for Twin Day./ Mariah Bill • The Brand



The week was kicked off with a pep assembly where the dance team performed./ Eli Long • The Brand

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the Timid-N-Tired Pajama day. Students always enjoy the opportunity to show up fresh out of bed, and it was no different this week.

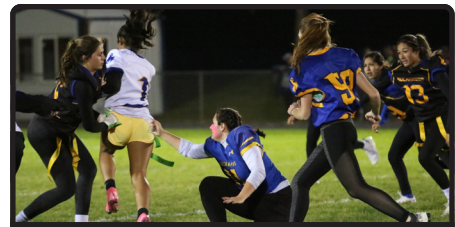
"Being able to wake up and not have to worry about what I'm going to wear to school is my favorite part about pajama day," said Itzel Diaz.

Friday, as always, brought back the classic Blue and Gold Day, letting students fully showcase their school pride. The seniors were seen with their self-painted Lowry jeans. Another assembly was held that day, featuring more performances and games for students to participate in.

"Being able to start traditions here at Lowry is important to me," said Maddison McClure. "A group of senior girls got together and decided that we were going to paint jeans all unique to each and every one of us. This was something that I really enjoyed doing."

The Homecoming dance took place on Saturday, October 14, ending off the week. As usual, lots of students showed up for a fun night out.

"The dance was definitely a mystical experience," said Julissa Diaz. "I had a lot of fun hanging out with my friends."



Natalya Guizar runs the ball as Savannah Stoker and Bailey Peterson grab at her flags. /Alexa Toscano • The Brand



Royalty candidates fought for a spot in musical chairs. /Luz Magaña • The Brand



Homecoming royalty pose after Savannah Stoker and Anthony Guzman win King and Queen. /Ron Espinola • The Brand



Ms. Topholm's class poses together on Pajama Day. /Madalynn Tagle • The Brand



Nigel Green warms up for HeMan Volleyball. /Alexa Toscano • The Brand



Staff poses for a group picture after losing to the junior class during He-Man. /Danielle Scott • The Brand



Cheerleaders form a stunt during the homecoming powderpuff game. /Keira Garner • The Brand



/Madalynn Tagle • The Brand

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# SHOULD SIGN LANGUAGE BE ADDED AS A COURSE IN SCHOOL?

By Kelsey Kramer

In high school, at least one foreign language credit is offered and offers courses like French or Spanish. ASL or American Sign Language is neither required nor offered as an optional course.

It would be more beneficial to learn a language that helps your community rather than a language that is only beneficial to those of the community.

Anyone can learn and speak a different language as long as it is taught properly. Also, technology such as Google Translate helps two people who speak different languages to communicate with each other. Those who are deaf or hard of hearing can learn a different language, they just can't speak it.

Those who are deaf learn sign language to communicate but

they can only communicate with those who also know sign language. Sign language was created to compensate for a disadvantage presented to those who are deaf yet it is useless if no one around that person knows the same language.

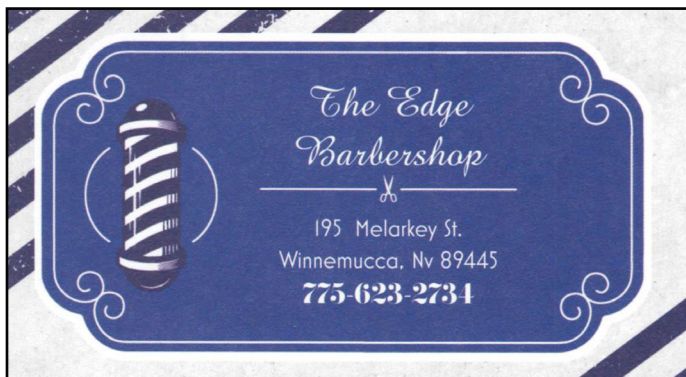
Some might say there are not enough teachers and hiring someone who is qualified enough would be difficult. Though searching for someone who is qualified to teach the course would take some time it is achievable.

Some may say that learning sign language is not beneficial to anyone who does not need it. Even if you do not know someone who is deaf, learning sign language can give you many advantages. While signing you have to think about your words and which sign corresponds which also makes you think about what you say preventing anything offensive from being said.

Sign language should be added as a course in school to benefit all and allow the deaf who do know sign language to be able to communicate with more people.



The different ASL signs for each



# DO YOU FALL TO PEER PRESSURE?

By Juliana Blatzheim

Whether you want to believe it or not, everyone is bound to give in to peer pressure. As a high school student, it is impossible to escape society's standards. I walk into seven different classes every day filled with different students with different opinions. Aside from school, I have various other relationships with family and friends. Naturally, I find myself molding and adjusting to the different settings. Although I do not see this as the worst thing, I find that it can be difficult to define myself when I am constantly changing to fit in these different environments. I have come to accept that peer pressure is a part of life, and it will always affect self-perpective.



Pressure. /Courtesy • G

Peer pressure can have both negative and positive effects. According to the Oxford Dictionary, peer pressure is known as the influence, whether spoken or implied, of surrounding people to act and behave in a certain way. When all of the people around are behaving in the same way, individuals feel pressured to do the same to fit in and get along with the group. In some cases, this can result in risky acts such as shoplifting or smoking, while in others it may merely result





# SURE?

in a change in clothing or speech.

Although peer pressure tends to have negative connotations, it can be positive as well. In more positive cases, a group may inspire an individual to try something new they unexpectedly enjoy and enhance better actions. Peer pressure can also be taken down as just small changes in behavior to fit an environment more easily.



erd Altmann via Pixabay

Regardless of the change and where it is coming from, it can make introspective difficult. It can begin to feel like there are multiple versions of yourself or your life; ultimately that is the truth. A person cannot be summed up as one distinct individual. A person can be a child, a friend, a lover, a student, a teammate, a coworker,

and so on. Humans are bound to change to fill these roles, and that is peer pressure. This constant change can easily be overwhelming and can create confusion, whether the peer influence is negative or not.

The immense amount of influences surrounding us makes it important to evaluate ourselves and separate ourselves from our peers. It is little bits of everything that make us who we are throughout our lives. We can pick and choose what becomes a part of us by avoiding negative peer pressure and focusing on finding positive inspiration.

## SHOULD PARENTS MAKE THEIR CHILDREN DO CHORES?

By Josie Jenkins

Have you ever refused to help clean up your house? If so, does it drive your parents crazy?

Many kids think, "Why should we help clean up the house if we didn't make the mess?" And, "Why do we have to clean when it's not our house?" Kids often think why help do chores around the house if that's not their job?

Parents make children do chores to get them ready for real-life responsibilities. Kids don't realize that their parents are making them clean not only because they need to get off their phones and do something, but also to get them ready for the real world and real responsibilities.

When these kids and young teens get their first few jobs, the first thing that they're going to have to do is most likely clean. Just like at their homes, they have responsibilities to do at their jobs. However, if they

don't do them at their job, they will get fired.


So yes, parents should make their children do chores around the house, not only to make them get up and do something but also to prepare them for the real world, to get them used to having responsibilities and having to do them. When getting everything handed to you, you don't understand the value of hard work.

Kids who have been taught to do their chores and responsibilities are more likely to succeed in their road to adulthood. They will be able to hold jobs better, while also keeping their lives clean and organized.



A young child scrubs a floor./AI generated • Canva

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# ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE: LUKE FENTRESS



Luke Fentress takes a deep breath after winning his match./ Allison Green

By Ludi Canales

The class of 2024 is filled with a tremendous amount of athletic talent. This issue's Athlete of the Issue was awarded to Luke Fentress.

Fentress is a two-sport athlete, he participates in football and wrestling. Fentress has grown up playing sports and has a love for them.

"I have been playing both sports since I was a youngling," said Fentress.

Growing up playing sports has helped Fentress discover who he is.

"Playing sports while growing up has changed my life and helped me discover who I am as a person," said Fentress. "It has helped me become better than I ever thought I could be."

Brant Corak has coached

Fentress in wrestling for a good amount of time and enjoys Fentress' ability to be coached and his dedication to the sport.

"Luke is very coachable and can reflect on both wins and losses productively," said Corak. "He is dedicated and practices at a high level. He is definitely one of the leaders in the room."

Fentress' personality and performance are a big part of who he is as an athlete. Coach Corak has big expectations for Fentress in his last year.

"I enjoy Luke's sense of humor and consistency," said Corak. "You always know you're going to get his best effort. He was state runner-up last year, and I know his goal is to stand on top of the podium this upcoming year."

While being Fentress' last year of high school, leaving the sports is challenging.

"I have made great bonds with my teammates and coaches," said Fentress. "Leaving will be hard because I will miss those bonds."

Varsity football coach Taua Cabatbat has coached Fentress for his entire high school career. He has enjoyed watching his impeccable growth over the years.

"He came in as a freshman and now he's a senior," said Cabatbat. "He made a lot of good games



Luke Fentress dodges around a Spring Creek player to score./ Eli Long • The Brand

and strides as far as being a leader. Luke has always been a person you can depend on, on and off the field. Watching his growth was and still is the best thing to see."

Fentress also spends his time helping the athletic youth in the community.

"I referee WYFL games on weekends," said Fentress. "Even out of school, I still tend to surround myself with things involving sports, even though I get paid to do this one it is still pretty fun to do."

Fentress enjoys spending quality time with his family and friends outside of sports. He also watches a lot of professional football in his free time.

After high school, Fentress plans on playing football to pursue his love for both sports.

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Luke Fentress wrestles at the Cody Louk tournament. /Livvy Espinola • The Brand





# ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE: ALIA NOVI



*Alia Novi cheers for the girls basketball team./ Dominic Mercado*

By Luz Magana

Alia Novi is an outstanding athlete at Lowry High who has demonstrated her passion for sports throughout her career. Novi is a senior at Lowry and is a part of varsity soccer and varsity cheer, but her true passion is soccer. She is a driven student who trains for everything she wants to achieve on the field.

"Soccer has been my passion since a very young age, I have been playing soccer for 14 years and I am going to continue my passion through college," said Novi.

Novi challenges herself both mentally and physically to achieve all her goals. When it comes to being on the field, she actively listens to her coaches who are guiding her to perform at her best. Coach

Chris Entwistle pushes Novi to become the best there is on the field.

"Alia is one in a million, the perfect mix of competitiveness, tenacity, intelligence, kindness, and coachability," said Chris Entwistle. "By the start of the season she had set a new record, and now juggles over 200 times regularly. Her mother told me that she used to have to time her when she took out the trash because everything is a competition?"

Soccer has been a part of Novi's life for a long time as her grandfather's passion is soccer as well. Her role model and mentor, her grandfather, has led and guided her to work hard to achieve her goals.

"My grandpa has always been my role model. He coached me up until high school and has always pushed me to be the best player I can," said Novi.

Novi is furthering her education and continuing to play soccer at Blue Mountain Community College.

"Being able to play for a college has been a big goal of mine that is finally coming true," said Novi. "Having a support system that has been by my side throughout my entire journey is something that I am truly grateful for".

Novi has also been a part



*Alia Novi kicks the ball to her teammate. / Ron Espinola • The Brand*

of Elko Indar Traveling Soccer. This team is composed of athletes around the state of Nevada that travel locally and internationally to compete in tournaments and showcases. Novi traveled to San Sabastian, Spain to compete in a tournament with others from all over the world.

"It was a great experience where I was given the opportunity to compete against some of the best players around the world," said Novi. "I learned many different skills from my teammates and my competition while learning about the different wonders Spain has to offer."

Novi enjoyed her last high school soccer season, although they did not have the outcome that they were hoping for, it was still an unforgettable season.

"This year we both beat Elko and made it to the playoffs," said



*Alia Novi signs to Blue Mountain Community College./Ron Espinola • The Brand*

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SPORTS

# DENNIS RECOGNIZED FOR HIS EFFORT AND DEDICATION

By Olivia Espinola

Dennis's athletic journey with wrestling and baseball is an on-going commitment. Coaches have seen his improvement and growth over the years. Baseball coach Pachi Bengochea and wrestling coach Brant Corak have some insight into how Dennis is as an athlete.

Bengochea thinks that Dennis is a hard-working kid who seems to be very competitive during baseball over the years.

"Brayden is a great kid," said Bengochea. "He's hard on himself because he's a competitor."

Dennis is said to be a very coachable and very teachable athlete.

"Our eyes were quickly opened that he is a natural athlete and a very coachable young man," said Corak.

Coming into high school athletes aren't expected to be the best so coaches aren't sure what to expect from kids but Dennis sure did seem to know how things are done.

"As a first-year high school wrestler we weren't sure what to expect, our eyes were quickly opened that he is a natural athlete and a very coachable young man," said Corak.

Dennis has huge goals that the

coaches want him to achieve this season.

"We are expecting big things from Brayden during the upcoming season," said Corak.

During baseball, Dennis is also very competitive, a hard worker, and expects a lot from himself.

"He expects to win and wants to be the best he can," said Bengochea.

Dennis is a leader but isn't a vocal leader.

"He's a quiet kid, he's one of those leaders that leads by example," said Bengochea.

Dennis feels like he has accomplished a lot during his years of sports.

"It feels great to see people notice the improvement and the difference between my first and most recent years," said Dennis.

Deciding to do two different sports can be a hard thing to do but Dennis picked two with well-thought-out plans.

"I picked baseball because I've been doing since it's I was five and it gave me a hobby that I enjoyed and was good at," said Dennis. "I picked wrestling because I wanted to learn to overcome mental and physical blocks, and I loved seeing improvement which I always saw in wrestling."

Dennis sees growth and is excited during his seasons.



Brayden Dennis tries to put an opponent in a cradle at the 2023 senior night dual. /Yoci Perez • The Brand



Brayden Dennis lifts his opponent off the mat and scores a takedown at the state tournament. /Olivia Espinola • The Brand

"I'm super proud about my growth in wrestling, and baseball because it actually makes the sport fun when you are winning more especially once the postseason starts coming around," said Dennis.

Dennis is a kid with the mindset that you are young and only in high school for such a little time and that you should try doing something new.

"There isn't any risk in trying something new so if you're on the fence about it just do it. You're only in high school for so long," said Dennis.

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Brayden Dennis takes a swing against Spring Creek. /Keira Garner • The Brand



# ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE: BRYCE BRINKERHOFF

By Macy Whitted

Lowry has had a great history of student-athletes, as the year ends and the class of 2024 plays their final season. Senior Bryce Brinkerhoff was noticed for her soccer and basketball careers. Sadly because of Covid, she didn't have a choice but to miss out on her freshman basketball season, but she has played both soccer and basketball all her years at Lowry.

Since Brinkerhoff's friends played soccer, she enjoyed the sport more. She loved the sport because she had her friends by her side, and she continued the sport throughout high school.

"I started playing soccer when I was in 4th grade because all of my friends did it, and I've stuck with it ever since," said Brinkerhoff.

Brinkerhoff said she enjoys soccer because she finds it less stressful than basketball. She said that she feels very welcome within the soccer community because of all of the helping hands.

"Soccer is very fun because of the people within the soccer community," said Brinkerhoff. "I feel that soccer is a lot less stressful than basketball at most times."

With all of the great people in the soccer community, the girls made it to regionals this year. Unfortunately, they took a loss in the first game. Their biggest accomplishment this year was beating Elko, which hasn't happened in the past five years.

"My freshman and junior years weren't too great competitions", said Brinkerhoff. "But my junior and senior years have been nothing but amazing. My soccer team has pushed and worked hard. For my senior year, we entered the playoffs, but we only made it to the first game. It wasn't where we wanted to end up."

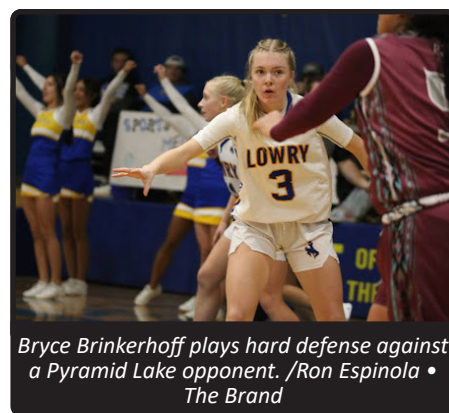
Brinkerhoff enjoys playing soccer because of the relationships she makes during the seasons. She has made countless relationships over the years, and she has made many unexpected devotions. She said it gives her something to look forward to during the upcoming seasons.

"I have made many new friendships throughout my soccer career, it also gives me something to look forward to," said Brinkerhoff.

Her teammates and coaches always push her to her best ability, while she does the same for her teammates. Her influence for playing the sport is her fellow teammates and her coaches. They all make her do her best, and she makes sure to never doubt them.

"My biggest influence when playing sports would be my teammates and my coaches," said Brinkerhoff. "I feel we all need to correctly influence each other and push each other to be our absolute best."

Brinkerhoff also found a love for basketball, even through the ups and downs of Covid. Sadly, Bryce didn't play basketball her freshman year because of Covid.



Bryce Brinkerhoff plays hard defense against a Pyramid Lake opponent. /Ron Espinola • The Brand



Bryce Brinkerhoff fights to get the ball away from an Elko opponent. /Lainey Novacek • The Brand

"My experience has been rough throughout the years, I had to deal with Covid my freshman year and didn't end up having a basketball season," said Brinkerhoff.

Even with the letdown of not being able to play her freshman year, she and her teammates didn't let anything get in their way. Brinkerhoff and the Lady Buckaroos made it to state in her junior year. Bryce hopes to have the same outcome for her senior year.

"I hope to make a good outcome of my senior year by getting the state championship for my last year," said Brinkerhoff.



Bryce Brinkerhoff retreats back to cover her goalie to protect the goal. / Ron Espinola • The Brand



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# A LAST LOOK AT FALL SPORTS

## FRESHMAN VOLLEYBALL SEASON

### WRAPS UP

By Raegan Terry

The freshman volleyball season brought the girls a huge learning experience and a great season.

Alana Deputy most importantly loved her season because of her team and her coach.

"I loved playing with everyone and we had an amazing coach, I wish the season was longer," said Deputy.

As the season took up a lot of time for the girls, it led them to learn a lot.

Tessa Jenkins learned that to improve you are the only person to make the change to make you and your team



Freshman volleyball celebrate a point. /Keira Garner • The Brand

better.

"The most valuable thing I learned was that no one can improve you except yourself, if you want to see a change you need to make the change," said Jenkins. "You can't change what happens on the court but you can work your hardest to improve and take what you get and be a leader."

Julissa Zaragoza-Mendoza added

to this idea as she learned more improved skills for herself and her team.

"The most valuable thing that I learned this season was how to play better and to play as a team," said Zaragoza-Mendoza.

## ONE LAST HIT FOR THE VARSITY VOLLEYBALL SEASON

By Eli Long

The Lady Bucks played hard through the summer and fall months. They gave it their all and pushed through their hardships throughout the season. In the end, they ended up with a 4-14 record.

Their coach, Skylar Estes, is pleased with coaching these girls throughout the season, and how they talk to each other throughout the game.

"This team has been one of my favorites to coach," said Estes. "Even with the season not going as well as we would have liked with wins and losses; the team still was positive and showed up to work hard every single day."

Estes is glad about how the season went and the improvement of the whole team throughout the season.

"There was a huge improvement this year in how the team played," said Estes. "Our serve receive improved all season long with being effective on offense."

The players also believe they have made a lot of improvements themselves.

"I think the



Varsity volleyball celebrates after a kill. / Danielle Scott • The Brand

team could have worked more on coverage and communication," said Karyn Morton a middle blocker. "We overall got better but I think that's something we could have improved on."

The Lady Bucks had people earn stat awards for the session Savannah Stoker made 1st Team All-League in the East and 3A North. She was Second Team All-State. Maddison McClure made 2nd Team All-League for the East. Hadlee Bengochea, Cambria Tissue, Destiny Medicine Cloud, Olivia Espinola and Alexis Galarza were Honorable Mention.

## JV VOLLEYBALL FINISHES SEASON WITH FRIENDSHIPS AND SKILLS

By Ally Green

The JV volleyball team came to the end of their season, and in the end, gained new mindsets and abilities from the sport. Their coach, Cassandra Jenkins, was impressed with the end result of the season and their close connections with one another.

"I was proud of the fact that they never gave up," said Jenkins. "Throughout the season I saw some

good improvements in the majority of the girls within their fundamentals."

The girls improved on their abilities they also grew as a team. All of them understand the capabilities of playing as a team when it's game time.

"Hits started getting harder as a few of them



Tariana Weatherspoon and Kyra Schiermeister block at the net. / Raegan Terry • The Brand

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began to find their timing on their approach and were starting to get on top of the ball,” said Jenkins. “The team’s overall passing showed much improvement making it easier to stay in the system during a rally. All in all, definitely a season of growth in skills and mindset.”

**VARSITY BOY'S SOCCER TAKES  
ONE LAST SHOT**



*By Stella Hammargren*

This year's soccer season has been through its ups and downs with the boy's varsity team, whether it be the way they played or one of their teammates getting hurt.

Juan Alvarez's season went well for him but he believes the season has ended tragically.

"I say the worst part would be losing our players for a while at the beginning of the season, which gave us a disadvantage starting off and at the end very tragically," Alvarez said.

The season for Jovanny Cuevas went better, he worked hard every day at practice for his team.

"As for the team, I would say we work every practice to get to where we are now," Cuevas said.

The varsity coach Cristina Cuevas believes that they had a good season, even making some players better students.

"We ended the season 6-5-3 and with many changes to the soccer program I am happy with the results," said coach Cuevas. "I am more proud of the fact that the boys have also become better academically as well as their attendance in school."

The best part of the season for many players was when they tied with the Elko team.

"The best part would be when we tied Elko the hardest team in our league which inspired and motivated us as a team to keep going and play the rest of our games for Roy," Alvarez said.

Several players received All-League awards. Jesus Prado Honorable Mention, Carlos Valdez Honorable Mention, Rojelio Leon Honorable Mention, and Nazareth Razo Honorable Mention. Bernardo Estrada Northern 3A East Division Second Team Defense and Jesus Diaz Guizar the Northern 3A East Division Second Team Midfielders.

**VARSITY GIRL'S SOCCER HAS A SEASON TO  
REMEMBER**

*By Dominic Mercado and Destiny Medicine Cloud*

Varsity girl's soccer had a season to be remembered. The girls continued their success from last year and this year's season was even better.

As a team, they have had so many accomplishments and growth. Coach Chris Entwistle was back with his third year coaching the Lady Bucks and this year he was proud of how hard they worked to get to the playoffs.

"There are a lot of reasons to be proud this season, but the biggest reason would be our girls being welcoming, accepting, and supportive of each other," said Entwistle. "Watching our returning players open their arms to new players joining the team; freshman, sophomores, and juniors... was heartwarming and set



*Kepa Hilbish keeps the ball from her Mustang opponent. /Eli Long • The Brand*

us up for a phenomenal season."

Senior Melene Nye believed this was the best season the varsity girl's soccer team has had in a long time. Everyone has worked very well together helping them to their win against Elko's soccer team.

"I believe the team's biggest accomplishment this year is beating Elko for the first time in at least four years (the whole time I've played soccer at Lowry) as well as Elko's first loss of the season," said Nye.

Varsity girls soccer ended their season 16-7. In league, they had 14 wins and 3 losses and many of the girls earned awards.

Alia Novi was the First-Team midfielders award, Britain Backus and Bryce Brinkeroff both an honorable mention, Natalya Guizar got second team forwards, and Maite Avalos got the second team utility player award.

**VARSITY FOOTBALL LOOKS BACK ON THE  
SEASON**

*By Staff*

Each season has its unique challenges and expectations and this year was no exception for the Bucks.

The Bucks season starts in the previous spring and continues through summer workouts and the team camp at Eastern Oregon University.

*See Fall page 16*



**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE CLASS  
OF 2024!**



# A LAST LOOK AT FALL SPORTS FROM PAGE 13



David Walker blocks a Sparks lineman. /Luz Magaña Galarza • The Brand

"Lots of people wanted to participate between June and July," said coach Taua Cabatbat.

They started the season with a 2-1 record with the loss coming against Columbia from Meridian, Idaho. The Buckaroos notched wins against Hug (21-20) and Sparks (33-13).

Lowry then played a close game against Spring Creek during which the starting quarterback Erick Valencia sustained a season-ending injury.

"It's been a rough last few weeks," said Cabatbat. "There had been lots of injuries, especially with what happened to our quarterback."

However, that didn't stop them from making the most of the season. They picked up another win against South Tahoe 38-20 and that was enough to get the Buckaroos into the playoffs against Fallon. Unfortunately, they fell 48-14 to the Greenwave in the final game of the season.

Senior Anthony Guzman was recognized as a 1st-team All-League offensive player. For him, football was more than just two-a-days.

"In my four years at Lowry football was the highlight for me every year as I feel like it helped me grow as a person and understand myself better," said Anthony Guzman. "I'm gonna miss the program in general and the friends I have made through the years."

Despite the 3-7 record, the Bucks received many post-season honors.

Roan Hornbarger 2nd Team All-State Defensive Line; David Walker 2nd Team All-State Offensive Line; Roan Hornbarger 1st Team All-League Defensive Line; David Walker 1st Team All-League Offensive Line; Luke Fentress 1st Team All-League Tight End; Anthony Guzman 1st Team All-League Wide Receiver.

## JV FOOTBALL FINISHES THE SEASON STRONG

By Adisson Baker

The JV Football team has had a great season this year, many players on the team have grown not only as players but as individuals.

"We had some success," said Andrew Jensen, the JV football coach. "Although we struggled in some areas we improved as a team."

They won their Homecoming game and finished the season 3-6.

"It was always exciting to see the games that we win in order for every-

one to have fun," said Jensen.

Connor Petersen is the JV quarterback and has helped many members of his team stay dedicated and inspired to work harder and improve their skills.

"Connor is a good role model and helps all of us to be better players," said Troy Naron, a wide receiver on JV.

Peterson is proud of how his team played this season, JV stayed positive throughout their games and played hard.

"We had good attitude and good energy," said Peterson



Michel Hiccup and Uriah Davis playing defense against the Spring Creek Spartans. / Ron Espinola • The Brand

## CROSS COUNTRY DASHES THROUGH THE FINISH LINE

By Alexis Galarza

The cross country team pushed through yet another season phenomenally.

This year's team consisted of runners Brooklyn Swensen, Natalia Cassinelli, Mariah Ramos, Lennox Zebroski, Finn Baldwin, Jace Frydendall, and Keaton Kenison who were coached by Larry Renteria.

Mariah Ramos, a junior, enjoyed her time on the team and saw a lot of progress developed throughout the season.

"My experience was honestly really good," said Ramos. "It was a lot of work but I had amazing coaches to guide me through it and when you got into shape it really wasn't that bad."

Ramos specifically enjoyed the athletic lifestyle cross country provides.

"My favorite thing about cross country was definitely the amount of exercise in my life because it felt really good to just be able to run," said Ramos.



Mariah Ramos runs at the Winnemucca Meet. / Lainey Novacek • The Brand



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A sophomore Brooklyn Swensen excelled beyond standards and advanced to the state championship in Reno, Nevada. Coach Renteria had a wonderful season and enjoyed all the new faces that were added to the team.

"The season went great," said Renteria. "We added several new faces to the team and each and every



Thomas Voges dodges a Spark's tackle. / Dominic Mercado • The Brand

athlete continued to work hard and improve throughout the season."

## FRESHMAN FOOTBALL CLOSES OUT THE FIRST SEASON OF HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

By Eli Long

The Albert Lowry High School freshman football team had a rough season ending with a record of 1-7. They fought through hardship and injuries. The team played and worked hard on the field, as well as in practice. The team had 23 players playing until the very end.

"The practice was long and hard," said Alessandro Huerta. "Even when we take a break and do an easy practice we are still going to do a lot of conditioning no matter

the weather, place or time".

The team practiced hard to get where they are today. They have their problems with people getting injured and can not play to not working as well as they would like. They fought through their hardships to get where they were at the end of the season.

"I liked playing with this team and am glad to have played with them," said Uriah Davis. "We had a rough part throughout the whole session. But we never let that get to us. We keep playing and showing up to the field every day to play the sport that we all loved."

## JV BOYS ARE READY FOR THE NEXT LEVEL

By Macy Whitted

The JV boy's soccer team had a pretty good turnout this season, with many incoming freshmen and a new coach.

JV boy's soccer season went well with Alejandro Villagomez as the new head coach. Villagomez stated the season went smoothly for the team, they all got along



Lainey Novacek chips her ball onto the green. / Alexis Galarza • The Brand



Goalie, Izayus Barajas makes a kick toward their goal. / Ron Espinola • The Brand

very well while getting to know one another.

"With incoming freshmen, it is difficult for the boys to get along, I think they all played well together which will always be a plus, especially because we bonded like a family," said Villagomez.

The team got along with the newcomers very well, by the end of the season the team was like a family.

"My coach and I had a great relationship, he is like an older brother to me," said Izeaah Morales-Sanchez. "We would always talk after practice about what was going on in our lives."

## GIRL'S GOLF SWINGS TO VICTORY

By Lainey Novacek

The 2023 girl's golf season was a huge success for all the players and coaches. All the players from last year returned and two freshman girls joined.

"This was my first year ever playing golf," said Naomi Miller, "It was a very fun experience and I improved a lot throughout the season."

In the end, Cassinelli was the only player that qualified for State in Las Vegas this year. She was the first-place individual qualifier.

"State was a very fun experience," said Cassinelli,

"I loved being able to play with others that were on the same skill level as me even though it was really hot in Vegas."

## GIRL'S JV SOCCER RISES TO THE TOP

By Jocilyn Hawkins

This year's girl's JV soccer team has worked very hard this season to climb to the top. The girls had plenty of fun practicing together and overall making memories of a lifetime.

"My favorite part of this season is being able to make countless memories with my teammates, beating Elko and making it to the playoffs," said freshman Ava Swensen.

This season showed the Bucks' true character.

"This season has been a testament to the hard work, dedication, and resilience of each and every player on the team," said coach Macy Munroe.



Nevaeh Gerhard dribbles the soccer ball. / Eli Long • The Brand



SPORTS

# WINTER SPORTS ARE IN FULL SWING



Jayden Howard meets with his coaches and finds out what to do next. /Alexa Toscano • The Brand

## WRESTLERS READY TO BATTLE

By Yizel Martinez

As winter sports start neighboring, this means coaches start to prepare for the upcoming wrestling season.

There are always high expectations when athletes enter the wrestling room.

"My expectations for this year are to stay healthy, win some matches, and bring home a team state championship," said Chris Gildone while

won his weight class at the Cody Louk Invitational.

As coaches prepare, so do athletes. Wrestler Maddex Hislop is preparing for the upcoming season and is ready to tackle the wrestling challenges.

"I'm excited because it is a sport that I can be my best in and meet new people," said Hislop. "We have good wrestlers that make the team very competitive so I'm very excited to team bond."

Hislop said there are multiple reasons as to why he has chosen to take the wrestling path.

"It is an individual sport where everything rests on me," said Hislop. "I can't blame anyone else for messing up but myself. I've been doing it since I was five so I'm ready to make the kids count lights."

Lowry wrestling has a long and exceptional history. The experience goes beyond just being on a team according to senior Billy DeLong.

"The reason I wrestle is because it teaches you discipline, builds character, and makes you learn how to push beyond what you think your limits are," said DeLong.

Coach John Brooks also started to prepare himself and the students who will participate in the sport.

"We usually start off the season with the idea of

winning championships and realizing the intention of that," said Brooks, "It's always a mystery because you never know who is coming back and who's not, but we do have some good wrestlers coming back."

Roster: Brogan Atkins, Jakob Bauman, Dante Bautista, Pete Ben-gochea, Isaiah Chavez, Urijah Davis, William DeLong, Bosten Dennis, Isaac dini, Landon Esquivel, Luke Fentress, Jared Foy, Christopher Gildone, Kruz Gomez, Jhett Harber, Gabriel Hernandez, Maddex Hislop, Jayden Howard, Alessandro

Huerta, Michael Hunter, Nathan Jeffries, Trenten Johnson, Logan Jonas, Edward Jones, Elijah Lange, Terrance Mattson, Andrew Mendoza, Brayden Mezenen-Dennis, Giovanni Monroy Torres, Bailey Peter-Ricci, Bradyn Snyder, Kaszin Velasco.



/Ron Espinola • The Brand

## FRESHMAN GIRL'S BASKETBALL STARTS THE SEASON OFF ON GOOD NOTE

By Raegan Terry

Already a week in freshman girls have high hopes for their basketball season.

Coach Larry Renteria has a bright outlook toward the girl's season.

"I am excited about the season," said Renteria. "We have a good group that has a lot of potential. The season will present challenges, but the girls seem eager to embrace the season, learn, and get started."

Since this is her first season, Elyza Sirotek wants to improve more.

"I'm most excited



Raegan Terry puts up a shot against North Valleys. /Ron Espinola • The Brand



/Olivia Espinola • The Brand

  
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to play and become more improved,” said Sirotek.

Sirotek’s main goal for this season is to have a good journey to look upon.

Even though it is just the beginning of the season, the whole team is working together to get to know and support each other to make a strong bond.

“I believe that if we put a lot of effort in we’ll turn out just fine,” said Amaia Brady-Keele.

Ava Swensen had a bigger vision for her team and believed in them.

“I think our team overall will do well because we all have different skills and a mix of skills that everyone brings,” said Swensen.

Renteria believes that the team will now start to develop and become stronger as they finish up their first week.

“Now that we have a week of practice under our belt and have gotten to know each other, we can start to grow as individuals and as a team,” said Renteria.

Roster: Ava Swensen, Maribell Urtiz, Elizabeth Hewitt, Hailee Gibson, Yizel Martinez, Josie Jenkins, Tessa Jenkins, Averie Burt, Amaia Brady-Keele, Raegan Terry, Briana Sanchez, Mackenzie Bishop and Elyza Sirotek.

## JV GIRL’S BASKETBALL READY TO RUN THE COURT

By Alexa Toscano

The JV basketball team is finally set to begin with a total of thirteen players for this year’s season. These girls worked hard to make the team many of them practiced extra hard and attended all of the open gyms that were available to make sure that they were ready to the best of their abilities.



/Macy Whitted • The Brand

This year, the JV girls have a new coach, Alyssa Jones.

“I think we will have a successful year,” said Jones. “I already see improvement from the girls from our first week. They show up every day and work really hard to become better basketball players.”

All of the girls take practice very seriously. They attend all practices, even morning and night practices. Isabel Upton is a sophomore this year who made the team.

The team is excited about all the memorable memories they will make as a team. Isabel Upton is a sophomore who made the team she is excited about all the memories she will be able to make.

“I’m excited about the team aspect and friendships that come with traveling together,” said Upton.

This year’s team consists of Maite Avalos, Ludivynne Canales, Ludivynne Canales, Natalia Cassinelli, Matti DeLong, Adalyn Entwistle, Lexi Hernandez, Kalli Raabe, Mariah Ramos, Hazen Root, Isabel Upton, Tariana Weatherpoon and Macy Whitted.



Maite Avalos drives around a defender./Ron Espinola • The Brand



Bryce Brinkerhoff dribbles up court. /Dominic Mercado • The Brand

## KEEPING THE STREAK ALIVE; VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL PREVIEW

By Danielle Scott

The past two years have been successful for the varsity girl’s basketball team, they won state for the 3A championship the past two years in a row. Their head coach Chelsea Cabatbat has pushed them to reach their potential and worked with them to better themselves.

The girls are expecting to have another good season with many of the starters continuing to play for their se-

See Winter page 20



Eli Lange prevents his opponent from a single leg. /Alexa Toscano • The Brand



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# WINTER SPORTS FROM PAGE 19

nior year, they have a lot to work with and to use to get to the championship once again.

"I am most excited about playing with the team and the relationships I will build with them," said Cambria



The varsity girl's basketball team smiles for their team picture.  
/Olivia Espinola • The Brand

Tissue. "I think we will work and play together the best this year."

With the season just starting they are figuring out their place on the team and have been working on both their strengths and weaknesses.

"I think our weaknesses right now is we are just getting into the season so we don't all know how everyone plays especially younger girls and new girls," said Tissue.

They have been working to grow as a team and learn how to work better together.

"My team and I are already in the gym working hard and I feel like we have a lot to improve on but that is a good thing in the beginning of the year," said Bryce Brinkerhoff.

Brinkerhoff was on Varsity last

year and helped to win the 3A State championship and is hopeful for this season.

"This season changed from last year because we have picked up from where we left off last year," said Brinkerhoff. "My team worked hard in the summer and I believe we look better in the beginning of this season than last."

They have been putting in the work and hours, and have a great season ahead of them.

This year's team consists of sophomores Maura Braatz and Audry Mason; juniors Britain Backus, Natalee Formby, Allison Green and Khlloe Shorey; and seniors Bryce Brinkerhoff, Miranda Draper, Katlyn Gomez, Autum Sanchez, Savannah Stoker and Cambria Tissue.

## FRESHMAN BOY'S BASKETBALL HAS BIG GOALS FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON

By Madalynn Tagle

The freshman boys basketball tryouts have concluded and the teams have been selected. Based on tryouts, head coach Brandon Eastman sees a lot of potential for the team this upcoming season.

"Tryouts were good," Eastman said. "I believe we have a lot of really good pieces. We have some height, quick guards, and just about a little bit of everything."

One of the players, Justin Hogan, explained that try-



Freshman basketball poses for the team picture. /Olivia Espinola • The Brand

outs went well. He believes that he has skills that he can provide to his team.

"I feel like I have good layups and passing skills that will be good for the team," Hogan said. "As well as communication."

Some of the players, such as Kale Webber, see the season as motivation for not only improving his basketball skills but also his grades.

"Basketball starting is good because I was able to get my grades up and it made me very excited to make the team," said Webber.

Throughout the season, there are many goals that the players want to achieve.

"I hope I can start to improve my skills and learn more about the sport as the season goes on," Blake Burdette said. "Along with obtaining a better understanding."

Eastman also has big goals like the players. He is excited about how far the players and the team will progress this upcoming season.

"Where we are at from tonight's practice, is not going to be where we are even a week from now. Let alone three months from now," said Eastman.

Roster: Cristobal Arriola, Izayus Barajas, Blake Burdette, Jacob Chadwell, Jovanni Garcia, Cooper Hoagland, Justin Hogan, Juan Mendoza, Tate Rost, Izayah Sariano-Hoover and Kale Webber.



Natalia Cassinelli plays defense against North Valleys. The Lady bucks won 30-20. /Ron Espinola • The Brand

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The JV boy's basketball team smiles for their yearly team picture. /Olivia Espinola • The Brand

## BOY'S JV BASKETBALL TEAM RETURNS TO THE COURT

By Ludi Canales

The JV Bucks are ready to go with a new season, a new coach, and a new team.

Coach Danny Westfall has stepped up as the JV basketball coach, after coaching the freshmen boys last season.

Returning junior varsity player, Txema Bengochea has high hopes for himself and his teammates for the season.

"I hope to have a great season and have more wins than losses as a team," said Bengochea. "It's a different group of guys this year, so we're still learning each other's play style but I think it will be a good season. My goal for the season is to average 20 points per game."

Montana Elm's first year on JV is different compared to his freshman year season with coach Westfall.

"Our coach is working us way harder than last year and taking our attitudes towards the game and turning them positive rather than negative," said Elm. "His attitude towards the game of basketball is great and the intensity and dedication to our team means a lot, so I think this season will go just fine."

Ryder Huitt is also a first-year ju-

nior varsity player. He has an intense amount of love for basketball and his teammates. He hopes he and his team can make it far in the long run.

"I get along with my teammates so well since I know them on a different level because of basketball," said Huitt. "My goals for this year are to work as a team so that next year when it matters we can win a state championship."

Roster: Txema Bengochea, Jovanny Cuevas, Brent Kenison, Nigel Green, Ryder Huitt, Montana Elm, Luis Mendoza, Cody Allen, Amador Guzman, Jaidon Crutcher Audie Douglass and Bryce Niblack.

## VARSITY BOY'S PREPARE FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON

By Alexis Galarza

This year the boys varsity basketball team is being coached by Mr. Jesse Zamudio. Previously the boys were coached by Nate Green. With a new coach, the boys have had to learn a new approach to the sport.

Kasyn Garner a senior, is excited about this season.

"My favorite part about playing basketball is the pace of the game and I enjoy the sport a lot," said Garner.

Garner is not concerned about the change in coaching and is willing to learn a new approach.

"The difference between the coaches is the goals that he has as a whole and what Zamudio is pushing us to do," said Garner. "The coaches just have different goals."

Coach Zamu-



Kasyn Garner blocks a shot from West Wenover. /Olivia Espinola • The Brand

dio is most excited about the competitiveness and fun basketball brings.

"I expect the season to be fun and productive," said Zamudio. "I believe that we will be competitive and exciting to watch."

They are working a lot on dribbling and passing as well as communication. According to ReiCyan Grau, there is a lot of team chemistry.

"My personal improvement goal is to be able to drive my left hand and not be so negative about myself when I mess up," said Grau.

Zamudio is also prepared for any challenge that may arise.

"Without challenges and adversity there would be little growth," said Zamudio. "We have done much talking about turning challenges into opportunities, and I believe this team will accept challenges head-on."

This year's team consists of juniors Angus Boyles, Matthew Casalez, Trevor Crawford, Kayd Garner, ReiCyan Grau, Zaquary Growcock, Jaden Jimenez, Connor Nelson and Austin White; and seniors Jack DeLong, Kasyn Garner, Anthony Guzman and Dempsey Jenkins. Manager Byron Jimenez.



ReiCyan Grau brings the ball up court against. /Olivia Espinola • The Brand

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SPORTS

# NATALIE PACHECO SHOWS HER SKILL AND COMMITMENT TO ART

By Adisson Baker

Natalie Pacheco, a junior at Lowry, is involved in two of Ms. Julia Topholm's classes this year, Sculpture and Advanced Art I. This dedication is what drove Topholm to recognize her for her talent and dedication to art.

"She was a pleasure to have in Art

II last year and I was very excited to see her back in my class," said Ms. Topholm.

Pacheco is a skilled and dedicated artist; she takes pride in her work and the time she spends perfecting it has paid off.

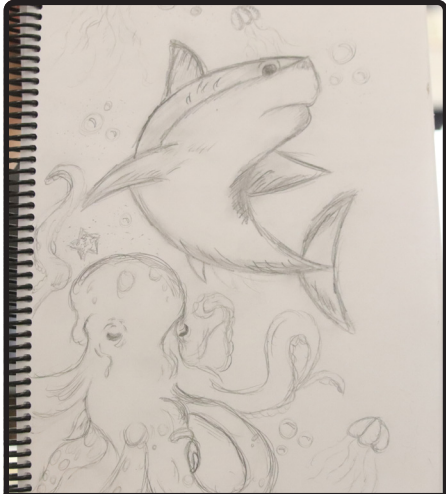
"I just really enjoy doing art," said Pacheco. "I do it in my free time, and lots of it at home."

Pacheco is a talented artist who enjoys sketching people and animals. Not only was she chosen as Artist of the Issue, but also picked by Topholm for Artist of the Week.

"She is coming up with ideas that are challenging her as an individual student artist and it is showing in her work already at the start of this year," said Topholm.

Aspiring artists may wonder how Pacheco has become so talented in creating art, but it is all about the time and effort she puts into it.

"I have been involved in art for a very long time," said Pacheco.



Natalie Pacheco's sketch of an octopus and a shark./ Adisson Baker • The Brand



Natalie Pacheco poses for her headshot./ Adisson Baker • The Brand

Pacheco's 19-year-old sister Vannessa influenced Natalie to get into art and become the artist she is today.

"My older sister taking classes in Junior High inspired me," said Pacheco. "We are super close".

Once she got a little older Pacheco began experimenting with art more and more. During her freshman year, she created her first big art piece.

"Freshman year when I drew my dog, Duke, that was a big one," said Pacheco.





# YOVANY BALDERAS CHOSEN AS PERFORMER OF THE ISSUE FOR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION



Yovany Balderas plays the flute in the courtyard./Alexa Toscano • The Brand

By Ariana Lee Rothe

Mr. David Munk tries to motivate his students and tries to make good music with them.

"He puts in a lot of extra time to study his music," said Munk.

Besides his hard work, Munk also sees talent in Yovany Balderas.

"He is a good influence and a positive contributor to the organization," said Munk.

Yovany Balderas has excelled in playing a lot of different instruments. He plays the saxophone and clarinet, but his favorite one is

the flute.

Everyone in the band and choir, and just the feeling of everyone getting together and making songs inspires him.

"Even when it's just one other person playing with me, it will always be better because people can do great stuff alone," said Balderas. "When you come together it's just really nice and you get a feeling like no other."

Balderas thinks there is always something to improve and new to learn. That's why he always puts in a lot of effort and works really hard every day to get better. He prefers to play with the band rather than alone.

He wants to put in more effort and improve his technique and skills, that's why he is always working on himself to achieve that.

"I want to go to college to be a music education teacher," said Balderas.



He smiles for a picture./Ariana Lee Rothe • The Brand



Yovany Balderas plays the flute at an assembly. /Ron Espino-la • The Brand

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# JOSEPH VANKUIKEN REPRESENTS THE PERFORMER OF THE ISSUE FOR HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR THEATER

By Ally Green

Joseph Vankuiken takes Mrs. Kelly Bales' drama class as an elective class. He excels in this form of art and is viewed as a supportive individual who obtains a positive mindset and encourages those around him. Bales is appreciative of his cooperation and improv



Joseph Vankuiken rehearses his part as the character, in "The Three Musketeers"./ Emily Valdez • The Brand

abilities when it comes to putting on a show.

"I chose him because his improv skills and understanding of his character add quite a bit of humor to an already humorous play," said Bales. "He also understands what comes across as funny and adds little fragments of humor to his character."

Vankuiken puts his best effort into anything he is a part of. No matter what part he plays, he is always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone who needs assistance, as well as doing his part effortlessly and calmly while being under the lights.

"He is extremely comfortable and confident on stage," said Bales. "He is very kind and encouraging to his fellow castmates and is always willing to jump in when we need to move sets or anything else that needs to be done. He works incredibly hard to learn his lines and be the best version of his character on stage."

Vankuiken says that the auditorium is a safe place, allowing anyone to be themselves and express their emotions and actions through acting. It also provides a social experience and even practice with confidence while on stage.

"In the auditorium, you can just be yourself, no one judges, and everyone is there to have fun," said Vankuiken. "Improv is your best friend, but most importantly, so is Mrs. Bales."

Out of all the activities that the drama class provides, the silly things that happen become the most memorable events in a person's life. As for Vankuiken, his favorite activity has to be practicing scenes in a play. However, he soon realized that it was

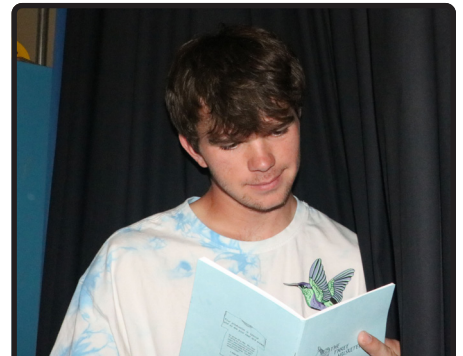


Joseph Vankuiken rehearses his part as the character, in "The Three Musketeers"./ Emily Valdez • The Brand

more difficult than the average person would think.

"Sword fighting would have to be something that I enjoy while in drama," said Vankuiken. "It takes more stance and arm strength than people think."

Vankuiken can be himself around his castmates, and this type of environment allows him to fully connect with this activity.



Joseph Vankuiken reads over his part in the script./ Emily Valdez • The Brand

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# PEP BAND KEEPS SCHOOL SPIRIT HIGH



Kelsen Sisley plays at a basketball game December 16, 2023./ Ron Espinola • The Brand

By Alexa Toscano

The Lowry High pep band has a big impact on school spirit; they're always at every sports event and most school events cheering on Lowry. One of the first major events of the school year is homecoming. They started off this year's homecoming game

by playing at the assembly. They played music for the seniors when they walked in cheering them on. They also played the national anthem along with school songs to keep the crowd entertained.

They made sure to get there early to warm up and set up. They were also the last ones to leave playing pep music while the rest of the students went out for lunch.

Kelsen Sisley is currently a sophomore who has been a part of a pep band for two years. He is a percussionist which means he is able to play many instruments such as the drums, bells, triangles, and more.

"The assemblies are always fun," said Sisley. "We've all made many memories throughout them."

Football games are always a blast since the start of the year. Despite the cold weather they all enjoy supporting the team through music. However, the homecoming game is always extra special for them. Since more students are involved, it leads up to the



Kiara Vaca waits for her cue to begin playing the flute./ Ron Espinola • The Brand.

dance. They engaged with the crowd and created an entertaining atmosphere. They made sure to keep spirits high even if the team is down.

The homecoming game was bittersweet because it was the last home game of the season. Many of the musicians have been performing since their freshman year. They are going to miss performing for the crowd alongside their friends. Many had the opportunity to make many memories that night laughing and seeing the crowd happy.

At the end of the night, they all had a blast. Although, or many this was their last one they made sure to have a blast they thought about their progress throughout the years. All of them made sure to make it memorable with their love for music. They spent the night underneath the stars doing something they enjoyed they brought spirit to the crowd through their music.



Lowry High pep band anxiously waits to begin on senior night./ Ron Espinola • The Brand

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# LOWRY'S DRAMA CLUB CAPTURES THE ESSENCE OF 'THE THREE MUSKETEERS'



Jacob Woolsey and Emily Valdez.  
/Caitlyn Peters • The Brand

By Danielle Scott

In recent years under the instruction of Ms. Kelly Bales, Lowry Drama and Stagecraft has flourished and kept the auditorium full of people waiting to see their next creation.

Their upcoming play is more complicated than their previous ones but they are working hard to perfect it.

"There is a lot of choreography that goes into sword fighting, so we really had to practice where and how they stood, where they moved during the

duels, and how they delivered their lines during the duels," said Bales.

For this year's fall performance, they made a great display of the Three Musketeers. Students were excited to see their newest production, and the Drama class had been working hard to make it their best yet.

"I'm actually looking forward to the performances more than anything else," said Morgan Rorex.

Rorex will be playing Cookie the narrator, this will allow her to be creative in the telling of the story and make sure the audience can easily follow what is going on.

"I like that my character helps to tell the story while adding a bit of humor to an already funny play," said Rorex.

Rorex's character is known to be a little sassy and high-tempered, her



Audryahna McGillic, Rogelio Hernandez Ruiz, and Maygan Robinson recite their lines. /Emily Valdez • The Brand

character often argues with the people off of the stage.

"I think all the improv that everyone does is what's making it special," said Rorex.

"The Three Musketeers: All Swash and No Buckle" follows a character named D'Artagnan, who made different friends, enemies, and even fell in love on his journey as a new musketeer.



/Jocelyn Hawkins • The Brand



Rogelio Hernandez Ruiz and Joseph Vankuiken battle each other in a duel while Maygan Robinson and Mikayla Dossey watch. /Kelsey Kramer • The Brand

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# MUSKETEERS: ALL SWASH AND NO BUCKLE'



/Caitlyn Peters • The Brand

beautiful mural on the back wall of the stage,” said Bales.

Art Club always pitches in to help paint a mural to be the backdrop of all of their plays, where they painted forests for Robin Hood, and now a landscape of France to really set the scene.

“This play also gives quite a bit of opportunity for members of Stagecraft to step out from behind the curtains,” said Bales. “We have members of Stagecraft who are guards, cheerleaders, and other extras, as well as creating sound effects in front of the curtains.”

Putting on a play requires all hands on deck, and everyone is playing their part with their own personal twists on their roles.

“They also had to work on the delivery of their lines since it is a comedic play,” said Bales. “The way certain lines are delivered is crucial

to the audience’s understanding of the joke, so it is incredibly important that the actors understand what they are saying and how to say it for the greatest effect.”

Mikayla Dossey played Constance, the Queen of France who sent the Musketeers on a mission to retrieve a lost necklace.

“In order to make my character unique I try not to be predictable with my lines and change them up once in a while, along with really understanding her character,” said Dossey.

All of the work that they have put in was put on display early December, it was heavily applauded and the audience was on the edge of their seats throughout the show.

Until the next performance is announced, Drama and Stagecraft should be proud of the work they put forth.



Jacob Woolsey, Sasha Contreras, Kayla Newkirk, and Selena Huerta ride on their horses to meet Duke Buckingham.  
/Caitlyn Peters • The Brand



Miles Hagness laughs after performing his magic trick.  
/Caitlyn Peters • The Brand





# CAREER PROFILE: BUSINESS OWNER, BARISTA JILL STEPPER

By Destiny Medicine Cloud

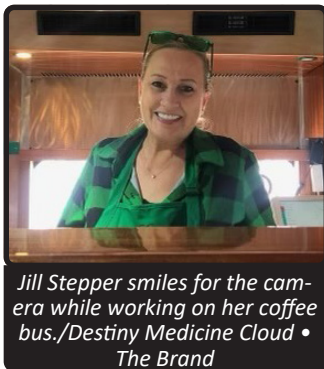
Being able to do what someone loves after their retirement is the best thing that can happen. When choosing your career path, you do not always have to go to college to do so. If you are passionate about something, then go after it.

Jill Stepper retired from her past job, working at a bank, and decided she wanted to open her own

business, Coffee with Friends. As a barista, she makes various delicious drinks and does what she loves the most—bringing people together.

“After retiring from my past job, I wanted to stay involved in the community and be able to keep in touch with friends and make new friends,” said Stepper. “Coffee makes me happy, and it brings people together.”

The process of getting her mobile coffee bus up and running was a new thing for Stepper. She did not have to go to college, but she had to take classes in Seattle with her daughter so they could both learn all the different techniques and methods behind making coffee. The classes showed them how to be the baristas they are today.



Jill Stepper smiles for the camera while working on her coffee bus./Destiny Medicine Cloud • The Brand



Jill Stepper with her employee and her daughter Noel Kao poses for a picture from the back window./Destiny Medicine Cloud • The Brand

“I did not have to go to college, but I did travel to Seattle for training on the products we offer,” said Stepper. “The training wasn’t as hard as it was fun. We went for four days and learned so much. It was a blast.”

The long process of getting her mobile coffee bus started had its struggles, but she has had her family there to support her and help her through the process of getting it up and running.

“Family always comes first; it’s not always easy, and starting a new business takes some time to build, but I schedule everything, and I have learned to find a balance,” said Stepper. “My family is very supportive, and I’m lucky to have a husband who is so supportive, along with my kids, who help whenever I need a hand. Trust me, being mobile has had its challenges, and I’m thankful for my family and friends.”



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# PEP BAND KEEPS SCHOOL SPIRIT HIGH

By Alexa Toscano

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Lowry High pep band anxiously waits to begin on senior night./ Ron Espinola •The Brand

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Kiara Vaca waits for her cue to begin playing the flute./ Ron Espinola •The Brand

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# PHYSICS TEACHER, MS. JESSICA LINDSAY, TEACHER OF THE ISSUE

By Cynthia Ruiz

Ms. Jessica Lindsay, one of the newest staff members teaches Physics and looks forward to what her teaching career will bring next.

Lindsay was a zookeeper before she took on her teaching career and still has a deep passion for animals. She also keeps animals and reptiles such as tarantulas in her classroom to keep her and her students company.

With her busy schedule, one of the only things she checks on her phone is the constant emails that she receives all day. She doesn't leave her house without looking her best.

She always has to make herself look presentable not only for her but for others. She also has the ultimate goal to be fully content in her life.

Lindsay studied science in college and was a good student but she didn't study enough to get the GPA that she desired.

"I wish I studied more in college,"

said Lindsay. "I would have graduated with a higher GPA and I could have been eligible for more masters programs."

**"I care about people deeply."**

If her students were to describe her it would be silly, even though she jokingly plays around with her students she seriously takes her job.

"My students would describe me as quirky," said Lindsay. "I am silly-goofy but take my job very seriously."

Her strengths in life are all about having empathy for others, especially in tough situations. She cares about people and their well-being.

"My strengths have always been kindness and empathy," said Lindsay. "I care about people deeply."

Astrology deals with the study of planets and constellations; and tells precisely about the moment of someone's birth. Including their traits and characteristics that res-



Ms. Jessica Lindsay. /Winnada

onate with their zodiac sign. In this case, she believes in this because she lines up perfectly with what her zodiac describes her as a cancer.

People who are not exactly aware of where they are bothering her. It makes her almost lose her mind.

"Not being aware of your surroundings is my biggest pet peeve," said Lindsay. "I don't like oblivious people."

Her favorite childhood memory is very dear to her because of her Grandpa whom she had a great relationship and she had the best time during her childhood years. As well as her childhood dog that she loved as well.

"My 8th birthday is my favorite childhood memory," said Lindsay. "My Grandpa and dog were my best friends at the time and I love water."



Ms. Jessica Lindsay works as a line judge with Mr. Brandon Eastman. /Ron Espinola • The

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# BUCKAROO ROUNDUP WITH MYLA JONES, NATALIE PACHECO, AND ANGELEENA BURKE

By Alexis Galarza

Do you have a job?

MJ: I work at the Boys and Girls Club.

NP: I work at the Boys and Girls Club.

AB: I work at the Boys and Girls Club.

What are you most proud of?

MJ: I am most proud of my friends and family.

NP: I am most proud of my best friend Jhett.

AB: I am most proud of my friends and overcoming the things they don't talk about.

What would you change about Lowry?

MJ: I would change the drama issues at Lowry.

NP: I would change the drama.

AB: I would provide more contributions to the volleyball program.

What is your favorite soda?

MJ: Dr. Pepper.

NP: Cream Soda.

AB: Root Beer.

Pet peeve?



Natalie Pacheco, Myla Jones, and Angeleena Burke smile for a selfie at their work at the Boys and Girls Club./ Courtesy • Angeleena Burke

MJ: Being late and slow drivers.

NP: Loud chewing and slow walkers in the hallway.

AB: When someone doesn't go the speed limit.

What is the most important thing in your life?

MJ: God and the Gospel.

NP: My family and my boyfriend.

AB: God.

What do you like to do in your off time?

MJ: I hang out with friends or go on night drives.

NP: Go out with friends and drive around.

AB: I like to

spend time with my friends.

What is your favorite kind of Christmas cookie?

MJ: Green and red M&M cookies.

NP: Sugar Cookies.

AB: Homemade sugar cookies.

Where were you born?

MJ: Reno, NV.

NP: Pomona, California.

AB: I was born in Reno.

What do you want to do after high school?

MJ: I want to become an Orthodontist or Dental Hygienist.

NP: Go into schooling for Medical Assistant.

AB: I want to be a Marine Biologist and work at Clearwater Marine Aquarium in Florida.

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# WHAT'S ENTERTAINING

## CROCHETING

By Lainey Novacek



Crochet flowers I made for my mom for Mother's Day./ Lainey Novacek • The Brand

During the past year, I have picked up crocheting. I have always loved figuring out how to make things work and creating physical objects I can keep, so crocheting was a mixture of both. It was entertaining to figure out how the yarn and the hooks worked together to create plushies, pillows, and blankets.

kets.

My first ever crochet project was a book sleeve, which I created for one of my friends. It took me about a week to figure it out, but it was amusing. Once I finished, I felt incredibly proud of myself for being able to figure it out. I love decorating my room with my projects and gifting my creations to people I care about. Crocheting has become a way to express my appreciation for those who have helped me over the years.

## PHONES

By Ludi Canales

Phones have become an integral part of our lives, serving as a means of communication and a source of entertainment. With the advent of smartphones, these devices have evolved into portable entertainment hubs that cater to our diverse interests and preferences.

One way phones entertain us is through social media

T H R E E   Z E R O   F O U R

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platforms.

These platforms allow us to connect with friends and family, share moments from our lives, and engage in discussions on various topics. The constant

stream of updates and notifications keeps us engaged and entertained throughout the day. Phones offer a plethora of gaming options that cater to different tastes. There is something for everyone, from casual puzzle games to immersive role-playing adventures. Gaming apps provide an escape from reality and offer a chance to unwind and relax.



The variety of social media apps people use./ Courtesy • Pixabay

## BEREAL

By Olivia Espinola

One thing that BeReal has given us is the information of what people are doing in the moment. It gives us a way to see what people are doing all the time. Getting to react to people's posts and comments if we feel like it. BeReal wasn't created that long ago and yet it is very successful. BeReal can be a good and bad thing at the same time. It's fun taking pictures of you or your friends and silly things happening but it can also get you caught with things. It can bring you closer or more involved with other people.

BeReal's monthly active users are over 21.6 million, 2.93 million users use and or open the app, and 73.5 million people use BeReal at least once a month. BeReal had the highest downloads in 2022. BeReal is and has been doing really well. Like every other social media platform, you can still keep in contact with people. You can't directly text someone on BeReal, and that's what makes it different than others and might be the reason why it is successful. It's just another great way to express yourself.

BeReal.

BeReal: Your Online Safety Guide - Safer Schools NI • The Brand  
The Be-real app logo./ Courtesy • Pixabay



# LEADERSHIP LENDS AN OPEN HAND DURING THE HOLIDAYS

By Alexis Galarza

All-year leadership does many projects to lend the community a hand. Around the holiday season, more people in our community are in need.

In order to help, leadership organized its annual food drive. The leadership class is asking for canned food and non-perishable items. For example, canned soups, macaroni, ramen noodles, granola bars, etc. All donations were sent to the Winnemucca

Food Bank.

As an incentive, class of the year points were awarded to the class that collects the most.

The leadership students were equally excited about the food drive.

"I think this is a really good way to help our community and help those in need," said senior class president Jacob Woolsey.

This food drive helped the community and allowing the leadership students to stay busy.

"We have to go collect all the food from all the classes so it will be a good way to keep busy and at the same time help our community," said senior vice president Joseph Vankuiken.

The collection process was a fun way for classes to receive class points and know who is in the lead at the end of each day.

"Donations can be dropped throughout the day and the student leadership class will do daily counts during 7th periods each day," said the Leadership Adviser Ms. Julia Top-



Ms. Julia Topholm. /Winnada

holm.

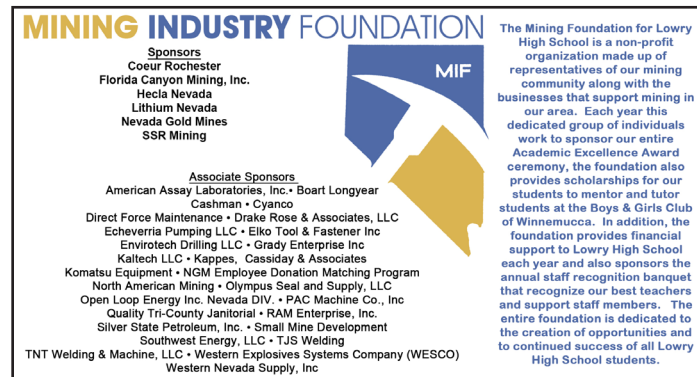
Topholm started this food drive because its benefits are twofold.

"One encouraging our Lowry Buckaroos to engage in service together and two, it is a way for us to help those in need in our community by donating to our local Winnemucca Food Bank and our Community in Schools program," said Topholm.

The food drive ran from December 4-8.



Joseph Vankuiken. /Winnada



# ANGEL TREE BRINGS GIFTS TO THOSE IN NEED

By Ally Green

The junior class and their class advisers are in charge of a community service project that gives back to children in need and can give them a memorable Christmas.

"The junior class and Mrs. Fifield and I work with the Frontier Community Action Agency on the project," said Mercado. "We send out applications through the school in early October to find the children we will be helping."

This process allows

them to identify the children they are supporting this year. Like other projects throughout our community, the high school is able to lend its support by giving back

**"Children who receive help from this program are students who are in need."**  
~Ms. Laura Mercado

during the holidays.

"Children who receive help from this program are students who are in need," said Mercado. "At the end of October, we

start putting angels on Facebook for the community to sponsor. We gather a read, a need, and a want for the children."

During the first week of December, the Junior class can prepare all of the presents for wrapping and distributing them to the families. This will happen on the first or second Saturday in December depending on how many presents need to be wrapped.

"This year we were able to provide Christ-

mas presents to 425 children," said Mercado. "These are kids who, because of our community's generosity, are going to be able to have a brighter, more merry Christmas."



Ms. Chereese Fifield. /Olivia Espino-la • The Brand

## WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SHOPKINS

By Yizel Martinez

Let's go back to our childhoods. You get home from school and find yourself playing with your huge collection of tiny collectible toys, Shopkins. Fast forward a few years, and you find yourself playing "Real Littles".

Over the years, Shopkins have launched new Shopkins, whether their common, rare, ultra rare, exclusive, or limit-

ed edition, they have all had something special. Shopkins even went far enough to launch dolls, "Shoppies".

But one question, what happened to Shopkins?

When Shopkins were first launched, they were one of the world's best-selling toys. Today, there is no such thing as Shopkins, as they were renamed Real Littles in 2019.

Shopkins came a long way and were part of

most childhoods, but today the only way to get a hold of Shopkins is by buying Real Littles, which is not the same for some.

The range of tiny collectibles was popular, especially since there were many to collect with many different themes. The most popular Shopkins were the grocery items.

The creators of the miniature figures even went far enough to launch games such as board games and even mobile games.

Shopkins have trans-

formed from being popular, collectible toys, to almost not being mentioned at all. The Shopkins collectibles are in the past now but the real questions are, will they ever be coming back? Or will they be gone forever?

Whatever happened to Shopkins?



Shopkin mini collectible toys. /Martinez • The Brand







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# WHAT DOES THE HOMECOMING GAME MEAN TO THE BUCKAROOS?

By Stella Hammargren

The Homecoming game against South Tahoe was quite the game with the Buckaroos winning 38-20. Luke Fentress, Roan Hornbarger and Logan Jonas were interviewed on their thoughts on the game.

The homecoming game was a very emotional but exciting game for many seniors, one of these seniors is Hornbarger.

"I'm most excited about it being the homecoming game and we get one last

chance to play for our home team," Hornbarger said.

The players work very hard to impress the crowd, these become motivators for some players.

"My teammates and coaches help me go onto the field," Fentress said.

The homecoming game was extremely special for

some players, one of them being Hornbarger.

"The game was special because it was our last homecoming game, it gave us one more chance to show the crowd who we were," Hornbarger said.

The homecoming game was almost a privilege for some players, this is because it was their last game with the seniors.

"I feel that the last home game with the seniors was truly a privilege because I will never be able to play with them again," Jonas said.



Roan Hornbarger, Logan Jonas and Luke Fentress after the game. / Allison Green • The Brand

## LOWRY VOICES: WHAT IS A GOAL YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH BY GRADUATION?

By Keira Garner



Senior Jazmin Bautista.

"Realistically in the end I just hope I make it to graduation."



Freshman Thomas Voges

"A goal I have is to get several scholarships before I graduate."



Junior Evangeline Morgan

"By the end of my four years here at Lowry I hope to maintain good grades and pick up life skills along the way."



Sophomore Alyssa Venzor

"A goal that I hope to accomplish by graduation is to have better grades and a more positive outlook on everything around me."