

The Brand

Lowry High School

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Winnemucca, Nevada

INSIDE

Opinions

Tara Sanders discusses why giving during the holidays is important.



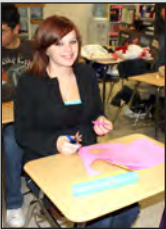
Sports

Check out Murgel and Cabatbat's predictions.



Student Life

Camille Lyon takes you for look inside the Lowry Leadership class.



Arts and Entertainment

Hollywood Hunk: Ryan Reynolds.



INDEX

News.....	1-2
Opinion.....	3-4
Sports.....	5-7
Student Life.....	8-10
A&E.....	11-12

What colleges really look for in applications

By Mary Granath

At Lowry High School, and most high schools in general, there are numerous things that the administration and advisors tell you will help get you in to the college of your choice. Such things as the Honors Diploma, Key Club, letters of recommendation, National Honor Society, and Student Body or Class Office positions, are recommended as ways to elevate your application to the next level. However, these stimulants can sometimes only cause the application process to be more harrowing than it already is. So the question arises of whether or not colleges actually care about any of these things and whether or not the application process is worth the pain.

On collegeboard.com Brigham Young University (BYU) lists "Religious Affiliation", "Rigor of secondary school record", and "Standardized Test Scores" in the top five of their "very important admission factors."

On the ACT 94% of BYU's students scored between a 25 and a 30, and 62% of students have a 3.75 GPA or higher (collegeboard.com).

University of Nevada: Reno (UNR), on the other hand, has a different view. On collegeboard.com they have only two very important admission factors: "rigor of secondary school record", and "academic GPA".

The representative for UNR, Rena Hanks, agreed with this saying "Our main criteria is GPA on core classes."

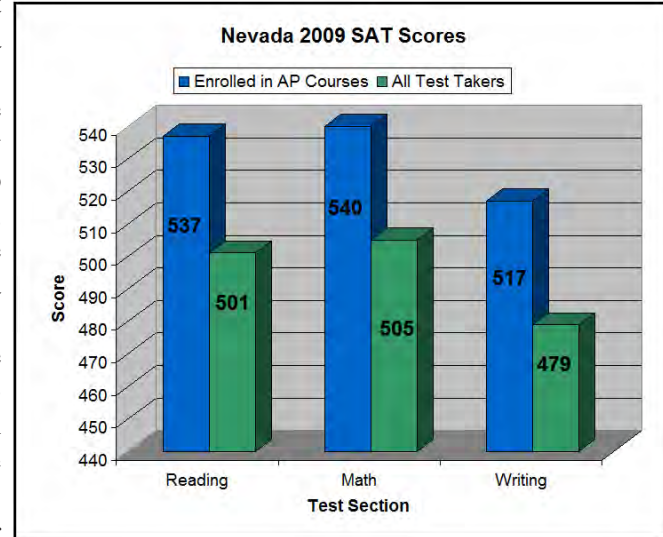
When asked whether or not receiving an Honors Diploma makes a difference Hanks stated "if honors classes make up the honors diploma or they take additional core classes to receive the honors diploma, then yes, it would receive more weight," however, even if a student took honors and A.P. classes yet did not apply for the Honors Diploma, their application would still be just as good as someone's who did receive the Honors Diploma.

At UNR, extra-curricular activities do not boost a student's application unless you are applying to the Honors Program, in which case membership in National Honor Society is considered to be important.

In addition to the many things that require attention, one more to add to the list is whether or not the early decision option is for you. In an article posted at U.S. News,

"It doesn't matter whether you go to Yale or UNLV, you'll learn exactly how much you're willing to learn."

~ Katy Granath, college student



the author stated, "If you really, really know which college you have to attend, the "early decision" application route could be your best chance at getting in...With early decision, you can take advantage of the higher acceptance rates that many colleges offer to students who apply early."

But what it really comes down to is whether or not the whole application process is worth the effort it takes. In an article posted at U.S. News, David L. Marcus, a volunteer interviewer for Brown University, actually refers to the admission process as "a game whose stakes really are not that high" implying that what college you go to doesn't really make a difference. Many agree with this theory stating that it doesn't matter where you go, what counts is the effort you put into your education.

See COLLEGE page 2

3A may finally approve realignment for 2010-11 school year

By Mary Granath and Ron Espinola

Realignment has been talked about for years but now it seems it may actually happen.

The NIAA is currently considering several options that would drastically change the composition of the Northern 3A.

The current league consists of nine schools except for foot-

ball for which there are only eight.

One option is not viewed as a permanent solution especially considering the reduced number of teams in the Southern 3A.

This option would have Virgin Valley, Moapa, and Boulder City play against 4A opponents such as Chaparral for league play and then break apart for playoffs. The Northern 3A would remain the same with

the possible additions of Fallon, South Tahoe, Elko, and Wooster. The north would also break out for playoffs.

The second option under consideration seems to have more support. This proposal would form three new leagues in the north (see page 2) which would include current 2A, 3A, and 4A teams.

"If it came down to where we were going to have a six team

league, six in the north and three in the south, or this, I would take this," said Lowry Athletic Director Byron Jepps.

The south would include several 4A schools that have had difficulty competing in recent years.

See REALIGN page 2



Courtesy • WINNADAA
Byron Jepps.

Realign

For example, Mojave is 2-16 in football in the last two years. However, the boys basketball team is 42-11 during the same period.

"One worry that some might have is many of these schools are very good at boys basketball," said Jeppsen.

One of the major drawbacks of this option is that smaller schools such as Whittell and North Tahoe would regularly play schools several times their size.

In addition, a larger school may be able to dominate a sport until the next realignment. However, the plan may include a trigger that would force a school to go up if it excels in post season play. The trigger would activate based on a point system for certain finishes in the playoffs. For example, a state championship would be worth 500 points. If the school earned 2500 points over a two-year period, it would trigger up. This would only apply to schools with more than 2500 students.

In addition, qualifying for the post-

season is yet to be determined. One option is a point system in which qualifying for the post season would depend upon a school's record against larger schools. For example, four points would be awarded for beating a 4A team, three for a 3A team and so on. The drawback of this option is that schools in central and eastern Nevada are unlikely to get the opportunity to play 4A teams out of league.

"That [point system] puts us at... maybe at a little of a disadvantage, because our 2A neighbors are really good football schools," said Jeppsen.

Although there are some negatives, the plan does help districts save money. Under the plan each school affected in the north would save in terms of travel time and money due to the regional composition of the leagues. In addition this is already done for soccer.

Wendover would save the most by cutting off almost 3600 miles of travel for round trips. Meanwhile Lowry would be one of the least impacted with

a reduction of only 202 miles. Washoe County would save approximately \$150,000 while statewide the savings would be over \$500,000. However, there would be crossover games that were not calculated into the travel distances.

Jeppsen agrees with making a change but thinks it can be improved.

"I think there needs to be more divisions than just these three (see table), to put us in a division with Lovelock and Fallon," said Jeppsen.

A direct benefit of less travel is that student-athletes would miss fewer classes.

The plan would also create more balance between the northern and southern 3A. Currently the north has three times the number of schools and therefore gets more repre-

sentation at state tournaments. A larger overall division could give a state title more meaning to the winner.

"Most of the Northern 3A is in agreement; we like competition. We want our state title to mean something."

The decision of realignment is still pending and athletic directors from all schools are continuing to discuss options.

"They want to try to do things sooner than later," Jeppsen said.

Ruby Mt.	Lyon Cnty.	Mt. Rose	Football Only
Lowry Spring Creek Battle Mt. White Pine W. Wendover Elko*	Dayton Fernley Yerington ROP Lovelock Silver Stage Fallon*	Sparks Truckee Incline N. Tahoe Whittell S. Tahoe* Wooster*	Lowry Spring Creek Dayton Fernley Sparks Truckee Elko* Fallon* S. Tahoe* Wooster*
Example of one of the 3A realignment proposals. * Depends on school agreeing to join league.			

College 330

Katy Granath is someone who agrees with this theory. Granath graduated from Lowry in 2009 and now attends Seattle University. She concurs that the college isn't what makes the difference it's your own personal commitment.

"If you're willing to put in the time and energy, it doesn't matter whether you go to Yale or UNLV,

you'll learn exactly how much you're willing to learn."

Granath also gave further details about the application process and what parts of her application colleges actually cared about.

In regards to the Honors Diploma Granath stated, "A college doesn't care what title comes before the word diploma. They do care how many

honors and AP courses you've taken, however, so taking those kinds of classes is never a bad idea."

Granath also said that participation in extra-curricular can aid your application. "The college looking over your app wants to know that you're more than just a test-taking robot. They want to make sure you're going to be a valuable addition to

their school personally...It really doesn't matter what activity it is, just that you have one."

There are many parts to the application process, some that are irrelevant and others that matter immensely. However, figuring out which are important is more difficult that people assume. It depends on the college and one's own personal opinion.

Governor Gibbons: Nevada could face more cuts as revenues fall short of spending

By Staff

In a December statement, Governor Jim Gibbons said the state's budget is in the red once again.

After last year's cuts and increases in tax revenues many thought the state's economic picture had improved. However, according to the governor, Nevada still faces some serious fiscal issues.

"Preliminary indications show Nevada has spent in excess of 50 million dollars more than it has taken in-just in the first three months of the fiscal year," said Gibbons.

Gibbons will convene the Economic Forum with a mandate of re-

porting to him by January 19, 2010.

According to the statement revenue increases have been outpaced by increases in spending.

As a precaution, Gibbons is asking the directors of state agencies to prepare budgets that include spending cuts of 1.4% and 3%.

Unfortunately this may not be the worst case scenario.

"I may



Courtesy • <http://gov.state.nv.us/>
Governor Jim Gibbons.

request more budget reduction scenarios as we develop a better picture

of our revenue shortfall," said Gibbons.

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Should colleges consider service for acceptance?

By Camille Lyon



As seniors are applying for college, they are trying to recall all of the community service they have ever performed in their high school career. This seems to be the key for getting into those "big name" colleges. Voluntary community service is considered what makes you a good student.

I would like to question this theory. Is it really community service that de-

termines my success within a university? I like to think I would be the same person without all of the community service hours I have compiled over my high school years. I feel secure in my future knowing I did a fair amount of volunteer work, but I know there are students who are academically qualified who may have never completed even one hour of community service.

Community service does not make anyone any more qualified for college. Universities are just hoping volunteer work will shape aspiring students into well-rounded people.

There are multiple websites that aid college bound students in finding community service. Websites such as dosomething.org allow teens to become involved in certain activities or charitable organizations. This website's motive is to involve teens in activities that utilize their energy and turn it into positive action. I am sure that most of the teens involved in this program are enjoying the good work they are doing but they also know it is getting them one step closer to an acceptance letter from a college.

Many argue that the time spent for community service is more valuable

than the money earned. According to 25 of the top 50 colleges in America, 37.5% ranked community service as fourth in order of importance for valued requirements for college acceptance (<http://www.dosomething.org/survey>).

Even though community service may seem like something you don't want to do. Colleges do prefer it. It may be beneficial to someone who wants to be accepted in a top university, but keep in mind the genuine feelings of community service. Make sure your community service is true and not obligated.

National media outlets are showing their bias in many ways

By Amy Balagna



The media is wholly, entirely, and completely biased. With all these opinions and commentators coming from the left and right; who are we to listen to? Who on television and the internet can we trust?

The headlines of major news agencies are sometimes drastically different or, at times, so padded with unnecessary words that they give an entirely different meaning.

For example, FoxNews' headline in regards to President Obama's recently announced Afghanistan exit plan states, "Obama announces quick surge and exit plan" instead of simply stating that the President announced an exit plan. This was supposedly a news story and it was written like a commentary. MSNBC ran an Associated Press story for the same topic which is the most fair, strait news in the media today. Not to say that MSNBC is always balanced and unbiased.

MSNBC has a liberal slant while FoxNews leans to the right. One only has to watch "Countdown with Keith Olbermann" or the "O'Reilly Factor" to see the

evidence.

Fox recently admitted to using the wrong video footage to make us believe that the Republican events have been getting more public interest than they actually have. However, MSNBC ran Photoshopped pictures of Sara Palin. The truth is that the media is a complete mess.

And these are just examples of obvious bias. There are always hidden influences in news stories. If I'm not thinking about what I'm reading, most of them slip by. So who in the media should we trust? I would say no one.

Punching, kicking, and hair pulling: Female athletes are also competitors

By Mary Granath



Although most people may think of men's sports as being more violent, in recent years an upsurge in violence has been occurring in women's sports. This unsportsmanlike conduct has been causing trouble not only in professional sports but also at the high school and college level.

Most of us remember seeing footage of Serena Williams flying off the handle at the U.S. Open, but if you thought that was outrageous it's nothing compared to the temper of Elizabeth Lambert, a New Mexico soccer player with attitude. When facing off against BYU in a soccer match, Lambert jerked one of her opponents to the ground by their pony-tail, punched another in the back, and repeatedly kicked and tripped girls until they fell to the ground. The only punishment Lambert received during game was a yellow card. It wasn't until a few days

later after reviewing the footage that Lambert was suspended indefinitely by the University of New Mexico.

However, in men's sports this behavior is not only common, but sometimes even expected. Why then does it become nation wide news when aggressive outbursts occur in women's sports? Many people claim that it's because such a flare-up simply isn't anticipated coming from a woman, but why shouldn't it be? Women are just as competitive as men and apply themselves just as hard to whatever sport they are involved in.

Even more hypocritical than the disgrace it brings is the punishment the women sometimes receive. In many cases women are fined more or suspended longer than men would be if they had committed the same act. Serena Williams was fined \$82,500 in September for her outburst, however in 2001 Roberto Alomar, second baseman for the Baltimore Orioles, received virtually no punishment for spitting in an umpire's face. Alomar received a 5-game suspension, but af-

ter appeal was allowed to play numerous games before serving his suspension.

The treatment women are receiving in response to an occasional angry outbreak is unfair and undeserved. Before people judge, they should con-

sider how they would feel about the same outbreak if it was a man doing the complaining. It's unreasonable to hold women to a different standard than men simply because there is a skewed view that women must be polite and angelic.



Dos and Don'ts: Deciding where to go to college

By Amy Balagna



So I'm really excited to graduate, to get out of here and have some kind of adventure but as I was thinking about college and looking into schools really far away I got a little upset with myself because instead of wanting to get as far away as possible I felt I wanted to stay close, to my family and to where I grew up. I found myself desperately wanting to go to UNR. For me, it's perfect. It's close to home, I have a brother already attending the school and it's located in a city large enough to entertain me without scaring me with its size.

I am really happy with my decision. I've realized that UNR is a really good school; it has a ton of options. I don't quite know exactly what I want to do with my life but the school has something to interest everyone.

I urge you to not discard the state school because a large percent of the students at Lowry that go on to college choose to go there. That's pretty much all I hear, that UNR is just like Lowry because everyone goes there. But there is no way that you won't meet any new people. There is not a chance that you will see the same people from Lowry daily unless you want to.

Plus, the campus is absolutely beautiful; it has a classic feel that makes me want to learn. And the on campus living is decent, and by that I mean not disgusting...

The campus is close enough to home but far enough away to create a nice balance and Reno has a ton of stuff to do. There is always a quality concert in town...

So I'm telling you not to discard a great school because you have heard things. When applying to college there are a ton of things you have to think about, location, academics, and all the other little things that will make you feel comfortable.

Nevada ranks near the bottom for overall health

By Megan Griggs



When you think of unhealthy, polluted, and just down right disgusting places to live; bigger cities come to mind.

One thinks of New York, Chicago, or Los Angeles. But sadly, and quite frighteningly, Forbes.com shows us that Nevada is number 45 on the 2009 list for the healthiest places to live. That's like saying Nevada is the 5th worst state in the US. All the other states below us on the list are more southern states such as South Carolina and Louisiana.

Topping the charts are Vermont

and Utah followed by Massachusetts. So how did this happen to us, how did Nevada get to be one of the worst states to live in?

Personally I thought that our state was pretty great. I have never been embarrassed or ashamed to tell people where I come from. Research shows that a multitude of things together have helped to bring us down as a state.

Let's take smoking for instance, Nevada is ranked number nine on the top 10 states with the most smoking. Most of this probably comes from the fact that Nevada had legal gambling, so we have tons of casinos, and with casinos comes lots of smoking.

Another factor that is putting us

at 45 on the charts is the fact that we have the 9th highest obesity rate in the country. Statemaster.com reports that 54.6% of Nevadans are overweight or obese.

While Nevada has tried things such as cutting the fat intake of students at school, and trying to promote a healthier life style by eating right and exercising, it seems none of that has really helped in a significant way.

I don't have the answers to these problems, and I can't really come up with a plan to decrease these bad things. I do hope though, that Nevada can come together and try to find a way to clean up our state and put us at number one on the charts for next year.

Focus on giving rather than receiving for the holidays

By Tara Sanders



The holidays should be filled with time spent with your family, doing good for others, and all the little things that put us in the Christmas spirit. But, that's not

what is usually on our minds when this time of year comes around. The only thing that most start to think about are all the gifts they better be receiving from their family. Even though our economy is not doing too well, we think we're entitled to everything on our wish list just because it's Christmas.

Our society has taken the holidays and turned them into one big gift exchange. Sure, it's great to give gifts to

those that you care about, but not when that's all we associate with the holiday season. We expect to get the shiniest gadgets that technology has to offer instead of expecting to spend time with family. We expect to walk into the living room on Christmas morning to find a tree overflowing with presents to unwrap instead of looking forward to a grand Christmas dinner with all of your loved ones. The Christmas spirit has been covered with a blanket of the wrong expectations, and I think it's time to remove that blanket.

The holidays should not only be about presents. I believe that giving is more beneficial to your happiness than receiving. And what better way to bring joy to your self and to others than giving to families who will not have a big Christmas because their income just won't al-

low that. Instead of spending your money on the petty stocking stuffers, why not give to those who can't even heat their house during the cold winter months? Or when you see the man sitting on the corner with everything he owns beside him, instead of just walking by, show some kindness and give him the gift of a warm beverage and a smile.

We have become a selfish nation when it comes to the holidays. So this holiday season, why not help out families in need of a little Christmas cheer. And when you're done unwrapping all of your gifts and come to find that you didn't get what you most desired, that just so happened to be the most expensive, just remember to be thankful for what you do have... A roof over your head, a warm bed to sleep in, and a family that loves you.



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The bowls according to coaches Murgel and Cabatbat

By Ben Norfolk

Football coaches Shaun Murgel and Taau Cabatbat have put their reputations on the line once again to pick the winners of some of the key bowl games.

Ohio State will play the favored Oregon Ducks in the Rose Bowl. Ohio States QB Terrelle Prior is having a great season with a passer rating of 128 and has thrown for 1828 yards. Oregon QB Jeremiah Masoli has a passer rating of 133.7 and he has thrown for 2066 yards.

Murgel picked Oregon because the game is played on the west coast and Ohio State cannot keep up offensively. Cabatbat picked Oregon because Ohio State has not been playing well.

This year's Sugar Bowl will pit the Florida Gators against the Cincinnati Bearcats. Prior to the game, Bearcat coach Brian Kelly accepted the head coaching job at Notre Dame. Therefore he will not be on the sidelines for Cincinnati. Florida QB Tim Tebow has a passer rating of 155.6 and he has thrown for 2413 yards. Cincinnati QB Tony Pike has 2350 yards after missing sev-

eral games due to injury. Murgel picked Florida because of the distractions Cincinnati will have with the absence of its coach. Cabatbat took the Gators because Time Tebow is mad about the loss to Alabama.

The Nevada Wolf Pack plays the Southern Methodist University Mustangs in the Hawaii Bowl. Current SMU



Courtesy wolfpack.com

coach and former Hawaii June Jones will return to his old stadium. Nevada has the leading rushing attack in the nation and has three players who have rushed for over 1000 yards. Nevada QB Colin Kaepernick is having another great season with a passer rating of 142.8 and has 3035 all purpose yards. The Mustangs QB Bo Levi Mitchell has a passer rating of 117.9 and has thrown for 1725 yards. This is the Mustangs first bowl game in over 20 years. Both Murgel and Cabatbat picked Nevada.

Heisman Trophy winner and Ala-

bama running back Mark Ingram will lead the Crimson Tide against the Texas Longhorns in the BCS Championship Game. Longhorn QB Colt McCoy has a passer rating of 147.5 and he has thrown for

3512 yards. Greg McElroy the QB for Alabama has a passer rating of 142 and has thrown for 2450 yards. Alabama is favored by 5.5. Murgel favors Alabama in a high-scoring shootout. Cabatbat took Alabama because they have a great all-around team.

Last season the Boise State Broncos and the TCU Horned Frogs faced off in the Poinsettia Bowl and TCU came out with a 17-



Al Diaz/Miami Herald/MCT
Mark Ingram



Joe Jaszewski/Idaho Statesman/MCT
The BSU defense forces a fumble.

16 win. This season they face off again but in the Fiesta Bowl. Boise QB Kellen Moore has a passer rating of 167.4 and has thrown for 3325 yards. Andy Dalton the QB for TCU has a passer rating of 159.6 and has thrown for 2484 yards. Murgel picked TCU because they have more speed than Boise State. Cabatbat picked TCU because he believes TCU is the best team in Texas, although BSU is not in Texas.

The Iowa Hawkeyes and the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets play in the Orange Bowl. Ricky Stanzi the QB for Iowa has a passer rating of 130.6 and has thrown for 2186 yards. The QB for the Yellow Jackets, Josh Nesbitt, has a passer rating of 156.8 and has thrown for 1689 yards. Murgel picked Georgia Tech because they have a better offense. Cabatbat also picked Georgia Tech.

In the Las Vegas Bowl, the Oregon State Beavers will play the BYU Cougars. Beaver QB Sean Canfield, has a passer rating of 148.3 and has thrown for 3103 yards. Cougar QB Max Hall has a passer rating of 160.9 and has thrown for 3368 yards. Murgel picked Oregon State. Cabatbat picked BYU.

What to Watch

By Ben Norfolk

In addition to a full slate of bowl games you should kick off your vacation by watching the following games.

Cowboys vs Saints



Harry E. Walker/MCT
Robert Meachem

The Dallas Cowboys will travel to New Orleans to play the Saints. The Saint are undefeated this season. Dallas has had some good games this season but they have had some tough losses to the New York Giants, the Denver Broncos, and Green Bay Packers. The Saints have almost lost to the Washington Redskins and to the Miami Dolphins. The Saints are number one in yards per game. The Cowboys are third in yards per game. The game will be on Saturday aired on the NFL channel at 8:30.

Ben says: Cowboys

Bengals vs Chargers



Ed Suba Jr./Akron Beacon Journal/MCTMCT
LaDainian Tomlinson

The Cincinnati Bengals are traveling to San Diego to take on the Chargers. The Chargers lead the AFC in points per game 28.5. The Chargers Quarterback Philip Rivers is third in the NFL for Quarterback rating with 104.9. The Bengals have Chad Ochocinco which has six touchdowns this season and he is averaging 14.7 yards a catch. Carson Palmer has completed 222 of 365 of his passes this season, and has 2547 yards this season. This game will be aired on CBS at 10 a.m.

Ben says: Chargers.

Colts vs Jaguars

The Indianapolis Colts are have a great undefeated season. They travel to Jacksonville to play the Jaguars. The Colts have beaten some real good teams this season, like the Patriots, and

the Texans. Earlier this season the Colts beat the Jaguars 14-12. Indianapolis is the fourth best offense this season. They lead the NFL in pass yards this season with 3633. Payton Manning has completed 322 of 460 passes this season. Maurice Jones-Drew of the Jaguars has 13 touchdowns this season and he has 1,077 rushing yards this season. The Game will be aired Thursday on the NFL Channel at 5:30 p.m.

Ben says: Colts

Gonzaga vs Duke

Two premiere college basketball teams will face-off this Saturday in a possible March Madness preview. Gonzaga travels to Duke hopefully upset the Blue Devils. The Gonzaga Bulldogs are averaging 76.6 points a game, and 6.5 steals a game. Duke is averaging 82 points a game, and 10.9 turnovers a game. This game will be aired on CBS at 10 a.m.

Ben says: Blue Devils

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Athlete of the Issue: Julia Dufurrena

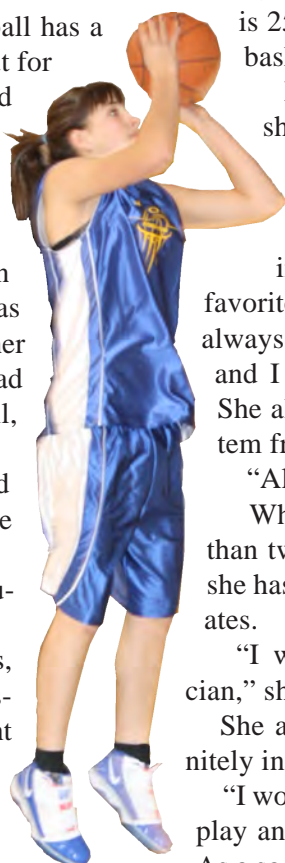
By Brooklyn Thomas

Lowry varsity basketball has a sophomore who stands out for more than her skills and dedication. She stands out because of her stunning personality. Julia Dufurrena, the youngest in her family, was born in Winnemucca, NV, and has participated in sports for her entire life. At Lowry she had participated in Volleyball, Track, and Basketball.

"I have always played sports, since I was a little kid," said Dufurrena.

She is not the only Dufurrena in this school,

"I have two cousins, Ryan and Josh, and my sister, Megan, is the assistant coach for basketball." Her family has been at Lowry for quite some time



"My sister played, basketball, track, and golf, and my brother, who is 25 now, did rodeo and played basketball."

Basketball is her favorite and she told us why, "Basketball is fast and has a high tempo,"

She joined sports when she was young, but was inspired to do better in her favorite sport by her sister, "I have always looked up to her, she played and I liked going to her games." She also has a sturdy support system from home.

"All my family supports me,"

While Dufurrena's has more than two years of high school left, she has some plans after she graduates.

"I want to be an x-ray technician," she said.

She also believes sports are definitely in her future,

"I would play basketball if I could play anything in college," she said. As a sophomore she has outstanding

Athlete of the Issue: Joel Mendoza

By Brooklyn Thomas

For this issue of The Brand, Joel Mendoza has been selected as 'Athlete of the Issue'. He was chosen because of his electric personality and exceptional basketball skills.

He is the youngest of six children, he has two sister and three brothers. He declared his "family is pretty calm, very calm people." One of Joel's brothers, Angel, has also played Buckaroo basketball. He stated that Angel is one of his greatest inspirations, especially when it comes to basketball.

"My brother Angel, he taught me how to play when I was young. So he is pretty much my inspiration," said Mendoza.

"It [Basketball] is the sport I like and have always succeeded in so I just de-

cided to follow that." Joel chose to focus on Basketball at a young age; it has been a big part of his life for a long time.

"I have been playing for 13 years around there 10-13years"

And never had much interest in other sports.

"I'm good at it and I'm not really good at anything else so might as well play something I'm good at," Said Mendoza. "I'm not really into any other sports."

After high school he plans on getting a higher education.

Mendoza stated that he has plans "to be an engineer or mechanic," or if he gets a scholarship "to play at a D2 school." He either wants to go to UNR or go to Arizona for college. He hopes he gets to play basketball at the college level.



Boys basketball making changes to achieve goals for the season

By Brittany Nielson

Last year the varsity boys basketball team lost to Boulder City at the state tournament. They were one game away from playing for a state title.

"It was a good game down to the last second shot," said head coach Lee Bosch but this year they plan to win State.

There are seven returning players: David Eastman, Danny Westfall, Joel Mendoza, Terrell Messerly, Andrew Stephen, Brandon Eldodt, and Zebidiah Teichert. These seven players will bring experience and depth to an already exceptional roster.

"Some goals for this season are to take it one game at a time," said Bosch. They are working on a different offensive approach this year, "we have a lot of very talented kids so we need to get them separated from the pack and let them do their stuff."

Of course Bosch would like to get a state championship but coaches focus on detail. Senior David Eastman has a slightly different outlook; he simply wants to improve over last

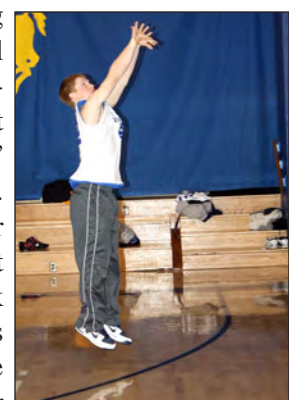
year's finish by winning state.

They will have some tough out-of-league games to see if these changes will work. Eastman feels that this year's team has come together better than last year and hope that this will payoff on court.

Lowry is playing 11 of 12 non-league games against 4A and 5A schools.

"There will be some bumps in the road but it will get better when the season goes on," said Bosch.

"Spring Creek will pose the biggest threat for Lowry," said Bosch. Last year Lowry beat Spring Creek three times "so they'll be looking for us," he said.



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The Lowry basketball team hopes to improve on last year's finish at state.

Courtesy • WINNADA

Girls basketball returns seven players for new season

By Mary Granth

Lowry is looking forward to an amazing season for their Varsity Girls Basketball team. Five new additions have been made to the team: Angie Herarra, Madi Gonzalez, Jenae Neu, Emelia Legarza, and Betsy Gurrero. These previous JV players join the seven remaining Varsity players: Skylar Estes, Darrian Black, Rachelle Dennis, Julia Dufurrena, Courtney Hammond, Ashlee Lee, and Lynnsey Johnson.

Although the team only lost three seniors last year, they were vital to the team.

"Two of those seniors were All-State players," said Coach Jack Smith. "They're going to be hard to replace. This pre-season will determine who's best fitted to fill those shoes."

Smith has brought up three sophomores, Herarra, Gurrero, and Gonzalez, to put a total of five sophomores on the team including Black and Dufferena



Courtesy • WINNADA

The girls basketball team lost three seniors to graduation but expectations remain high.

who made the team as freshmen.

"They are five fundamentally sound sophomores," said Smith. "They're very swift and tie right into Press [Defense]."

However, Smith is still looking to

the older athletes to set an example.

"I expect some leadership out of them, especially my four seniors... Skylar, Lynnsey, Ashlee, and Courtney are going to be there for those five sophomores."

Smith is encouraging team chemistry on a daily basis.

"As a basketball coach from day one you're talking about bonding and chemistry. As far as team bonding, I'm preaching that every day."

The Lady Bucks had their first game of the season when they faced off against Lovelock. However, the biggest competition the team will be facing this year is Spring Creek.

Smith stated that Spring Creek will be Lowry's greatest rival this year but, "a close second would be Truckee."

The team is continuing to work hard each day and is trying to make progress from last year. "The girls are really catching on. I've got players who have been with me a few years and they know the system."

The team's main goals for this year are, "To improve every game so by the time league rolls around we're in a cohesive unit... and get ourselves back in the championship game," said Smith.

Lowry wrestlers return to defend state title

By Brooklyn Thomas

Last year the Lowry wrestling team took the 3-A state championship. Therefore, this year the bar is set high for them because they are a target for all those teams competing for the state title.

"We have a big target on our back with being the state champs," said head coach John Brooks. However, the wrestlers think they can take the pressure.

"As of the first match we look pretty strong," said Senior Skylar Bleck.

"We have gotten some better ones [athletes], we

have Michael Billingsley... he'll do well for a freshman and Mitch Pollock, he'll help us out in tournament and scoring points for us," said Sophomore Gus Duncan.

Lowry is looking at Spring Creek as their biggest competition. Nevertheless, the Bucks have some high goals for the season.

"Every year you have your eye on the state championship, this year will be no different," said Brooks.

The Buckaroos also have a wide variety of wrestlers.

"Right now it's the middle I know we have at 135's seven or eight kids; I think it's the middle weight because we have a lot more

kids and a lot more depth and a lot more talent," said Duncan.

The Bucks look forward to an interesting season ahead of them.

The Lowry Buckaroos' next meet will be in Winnemucca at the Convention Center this Thursday through Friday.



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Jake Maga and Gus Duncan.



Courtesy • WINNADA

Lowry's wrestling team will return to action to defend its state title.

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Student petition seeks to change Lowry parking

By Camille Lyon

Some students look at the parking with a negative outlook. Since the parking change took effect in 2006, many have been criticizing the new layout. Many may not know that the parking plan was enacted because of an overall safety issue.

Students have been taking a proactive step forward in changing the parking for future classes. There are some students who have started petitions and asked to present their argument at a school board meeting.

Brad Pearce is one of the students



Camille Lyon • THE BRAND

Students parking on Granada street and vacant lots.

who are trying to propose a change. He proposed to have a senior lot be put back in place. "As seniors we have no privileges," said Pearce, "it would be nice to have our own parking lot." Pearce attempted to take his argument to the school board, but at this time they believe that the current policy and traffic flow is effective and in the best interest of student safety. His proposal was denied. Seniors argue that the senior parking lot is a great fundraiser for the senior class. "We need the funds," said senior Courtney Hammon.

"It is my understanding that the police department is very happy with the decrease in the number of accidents," said Mrs. Debbie Watts. The parking may be a hassle now, but do realize it is only a three year old plan. According to the new traffic flow of the current plan, everyone is safer. Overall Mrs. Watts appreciates the safety aspect of the current parking plan.

Many students choose not to park in the student section dirt lot because it is hassle being in a congested lot. Students with nice cars are concerned with the condition of their car if they decide

to park in the lot. Students either choose to park in the lot, up Kluncy Canyon or on Granada Street, or in the authorized personnel lots that are reserved for staff and visitors only.

Many students feel they would be more likely to park in the student lot if it were paved and painted, but many do not understand the funding it would need. The school board has looked into paving the student lot, but with the current budget cuts it was not a top priority. In order to pave the lot, there has to be a drainage plan, and the school board is focusing on other issues.

"It was very expensive," said Watts, "I understand the drainage may be the most expensive part."

With all of the criticism towards parking Watts is sympathetic with the students. "I am open for suggestions," said Watts.

There may be a more agreeable plan for parking that might appease some students, but until that plan is proposed, there will be no current change. The school is content with the parking now and there are no plans to change it, but the administration is open for



Camille Lyon • THE BRAND

The former senior parking lot now used for staff and visitors

suggestions because the overall negative attitude towards parking is apparent. Even though the senior parking lot proposal was denied for discussion at the school board meeting, the Superintendent, Vice Superintendent, Watts and the senior class are going to meet and discuss the concern with the funds for the senior class.

Watts realizes that not everything is solved, but she doesn't know what the solution may be. "I am willing to listen to the students," said Watts.

Hunting: More than a pastime for some Lowry students

By Savannah McDade

Hunting is and always has been a big part of our country. Once essential for survival, it is now more of a hobby, a popular hobby in rural Nevada. Senior Tyler Anderson claims that "a bad day hunting is better than a good day at work." Some people don't understand what makes hunting so appealing yet it is a key hobby for many.

What I enjoy most about hunting is

being outdoors, especially being in the mountains. For me, it is an exceptionally tranquil experience. I love hiking, and contrary to popular belief, hunting is very physically demanding. While I favor the serene aspect of hunting, it is in fact a sport and like any sport it is aggressive and competitive. The meat is also much better for you than the meat you buy from a grocery store because there aren't any artificial additives.

Many students at Lowry spend a lot



Courtesy • WINNADA
Colby Sampson.

of time and money on hunting. Junior Colby Sampson says that he usually goes hunting almost every weekend in November. "It's a lifestyle that I grew up with," Sampson said before recalling a particularly humorous turkey hunting trip in which he fell into a creek (planted in

the mud, gun and all) two times within twenty minutes.

The common stereotype is that only guys go hunting but there are many girls at Lowry who go hunting as well. Junior Kylee Meckley says that her family spends a lot of time hunting. "We go a lot, at least one week out of every month and we usually stay up there for 3 or 4 days, it's always been a big get together for us [family]," said Meckley, "it's always good to get out in the wilderness."



Courtesy • WINNADA
Kylee Meckley.

It is obvious that hunting has become a tradition; it's also a bonding experience. Junior Brian Tyree who goes hunting frequently says that the thing he likes most about hunting is being outdoors with his family and his advice for people who have never been hunting and don't understand it is to not judge hunting until you've tried it at least once.

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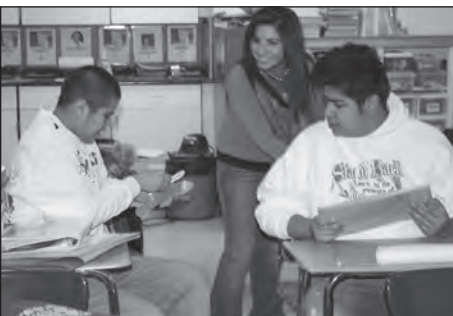
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Lowry Leadership: the driving force of the school

By Camille Lyon

Many may not know who the students behind many of Lowry's cherished activities are, but they should be respectively recognized. The Lowry leadership class consists of all of the class officers, student body officers, and many class representatives who take part in representing Lowry high school.



Camille Lyon • THE BRAND

Leadership students doing their work

The leadership student government class does more than just lead Lowry; they are active members in the community. The leadership students are the ones who make the charming posters around school, they fill the water machines, they recognize students and teachers monthly, and they plan the spirit weeks that consist of pep assemblies, dances, and dress up days.

Within the community the leadership class is known to be volunteering their time at many local functions. An active leadership student must complete up to five hours of community service each quarter. In one school year a leadership student performs a total of 20 hours of community service. They can be found at many charity events, local fairs, or any other event that requires volunteers.

In order to earn some of their leadership skills they attend workshops at regional conferences. Many of these workshops help to improve communication skills, or they provide ideas for future school functions. In order to be in leadership you must maintain a required GPA and prove to be productive.

On top of everything Lowry leadership does, they also provide The Brand with a monthly article about the activity that goes on within leadership. Currently the Leadership class is working on the food drive. The ministerial association relies heavily on Lowry for a majority of its donations and the leadership class organizes the donation.

"It's definitely not as easy as people think it is," said Senior class officer Brad Pearce, "we do a lot of stuff behind the scenes." Leadership takes up

a lot of time. Pearce is currently spending at least two hours a night working on a current project for the elementary students.

Leadership ultimately strives at achieving spirit at Lowry. They do their hardest to make every function fun for students.



Camille Lyon • THE BRAND

Megan Guild doing her leadership work

The Buckaroo Roundup

By Savannah McDade

BRENDAN KILCOURSE



"Do your best, work hard, and it'll pay off in the end."

What's your favorite class and why?
U.S. History with Mr. Beck because it's so much fun, it's a lot of interaction, Mr. Beck does it well... it's a lot of fun.

Do you have any hobbies?
I'm a writer, writing is my big thing, and the basic stuff like listening to music and computer games but primarily writing.

Do you have any pet peeves?
Rudeness, people

being rude and disrespectful.

What scares you?
I don't like getting up in front of people, but I'm working on it.

Do you have any role models?
My dad, and my teachers, I respect what they do.

One thing you want to do in life?
It's been my dream to drive a race car so if I could do that I would be happy.

LINDSAY DODSON



"Stay optimistic, don't let grades be the most important things, have fun."

What do you like best about piano?
It's stimulating, it calms my nerves.

Pet peeves?
Dirty hands, and rude people.

Most important things in your life? Why?
My family because they will always be there.

Most embarrassing moment?
One time at a piano recital I was walking up to the piano and I tripped over my shoes

and gave myself a bloody nose in front of a big crowd of people.

Role models?
My parents any my grandparents because they've shaped my life and given me hope.

If you could interview anyone living or dead who would it be?
Edgar Allan Poe because I want to know what went through his mind when he wrote all of those morbid things.

MICAH VANDREUMEL



"Do your homework and get good grades."

Have you ever lived anywhere else?
Yeah, I've lived in Anaheim California, and Reno

What is the most important thing in your life? Why?
My home back in California because that's where I grew up and it's where all of my friends and family live.

Who are your role models? Why?
Probably my dad, because he's really successful.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
California on the beach, and a surf instructor at a surf school.

One thing you want to do in life?
Compete in the Billa-bong xxl surf competition

If you could go back in time and visit any decade what would it be and why?
The 60's because they had good music and I want to go to Woodstock.

The perfect college for your needs

University of Nevada-Reno

By Amy Balagna

The University of Nevada is located in Reno, Nevada. It is the state's leading educational institute with over 70 possible majors and has been since 1874. Located on a 290-acre campus, the university has many historic and beautiful sites.

"I think it's beautiful. The buildings, even the new ones, are all brick and have a very classic feel. And all the trees make walking through campus nice," said current student Jay Balagna. The Campus is also located rather close to several ski resorts. The city of Reno consists of about 400,000 people.



Courtesy • unr.edu

The UNR campus.

Students planning on enrolling to the University of Nevada must receive a 3.0 weighted GPA including four English credits, three math, three social studies and three natural science classes. However the GPA requirement can be waived if a 22 or higher on the ACT is met, or a combined verbal and math score on the SAT of 1030. Students must apply to the University by March 1, however early application is currently taking place.

QUICK FACTS
Tuition&Fees: \$19,820
Min. GPA: 3.0
Ave. SAT: 1030
Ave. ACT: 22
Dorm: \$8469
Enrollment: 16,663
Acceptance Rate: 88%
App. Deadline: Feb. 1 priority

One can choose to attend any of the colleges and schools of: agriculture, biotechnology and natural resources, business, education, engineering, journalism, liberal arts, medicine, science, graduate school, and the division of health sciences. With so many choices every student can find something that interests them.

However the GPA requirement can be waived if a 22 or higher on the ACT is met, or a combined verbal and math score on the SAT of 1030. Students must apply to the University by March 1, however early application is currently taking place.

Linfield College, McMinnville, OR

By Camille Lyon

Linfield College is a private college located in McMinnville, Oregon. It is a liberal arts, four year school. It is one of the oldest colleges in the Pacific Northwest. It is a comprehensive learning college with a more challenging curriculum. It is often recognized for its strong teaching faculty. There is also a campus in Portland specializing in nursing and health sciences.

It has a very small community of students so the learning experience is personal compared to other universities where there may be 15,000 students.



DerRichter

Pioneer Hall at Linfield.

The school has about 1,800 students enrolled in Linfield. There are about 200 professors.

Linfield is

known as a college of higher education and is more selective of its students. The school traces its roots to the Baptists in 1849 before Oregon was granted statehood, so Linfield's religious association is Baptist.

Linfield's sports are represented by the Wildcats. Linfield Wildcats athletics participate in the NCAA division III Northwest Conference.

According to Linfield's website www.linfield.edu/academics.html, "The curriculum seeks to overcome intellectual provincialism, underscores the centrality of how one learns, provides a historical context, relates ideas to social structures, and affirms the importance of values in human life."

QUICK FACTS
Tuition&Fees: \$34,934
Min. GPA: NA
Ave. SAT: 1220
Ave. ACT: 27
Dorm: \$8,280
Enrollment: 1754
Acceptance Rate: 79%
App. Deadline: Feb. 15 priority

Boise State University

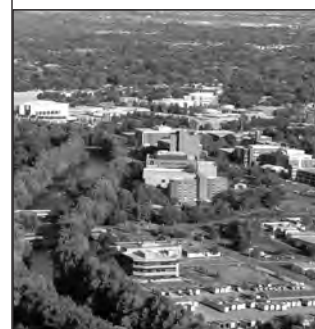
By Ben Norfolk

Boise State University (BSU), the home of the Broncos and the Smurf Turf, is located in Idaho's largest city.

"I love the football games," said Lowry graduate Hayley Noble a freshmen at BSU.

To become a Bronco you will need a 15 on the ACT or a 740 on the SAT. A minimum 2.0 GPA is also required to be considered at all.

Non-resident tuition is \$4502 for 12 credits.



Courtesy • boiseestate.edu

The BSU campus.

For a single credit non-residents pay \$80. For a double room the rate varies from \$2,284 to

\$3,304 and you can buy meals for a year for \$2,600. Since Boise is a decent sized city with a metro area population of over 500,000 BSU students have many activities to keep them busy.

"Boise is a cool town too. It's nice to have stuff to do compared to Winnemucca. There's the art museum, the movies, downtown, hiking, those types of things," said Noble.

BSU offers a wide range of disciplines. These range from education to engineering and business to criminal justice. To keep student on track BSU now offers a unique program called Finish in 4 Graduation Guarantee.

QUICK FACTS
Tuition&Fees: \$15,052
Ave. GPA: 3.35
Min. SAT: 740
Min. ACT: 15
Dorm: \$4742
Enrollment: 18,829
Acceptance Rate: 86%
App. Deadline: June 30

College of Idaho, Caldwell, ID

By Savannah McDade

The College of Idaho located in Caldwell, ID near Boise. The College of Idaho (previously called Albertson College of Idaho) is a private college established in 1891. According to its website it was recently ranked by the Princeton Review as the 20th best college in the US for "More Things to Do on Campus." The core of the curriculum is liberal arts, meaning that the curriculum is designed for all different types of learning.

The college's ultimate goal is to help students develop their own logical and creative abilities. Students are also required to take a physical education class which is a great attribute to this small school consisting of only about 900 students. Out of state tuition costs are roughly around \$20,000 to \$26,000 and for the first two years students are required to live on campus.

Joe Albisu who attended CofI said that while Idaho had a lot of great things to do outdoors, the town of Caldwell itself was kind of bland. However, "the campus

seemed like a community itself." Albisu said the because of the liberal arts core you learn to "become a generalist as well as a specialist."

The college schedule is unique because it has a six week winter term between fall and spring semesters. Many distinctive classes are offered and during that time students can study abroad, said Albisu. He also believes that you develop close friendships with the students and instructors because it is such a small campus,

"It isn't unusual to have professors invite you over for BBQ's and Christmas parties, they also would do finals breakfast where the instructors would serve you breakfast."

QUICK FACTS
Tuition&Fees: \$26,155
Ave GPA: 3.60
Ave. SAT: 1273
Ave. ACT: 27
Dorm: \$7,200
Enrollment: 822
Acceptance Rate: 74%
App. Deadline: June 1

If you have spare time on Christmas break here are seven sensational shows you should be watching

By Mary Granath

With Christmas break coming up, readers may have some extra time on their hands. Here are The Brand's recommendations on the top seven shows you should be watching.

"Glee"



fox.com

One of the performances from "Glee".

As the first season of this Fox series comes to a close, "Glee" is beginning to gather more and more viewers. Based around a club of singing misfits at McKinley High School, the show has just the right amount of zesty humor and moral lessons. For no other reason, people should watch this show Wednesday nights at nine, for the hilarious zingers coughed up every episode by "Cheerios" coach Sue Sylvester.

"The Office"

Now reaching its sixth season, this NBC comedy show never gets old. With new characters being introduced every season or so, the cast continues to be lively and hilarious. A series focusing on a paper company in New Jersey with an incompetent boss, "The Office" is one of the funniest shows on TV. Tune in Thursdays nights at nine.

"Saturday Night Live"

A show that's been around for nearly 35 years, SNL has had its ups and downs. However, this year SNL features a stunningly sensational casts and uproarious new skits every episode. A star that stands out in the series is Kristen Wiig, who's "Penelope" skits will guarantee to have you laughing until you cry.

"Modern Family"

Airing Wednesday nights at nine on ABC, "Modern Family" explores the everyday life of the average family... that is, if you consider average as

having two gay uncles, a grandfather who's married to a 25 year old Colombian woman, and a father who cancels Christmas.

"Bones"

One of the more original shows on



fox.com

A scene from "Bones" on Fox.

TV, "Bones" is a Fox drama/mystery/comedy/forensics series showing Thursdays at eight. Centering on Agent Booth of the FBI and his scientist sidekick Brennan, the witty quips between the two keep the show energetic while the mystery of each death keeps the show riveting.

"Chuck"

This NBC series which is set to start its third season anytime now, revolves

around, you guessed it, "Chuck". Chuck Bartowski, head of the Geek squad at a Best-Buy type store, has the unfortunate luck of having a government database of secrets downloaded into his brain by accident. Thus, he is now forced to accompany NSA agents on missions while attempting to keep his double life a secret from friends and family. "Chuck", showing Monday nights at eight, is a clever series that keeps viewers guessing until the end of an episode.

"Psych"

Based around best friends Shawn Spencer and Burton Guster (Gus) and their detective agency, "Psych" is filled with witty banter and mystery. Shawn, who has a good eye for details, portrays himself as a psychic to clients and the local police force in order to gain a status as a reputable detective. Shawn and Gus solve cases every episode using methods that some may consider immoral, but these methods never fail to produce a laugh. Don't miss this series on USA Wednesday nights at ten.

Lowry Music Booster Club raising funds for equipment and travel

By Brittany Nielsen

The Music Booster club is a club which parents help the music department with their needs such as music instruments, music supplies and money to go on trips. This club started out as some parents wanting to help out to get them wireless microphones and it progressed from there.

The Music Booster club has been able, with the help of generous parents to go on numerous trips and to festivals, like last year they went to Disneyland and the Los Angeles area. Four or five years prior to that they went to San Francisco. Swing Choir goes on tour in a different direction very year some past trips have been to the coast, Las Vegas, Salt Lake, Idaho, and Saint George.

You may think that this club is just for high school students but some parents bring their younger kids to get into music at a young age. Anybody is welcome to come and experience the music.

Some might compare this club to the Century Club; they do whatever they can to help out. This year they plan to have some scholarships for the students.



Brooklyn Thomas • WINNAD

Choir performs at a December concert.

Lowry Voices By Brittany Nielsen

What is your favorite Christmas movie?



Lane Barton Senior
"Christmas Story". It's a great movie."



Dasiy Morfin Senior
"Four Christmas", because it's a good family movie and its funny."



Karl Berentsen Senior
"A Christmas Story". Because it has a great story line and its funny."

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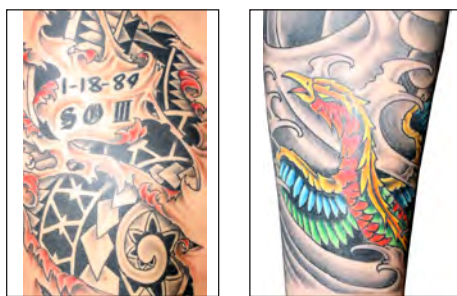
-One Sip & You'll Flip!-

Ink: What a tattoo says about a person

By Savannah McDade

Tattoos are very controversial; it was unique to have a tattoo 40 years ago, it just wasn't considered classy. I recall my grandma telling me that the only people she knew that had tattoos were people in the military, or convicted criminals (not linking the two). However, tattoos have become more accepted. Tattoos used to exemplify rebellion but it seems more young people are getting tattooed, so now people are better able to focus on the art of tattoos. Of course there are some instances when people get offensive or gang-related tattoos but overall tattoos have become an outlet for expressing oneself, assuming there is actually some reason behind your tattoo.

Mr. Taua Cabatbat got his first tattoo a week after graduating from high school.



Ron Espinola • THE BRAND

Examples of Cabatbat's (L) and Lucas' (R) tattoos.

He has numerous tattoos but his goal is to finish tattooing the right side of his body. One tattoo that he is particularly proud of is a "tiki guy" on his arm that he jokingly referred to as a life size figure of Mr. Espinola. Despite the pun aimed at Espinola, Cabatbat's real reason for getting tattoos is his Hawaiian culture, it dates back to when native Hawaiian warriors would engage in tattooing, "It's almost

like a résumé, you know, what you've done, things you're proud of, even things you're not proud of," said Cabatbat.

Cabatbat also acknowledged that there is a limit on tattooing; he said that it's about self-expression, not tattooing something pointless to your skin simply for the sake of doing it.

Regarding tattoos in the workforce Cabatbat said, "No one has ever questioned it, the way I look at it, as long as it's cultural and I'm doing it for a certain reason, and it's not tacky, I don't see why people would have a reason to question it."

Mr. Ty Lucas who also has many tattoos said that his family inspired his desire to get tattoos. Both of his grandfathers served in the Navy in World War II and had many tattoos. "I just always looked up to them and I figured that it

was a pretty cool way to express certain things in my life."

Lucas said that each tattoo that he has represents something, the entire tattoo that he has on his arm represents family.

Although tattoos are expensive, Lucas considers them artwork and isn't afraid to spend the extra money, "you can get one done for ten bucks in a garage by a guy named Earl, possibly get Hepatitis C, or you can spend the money," said Lucas.

Whether tattoos are an outlet for self-expression or a sign of rebellion, more and more young people are getting them as a way of stating their independence. There are many reasons that contribute to the cause of getting tattoos, some are personal like your child's name, or a design symbolizing a significant event in your life, while other reasons can be as blatant as, "I just think it looks cool."

Hunks of Hollywood: Ryan Reynolds

By Tara Sanders

Ryan Reynolds has all the qualities of a star. He's funny, handsome, and diversely talented. He has played in movies alongside the most famous celebrities. Comedy seems to be Reynolds' calling but he also plays in action, romance, and thrillers.

Reynolds was born in 1976, in Vancouver, British Columbia to a food wholesaler and a retail store saleswoman. His ambition to act came about at a young age when he was enrolled in a drama class. He failed the class, but it didn't deter his will to continue acting. From 1991 to 1996 Reynolds was in a variety of television shows and

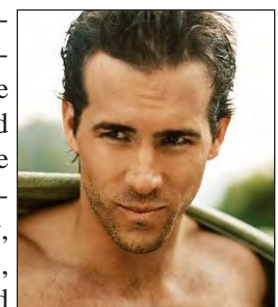
seem forgettable made for television movies. After his streak of insufficient roles, Reynolds decided to quit acting. Recognizing his friend's frustration, fellow actor, Chris Martin suggested that the two pack their bags and head for the Hollywood Hills. If it hadn't been for Martin's encouragement to pursue his career farther, Reynolds might not have become the star he is today.

Reynolds had little luck when they arrived to California, he crashed in a cheap motel and his car was stolen, stripped, and rolled down a hill. But, his luck changed in 1997 when he landed a leading role as Berg in "Two Guys, a Girl and a Pizza Place."

Following his success, Reynolds landed roles in movies such as, "Dick," "Bolt-neck," and later took the lead in "National Lampoon's Van Wilder."

In 2004 Reynolds went through intense physical training for the movie "Blade: Trinity," where he played the character Hannibal King. Reynolds had also played in thriller remake "The Amityville Horror." Soon enough, he found himself starring in two comedies, "Waiting" and "Just Friends." With his more prominent roles,

Reynolds' career was definitely on the rise. He snagged a memorable role in the romantic comedy, "Definitely, Maybe," and more recently, "The Proposal," with Sandra Bullock.



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Ryan Reynolds

Reynolds and actress, Scarlett Johansson have been married since 2008. Reynolds' charity work includes the Michael J. Fox Foundation which is dedicated to finding a cure for Parkinson's disease and in 2008 he ran in the New York City Marathon for his father who suffers from Parkinson's disease. He is currently filming two new movies, "Green Lantern," and "Deadpool," which are set to release in 2011.



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