Holding out for a Hero: Liberty’s new attendance program

By Austin Belcher  
Co-Editor

As the leaves brown and the air cools, America once again heads to the polls; however, unlike the last presidential election, this one was the 2018 midterm election, where Representatives, Senators, Governors and many more sought to be voted into their various titles of office. Don’t be fooled, this election was extremely consequential, and arguably as important as the presidential one. But in the heart of the deeply-blue California, does one’s vote really matter? Millions of Californians flocked to the polls November 6th, casting a midterm record 7,141,987 votes. Predictably, Former Lieutenant Governor and Democrat Gavin Newsom defeated Republican businessman John Cox for the California Governor’s office by over two million votes.

After eight years of Jerry Brown, the state seems ready for change, with tens of millions of Californians ready to vote for the state’s first Democrat since 1887. Gavin Newsom, who has served two years as Mayor of San Francisco in 2003 by a large margin, where he presented many social issues before their widespread political acceptance, such as same sex marriage, and universal healthcare. Running on the self-proclaimed statement of “Being a different kind of politician,” Mayor Newsom won reelection in 2007, where he pursued new issues like homelessness and environmental concerns. Newsom gained major recognition when he decried the policy of same sex marriage long before legislation was obtained, a major victory for his campaign. Newsom then later in his career served current Governor Jerry Brown as Lieutenant Gov., essentially the “Vice Governor” position. Jerry Brown, who has served two years eight terms as governor of California, has officially been term limited, leaving the election to his successor. Gavin Newsom. Newsom’s politics are definitely more progressive, promoting mass immigration, affordable housing, and raising taxes, yet still ultimately coincide with those of former Gov. Brown’s. Californians will be under the jurisdiction of the newly elected Newsom starting January 7th, where he will assume the oath of office and become the states 40th governor, simultaneously making history, being the first California Democratic governor to be elected after an incumbent Democrat since 1887.

Morale at the front of the school.

The new Hero program allows students to obtain a pass to class from a Campus Supervisor rather than needing to Dens at the front of the school.

“...and they’re really self-sufficient.”

Mrs. Carreon’s career on the ice.

“...to bring... new ideas...”

Conducting a new program

After several failed attempts at finding a permanent director for the Liberty High School Band, the search was finally found with Mrs. Lindsay Kellogg. When longtime director Mrs. Hrust retired in the middle of the last school year, Liberty High hired a new music director who then left the school within months; the students ended up finishing the rest of the year with various long term substitutes. The future of the program seemed to be up in the air, and some students reportedly weren’t sure if they even wanted to continue in the program for the next school year. Fortunately, Mrs. Kellogg applied for the job, and the school felt she would be a good fit. Mrs. Kellogg recalled being chosen for the position, explaining, “I was excited, excited for change, excited to bring new ideas, and excited to work with older students.” Kellogg, who graduated from California State University, Chico, had previously been the music director at Adams Middle School for over a decade. It was a big transition to begin working at Liberty. When asked what the difference is between working with middle school students compared to working with high school students she replied, “The high school students pick up concepts faster, they have really good student leaders that I can ask for help from, and they’re really self-sufficient.” The band program is such a large and versatile program, it takes a lot to keep it all running smoothly, so Mrs. Kellogg has to spend a great deal of her own personal time outside of school working for the band program. She says that a lot of that time is during summer break because there is a lot of planning to do for the upcoming year. She also expressed that sometimes it’s hard to balance her work and her family life but that it’s all worth it because it’s rewarding to see how much the students have accomplished. According to Liberty band member Angelina Robertson, the future seems to be looking bright, as she explained, “I’m really glad that we have Mrs. Kellogg as our director because she has made a lot of improvements to our program.”
Rugby rolls in: Liberty’s newest sport?

By Alayna Nelson

Staff Writer

A hard tackle, getting back up to run the ball, and finishing covered behind Freedom High School. Rug

By Ethan Lei

Staff Writer

The election station does not take the expected appearance of the average American democracy. Its drab facade of frustratingly long lines, impatient voters, and a waitlist that gives窥视 the true nature of the space station. It does not, however, hurt the community that was the foundation of the American democracy in mind these poll workers to their work. They come from a variety of backgrounds, and many are students from Liberty High School playing their part in American government. So, just what do these student volunteers do in their time at the polls? One student, Leen Arumosh, describes her role as fitting into three distinct parts. She began her day by checking in at the Brentwood Unity Center to prepare for the incoming voters, from setting up voting machines, to arranging the voting booths. When seven o’clock came around, it was time for the residents to vote. She identified whether the voter was on the voter roster, and ensured they knew the steps to follow. And when the day turned to a cloud of snow, she helped close down shop.

By Maya Morales

Staff Writer

The future may be millions of miles away, but it’s far closer than it seems. With the dawn of a new era begins the most significant future plan of exploration on Mars. The Rover will be launched July or August, and while Mars is in relative positions for easier travel and landing. Scientists plan to collect samples of rock and soil for analysis. These samples will then reveal Mars past and current habitable conditions, as well as its ancient life. The exploration of Mars through the Mars Curiosity rover has instilled a greater hope for a future for humans to live on Mars. Curiosity has been on Mars since 2011. The exploration of Mars through the Mars Curiosity rover has instilled a greater hope for a future for humans to live on Mars. Curiosity has been on Mars since 2011.
The great divide: cutting AP World in half

By Gabriel Curameng
Staff Writer

Part of a class is on the chopping-block, and it’s AP World History’s curriculum. The cut won’t be going to waste though, as The College Board is saving the cut material for a new class. The College Board, the company that runs Advanced Placement (AP) classes, has decided to remove part of AP World History material. All material that deals with 1200 CE and before will be removed, and will no longer be tested on the exam.

The traditional AP World History class starts at 8000 BCE and spans to the present. With this current split, the class will remain the Early Human Societies Period, the Classical Period, and the beginning of the Post Classical Period. Cut material will include the beginning human activity, the Egyptian civilization, early Chinese dynasties, the Roman Empire, and the rise of Islam. “It is a lot of history for students to learn. The content itself is massive,” mentioned Mrs. Hatlen, AP World History teacher at Liberty High School. She continued discussing the new approach. “The new focus we have taken, with not just AP classes, but with our College-Preparatory classes, has been depth versus breadth, meaning we want to teach students the depth of knowledge and focus on skills needed for success and careful versus quick, citing facts.”

According to The College Board, the AP World History course is the equivalent of two semesters of an introductory class in college. The AP World History curriculum has been known for the work and the time dedicated to learning the material. Until this split, it is expected that students will be more time to go into writing and analytical component of the class than what they do not currently have. I think the length of history that has been part of the old AP World History is overwhelming and encourages students to memorize facts, as well as extend on specifics of certain regions, we can work on skills such as writing, reading, [and] argument analysis.”

I understand why the split happened, but I am against the split! She continued, “I believe that the pass rate and the scores of [AP World History] will go up. Why I am opposed to this move is that you are taking away a lot of history.”

There are ongoing debates on the subject of the removed history. Mrs. Hatlen acknowledged that the new thing to essentially focus on will be the expansion and development of Europe. She explains this in her classes by saying, “real” smart phones and Android is second-rate, a copy, or a poor substitute”. He claims that among major tech giants, Samsung has its own aesthetic, along with a better long battery life, speak better for them, and typically tend to be waterproof. Each type of phone includes unique, life optimizing features that can be equally beneficial to consumers. That being said, the great divide between the two still remains. When asked about the ostracization that Android/Samsung users receive, Anthony Kilburn writes, “As an Android user, I experience this fairly often. I think the perception among less informed users that Apple promotes a simple aesthetic that Apple promotes, and typically tend to be waterproof. Updates for both types of phones, and jish are constantly changing with new

As a flash drive, which helps allow students, and glycerin as well as other unknowntridge contains. An e-cigarette, or Juul, don’t even know what a vaping car

ters, and the problem is 13.7% of teens growing drug trends among teenag

Vaping has become one of the fastest growing drug trends among teenag

Lottery or fraudery?

17 years into the 21st century, phone technology is at the forefront of American society. Large tech companies dominate the world, and people eagerly wait for the latest and greatest products. However, amongst the younger generations, there has been strong bias surrounding technology, specifically when it comes to the types of phones one may use. But why is that? A phone is a phone right? Well if you try to ask a typical American if a Samsung is even comparable to an iPhone, the answer would most likely be no. One could argue that Samsungs have improved vastly over time and are up to par, or even exceed the quality of iPhones. So why is there a prejudice against one type of phone more than the other? The typical factors that people argue include the lower, or different camera quality, varying style of emojis, and overall lack of sleek, simple aesthetic that Apple promotes in all of their products. And there are all kinds of jokes surrounding these gripes on social media. But different doesn’t al-
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By Vanessa Willey
Staff Writer
During senior year, for most students the biggest struggle is taking the SAT and deciding what university to attend. But for Liberty senior Robbie Cleveland, his biggest struggle was overcoming arteriovascular malformation, a condition that is congenital, which means it was present at his birth. The malformation is an abnormal connection between the veins and arteries; it affects the body’s ability to circulate blood.

Only a little way into the school year, Cleveland started throwing up and passed out, and was immediately transferred to an emergency room; from there he was airlifted to John Muir Medical Center, where he stayed for thirteen days and participated in five days of physical therapy for thirty minutes each day. This occurred during the school’s two week fall break. Mrs. Cleveland shared that after having surgery he was fine and doing well.

Even with this life changing experience Cleveland is back to school and ready to learn, as well as participating in basketball at practice; and will be able to participate in games after December sixth, with the support of his friends and family. Robbie shared that his teachers were cooperative with his coming back to school. Yet he’s still working on improving a few of his grades.

He explained, “My calculus teacher is cooperative, most teachers are cooperative, I am still fixing grades.” In addition, his mother Mrs. Cleveland, a speech therapist at Liberty, describes her concern for him, “like any mother would have after their child had a surgery or injury. These concerns arose coming back only a few weeks after surgery as she explained, “It was only worried about his balance and endurance which was a week before he came back.”

Mrs. Cleveland describes the impact that it has made on her and how she has helped to support Robbie with his return to school, Mrs. Cleveland states, “There’s no way to describe the actual impact, it put life into perspective, it showed how much we need to cherish our life.”

As for Robbie’s future, after the surgery the doctors told his mother that the issue is resolved and should not reoccur as a problem again. Robbie is within the 25% of patients who have survived from a arteriovascular malformation.

Robbie’s remarkable recovery

By Jamison Capio
Copy Editor

This school year (2018-2019), the average public school in the United States has about 503 students (According to the Public School Review). But when a school exceeds that number of students not by one, not by two, but by five times, the effects can be disregarded and often go unnoticed. As of November 2018, Liberty High School had a student count of 2,634, which is a large jump from the 925 students it had in 2010.

The consequences of attending an enormous school

With Liberty’s population at nearly 3,000, how are students impacted?

Here at Liberty, we all come from different backgrounds and experiences, but one element that brings us all together is our pets, no matter what shape or size. So now we’d like to share with you a few of the many pets of Liberty:

Pets of Liberty

By Vanessa Willey and Anya Rowland

Teddy
Owned by Sarah Mohr, 10th Grade
Breed: Biewer Yorkie
Age: 6

“Teddy is a famous former dog poncho model and is known to fall asleep with his tongue hanging out of his mouth.”

Amelia
Owned by Isabella Guerrero, 10th Grade
Breed: Pack Llama

“Amelia is trained to pack into the mountains, and is a wonderful companion.”

Otis
Owned by Natalie Spjut, 11th Grade
Breed: Shih Tzu
Age: 11

“Otis is amazing at being The Goodest Boy™ and spreading love and joy with every wag of his tail.”

Totoro
Owned by Arno Rowland, 11th Grade
Breed: Bolonoodle (Bolognese-Poodle Mix)
Age: 3

“Totoro throws his food dish in the air so it makes a loud noise when he wants attention.”

Li’l Marco
Owned by Rachel Fierro, 11th Grade
Breed: Bantam Cochín Rooster
Age: 9 months

“Li’l Marco enjoys waking people up early, attacking people that look strange, and prays with his family.”

Mystery of the missing yearbooks... solved

By Vanessa Willey
Staff Writer

There’s been one mistake that Lib- ery has been making for decades that was only recently discovered. Up until now, the school’s yearbook had been off by twenty-eight editions. It has been decided to update it to the correct edition to acknowledge the school’s history. The editions in the years of 1905-1915 and 1924-1929 were uncounted, in addition to en- tirely skipping over the years of 1916-1923. After speaking with the editor in chief, Molly Brodowski, it was found that there was no known reason as to why this happened. Of course, there is the question of whether they should keep it as the 90th edition or correct it to the 114th. “We need to represent how long our school has made history and published books; although 90 is correct for the last 90 editions, we shouldn’t forget the ones before,” Molly Brodowski reveals.

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Carreon carries on a legacy in the arts

By Aliyah Gaston

Staff Writer

Mrs. Carreon may be commonly known as the director of Liberty High School’s many choirs, but before she took on the role of being a music teacher, she was a competitive ice dancer.

Carreon started as a competitive roller skater at the age of five, competing in various categories including freestyle, pair, dance and figures, before transitioning to the ice at thirteen years old. Partnered with her brother, Luke Munana, the two became solely focused on ice dancing in the fall of 1997 which is when their careers took off.

The duo competed for the United States from 1997-2004, making appearances at the U.S. Championships before moving on to represent Mexico internationally. They competed in a variety of competitions, including the World Championships, which are considered one of the most prestigious competitions of the International Skating Union Championship. There, they came in 25th place, 26th place, and 29th place in three consecutive seasons from 2004-2007. They also competed at the Four Continents Championships, where they placed 9th two consecutive years in a row. Originally, the duo was competing for the United States, but eventually, they decided they wanted to compete for Mexico as well. In order to do so, they obtained dual citizenship and were then able to compete in the Mexican Nationals. There, they placed first and became recognized as national champions at 10th, 16th, and 20th place.

At the World Championships, the title came with years of hard work, as the World Champion for jet skiing, though Hayden is now acknowledged as the revving of your jet ski roars loud. Picture this: water splashes your face and supports of Hayden.

Profile on Hayden Item: jet ski champion

By Maximus Knecht

Staff Writer

Waiting is something people are forced to do often in life. The word “wait” is defined as the delay of action until a particular time has come where one can proceed their actions. In sports, waiting for that big game to happen occurs frequently, especially when postseason comes. But rarely does it get cancelled and postponed over and over again due to the air quality.

On the night of November 8th, 2018, the city of Paradise in Northern California was hit with an enormous campfire that had wiped out the entire city of 26,000 residents, forcing them to evacuate. The fire had spread through Northern California, affecting all of Californians mentally and physically.

Just two weeks before the fire, the Liberty Lions Football team had completed their regular season with an undefeated 10-0 record and were on their way to make their Open Division Post Season run. The Lions were set to face the Clayton Valley Eagles on November 10th, just two days after the fire had occurred.

However, the massive fire resulted in some of the worst air quality conditions in California history. Looking outside, it looked like fog stretched on for miles, and judging by the smell, it was clear that it would be unwise to play outdoor sports. Eventually, the game was cancelled and postponed to that upcoming Monday. But once Monday, had arrived the air looked exactly the same and the smell was even worse. The conditions to play were nowhere near close to healthy, so the game had been cancelled once again, and pushed to November 17th.

The Lions had another whole week to prepare for this game, but finding areas to practice were tough. With the season on the line they couldn’t just take a break and wait until Saturday to play, so the team used what they could find and tried to stay in best of shape while staying indoor.

“The team and I honestly haven’t really changed anything, we’ve just stuck to our normal routines with practice and conditioning. We just improvised when needed”, said senior, Thomas Vi. And as the game got closer and closer, the team was feeling anxious to get on the field and do what they do best, but the only thing that was standing in the way was the air quality. Then it was Thursday, just two days before the big game. The anticipation was through the roof, and the team seemed ready, until the District announced that all sports would be cancelled until the air improved.

Once again, the game had been postponed.

As the team continued to prepare and practice, they had to focus on something they’ve never done in both ways for defensive end Thomas Vi.

“It just made more anxious to play to be honest, but also I’ve been waiting a little too long to go out there and hit someone from another school hard.”

Thomas had been anticipating this game for many long weeks, but he also uses this experience now as a learning experience.

“Us constantly waiting shows which team is the best at maintaining their composure and staying focused for almost a whole month.”

On November 24, 2018 after almost a whole month without playing a single football game, the Liberty Lions defeated the Clayton Valley Eagles, 42-14, to continue their historic season, which eventually resulted in falling against De La Salle in the Open Division final game. The team, however, was victorious against Valley Christian of San Jose, and will go on to play one final game in the state finals.

Maintaining a high quality team despite poor air quality

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Following her ice dancing career, Carreon decided to pursue another one of her passions: music. She then became Liberty High School’s choir director, and is now responsible for each and every one of the award-winning choirs. However, it isn’t unlikely to find her back on the ice. Just last December, she performed at Brentwood On Ice while being accompanied by Liberty’s own Chamber Singers—combining both her love for music, and her passion for skating into one wowing performance.

Profiles on Hayden Item: jet ski champion

By Ysenia Ingurazo

Staff Writer

Picture this: water splashes your face as the revving of your jet ski roars loud. You hear the crowd “oohh” and “ahh” at your tricks. One Liberty student knows this feeling all too well. Meet Hayden Item, a sophomore at Liberty High School, and jet ski champion.

Starting at the age of twelve, Hayden was inspired by Doug Wolff and Tim Tynan—who are now both sponsors, and supporters of Hayden.

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The result of kneeling for political justice in the NFL

By Roya Mohammed
Staff Writer

For many years, the national anthem has been a tradition that has been a part of many American sports. Throughout the nation, this has sparked various discussions on whether or not Americans should salute during the national anthem. The debate was sparked by Colin Kaepernick’s actions is viewed as the root cause of the decline in NFL viewership. In 2016, NFL viewership has declined by 12%. Furthermore, President Trump has stated that the decline of NFL viewership is now at 13% due to the players kneeling during the national anthem. However, as of September 2018, the decline of viewership was actually at about 3%. Many theories are floating around to justify the decline of viewers. According to CBS Sports, out of 841 adults questioned in a Seton Hall poll, 56% of those adults believe the decline was due to the kneeling of the football players during the national anthem. Furthermore, a study gathered by the Washington Post claimed that 42% of U.S adults viewed the kneeling as a proper way to protest while 53% viewed it as inappropriate. When questioned if she believes kneeling during the national anthem is inappropriate, Sammy Stone, a senior at Liberty High School, answered with mixed feelings. Mrs. Taylor, a teacher at Liberty High School, stated “When is it acceptable to express oneself politically? Why is this the political topic that people are taking action upon instead of other issues?” He continues by saying “Politics and sports have always mixed; sometimes with results that unify people, sometimes dividing them.” Furthermore, according to a poll published by the Washington Post, race may have played a role in the contentious or out dividing them. Furthermore, according to a poll published by the Washington Post, race may have played a role in the contentious or out dividing them. “Politics and sports have always mixed; sometimes with results that unify people, sometimes dividing them.”

Colin Kaepernick’s actions is viewed as the root cause of the decline in NFL viewership. According to the San Francisco Chronicle, the protests of Black Lives Matter is an important and necessary cause for recognition but it shouldn’t interfere with the respect we owe those who have served for our freedom.” Conversely, Mr. Taylor, a teacher at Liberty High School, stated “Politics and sports have always mixed; sometimes with results that unify people, sometimes dividing them.”

The eager anticipation for completion of the new Liberty Softball fields continues, but it is estimated to be done some time in February. However, many students aren’t aware there will now be baseball courts, as well as a brand new path to get students from the school’s campus to our football stadium. In the words of Liberty Principal Mrs. Harper, “The softball fields are estimated to be done around February”. However, our soon to be basketball courts may not be as soon as all of you are hoping. Mrs. Harper is making it possible to exceed these passions. Addressed by District Superintendent Eric Volta, “Now we are beginning our projects and working with architects and we can now envision the positive additions that will occur on our campuses”. The softball fields last year were playable, but just to much work needed to be put into them to keep them durable. This softball season the LHS softball fields will be well built and constructed, and the vanity softball field will even be equipped with a foul ball net, which will help to prevent the audience from being hit. Liberty junior Stephanie Trego, who has played softball for the past two years on these fields states, “The reconstruction of the softball fields will be a good change this season because our field will be in better condition. We will no longer be playing on concrete or dirt. Our clean will have better grip and we will be able to dive better. I think the reconstruction is a good idea”. So with the coming of the new year, expect changes.

Reconstruction of softball field in full swing

Win Free Tickets to Cirque Du Soleil!

Get ready to show your support for the LHS softball teams this season, and enjoy a fresh new path to walk on rather than the wet grass, despite the fact that the district is not entirely sure when all of these features will be complete. Many students aren’t aware that the school has recently been under construction due to the fix up of the two softball fields, and with the movement of the junior varsity field, the two softball fields, and with the coming of the new year, expect changes.

Riddle:

What happened to the elephant who ran away with the circus?

By Joey Weeden
Staff Writer

Get ready to show your support for the LHS softball teams this season, and enjoy a fresh new path to walk on rather than the wet grass, despite the fact that the district is not entirely sure when all of these features will be complete. Many students aren’t aware that the school has recently been under construction due to the fix up of the two softball fields, and with the movement of the junior varsity field, the two softball fields, and with the coming of the new year, expect changes.

Be the first person to show up to J-17 with the correct answer to the riddle listed below, and win two free tickets to Cirque Du Soleil’s show, “Volta.”

Congratulations
To Liberty High School Athletic Director and Football Coach Ryan Partridge, who was selected by the San Francisco 49ers as the high school Coach of the Year.

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**Opinion**

**December 13, 2018**

**Editorial:**

Liberty’s library lacks love

*The resource that has been overlooked*

As Brentwood is settling into its new public library, and Liberty students are accelerating to the construction on campus, it left with one question: Why isn’t a substantial amount of money, out of the millions from measure U, being spent on updating Liberty’s outdated campus library? Liberty’s library is older than most of its staff, and textbooks have been built around the 1990s. Considering the lack of use of Liberty’s school library, compared to the consistent crowd of students at the new Brentwood public library, it’s easy to deduce that local students were starving for an equipped place to study. Some believe that with the digital age taking over the world, traditional libraries are no longer essential; however, traditional libraries are imperative to the sense of community, and inclusivity to a town. Libraries are a safe and free environment to study, and inspire the school’s youth to keep reading. Although ebooks and PDF files of books exist everywhere, we can’t honestly believe that reading them is how most civilians are spending their time on their phones. Additionally, we cannot entirely depend on screens to teach children how to read. Books are crucial to the development of children’s imagination, and kick starts the basics of educational development. As technology has seamlessly integrated into our education system, we must remember that not every student has access to technology at home. Printers and computers are examples of these technologies, and libraries are a resource countless students must rely on to pass a class. Even as times progress, libraries will never be dispensable. As a community, we must protect what libraries stand for: imagination, education, inclusion, and progression. So, what does the spending of measure U say about the priorities of LUSBS? Football fields and swimming pools are ways to improve school spirit, but libraries help strengthen school culture through education.

**Californians vote to turn clocks back an hour with support from a 1970’s study by the US Virgin Islands.**

It’s crazy how the mind and brain can work together: during daylight savings time, our internal clock tells people it’s evening, but the brain still sees light outside. Daylight savings is the practice of advancing clocks during summer months so that daylight lasts longer while sacrificing normal sunrise times. However, the clocks reset back an hour during the fall months. George Hudson proposed the idea of daylight savings in 1899 which lead to the implementation of the idea starting with the German empire and Austria Hungary on April 30, 1916. Nevertheless, this small implementation nationwide turned worldwide in 70 countries today use this method. As of November 6 in California, a proposition known as Proposition 7 was on the ballot. This proposition states that the California State Legislature can change the dates and times of the daylight savings time period, as consistent with federal law, by a two-thirds vote. Proposition 7 also allowed the legislature to establish permanent, year-round daylight savings time by a two-thirds vote if the Federal Uniform Time Act is changed to allow for permanent daylight saving time. As of 2018, the Federal Uniforms...
He Said, She Said: The Male vs. Female Perspective

By Leah Carrasco
Staff Writer

Tis’ the season of giving but it’s not all about the price tag on the gift. As the holiday season approaches, it’s time to start thinking about that special gift to give to that special someone in your life. People everywhere are purchasing gifts for their loved ones during this wonderful season of giving. The holiday season becomes a time where retailers break out those cute Christmas commercials and many stores have special holiday sales that you can’t help but open up that wallet to purchase gifts. However, this tends to spark up the debate as to how much money we should actually spend on gifts but spending more is better than spending less, while others claim that spending less is more valuable than buying meaningless gifts for more money. Fuzzy socks and holiday scented candles are some simple, cozy items to give to your loved ones and they are generally inexpensive. Some claim that these gifts are perfect for the holidays because the real value that matters is the thought that you put into the gift. Indeed, these items may not make a difference monetarily but they make a difference in what is important. You can buy the same gift for a lower price.

During holidays stores also offer seasonal discounts for expensive gifts such as widescreen TVs, fancy jewelry, designer bags, and tickets to your loved one’s favorite sports team or concert become popular picks. Offering these gifts that are more meaningful and valuable despite the costly price. Sometimes, the gifts you want to buy and that you know your loved one will enjoy end up being pretty costly but in the end the money is well spent because the other person genuinely enjoyed their presents. Given these points, no matter the price of the gift, it’s all about the thought and sentiment behind the gift that actually matters; the amount of money you spend on the holidays is completely up to your own judgment. Whether it’s small, affordable gifts such as candles and fuzzy socks or bigger, more costly gifts such as cars, and fancy accessories, what matters is the effort and time you put in to find that perfect gift. Each of these gifts have different monetary values yet they are equally meaningful and are things that would be greatly appreciated. The holiday season is a season meant for giving to others and whether you decide to buy fancy cars and shoes or if you just decide to purchase gifts as simple as fuzzy socks and candles, no amount of money you spend is too much or too little. We tend to worry a lot about the monetary value of the gifts that we buy but in reality the meaning behind your gifts is the real value, not the number listed on the price tag.

By Trevor Atchinson
Staff Writer

It’s the most wonderful time of the year, where bursts of joy are given throughout the holiday season, and everything is heartwarming; but these feelings may not be the same for your wallet. So this begs the question: how much is really too much to spend on Christmas gifts? In my opinion, there is no limit on a price. Different circumstances can affect this like someone’s financial situation. If you are a broke college student who is in deep debt and surviving on minute rice, your Christmas budget is most certainly going to differ from others. Another variable in this, which is most likely more important, is judging what people already have, need, and want. So to answer the greater question, you have spent too much on holiday gifts when the person you are giving to doesn’t have a need for the gifts. I believe the smart thing to do would be to make an estimate not on price, but on the person you are gifting to. If you already know they have everything, and no expensive gift would be enough to make them even more happy than they already are, then that’s when you should give them a present where the thought counts the most, and vice versa.

The holiday season becomes a time to splurge on holiday gifts. However, you can’t help but open up that wallet to see what everyone is buying in anticipation. However, if you ignore the main selling point of Sourdough and Co. and focus on the soup, bread bowls, and salads, then we have a winner. The actual soup is incredible, and they serve a rotational soup of the day, along with a permanent staple of clam chowder. Ultimately, I’d only recommend Sourdough and Co if you like clear broth soups. The Lion’s Roar staff reserves the right to adjust or reject letters to the editor for any reason.

By Kristine Sanchez
Staff Writer

The opinions and views on this page are not necessarily those of Liberty High School, its Journalism class, or its adviser.

The Lion’s Roar gladly welcomes letters to the editor; they will be edited for the linguistic accuracy, good taste, and space. They may be up to 400 words in length, and are due no later than three weeks before publication to libertysionsroar@gmail.com. The Lion’s Roar staff reserves the right to adjust or reject letters to the editor for any reason.

In quality in the Santa business

By Kristine Sanchez
Staff Writer

The fictitious, jolly, bearded man we know today with his furry, red white suit and his famous sleigh and reindeer, comes to mind to countless of people during the holiday season. But there is a catch. He is always white. Saint Nicholas, is also known as the famous man named Santa Claus. As children grow up, Santa Claus is often portrayed as this fictional character who brings happiness to people of all ages. However, there is a controversy about him regarding his race. But does Santa Claus’ race really matter? From a personal perspective, no, his race does not matter. Santa Claus’ race does not matter because children do not see Santa Claus as this “white” man nor do they see Santa Claus as a man of color. What children care about, is if they are on the naughty or nice section of his extremely long list, and what presents he will bring to them this Christmas. However, some argue that his race does matter. They may believe that his race matters because it helps keep the “traditional” image of Santa Claus. But, in reality, Saint Nicholas’ race does not matter because it does not define who he is. It does not change the fact that he is a fictional man that represents the Christmas spirit, kindness and, the gift of giving to one another. So, is it the same day, if Santa Claus is the same jolly, kind-hearted man, who brings joy to the whole world, then it does not matter what his skin color is. But, if his race mattered, people can use their own imagination of how Santa Claus looks like without the judgement of other people. so now everyone has their own version of Santa Claus, whether he is white or not.

Lion’s Cafe: A review of Brentwood’s Sourdough & Co.

By Allie Cone
Editor in Chief

Sandwiches: the fundamental cuisine of lunchtime, are a dime and a dozen in Brentwood. There are rare silver linings in the lunch-time world; for every thousand Subway sandwiches, there’s a Dino’s Sandwiches, or Bahn Mi Express lovingly waiting to shield you from doughy mediocrity. Sourdough and Co believes they are too good for the lunch scene in town. Sourdough and Co serves traditional deli sandwiches with the customers choice of meat and cheese. On the sandwich comes lettuce, tomato, mayonnaise, and their house sauce, served on sourdough. The atmosphere lets you know immediately that Sourdough and Co if you mend Sourdough and Co if you steer clear of the sandwiches. Ultimately, I’d only recommend Sourdough and Co if you like clear broth soups. The Lion’s Roar staff reserves the right to adjust or reject letters to the editor for any reason.

The average American adult reportedly spends approximately $900 on Christmas gifts each year.

DID YOU KNOW?

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You’re probably thinking, ‘What is this about?’ Well, let me tell you a little bit about Sourdough. The Lion’s Roar gladly welcomes letters to the editor; they will be edited for the linguistic accuracy, good taste, and space. They may be up to 400 words in length, and are due no later than three weeks before publication to libertysionsroar@gmail.com. The Lion’s Roar staff reserves the right to adjust or reject letters to the editor for any reason.