

The Brand

Lowry High School

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Winnemucca, Nevada

President Obama signs repeal of 'Don't Ask Don't Tell'

By Calvin Connors

"Don't Ask Don't Tell" is a policy that started in 1993 that scrutinized gays entering any branch of the mili-

tary.

A flight nurse was dismissed from the Air Force in 2004 under The "Don't Ask Don't Tell" (DADT) policy. After putting in 18 years for the Air Force she was discharged in October 2007,

she was two years short of what she needed for retirement benefits. According to CBSNEWS more than 70 percent of troops who filled out a Pentagon survey on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" said letting gays serve openly would have positive, mixed, or nonexistent effects on service members. (yahoo.com)

"The repeal of the Don't Ask Don't Tell could be distracting to the people in the military," said Mr. Doc Welter a veteran of the US Navy and current vice principal at Lowry.

Congress passed the DADT policy in 1993 under Bill Clinton as president. More than 14,000 service members have been fired since 1994. 73 percent

"I think it is a person's right to do and feel the way they are."

~ Sean Wilson, former US Army

of military personnel are comfortable with gays being in the military. According to Zogby International 2006.

By a vote of 234 to 194, the House of Representatives adopted an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that could lead to the repeal of DADT in early 2011. The Pentagon reports that 75 percent of young Americans are ineligible to serve in our military because of criminal records, weight problems, and inadequate education. (yahoo.com)

"I think it is a person's right to do and feel the way they are," said Mr. Sean Wilson who served in the United States Army for five years and is a math teacher at Lowry.

"Our Defense Department supports repealing 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' as a way to build our all-volunteer armed forces," Senator Harry Reid said in a statement.



Courtesy • WINNAD
Mr. Sean Wilson.

Mexican drug war has far reaching consequences

By Miranda Buttram and Josh Young Jr.

More than 30,000 people have died in drug-related violence nationwide since President Felipe Calderon launched a crackdown on the Mexican drug cartels after taking office in December of 2006. Recently a letter signed by the La Familia drug cartel was circulated, this letter stated that the gang will halt all crime activity during January to demonstrate that the cartel "is not responsible for the criminal acts federal authorities are reporting to the media" (news.yahoo.com).

President Calderon said during a broadcast, "We all know it is necessary to rid Mexico of crime, impunity, and corruption, which had been rooted in our society and our institutions. I can assure you we are on the right path and we will defeat the criminals, to ultimately build a Mexico of peace" (news.yahoo.com).

Though Calderon states that they are on the right path, the violence persists, with the blame falling to the cartel for the death of a pregnant American consulate worker, and her husband, and the rising death toll of police killed

SEE DRUG WAR PAGE 9

Study: Gays in the military

Gays and lesbians could begin openly serving with minimal risk to U.S. military readiness, according to a long-awaited study by the Pentagon.

If Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) is repealed, and someone in your immediate unit says he/she is gay or lesbian ...

... How will that affect your ability to work together to get the job

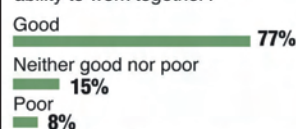


... How would your level of morale be affected?



Asked to those who said they served with leader they believed to be gay or lesbian and others in unit believed to be gay ...

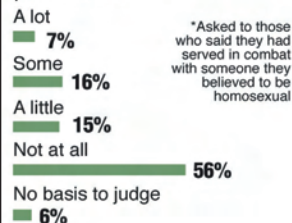
... How would you rate unit's ability to work together?



... How would you rate unit's morale?

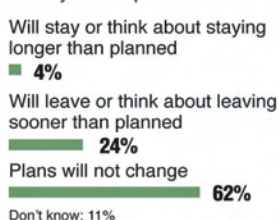


• How much did the belief that a service member was gay or lesbian affect the unit's combat performance?*



*Asked to those who said they had served in combat with someone they believed to be homosexual

• If DADT is repealed, how will your military career plans be affected?



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Source: U.S. Defense Department
Graphic: Judy Treible

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Cyber-bullying becoming more common with use of technology

By Savannah McDade

Technology is rapidly enhancing and each year companies are producing new innovations that help provide for fast communication via social networking. Social networking is giving way to a prominent means of harassment referred to as "cyberbullying". Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place in the form of verbal harassment as well as sexual harassment through use of internet and cell phones.

Cyberbullying has made the news on various occasions throughout 2010. One particularly eminent case occurred on September 22, 2010 when Rutgers University freshman Tyler Clementi posted a farewell suicide message on his Facebook site. Clementi allegedly threw himself off of a bridge into the Hudson River after his roommate clandestinely filmed Clementi in the midst of a sexual encounter with another

male and proceeded to post the video online (www.insidehighered.com).

Another well-known cyberbullying linked suicide was that of 17 year old Alexis Pilkington of Long Island, New York, who committed suicide on

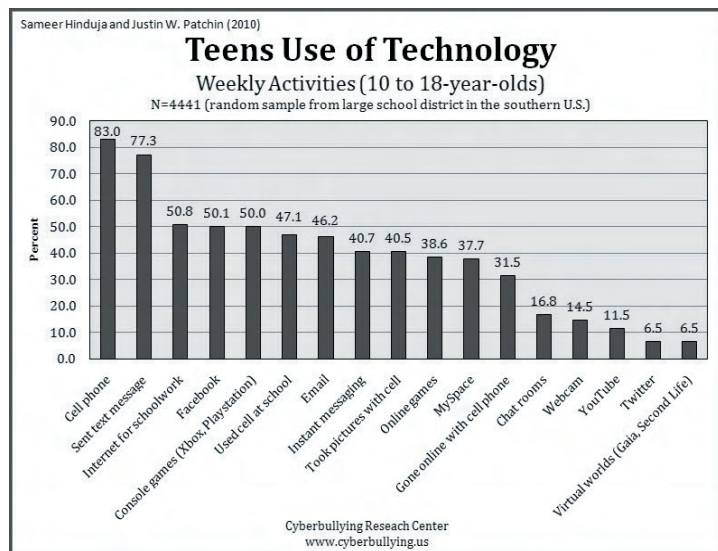
March 21, 2010. Pilkington was allegedly a victim of online harassment. According to an article posted on cbnews.com, there has been an increase of threatening and malicious comments posted on her Facebook page even after her death.

There are numerous organizations that have been put in effect that not only advocate prevention of cyberbullying but also aid in bringing the issue to the public's attention. Such organizations include, "PACER's National Center for Bullying Prevention" ("Teens Against Bully-

ing") which is promoted by teen pop-singer Demi Lovato. Another is, "The Cyberbullying Research Center" which provides statistics, case histories, and facts about cyber bullying including the causes and consequences of cyber harassment. The Cyberbullying Research Center is directed by Dr. Sameer Hinduja and Dr. Justin

Patchin; both of which have been studying cyber bullying for about eight years. Furthermore, their website (cyberbullying.us) provides credible information available to the general public in order to educate as well as evoke the importance of the issue. The web site also keeps a blog that provides up-to-date information including state-wide laws against cyberbullying.

With the increase of organizations that promote cyberbullying prevention as well as stricter laws against cyber harassment, there is great hope that cyberbullying will decrease.



Courtesy • Sameer Hinduja and Justin W. Patchin/ Cyberbullying Research Center
Teen Use of Technology.

DADT

"We need to repeal this discriminatory policy so that any American who



Jim Lo Scalzo/Abaca Press/MCT
President Barack Obama repealed the "don't ask, don't tell" act.

wants to defend our country can do so," added Reid. (TVNZ.co.nz). Nearly seven out of ten Marines in a combat role say the DADT policy that doesn't allow gays from serving openly in the military would harm their units expected effect that is more than any of the military forces. This is according to the Pentagon survey. (nctimes.com)

With the recent results of the Pentagon survey the three branches of the military that repeal DADT were the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The results stated that having openly gay people in those branches would not harm any progress. The Marine Corps was the only branch of the military that was

against the repeal of DADT (foxnews.com). Though the branches of the military here in the states are not allowing gays in the military there are other countries who don't care if gays are in their military forces. Australia, Austria, France, Canada, and Spain are only five of 25 countries that allow gays serve in the military.

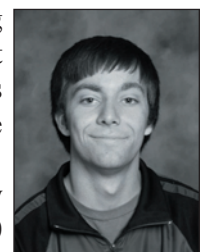
On December 15, 2010 the House voted to repeal the DADT policy that has been in action for 17 years, the vote ended up 250-175.

Leland Miller, one of the students at Lowry High, is going into the Marine Corps and states that the DADT policy didn't concern him in anyway,

and the policy being repealed or not didn't have an effect on his choice in joining the Marine Corps.

On Wednesday December 23, 2010 President Barack Obama signed the law to allow gays serve in the military after 17 years of frowning upon the policy of DADT.

"I hope those ... who've been discharged under this discriminatory policy will seek to re-enlist once the repeal is implemented," Obama said (post-crescent.com).




Courtesy • WINNADAMedia
Leland Miller.

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Open Your Eyes: Self Identity

By Savannah McDade



"You see us as you want to see us... In the simplest terms, in the most convenient definitions. [...] each one of us is a brain... and an athlete... and a basket case... a princess... and a criminal..." – Anthony Michael Hall (The Breakfast Club 1985).

What is your identity? According to dictionary.com one of the many definitions of the word "identity" is, "The condition of being oneself or itself, and not another." If identity is truly the condition of being oneself and not someone else, then why does our society have self esteem issues?

Many of the most renowned people in the world, including many artists,

writers, philosophers, and celebrities have struggled with a sense of belonging to society. However, aside from this group consisting of highly influential people, there is a large faction of people who have a very difficult time identifying themselves, and those are teenagers.

Researchers have found studying the brain using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) that activity in neural networks linked to self-perception and social cognition in adolescents and young adults are much more predominant than in adults. In other words, if one were to ask a teenager a question regarding an opinion of themselves, their brain will likely come up with an answer based upon what they think others think of them.

If teenagers depend on the opinions of others to identify themselves,

then what happens to teenagers who are constantly receiving negative feedback? Situations such as this are very common. For example, according to Waupaca.uwex.edu, suicide is the third leading cause of death among adolescents and teenagers. Also, illegal drug use among teenagers is also very common and many attest that drug abuse is the result of low self-esteem. In my opinion, any kind of self-abuse is linked to negative self-image but that is a subject much too abstract for me to expand on; I am certain of one thing and that is that pressure to fit in is enormous.

High school is method acting at its best. I am a fairly self-reserved person, and I often notice that when I have nothing to say around my peers, I will over compensate by talking about meaningless things to feel included.

Point being, we all struggle with social issues. I know many people who rely on constant attention from peers to feel accepted, I also know many people who depend on being in a relationship to feel that they belong, and when they are not in a relationship they are not happy and do not like themselves.

It is so important to express the fact that how you choose to identify yourself is a choice, you can choose to be what you think others think of you but you will inevitably be let down. If people learn at a young age to stop looking outside themselves for approval then maybe major issues such as suicide, school shootings, drug abuse, and even spousal or relationship abuse will be resolved. According to author Robert Brault, "If you aren't sure who you are, you might as well work on who you want to be."

Teenage self esteem doesn't match reality

By Miranda Buttram



Me, me, me. In a society that hands out praise for mediocrity, the ego of today's teen generation has grown to astronomical proportions. What can I say? Many teens think very, or too highly, of themselves; the majority think that they are the best, they would be the perfect parent, the perfect spouse, and don't forget they are all around smarter.

In thirty years the difference between the teen generation's self-esteem is rather astounding. In 1975, less than 37% of teens thought that they would make good spouses, while in the year 2006 more than 56% thought they would be very good spouses (washingtonpost.com). Is this egocentric attitude deserved in mod-

ern American society especially with just as high divorce rates?

Students are more likely to say they have a high IQ, even though research shows that teachers give less homework to today's youth than they gave to their counterparts in the 1970's. Today's teens' perceptions of themselves has become unrealistic; three-fourths of them expect that their performance is in the top 20 percent (washingtonpost.com). We are the generation with the largest percentage of people who are completely satisfied with themselves. Having good self esteem isn't necessarily a bad thing, but the current teen generation's self esteem has moved into the ridiculously self obsessed and wildly unrealistic. This is going to cause serious problems because they will view themselves and the world with a skewed perception.

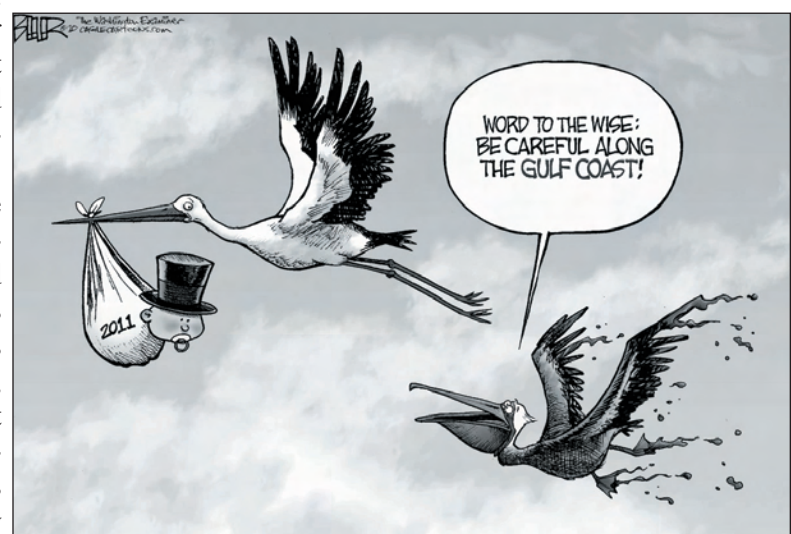
How could they view themselves any differently? Growing up you re-

ceived awards, certificates, and trophies for not really doing anything. "Congratulations, you participated; you've earned a trophy." Is that really how it should work? Children are taught that they are the best at everything. All of this was done with the best of intentions, of sparing the child's feelings, however they adapt a distorted view of reality.

Despite the intentions and the reasons the result is the same, the current teen generation thinks very highly

of themselves. They think they're better than previous generations, smarter, better spouses, and higher achieving, and all of this with nothing to back it up.

The current teen generation should really look at the reality of how good they really are.



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Do's and Dont's: Randomosity



By Miranda Buttram and Savannah McDade

- Do jumping jacks prior to brushing your teeth (never after).
- Don't put a CD in the microwave... I am not sure what will happen but it does not seem like a clever scheme.
- Do flush your grimy video game discs in the toilet for cleaning purposes only (it works wonders).
- Don't dry your shirt and THEN wash it, it is a waste of economic resources.
- Do blast Devo in your yellow hatch-back Pinto while wearing a flower pot on your head, it is inspirational for few and interesting for all.
- Don't be a dinglefritz... or, do, it is an entertaining noun.
- Do drink coffee... lots and lots of coffee.
- Don't sport the Hammer pants, they are not, nor should ever come back in style.
- Don't steal live lobsters from a grocery store/ restaurant/ any where! It is far too humiliating to be caught... and you will get caught... common sense.
- Don't wear shorts, it's January!
- Do buy snow tires... A very smart investment.
- Don't watch reality TV, it is actually scripted but they don't want us to know.
- Do make sure you figure out what you are doing for college education, otherwise you will be scrambling last minute, and that isn't fun.
- Do at least pretend that you found this list amusing, or you will be fined ten dollars.*subject to change*
- Don't attempt anything on this list that may be harmful to yourself or others, if you do, something will happen.

It's time for a playoff system in Division I football

By Joe Schmidt



Division I college football is very unique compared to other sports in that it does not end its season with playoffs. Instead, the NCAA provides a group of polls combined with various computer formulas to determine the top 25 teams in the country.

Opponents of the BCS say college football is missing the point of the sport by not capitalizing on the excitement. Others claim the system simply isn't fair because a true champion can only be determined in an actual game. The BCS does not fairly give deserving teams a chance at a national title.

The BCS has been criticized for giving "special" treatment to teams

in six specific conferences. The Atlantic coast, Big East, Big 10, Big 12, Pac-10, and Southeastern conferences are all part of this "special six." The champion of each one of these conferences has an automatic bid into a BCS qualifying game. The BCS has also been frequently disliked for excluding undefeated teams from national championship games while one-loss teams have competed for top honors. From 1998-2008, nine undefeated teams have been excluded from the BCS National Championship game. Eight of those excluded nine teams were non-BCS schools. The most famous teams are the University of Utah in 2004 and 2008, Boise State University in 2006, and this year, TCU.

A playoff system would give an equal chance to all of the deserving

teams. On many occasions, one-loss teams have been excluded from any chance at a BCS game. Not only do underrated teams need to be defended, but tough teams. In this year's case, Alabama, Ohio State, and Oklahoma should be defended. All three of these teams were previously ranked number one this year and have the talent to win a national championship.

What about teams like Nevada? Or a tough team like Hawaii? They have proven they belong where they are but will never have a chance to play in the BCS. What if Nevada went undefeated this year? The BCS poll would still rank them low because they didn't have very many ranked games.

The BCS system is simply not fair to the fans and the players. The fans want playoffs, and that's what matters.

The changing language of today

By Josh Young Jr.



Has it ever been brought to your mind the idea that our language and the "correct" meanings of words that people used to use each day are changing? With everyone being so worried about offending others, and others relying on certain dysphemisms, the meanings of words have changed drastically, either to lessen their connotation, or amplify it.

There are ways to define words in a way that can be softened, or even confusing, such as "lazy." If you wanted to be nice, but still call someone lazy, then you could just say that they are "motivationally deficient." Or an ugly person is "cosmetically different." English is a subjective language, always conforming to how we need to use it. This can lead to confusion for someone who isn't "in the know."

There are words in our language that, upon being said, bring different ideas to mind than were original-

ly intended when the word(s) first began to be used. Take the word "queer," for example. In the beginning, this word started out as meaning strange or counterfeit, but now-a-days it has a negative connotation towards people when someone so chooses it to. Also the word "legit," short for legitimate, has changed. It really means "being exactly as purposed, neither spurious nor false," while in the vernacular it now has come to mean "cool."

In the technological age of today, our language is also degenerating to a nation of "text talk." It has gotten so

bad that people are using these shortened, and often wrong, terms in important pieces, such as school reports. I have often seen "r" instead of "are," and "u" instead of "you." It is a degeneration of our language, and once again, if you aren't "in the know," you are being left in the dust, utterly confused by the changes going on around you.

These extreme changes in meaning and writing have come to show just how language is a living thing, forever changing. However, no one ever said that change is always a good thing.



Wolf Pack devours Eagles 20-13 in Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl

By Jonathan Okanes, Contra Costa Times (MCT)

SAN FRANCISCO — The storytellers who made Sunday's Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl out to be a hard-hitting battle between No. 13 Nevada's explosive running game and Boston College's stingy run defense apparently missed one important angle.

As it turns out, the Wolf Pack has a defense, too.

Nevada turned the Eagles offense into a mere rumor for most of the night, holding Boston College to just 185 yards in the Wolf Pack's 20-13 victory at AT&T Park. The Eagles scored 10 points off turnovers, and those were two of only three times Boston College got into the red zone.

"We're used to it," Nevada linebacker Brandon Marshall said, referring to his defense getting overlooked. "We score a lot of points every game, every year. When (first-year defensive coordinator Andy Buh) came, he said we're going to turn this school into a defensive school. We're just going to go out and keep playing hard on defense."

The Eagles defense was as advertised. Boston College slowed Nevada's two-pronged attack of running back Vai Taua and quarterback Colin Kaepernick, holding them to a combined 98 rushing yards. Most of what little offense the Wolf Pack needed came courtesy of Kaepernick's arm. He completed 20 of 33 passes for 192 yards and a touchdown.

The Eagles were hurt by the absence of starting tailback Montel Harris, who suffered an undisclosed injury while stretching earlier in the day at the team hotel, according to coach Frank Spaziani. Harris had surgery Nov. 29 to repair a torn meniscus in his left knee, but Spaziani said Sunday's injury had nothing to do with his knee. Harris had returned to practice and was expected to start.

Harris led the ACC and is ranked 11th nationally in rushing (113 yards per game). His replacement, Andre Williams, had 70 yards and a touchdown on 19 carries.

"I thought our defense played as well as we've played over the last couple years," Nevada coach Chris Ault said.

"We didn't play very well offensively. I'm really proud of our defense. We've been an up-and-down defense all year. These guys found a way to play well and play well all four quarters."

The Wolf Pack won despite not using its usual formula for success this season, the best in school history that included a college football landscape-rattling upset of Boise State and a 13-1 record. Nevada entered the game ranked second nationally in total offense (535.54 yards per game) and fifth in scoring (42.62 points per game).

Nevada entered the night with the 66th-ranked defense in the country, allowing 377.31 yards per game.

"I give credit to Nevada," Spaziani said. "They did a good job on us. They did some things to us that we weren't able to handle, and when we had a chance to make some plays we weren't able to make them."

The Eagles' offensive output would have been even worse if it weren't for three Nevada turnovers, two of which Boston College turned into points.

Boston College (7-6) struck first after the Wolf Pack's first turnover, when

linebacker Mark Herzlich jarred the ball loose from Kaepernick and it was recovered by cornerback Donnie Fletcher. Williams ran 30 yards for a touchdown on the next play for a 7-0 lead.

But Nevada scored the next 17 points, thanks in large part to wide receiver Richard Matthews, who caught a 27-yard touchdown pass from Kaepernick and returned a punt 72 yards for a TD.

Boston College had one final chance after starting a drive at its own 10-yard line with 3:06 remaining, but quarterback Chase Rettig was intercepted by Nevada's Khalid Wooten to polish things off.



Jose Carlos Fajardo/Contra Costa Times/MCT
Nevada Wolf Pack's Richard Matthews.

The Boston Red Sox: The new Evil Empire

By Ron Espinola

When the Yankees continued their free-spending ways in 2009 I said they should show some financial restraint.

Now it seems that the Red Sox are determined to follow the Yankees into spending oblivion.

In December the Sox signed Carl Crawford from the rival Rays for the paltry sum of \$142 million over seven years. Of course this doesn't seem like a bad deal considering the Nationals signed Jason Werth for a similar amount. Most people would agree that Crawford is the better deal when you consider age and the market.

Crawford and Boston's other new signee, Adrian Gonzalez from the Padres, should create one of the best offenses in the majors. They also raise Boston's defense to an elite level.

As Kevin Youkilis will likely move to third and Jacoby Ellsbury and Dustin Pedroia return from injuries, the only holes in the Boston lineup could be Marco Scutaro and Jason Varitek.

However, Boston did forget a couple small items; a catcher and a bullpen... unless you pin your hopes on Bobby Jenks. Can a 39 year-old Varitek handle an entire season behind the plate while opposing runners steal at will? Ask Jorge Posada. Can Jarrod Saltalamacchia figure out how to throw the ball back to the pitcher, let alone hit a curve ball?

This is an offense that was second in all of baseball in runs, homeruns, and slugging. This was largely accomplished with Big Papi going 0-for-April and Ellsbury, Youkilis, and Pedroia missing large portions of the season. So is the focus on giving out big contracts to an offense the right approach? Of course not. The Yankees have tried this and proved it does not translate into titles.

Last year Boston ranked 22nd in ERA in the majors and their bullpen gave up the 8th most runs per game at 4.59. Yes they will score runs, but will it be enough? The Sox scored 818 runs and gave up 744. This is a difference of less than one half a run per game. If they stay healthy this team could score close to 1000 runs with its combination of speed

and power. And even if their pitching remains the same...mediocre at best, they will win a lot of games. With their new lineup

However, Gonzalez (31 HR/101 RBI) and Crawford (19 HR/90 RBI) essentially replace the departed Victor Martinez (20 HR/79 RBI) and Adrian Beltre (28 HR/102 RBI). So the net effect is somewhat negligible. Although they may be extremely successful in a full season and reel off 100 wins; the shortsightedness

of their strategy will likely show up in a short series in the playoffs. But then again, the opposition would have to face Jon Lester, Clay Buchholz, Josh Beckett, and John Lackey. Red Sox Nation better hope the last two are much better than last year and that Buchholz can reprise his success of 2010.

Maybe the Sox should learn from the mistakes of their hated rival...the rigid Evil Empire-after Vader's of course. Pitching wins...just ask the Giants.



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Freshman and boys and girls open league play at home

By Jaren Cornwall

Lowry freshman basketball has had some mixed results at the beginning of league play this year. The freshman boys basketball team started out league play with a game against Dayton, with a score of 35 to 7 at the half and 47 to 12 for

the win.

"Overall the performance was good, it's our first league game and we got the first win so that's a step in the right direction," said freshman boys coach Ty Lucas.



Jaren Cornwall • THE BRAND
Dusty Bryan adds to the lead.

On a more solemn note the freshman girls ended their second game of the season with a loss against Fernley. The score at the half was 13 to 25 and the final score was 26 to 29. The freshmen now prepare for their next game

with what they have learned from this loss.

"Were going to work on passing the ball and putting the ball in the hoop," commented freshman girls coach Shaun Murgel.



Jaren Cornwall • THE BRAND
Ashley Bresse (L) and Megan Brennan (R) fight for control of the ball.



Jaren Cornwall • THE BRAND
Jaecce Munger drives by a Fernley defender.

What to Watch

By Calvin Connors and Marc Esquivel

Virginia vs. Duke

Calvin's Pick: "I choose the Duke Blue Devils because of their up tem-

po offense and of Duke's two leading scorers Kyle Singler and Nolan Smith. Smith is averaging 18.6 points per game along with Singler averaging 17.5 points per game. Duke has a lot of depth and has players who can come off the bench and get the job done as

well as the starters."

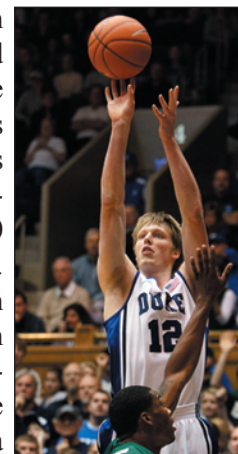
Marc's Pick: "Well, first off, anyone who watches college hoops would agree that Duke is a far better team than Virginia. Like Calvin previously stated, Duke has a lot of depth on their roster and have players on the bench that can play anywhere on the court and do the job that they are supposed to do. This should be an easy game for Duke if they play the game the way they have been."

Purdue vs Minnesota

Calvin's Pick- "I choose Minnesota over Purdue because I feel that this game will be a big upset in the college basketball world. The Golden Gophers leading scorer is Blake Hoffarber; he also leads the team in three pointers per game which is 2.9 per game. Hoffarber leads the team in points per game too,

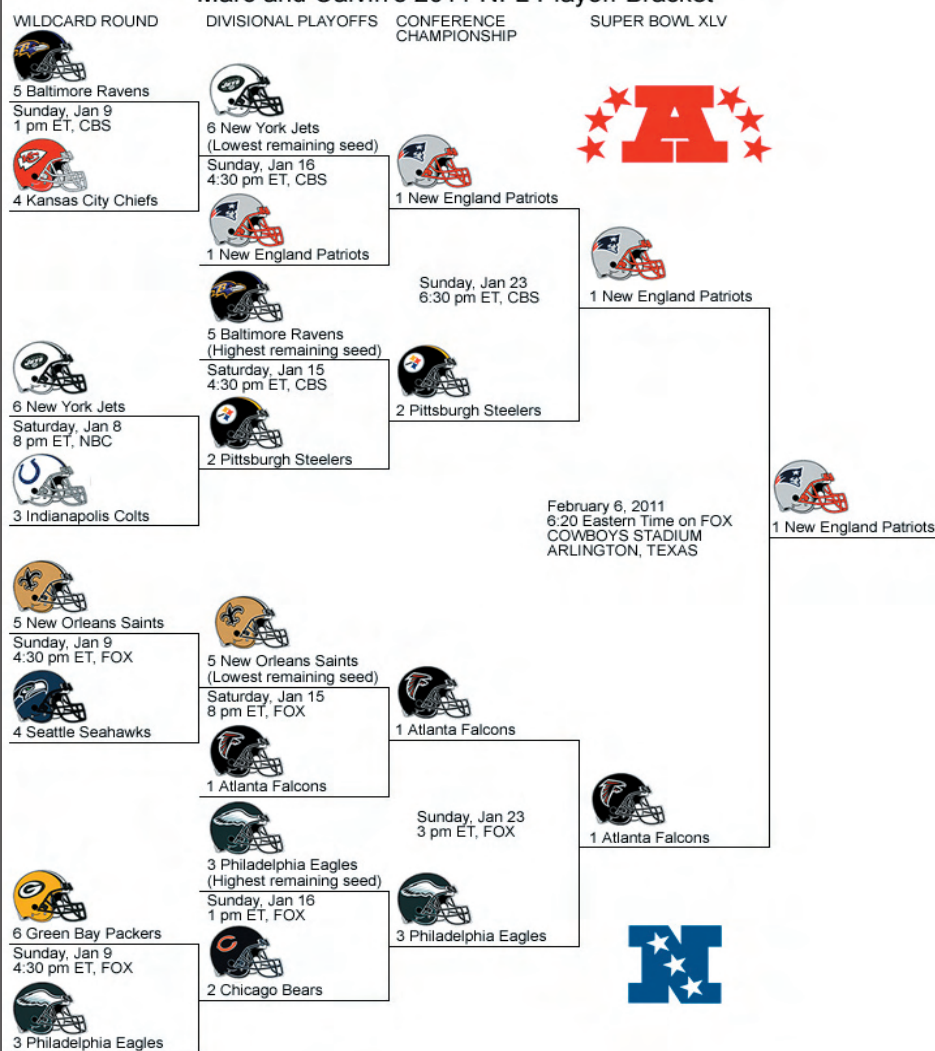
with 13.8 per game. For Minnesota to win they need Blake Hoffarber to have an outstanding game."

Marc's Pick- "I am taking Purdue to beat Minnesota because Purdue is the better team and has better players in my opinion. JaJuan Johnson and E'Twaun Moore are the team's leading scorers and are both averaging close to 20 points per game. If both Johnson and Moore are on their game, Purdue should leave the game with a win."



Chuck Liddy/Raleigh News & Observer/MCT
Duke's Kyle Singler.

Marc and Calvin's 2011 NFL Playoff Bracket



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Varsity basketball opens league play against Fernley and Dayton

By Calvin Connors and Sydney Blankenship

The Lady Bucks kicked off their 3A basketball season with a blowout win against the Dayton Dust Devils.

"The girls had just come back with a hard pre-season in Coeur d'Alene, ID playing some of the best 4A teams in the Northwest," said Head Coach Jack Smith.

It was a tough start to the game with some turnovers.

"Turnovers are one thing we need

to work on making less of," said Smith.

Junior Angie Herrera had six shots back to back in the first quarter.

"Herrera jump-started the team," said Smith

Lowry dominated the game throughout. In the first quarter, LHS lead by seven but this soon ballooned to 33-6 at the half. The bucks increased its lead to 43-8 at the end of the third.

Everybody saw action in the game.

"The bench got to play some, and had some good playing," said Smith.

The team got to play an easier game than those they were playing in the pre-season.

"It was a nice game to come back to, and play after being up in Idaho," said Smith.

On Saturday, the team got to show what they had against the Fernley Vaqueros. The girls won by a score of 43-20 after holding the Vaqueros scoreless in the third quarter. They are 6-6 so far on the season.

After coming off of a devastating loss to the Dayton Dust Devils, Lowry varsity boys basketball team turned its anger on Fernley and won big with the right mind set and great defense.

On Friday January 7, the Lowry boys basketball team traveled to Dayton to start off the 2011, 3A season. It was a very hostile environment and a very intense game, but the Bucks lost 53-48.

"We knew that we couldn't afford another loss and we were determined to dominate Fernley," said senior Grant Miller

After the loss on Friday night, the Bucks came out on Saturday and it seemed as if the Dayton game didn't even happen.

The Bucks dominated Fernley on the defensive end, holding the Vaqueros to single digit scoring in each quarter.

The Bucks kept their heads held high and played with intensity throughout the game. Their performance demonstrated that the team could bounce

back from a tough loss.

The Bucks outscored the Vaqueros 16 to 3 in the first quarter alone.

Miller stated that the team needed to send a message to the other teams in the league that they were better than their performance against Dayton.

The Vaqueros could not find a way to score against the Lowry defense, and could not find a way to stop the Lowry offense from scoring. "After we lost we needed to get a win and start doing things right," said senior Will Thacker.



Jasmin Landa • WINNADA

Julia Dufurrena secures a rebound.



Jasmin Landa • WINNADA

Sterling Snow shoots against Dayton.

Wrestlers place fifth at Rollie Lane tournament in Nampa, ID

By Marc Esquivel

The Lowry wrestling took a trip to Nampa, Idaho, for the Rollie Lane Wrestling Invitational. The team did exceptionally well at the tournament and even got a few wrestlers into the championship rounds.

The tournament invited over 40 teams from six different states, and out of those 40-plus teams, Lowry worked hard enough to get fifth place.

The tournament had the scoring different, so not all wrestlers got points for their matches if they didn't place. Lowry had quite a few wrestlers who

made it past the "Round Robin" portion of the tournament. These wrestlers included Daniel Pollock at 103s, Aaron Nelson at 112s, Brandon Okuma at 130s, Gus Duncan at 140s, Mario Bautista at 145s, and Fernando Herrera at heavyweight.

The team had two wrestlers wrestling for first and second, Jace Billingsley at 152s and Ryan Nelson at 171s. Billingsley was defeated in his championship bout, and Nelson managed to win his match in a close 4-3 win over Austin Tolman from Oregon. The Buckaroos also had Michael Billingsley wrestling for third place at 160; he won by a major decision over Joey Dondero from Kuna, Idaho.

"We had a pretty good showing, there were 48 teams at the tournament, six states, and 44 state champions," said sophomore Michael Billingsley. "We ended up taking fifth as a team with three wrestlers placing high so overall not too bad."

The Lowry wrestlers are going to practice hard and look for a third straight win in Spring Creek at the Kiwanis Invitational.

Team scores

1. Hermiston (Ore.) 75, 2. Colum-

bia 72, 3. Caldwell 57, 4. Post Falls 56,

5. Lowry (Nev.) 46



Marc Esquivel • THE BRAND

Michael Billingsley takes down Jace Billingsley at a practice before their trip to the Rollie Lane.



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SK8 Clean seeks to clean up local skate park

By Jaren Cornwall

"Sk8 Clean is a local organization of residential riders who share a vision of what the Skate Park used to be," says the SK8 Clean Facebook page. This accurately describes the mission of SK8 Clean, to bring the skate park back to a state of safety and fun for



The skate park.

Jaren Cornwall • THE BRAND

everyone.

Started by a group of local skaters, SK8 Clean aims to give parents confidence that they can send their kids to the skate park without the fear that they will be exposed to negative influences. While their most basic objective is a clean, trash free skate park, SK8 Clean is also taking an initiative against violence, gang activity, vandalism, and the drug trade at the Winnemucca skate park.

"SK8 Clean is an organization to keep the skate park clean and drug free. We just do our part, pick up the trash, and skate respectfully for all the little kids to kind of be role mod-

els," Says Cameron White, a member of skate clean.

They hope to install cameras and get the Winnemucca Police Dept involved in reducing the danger of drug exposure and violence for everyone, especially the younger users of the skate park. Also, SK8 Clean has long term plans to expand the area of the skate park in order to create a less crowded skate park. When asked about what he thought of SK8 Clean, regular skater Gabe Mercado says, "I think SK8 Clean is great! I really like what they're doing in the community. I particularly like that they're trying to keep the skate park clean, and safe for the community. I really hope they reach their goals, because the skate park really is in need of an overhaul."

In taking these initiatives they hope to prove to the community that not all skaters are "punk vandals" as stated on their Facebook page, "We want to

install cameras in hopes to prove to the City of Winnemucca that the ones who use and respect the park appreciate it enough to not destroy it."

To support and promote SK8 Clean, their merchandise is up for sale over at Bikes and More near the public library.



Courtesy • SK8 Clean

One of the items SK8 Clean is selling to raise funds.

The degeneration of modern language through slang and texting

By Savannah McDade

In an ever-changing world of innovation, technology has been dramatically enhanced to make life easier for the general public. When this happens, the English language is bound to be marred in order to correspond with technology and essentially make life easier.

Unlike younger generations who are accustomed to the fast paced modernization, many of the older generations may find themselves lost in a world filled with confusing abbreviations and terminology.

Lowry English teacher, Mrs. Renee

Hill attests her concern about texting having noticed text abbreviations on assignments her students have turned in. "It's disturbing. I've seen 'OMG', and 'WTF'. Isn't that sad?"

Regarding the degeneration of the English language due to text messaging, Hill also said, "It should be that students recognize that there's a place for [text] lingo and then there's [...] formal writing, and that the two are not the same," Hill continued, "I hope English doesn't change to a detriment of English."

Lowry science teacher, Mrs. Michelle Doyle has a similar point of view, "It's becoming more and more



prominent, nobody capitalizes and nobody uses punctuation," said Doyle, "I think, especially with the advent of Twitter, and the emphasis on less characters so you're figuring out ways to really abbreviate words and kids don't read as much ..., their vocabulary is just getting smaller, and smaller, and smaller."

Text messaging is certainly a prominent means of communication for many teenagers as well as many adults. However, is that really a valid excuse for the strain being placed on the English language? "Sometimes I think the 'gonna' is worse with texting than it used to be. It used to be just like a cou-

ple of kids that wouldn't write "going to", but now it's a lot," said Hill.

If the formal language does happen to slip into a permutation consisting of abbreviations and codes such as, "BRB, LOL, TTYL, 143, ILY, IDK," and "IDC," will it be necessary to become "text literate"?

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DRUG WAR

during cartel fights. There were even people killed or injured during an Independence Day celebration when a grenade was thrown into the crowd, and the many deaths of those simply trying to document the rising troubles and violence (nytimes.com).

Many Mexicans have fled to the United States, trying to escape the dangers of the highly dangerous drug war. While they find safety, they also find loneliness and hardship. They miss the life they used to live, and for some of them, it is just a walk down the street away. Many of these immigrants have applied for Political Asylum, which is (according to Dictionary.com): "refuge given by one country to a citizen of another country to protect that person from arrest or persecution." This means that they will be able to work and live in this country, but they will never be able to go back home while the asylum is in effect. Should they choose to do so, they immediately lose their asylum and risk deportation if they return to the USA (latimes.com).

Interview with Mr. Jonathan Gibson



Courtesy • WINNAD
Jonathan Gibson.

How have you seen the activities in Mexico affecting the students you work with?

"There are several different impacts some student hardly even know what is going on. When they go to Mexico it's for vacation and they don't worry about it or think about it. But for most of them they are actually pretty concerned. It's much more dangerous to travel in Mexico in most places, not all, and several of the student here have ranged from kind of scared for their parents who had to go and wouldn't take them because of the fear.

We had some students for immigration purposes need to leave some time soon, leave the United States and go back to Mexico, and then come back here when they get everything settled the way they are suppose to be; they're doing the

right things. They are afraid to go home.

I know of at least one case where they are fairly certain the father will be killed if they go back. Not because he was involved in drugs, just because he was here and a little more wealthy and left. There is a fair amount of fear.

On the other hand I have also talked to some people who just got back after the Christmas vacation time period and they said that it turned out pretty good. They were afraid...they were cautious.

In Mexico it has had such an impact on tourists and that includes Mexican people living in the US has slowed down so much that the government is taking an active hand to try to involve people; saying its ok, you can come we'll do these things for you.

One other thing I've heard from several students is they are happy these problems are happening, they feel like the



government is finally doing something about it and that's why its escalated, they want things to settle down but they want the government to actually fix things so that the corruption isn't there, and so that it will be safer in the future.

That's the range, kids who hardly know anything about it, but most of them they are very concerned. There is much more caution and much more fear. It also does make a difference in what part of Mexico.

I even heard through out the holidays they would put out free food and music in different places along the highway and have a little party on your drive and we'll take care of you here, they're trying to get people to come its affected their economy."

Has anyone come here specifically because of what's going on?

"In the immediate recent history no. However, I know of a few in the last two years who the precursors of what's happening now are the reasons they left and the reasons they can't go back or feel they can't go back. It's not necessarily they were involved in it, but they were feeling to close to it; or it was too threatening. Or family members were involved in it and, therefore, they had to leave and they are very quiet and don't talk about it. They are very concerned that they have family still there so they don't say much.

This going on isn't new, there is just more of it.

And some are saying no we're happy with this and its getting fixed and some are saying we're ok. Where we're traveling to is ok its not a problem...it's a wide range."

Little League Baseball & Greater Nevada Baseball Club Registration

(Baseball & T-Ball: Boys 5-12; Girls 5 & 6 – GNBC: Boys 13-15)

Saturday, January 22 French Ford Middle School ~ 10am-2pm

Saturday, January 29 French Ford Middle School ~ 10am-2pm

Wednesday, February 2 Spare Time Bowl ~ 6pm-8pm

Saturday, February 12 French Ford Middle School ~ 10am-2pm

MUST Bring Copy of Birth Certificate To Sign-Ups

No registrations taken after tryouts

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March 5, 2011 Tryouts: 10 am: Little Majors ~ Noon: Majors

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(Family total not to exceed \$130.00)
Feb. 2 & 12: \$75/child, \$65/each additional
(Family total not to exceed \$160.00)
After Feb. 12: \$100/child, No breaks for additional children



The odd jobs Teacher Assistants have to do

By Miranda Buttram

Have you ever wanted to be a TA? Sure you think it's an easy job, you sit and grade papers or simply do whatever you want. The jobs of TAs aren't as simplistic as one would think; you could be running errands, making copies, or things much weirder. How about doing dishes, moving a barbecue, shoveling snow, or getting a neck brace out of teacher's car? All of these jobs have been completed by various TAs, just proving that the jobs of a TA can range from the dull and menial to the bizarre, odd, or even the down right silly.

"I thought it was disturbing," senior Leikkona Jensen said when asked about the oddest job she had to do as a teacher's assistant, "I had to ask all the freshmen for their spit."

Jensen had to fill tubes with DNA using a syringe, for an experiment in Mr. Sans' Biology class. "I'd definitely rather do jobs like that," said Jensen.

"The weirdest job my TA had...?"



Courtesy • WINNADA
Leikkona Jensen.

When asked, Mrs. Michele Pasquale was unsure, however, after thinking about it she decided the worst had to be cleaning the bacterial dishes, which had to be done by submerging them in a Clorox solution, while the TA wore gloves and goggles.

"Counting all the organisms in the buckets", was another job that came to Pasquale's mind when asked about her TA's job. "They have to count all the worms, clams, starfish, sharks, crayfish, and squids." She explained that an inventory of all the organisms was necessary for the class.

Those three aren't the only odd jobs that students have been asked

to do. Two students were given a video camera and told to go down to the football field while one ran back and forth, the other recorded it. This was done, as the teacher Michelle Pasquale explained it, to check the quality of the camera. Other bizarre tasks TAs were asked to do included hand watering the baseball field, cleaning wrestling mats, or even returning a laptop to Wal-Mart for a teacher.



Courtesy • WINNADA
Michelle Pasquale.

Stop Facebook foolishness: Social networking resolutions for 2011

By Kyra Kyles, *Chicago Tribune* (MCT)

It's the New Year's resolution.

Though maligned by some, I embrace the midnight oath as a way of saying:

"Hey, this year, I've got a shot at being a better person."

Some of us should take that shot a little more seriously, particularly when it comes to social networking. Mounting evidence suggests that people are turning into Twitter, Face-

book and MySpace megalomaniacs.

So if any of this advice applies to your online activities, don't feel even a little bit bad about adopting one of these resolutions as your own. Heck, you can say it was your own idea to stop:

POSTING BUTT-FIRST PROFILE PHOTOS

Unless you were born with your rump in the front, there is no reason your derriere should be displayed in your Facebook photo. Even if you're

more blessed than Nicki Minaj, Kim Kardashian and Trina combined, why not save that pose for your big break in Playboy or King magazine? Oh, you didn't get such a break? Well OK then, moving on:

POSTING SHIRTLESS PROFILE PHOTOS

Fellas, the only way to justify your too-sexy-for-my-shirt photo gallery is if it is from Halloween night and you were Bruce Lee, the Incredible Hulk or Black Dynamite. Otherwise, I should not see bare pecs, abs and biceps in your profile photo. Firstly, all the world is not match.com, and secondly, some of you might want to "like" a membership to Bally Total Fitness before you sell the world tickets to your gun show.

COMPLIMENTING YOURSELF

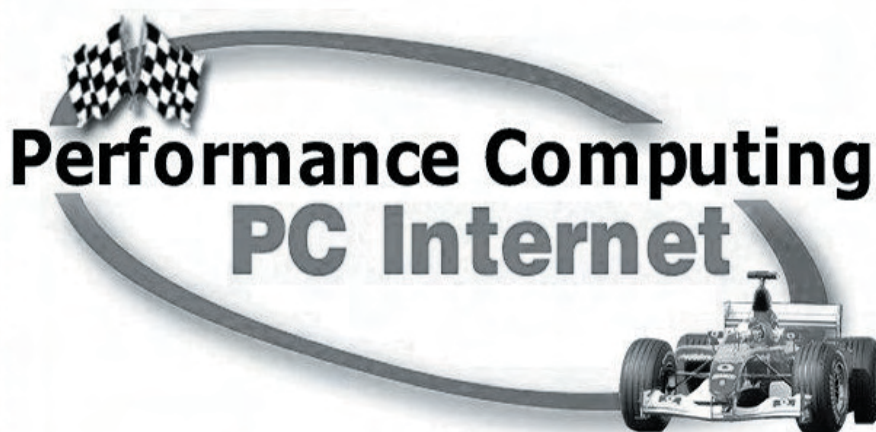
It's great that your supportive

friends favorite and/or "like" your statements about how gorgeous/handsome/intelligent/sought-after/wealthy you are. But don't let a handful of random affirmations fool you into thinking that being arrogant online is in any way acceptable. If you truly possess any of the above attributes, you shouldn't need to announce it.

ATTACKING ADVERSARIES

Have you heard of this device called a phone? You can use it to contact people and tell them how you feel. In the ancient days, you could even (gasp) walk up to people and speak directly to them. Remember both options before you post about punching, wrestling, slapping or otherwise attacking fellow social media patrons. I'd hate to see you in Cook County Jail on the strength of a status message.

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Lowry Music holds Christmas concerts throughout community

By Sydney Blankenship

The Lowry High School music department will be putting on a variety of performances throughout the community.

The band will be performing on December 15 along with the choirs. This is the annual, "Cookie Concert". They will be selling cookies for the audience to eat while watching the concert. There will be plenty of Christmas songs and other songs being played for

anyone to come listen to.

A couple seasonal songs that are going to be performed are, "Christmas Recollections", a medley (has different songs within the music), which consists of many classical favorites, and "A Canadian Brass Christmas".

"My favorite song is 'Christmas Recollections'. It is easier to recognize the songs and is fun to listen to," said Anna Davis, flute player for the band.

"A Canadian Brass Christmas" has a catchy tune," said bass clarinetist

Joleen Dunlap.

The Swing and Horizon Choir are also performing on the fifteenth. A couple Christmas favorites the Swing Choir will be singing are, "Jingle Bells", "I'll Be Home for Christmas", "Mr. Santa", and more.

"I like the music we are playing because it is really interesting," said Swing Choir singer, Levi Whittaker.

The Horizon Choir will be singing few Christmas favorites also, such as, "Silent Night", "Carol of the Bells",

"Jingle Bell Rock", and "Winter Wonderland".



Ron Espinola • THE BRAND

The Lowry Band performs during advisory.

Movie Review: 'Grown Ups'

By Kaila Tuck

Do you like movies? What about ones that make you laugh?

"Grown Ups" is one of those



Courtesy • FACEBOOK

A scene from the Movie 'Grown Ups'.

movies. With a cast including Adam Sandler, Kevin James, Chris Rock, Rob Schneider and David Spade, it is one of the funniest movies you will ever see.

The movie is about five former city league basketball players spending the Fourth of July weekend together at their lake house once reuniting after the passing of their childhood coach.

Staying in a lake house with their families, they educate themselves on how to have fun, the importance of laughter, and the simplistic joys of life.

The rival childhood basketball team wants a rematch after accusing the teammates of cheating. So at the Fourth of July fair they have a rematch game. There are many funny parts in this movie but one part that would really get you laughing is when Adam Sandler shoots an arrow up in the air and everybody runs except Schneider. He ends up staring at the arrow and gets shot in the foot.

This movie has a lot going for it, from water parks; the outdoors to childhood rivals and to bonding with your family, this movie has it all.

Redbox's Top 10 DVD rentals

These were the Top 10 DVD rentals at Redbox kiosks from Dec. 27-Jan. 2:

1. Salt (Sony)
2. Easy A (Sony)
3. Knight and Day (Fox)
4. Resident Evil: Afterlife (Sony)
5. The Other Guys (Sony)
6. Vampires Suck (Fox)
7. Going the Distance (Warner)
8. Shrek Forever After (Dreamworks)
9. Step Up 3 (Disney)
10. Grown Ups (Sony)

McClatchy-Tribune News Service(MCT)

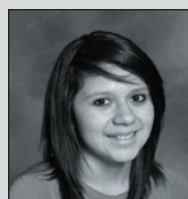
Lowry Voices: Who is going to win the Super Bowl?

By Rianon Lehman



Courtesy • WINNADA.
Konner Hollon.

"The Falcons, they have a very good running game and Matt Ryan is very good and Roddy White is the best wide receiver this year."



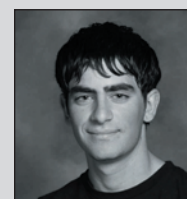
Courtesy • WINNADA
Itzel Becerra.

"The Patriots because they have a really good record right now and Tom Brady has good hair."



Courtesy • WINNADA
Jaecee Munger.

"The Patriots because they are my favorite team and they always win the Super Bowl."



Courtesy • WINNADA
Ryan Dins.

"The Ravens because of Ray Lewis, and Ray Rice...they are going to dominate."

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Too Many Toys, Too Little Time

By Jaren Cornwall

Today there are many things to waste the time of todays teens. From video games to social media, teens have all kinds of things to waste their time and consume their attention. Here are a few, along with some surprising facts about the things we use every day.



At the forefront of things that teens due in their spare time comes video games. Over 67 percent of American households own and play video games of all kinds. With the average gamer playing video games for about eight hours a week, video games are large influence and past time of teens. Of all the people who play video games 25 percent of them are 18 and under. Though there are differing opinions about the effects of video games on teens, they will always play them. Jack Hill comments.



With 75 percent of 12-17 year-olds now owning cell phones (pewresearch.org) you could say that cell phones are a big part in the life of the modern teenager. According to pewreaserch.com, 54 percent of teens would rather text than call, making texting the most prominent form of communication between teens and their friends. Sky Armstrong Comments.



Among the many things that modern teens do in their spare time, Facebook is a large player. According to facebook.com, it has over 500 million active users, almost eleven percent of which are teens. Facebook users spend a total of 700 billion minuets on Facebook every month. Facebook is also accessed by 200 million users a month via mobile devices like phones. Desiree Hicks comments.



Q: What kind of console do you have?

A: "I have a PS3"

Q: Why do you like PS3 or video games in general?

A: "I Like it because its fun, enjoyable and it gives you something fun to do when you are bored."

Q: How do you think video games affect the modern teen?

A: "I think video games affect teens in both positive and negative ways. It depends on the person. Positively it affects teens by making them feel good like a metaphorical drug, and it gives them a "goal" so to speak to beat a game. Negatively it can make their rude attitude come out, make them angry when their parents make them go do something that they get pulled away from their game. It might also cause sleep deprivation because they just want to play their games."



Q: Why do you like having a phone?

A: "Well I like having a phone because it lets me talk to people wherever I am."

Q: Would you rather text someone or call them?

A: "I would rather text someone than call them."

Q: How often do you use your phone?

A: "I use my phone like 12 hours a day."

Q: Could you live without your phone?

A: "No I could not live without my phone because it is like part of me without it I might die!"



Q: Why do you like Facebook?

A: "I like Facebook because it allows me to be able to talk to friends and family I'm not able to talk to or see on a regular basis."

Q: How do you think Facebook affects the modern teen?

A: "It can affect the modern teen because, I think at times with all the games and people to chat with it becomes addicting to them."

Q: Is Facebook a positive or negative influence on teens?

A: I think there is a positive and a negative thing when it comes to regards of Americans using Facebook. The positive being able to talk to the ones you love and can't be with. The negative being some teens get carried away and some get hurt due to comments or fighting with others over Facebook.



Q: Do you think TV is a positive or negative influence?

A: "I believe television is positive unless it is a show that is graphic and a child sees it."

Q: What is your favorite show?

A: "My favorite show is Invader Zim."

Q: How often do you watch TV?

A: "About four hours a day."



Another one of the many things that teens spend their time on is watching TV. In America, 99 percent of households have at least one television set. The average American watches TV for more than four hours each day, amounting to about 28 hours a week, 2 months out of the year, and nine years of the life of a 65-year-old. American teens see approximately 200,000 acts of violence on TV by 18 years of age. This all amounts to the TV being a large influence on teens. Sawyer Woolever comments.