Great Wolf Lodge ready to pounce on Brentwood?

By Yasmine Cardenas
Copy Editor

Brentwood is howlin’ for the possibility of a new resort. The Great Wolf Lodge has reached out to the City of Brentwood as a possible home for the hotel. Although, not set in stone, Brentwood looks forward to the activities this venture could bring.

The Great Wolf Lodge is a hotel that includes an indoor eighty-four degree water park exclusive to guests. The park includes water slides, thrill rides, and other family-oriented activities. If the Great Wolf Lodge does, in fact, come to Brentwood, it will be the 16th location to include the resort.

“There is a lot both sides don’t know yet, but the most important part is the sides have started the discussion, and that is where we are at,” says Brentwood City Manager Gus Vina who reported to hotel guests. Liberty junior Giselle Robleto, agreed that it would be a great addition to our small town and believes everyone should enjoy the experience. With so many residents feeling hopeful, Mayor Bob Taylor in Brentwood believes that this is just what the city needs.

“I think it is a great addition because we need more activities for young people,” expresses Liberty senior Lexi Scriven. She added, “The facility would make way more money and more people would go,” on the fact that the water park access is exclusive to hotel guests. Liberty junior Gianni Robleto, agreed that it would be a great addition to our small town and believes everyone should enjoy the experience. With so many residents feeling hopeful, Mayor Bob Taylor in Brentwood believes that this is just what the city needs.

A Great Wolf Lodge resort serving more customers in one of many fun-filled areas.

Who let the chicks out? Chick-fil-A coming soon

By Nicole Schaffer
Staff Writer

It’s a bird, it’s a plane...no look, it’s Chick-fil-A! The restaurant chain was founded in 1946. Every restaurant is closed on Sundays for religious reasons. The restaurant’s signature sauce is actually three sauces combined. The company has sold over 3 billion sandwiches since opening.

Will Chick-fil-A make a nest in Brentwood? Photo courtesy of: Hilbers Inc.

By Cheyenne Hicks
Co-Editor

Brentwood is known for U-Pick berry picking in Pleasanton and the other one being in Brentwood. To be a resident in one of the cities with a newly implemented Chick-fil-A is making citizens overjoyed with high hopes.

“This is the best news I’ve received in a while because I’ll be able to go often and not have to drive a distance,” quoted Marco Antonio, a junior at Liberty. Though what the ecstatic people may not know is that the Brentwood Chick-fil-A, likely to get built near Wendy’s on Lone Tree Way, may not be opening unless the company finds a partner to do business with.

Contrarily, the Chick-fil-A in Pleasanton opened on Hopyard on November 17th, which is housed approximately thirty five minutes away, thus giving one Liberty student high hopes.

“Chick-fil-A gives me life and I am very excited that they will be putting one in so close so I don’t have to drive so far!” exclaimed Liberty junior Cassidy Harrison.
R.I.P. Vine: a memoir 
By Joseph Sanchez
Co-Editor
When Vine first debuted in 2013, it soared in popularity, gaining traction practically instantly. Stars were created, millions upon millions of six-second videos were produced, but Vine flew too close to the sun, and lost it’s wings. On October 27, 2016 Twitter announced that they are shutting down Vine According to TechCrunch. But why would they shut down a successful platform though? Well, here’s the truth; Vine was left destabilized, Snapchat, and Instagram videos came in like a tidal wave, decimating Vine in all as it was just launched in June. Vine goes away, it can come back. So for those worried about Vine dying out, keep in mind that if Twitter drops Vine, it gives them much more possibilities with Twitter, to make it a better platform, and possibly Vine will be baked into Twitter at some point in the future as Phys.org points out. So if Vine goes away, it can come back.

Apple Music raises the bar by lowering price 
By Nick Nelson
Staff Writer
Apple Music or Spotify? Photo courtesy of talkandroid.com
It can be an unnecessarily difficult task to choose between the various music streaming services such as: Apple Music, Spotify, and Amazon Music. The service quality and deals that they all offer are very similar to one another in many ways, in terms of music quality and variety, as well as prices. But soon, Apple Music may be making the task of choosing between them and their competitors a much easier process for potential subscribers; Apple Music plans on lowering the current prices substantially for their service. According to Digital Music News, “Apple could cut subscription prices down by as much as 20%.” As of now the price of an individual subscription for Apple Music is $9.99 and a family subscription which accommodates up to six people is $14.99. A 20% cut would equal to prices dropping to an individual price of $7.99 and a family price of $12.99. Both prices of $7.99 and $12.99 are arguably the lowest prices they can offer considering that in order to drop them that far they would have to put the difference to all the major labels on Apple Music. The labels on Apple Music refuse to subsidi- dize the price cut because they want their pay up front and as a result, most are not very fond of Apple being in debt to them, especially since Apple’s main competitor, Spotify is currently strapped with heavy debts to the labels on their service. Apple’s motivation for seri- ously considering making their price more affordable is mostly to stay competitive with other music streaming services, but especially, Spotify, their biggest threat. Apple Music is a relatively new service, as it was just launched in June of last year and Spotify has been around since the October of 2008. But despite it’s young age, Apple has experienced extreme success with it’s streaming service report- ing having about fifteen million paid subscribers as of June 2016. Spotify has over 100 million sub- scribers but only about 30 million of them are paid. So if you think about it, Apple is catching up to them at a very rapid pace, especial- ly considering the fact that they’re aiming to one day obtain 100 million paid subscribers. It’s going to be crucial for Spotify to find a way to make themselves competitive, or things may not be looking too good for their company in the future. Apple is moving full steam ahead, rapidly progressing towards be- coming the best music streaming service in the country and it’s going to be very tough time for competi- tors trying to slow the company’s momentum, whether they decide to put the price cuts into effect or not.

Apple Music raises the bar by lowering price

By Rebecca Bruntone
Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of St. Anne’s Church

By Joseph Sanchez

Co-Editor

R.I.P. Vine: a memoir

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Apple Music raises the bar by lowering price

By Rebecca Bruntone

Staff Writer

In the end, twenty-one stars offered up these contracts with the intent to leave if the refused. When this proposal headed back to Twitter, to essentially pay $25,000,000 to keep their big-hitters on the platform, Twitter considered it, but never paid out the contracts, and as a result, twenty one Vine stars practically ditched the platform, with more leaving or hardly ever utilizing the platform. And as for management, this vine does not keep swinging. The Verge reports that Rus Yusupov, Vine’s creative director was laid-off, as part of Twitter’s previous year’s wave of lay-offs. And in 2014, Dom Hofmann had quit for a new start up, so Jason Tuff led Vine before quitting for Virtual Reality projects at Google this year. So while Vine was left destabilized, Snapchat, and Instagram videos came in like a tidal wave, decimating Vine in all aspects of the platform, Snapchat had a personal touch to sharing photos and videos, and Instagram had ten seconds as opposed to Vine’s six. So why was Vine’s last of traction mean for Twitter? Simple, changes to Twitter itself, because if Vine is gone, then Twitter still has to last Phys.org Speculates that new leadership is coming, and depending on the new leadership, Twitter will have substantial changes, for better or worse is still unknown, but for the company, their goals should be focused on the better. As for the present, Business Insider reports that Twitter plans on tackling their issue of abusive behavior with a new set of tools to combat harassment and trolling. Business Insider also reports that Twitter plans on adding a new timeline with more options to fit your needs.

Apple Music raises the bar by lowering price

By Nick Nelson

Staff Writer

Apple Music or Spotify? Photo courtesy of talkandroid.com

It can be an unnecessarily difficult task to choose between the various music streaming services such as: Apple Music, Spotify, and Amazon Music. The service quality and deals that they all offer are very similar to one another in many ways, in terms of music quality and variety, as well as prices. But soon, Apple Music may be making the task of choosing between them and their competitors a much easier process for potential subscribers; Apple Music plans on lowering the current prices substantially for their service. According to Digital Music News, “Apple could cut subscription prices down by as much as 20%.” As of now the price of an individual subscription for Apple Music is $9.99 and a family subscription which accommodates up to six people is $14.99. A 20% cut would equal to prices dropping to an individual price of $7.99 and a family price of $12.99. Both prices of $7.99 and $12.99 are arguably the lowest prices they can offer considering that in order to drop them that far they would have to put the difference to all the major labels on Apple Music. The labels on Apple Music refuse to subsidize the price cut because they want their pay up front and as a result, most are not very fond of Apple being in debt to them, especially since Apple’s main competitor, Spotify is currently strapped with huge debts to the labels on their service. Apple’s motivation for seriously considering making their price more affordable is mostly to stay competitive with other music streaming services, but especially, Spotify, their biggest threat. Apple Music is a relatively new service, as it was just launched in June of last year and Spotify has been around since the October of 2008. But despite it’s young age, Apple has experienced extreme success with it’s streaming service report- ing having about fifteen million paid subscribers as of June 2016. Spotify has over 100 million subscribers but only about 30 million of them are paid. So if you think about it, Apple is catching up to them at a very rapid pace, especially considering the fact that they’re aiming to one day obtain 100 million paid subscribers. It’s going to be crucial for Spotify to find a way to make themselves competitive, or things may not be looking too good for their company in the future. Apple is moving full steam ahead, rapidly progressing towards becoming the best music streaming service in the country and it’s going to be very tough time for competitors trying to slow the company’s momentum, whether they decide to put the price cuts into effect or not.
A new series by LHS’ video production class: “Marsh Creek” is coming soon

By Anthony Sanchez

When asked about our favorite TV shows key things come to mind: characters, plot, and overall greatness. Many would say that they in- vest themselves in the universe that has been created for them, but now, imagine that coming from your school’s video production class. This year, Frank Pappas’ ROP class is producing a whole new TV show, “Marsh Creek,” from the ground up. The actors and crew are all students from this class, which makes this project that more ambitious. Mr. Pap-

pas has strong goals for this show and has a plan to get there: first, is how the show will be broadcast. “I’m thinking Vimeo, may-

be YouTube but I’m trying to avoid YouTube for a lot of rea-

sons. But in my mind YouTube also makes a lot of sense; most likely one of those two online platforms.” Pappas explained. Considering this, the class is also planning to advertise their show to the students as much possible through morning announcements, though this is not made spec-

ifically for a certain audience. “We will promote it to the school population absolutely, but we are not making it specifically for the school population,” said Pappas. When the show eventually airs it’s first episode, the plan is to have the show successful from not only the school populace, but also other people that may watch the show from around the world. Also, Mr. Pappas plans to have this show run for a long time. “We want this show to run for more than one year, we want it to run for a couple of years. Two years plan is but ideally four years” he said. With the idea of having a show run for longer than two years, the production value and equip-

ment also come to mind. Pappas explains, “We are go-

ing for as high quality as we can from a practical standpoint. We do have time limits and obviously budgetary constraints, significant budgetary constraints. But we are using a 4k DSLR camera, (and) using a digital audio recorder with high end microphones. If we have to reshoot stuff because it is not good enough, we will do it. We already have written six episodes.” An important note about the equip-

ment though is that everything was purchased by the Liberty Film Club; the school did not help fund for this equipment to be used. “So if it makes sense for this show to be made, and what can people expect? “We truly, really, sincerely believe this is the show to watch the Twin Peaks again, about a year or so ago. I forgot how phenomen-

ally good this show actually is. It inspired me to try and do something like that.” Pappas expresses. The plan for this first year is that Mr. Pappas has the chance to make a show of this scale. In the past, he had done sitcoms and other small pro-

duction projects, but nothing of this scale. The show has no specific re-

lease date, but it will hopefully be done by the fourth quarter. In the meantime, people can all wait in suspense and see what this show has to offer for everyone.

Teen pregnancy on the decline

By Allison Whent

Teen pregnancy is a reality across the U.S. but as of late, the teen pregnancy rate is at one of its lowest. In 2007, the teen birth rate had started to plummet fur-

ther, and faster than it had in recent years. 2014 was an all-

time low for teen pregnancy. Eileen Pattern from PewRe-

searchCenter confirms, “The teen pregnancy rate has hit a life-

time low for teen pregnancy. It’s been observed by most stu-

dents forced to share classrooms is a likely one and further efforts in condensing this circumstance are likely to occur.

Team athletes’ lack of rest and the fre-

quency of injury increases expo-

sionally, according to Fatigue Science. These statistics simply
go to show how important it is for the teenage athlete to get his or her necessary sleep hours.
New club on campus:

LHS’ Lion Heart Club
By Janilyn Manibusan
Staff Writer
Not only is there a brand new club at Liberty, but there are brand new opportunities never offered before! The Lion Heart Club was created by Brooke Graham to help improve our school and community. Not convincing enough? Well, what if the more community service hours you serve to help our community, you also get to TRAVEL and help many other communities as well? What sounds more amazing than travelling and helping others along the way? It’s also a great opportunity to complete the community service hours necessary for graduating high school.

“In the 6th grade, I wanted to travel and give back to the community as well”, was Brooke Graham’s heart warming explanation of how she came up with the idea of the Lion Heart Club. But what would you physically do during the Lion Heart Club? A representative of the Lion Heart Club, Clarke Elliot said, “We would mostly do community service hours around Brentwood, working at food banks, and even working at retirement homes.”

Also, the Lion Heart Club is working very hard to reach their goals for the year. Rumor has it that they’re soon going to be doing community service at the beach to help reach their main goal, which is building homes in Costa Rica.

Mr. Roman, the advisor of the club explained, “My goal is to get students to experience serving the community or communities.” The club and himself are also considering fundraising as well. They also want to help abroad. In the end, they want to build empathy for students.

The Lion Heart Club is located at E-12 on Thursdays at lunch. Socialize, help others, and have fun. To receive more information on the Lion Heart Club visit Mr. Roman in room E-12.

Christmas Cheer or Drought Fear?
By Tanner Kephart
Staff Writer
Many people would say that it is a tradition around Christmas time to go and get their own real Christmas tree. They enjoy it especially because it is not only exciting for the person getting the tree, but also for their kids getting to have experience in seeing what people can have. But for many people, this could change drastically due to California’s water shortage. Although this doesn’t just apply to California, it is affecting the whole state and forcing some cities to cut down trees in the town instead of going to a higher elevation to get a good tree. For people wanting real Christmas trees, this problem that states and cities have been facing for a while can have a large impact on the amount, cost, and the variety of the trees.

Most of the trees that people want to take home are too dried out to purchase or take home. Debbie Livingston, owner of Summit Christmas tree farm states, “If you don’t get rain during the winter, you don’t get a really good growing season.” Furthermore, she goes on to explain that if they farms aren’t receiving enough water then they are losing a whole year’s worth of growing. It’s not just the trees that are being affected by no water, but it is the tree seedlings that aren’t receiving enough moisture for them to develop into healthy Christmas trees. In addition to unhealthy trees, the drought is also affecting the income and business of these Christmas tree farms. Farms have to lower their prices for the trees that they already have cut or are waiting to be cut; as not a lot of people are going to pay full price for a Christmas tree that isn’t fully green or is too dried out. This could be a big problem because farms could go out of business due to not receiving enough income to support their farms and supplies that they need to make sure that the trees can grow to their full potential.

Lion’s Cafe
A little taste of Mikado Bistro
By Emily Lutes
Co-Editor
Fresh sushi rolls, steaming hot tea and great customer service are a few qualities that come to mind when I think of the restaurant Mikado. Off of Sand Creek Road the Asian Bistro, Mikado thrives off of the happiness of its customers. The show is opening at Liberty this upcoming February 24th; come witness “Mary Poppins”. As the Technical Director, Han-na Johnson explained, “Mary Poppins will be magical, entertaining, different than what Liberty has done in awhile.” LHS Playmakers really emphasize how “for every job that must be done, there is an element of fun.”

This will be Mrs. Dixon’s last show after teaching theater for 25 years. She is ecstatic to get things going. When it comes to theatrical talent, the unexpected happens; people from unlikely places can come out of nowhere. Against the odds, two freshmen took the lead roles of one of the most important shows Liberty has put on in a long time. “You’re always auditioning.” Director, Helen Dixon affirms. It doesn’t matter who you are, your action define you and what role you’ll receive in a show. It takes good character to be a good character. This admittedly surprised the freshmen stars. “I turned around, and Dixon was standing there with the Poppins hat. She slowly walked towards me with the hat and put it on my head. I was so stunned. I think at that point she said, “You are going to do a great job,” and that’s when I really knew it was me,” reminisced Avery Morton, Mary Poppins-to-be.

This was just one example of how dreams came true. Anything is possible in theater. You may never know what will happen.

“Mary Poppins” lands at LHS this February
By Jeanae Torres
Co-Editor
All the work going into making a musical can be quite arduous but Brentwood will be receiving a spoonful of sugar to make the medicine go down. The show is opening at Liberty this upcoming February 24th; come witness “Mary Poppins”. As the Technical Director, Han-na Johnson explained, “Mary Poppins will be magical, entertaining, different than what Liberty has done in awhile.” LHS Playmakers really emphasize how “for every job that must be done, there is an element of fun.”

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To receive more information on the Lion Heart Club visit Mr. Roman in room E-12.

Photo by Rachel Ueda

Photo courtesy of http://www.getreading.co.uk/
Since Kobe Bryant has retired, many fans are wondering...

Now what?

By Brady Peterson
Staff Writer

Buzz... Buzz... The final buzzer on Kobe Bryant's last game goes off. "The Mamba" is out of basketball, but is looking to start a new era in life. ESPN.com's Ramona Shelbourne said that Bryant "does not miss the game not even a little bit." This shows that Kobe Bryant does not have feelings of emptiness even though he is not playing basketball anymore. Liberty High School student Ulysses Contreras stated, "I miss Kobe; as a young kid I loved watching him play." Overall, it seems that fans are still not at peace with Bryant's retirement because they really miss him. Ulysses Contreras explained, "I think this year was a good retirement year for Kobe because he believed he could play more years but his body was not the same as previous years. And as much as he loved the game, it was time for him to say goodbye to the NBA." Laker fans will always have a place in their heart for Bryant and they know that if he was still playing, he would not be a big asset to the team and would not really be needed.

In a recent interview with Ramona Shelbourne, Bryant expressed, "I have really enjoyed life after the NBA." He is showing that his focus is not basketball anymore. He has always been a family man, but now he gets to spend even more time with his family and build bonds bigger than basketball: on Instagram, Bryant posted, "we are expecting our third baby girl!" Bryant shows that he is having a good time in life after the NBA and he wants to continue to enjoy life one step at a time.

Pushed to their limits: Athletes and eating disorders

By Miranda Fagundes
Staff Writer

Athletes do a lot to achieve all of their great accomplishments. Most of these great athletes have practice for multiple hours every day, insane workouts to maintain their fantastic bodies, and a very strict eating routine. Because of this, many Olympians and professional athletes are prone to getting a major eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia. In addition, gymnastics, diving, body building, wrestling, figure skating, dance; and running are all at high risk to get an eating disorder because they have extremely strict diets. As a wrestler in the 11th grade, Colby Smith states, "During wrestling season there is, like, nothing I'm able to eat. I am supposed to lose weight and can only really a lot of white meat, like chicken, and lots of pasta, but everything I eat has to be nonfat; so technically there isn't much good food I get to eat for a while." Athletes that are having to lose an extreme amount of weight to be able to look as people expect them to, and to make them faster and better at what they do are more prone to getting an eating disorder called Anorexia. This eating disorder is where people are obsessive about their weight and body image so they worry about what they eat. This disorder is most found in females and about 4% of people with this disease end up dying because of complications. Also, it is quite interesting to find out that Anorexia is most common in Germany and there has been about 1,500,000 reported cases in the year 2015 and has a rate that is rising as well. Also, German Olympians are very prone to eating disorders because of their extremely strict eating guidelines. Therefore, even after the amount of deaths and major health problems that have been causes of eating disorders people still tend to not take them seriously and don't realize the real harm it does to people this present day.

Athletics

By Austin Kenney
Staff Writer

Major League, World Series, best in the world: this isn’t necessarily what you think of when talking about Pittsburg baseball. However, Jose Canseco, former Oakland A's outfielder, has joined the Pittsburg Diamonds. Jose recently signed with the organization for the rest of the 2016 season. “Wow, good for him, I respect how much he wants to play and the work he puts in to stay in shape”, stated Cameron McNeely, Liberty student and baseball fanatic. Although Canseco is getting up there in age, he has been working very hard to keep his body ready for any opportunity to play. The 52-year-old has a deep love for baseball which makes it extremely hard for him to leave the game. Playing baseball is very special to him and will always hold a special place in his heart.

“Who would have thought that Jose would still be playing? That’s good though, I’m glad to see he is still doing what he loves.”, added Evan Lonsdale. Nevertheless, Canseco is a special player trying to do what he loves most, all while having a great time.

Jose Canseco shines as a Pittsburg Diamond

By Loren Elliot
Photo courtesy of

Photo courtesy of

"The Mamba" is out of basketball, but is looking to start a new era in life. ESPN.com's Ramona Shelbourne said that Bryant "does not miss the game not even a little bit." This shows that Kobe Bryant does not have feelings of emptiness even though he is not playing basketball anymore. Liberty High School student Ulysses Contreras stated, "I miss Kobe; as a young kid I loved watching him play." Overall, it seems that fans are still not at peace with Bryant's retirement because they really miss him. Ulysses Contreras explained, "I think this year was a good retirement year for Kobe because he believed he could play more years but his body was not the same as previous years. And as much as he loved the game, it was time for him to say goodbye to the NBA." Laker fans will always have a place in their heart for Bryant and they know that if he was still playing, he would not be a big asset to the team and would not really be needed.

In a recent interview with Ramona Shelbourne, Bryant expressed, "I have really enjoyed life after the NBA." He is showing that his focus is not basketball anymore. He has always been a family man, but now he gets to spend even more time with his family and build bonds bigger than basketball: on Instagram, Bryant posted, "we are expecting our third baby girl!" Bryant shows that he is having a good time in life after the NBA and he wants to continue to enjoy life one step at a time.

BVAL All-League Fall 2016

League Champions
Girls Cross Country – Liberty
Boys Cross Country – Liberty

Girls Cross Country
MVP- Kai Bohannon, Liberty
First Team: Liberty – Kai Bohannon, Madison MacPherson, Julia Gonzalez, Alyssa Dalke, Brittany Bennett, Makena Bohannon.
Second Team: Liberty – Jesse Hardman

Boys Cross Country
MVP- Elliott Portillo, Liberty
First Team: Liberty – Elliott Portillo, Micah Delgado, Benjamin Smith, Andrew Macklin
Second Team- Liberty – Michael Sudweeks, Dominic Zumiga

Girls Cross Country
Liberty
Boys Cross Country
Liberty
The outrageous cost of attending a pro sporting event

By Cade Sautter
Staff Writer

It’s time for the big game; the opposing team kicks the ball off, and away they go! The game is full of cheers, booman, suspense, and chaos. Yet, at the end of it, you had a great time. Although where your parents look at the total price of everything that was bought, they are in shock. Today, tickets to pro-sporting events are not an easy buy for the average family. As a matter of fact, these ticket prices are slowly, but constantly rising. For example, the average cost for a family of four to attend an MLB game after purchasing food, souvenirs, and tickets is $211.48. As of 2016, the ticket cost alone is approximately $31.82 per person. Ticket prices in the MLB have increased a whopping total of 334% since 1957. Parking fees at the stadiums themselves are a pain to everyone. If you and your family want to support the Giants at one of their games, plan on spending $30.00 to park near the stadium. Another example is the average cost for a family of four to attend an NBA game. After all desired purchases are made, they can expect a total around $333.58. As of 2015/2016, the approximate single ticket price is $50.30. Parking fees to attend a Warriors game are similar to a Giants game, ranging from $25.00-$35.00. Connor Morgan, a junior at Liberty High School, explains, “I went to a Warriors game during the 2014-2015 season when they won the championship. It cost around $80.00 for where I sat.” Connor also explains that he paid an additional $95.00 for a Stephen Curry jersey. Lastly, the dunned NFL ticket is the most expensive in professional sports. After a family of four has made all their desired purchases, they can expect to pay $628.90, approximately. As of 2016, the approximate price of a ticket is $85.71. If you and your family want to park close to Levi Stadium to attend a 49ers game, you can expect paying around $40.00 for parking. Overall, there are many factors that affect the prices of attending pro-sporting events. Maybe it’s the opposing team, day of the week, even the weather. Nevertheless, attending these games are extremely fun, but have major prices to be paid.

When the lights go down in San Francisco, in the Giants stadium they light up the night for all baseball fans.

Colin Kaepernick takes a knee during election

Will his actions impact his career and the 49ers?

By Reese Watkins-Nelson
Staff Writer

You are heading to Santa Clara to see your favorite football team, the 49ers. When you enter through those giant stadium doors with an awe-struck face, the scents of garlic and frying foods intertwine in your nose, bringing a satisfied but hungry look on your face. Even though your team is not having, nor was expected to have a great season, you still go to support and experience an adrenaline filled action-packed show on turf. You finally get to your seat, and just then, everybody stands up, removing their hats and putting their hands across their chests whilst facing towards the American flag. The National Anthem overflows every loudspeaker in the stadium, enchanting it with a spell of patriotism, but as you look down on the field, there’s one particular person “not participating” in this pre-game ritual. Your once so beloved cherished quarterback Colin Kaepernick, seems to be taking a knee, furthermore only worsening the 49ers and especially Kaepernick’s reputation this season. From these events, the 49ers fans across the country and even some sports analysts have raised questions about the future of Colin Kaepernick with the 49ers. “49ers and Colin Kaepernick agreed to a restructured deal,” Adam Schefter stated on Bleacher Report. This restructured settlement makes it so Kaepernick’s last four years are wiped from his contract, and have now made it one-year with another optional one to his discretion. From that, all the speculation of him going to the Broncos which occurred in early to mid 2016, was swept away, and now he has one or possibly two years left to prove himself worthy in this league. “I’d be shocked if he’s on the 49ers before the season ends,” Jay Glazer of FOX reported. Throughout the offseason, and somewhat regular season of 2015, Kaepernick has been fighting uphill battles to try and stay on the team from all the major setbacks he’s gone through. For example, there were the three surgeries consisting of his thumb, his non-throwing shoulder, and then his knee, and even in most recent news, not voting in this year’s presidential election. After this particular incident, many people were furious with him, and want him to stop the protesting now, only adding to the amount of reasons for the 49ers to get rid of him. Overall, despite all this drama and debate, the ending outcome is unfortunately that his career is still smoke and mirrors according to most staff members on the 49ers, and even to some analysts in the NFL.

Congratulations to
Liberty High School’s Athletic Director, Mr. Curtis Cunningham

The California State Athletic Directors Association has nominated Cunningham for the North Coast Section Norm MacKenzie Rookie Athletic Director of the Year Award. The award is given to a person who has worked as an Athletic Director for five years or less; nominees must also have made impactful contributions to the lives of students they work with. According to LHS Principal Pat Walsh, Cunningham “certainly fits the bill.”
OPINION

Are our standards too low?

Requirement to participate only a 1.5 GPA

You think you can make it to the big time: you’ve got college scholarships lined up out the door, but it all vanishes. Why? The required GPA for LHS students to participate in sports or activities is a lack-luster 1.5. This is very subpar considering the required GPA for college athletes is 2.0 and you must graduate in the top half of the class if one wants the honor of scholar-athlete. Now with this in mind, how are we setting a goal for our students to be successful or even make it to college? “Our students need the education to succeed in life,” says Hunter Karbowiak, student athlete. We should be setting the bar higher than 2.0 so when students get to college, the new challenge is not such a struggle. Ultimately, if athletes don’t go “big time” which happens way more than not, they absolutely need an education so they can support themselves and overall contribute to society. The biggest smack in the face a young man or woman could face is pushing for dreams and nearly accomplishing them, but a number on a piece of paper keeps the person from doing that.

Please don’t stop the music

Liberty Lions missing DJ Hightop

By Allie Cone
Staff Writer

Homecoming means dressing up, taking photos, great music, and long standing community tradition. However, 2016 was the fateful year to break a decade long tradition as Liberty was forced to face the music – without DJ Hightop. Upon his absence, the student body concerning his performance; he stated, “Please recognize my efforts to make every student feel like they count.” DJ Hightop elaborates on his line of work explaining it to be similar to retail, stating that one could give the greatest service, and a crowd still won’t be happy. He then addresses the entire student body concerning his performance; he stated, “Please recognize my efforts to make every student feel like they count.” DJ Hightop will continue with his strong philosophy of playing music for everyone, and hopes to be back at Liberty soon!

He said, she said

The male vs female perspective

We tackle the subject of meeting your significant other’s family during the holidays

By Shaun Flory
Staff Writer

Many boys are nervous when they ask a girl out for the first time, let alone meeting their parents. Imagine it’s Christmas Eve, and you are on your way to your girlfriend’s house. As you park your car you suddenly feel this sharp pain in your stomach, and you feel pretty dizzy and can barely focus. That is the nerves kicking in for the first time meeting his/her parents and family friends. It can be a really scary experience to meet someone’s parents that you don’t know. While shaking the hand of a parent you may find yourself freezing up to the point that no words will come out of your mouth. You have no idea what they are thinking about you. “Will they like me? Am I good enough to be dating their daughter? Will they approve?” Some of you may be really confident and have no fear, but in my experience, when I shook my girlfriend’s parents hand for the first time, I felt very insecure. It was very important to me that I make a good first impression. Even though I was nervous and didn’t know what to say, I think I did pretty well. They were extremely friendly and welcoming, which made me feel comfortable and at ease. What I can take away from this experience is that no matter how nervous you may be about meeting your girlfriend/boyfriend’s parents, it shows that you have courage, and respect for their daughter/son. Most importantly, making a good first impression always pays off.

By Stephanie Smoakgrass
Staff Writer

It’s that time of year again, when you automatically become obligated to show up to various social events, and rehearse how you’re going to answer the awkward questions that are routinely asked, such as “How’s school?” or “Are you dating anyone?” But when it comes down to meeting your boyfriend/girlfriend’s family, it can quickly become one of the most stressful situations to prepare for. Especially knowing that many judgments are made based off of first impressions, many girls have to worry about things like maintaining perfect table manners, or being able to answer questions in the most appealing way possible. It’s actually so stressful, that there are thousands of articles online written to teach you tips and tricks on how to act when meeting the parents. As if all social skills are suddenly lost among adults. But the pressure is definitely understandable. Personally speaking, I get anxious just talking to people at cash registers, so I could only imagine how it must feel to be put under that kind of pressure. On top of that, you never really know what to expect from the parents, until you meet them right then and there. And depending on how judgmental they are, you then have to worry about how much food to eat off of your plate, and how you should sit to make yourself look as skinny as possible. So many factors to consider, it almost sounds like a beauty pageant.

Editorial Policy

The opinions and views expressed on this page are solely those of the authors, not necessarily the journalism class, its advisor, or Liberty High School.

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 libertylionsroar@gmail.com. The Lion’s Roar staff reserves the right to adjust or reject letters to the editor for any reason.

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**OPINION**

**Attack of the AP classes**

By Cody MacDermott

Staff Writer

AP classes will destroy your social life. For example, if you take AP Art History, the most difficult AP class, students are assigned an estimate of two hours of homework every night. In addition, Christina Sinencroce states “I do not have time to hang out with friends on one day over the weekend.” Christina also says that she has given up sleep, friends, and her piece of mind. AP classes give you an advantage to get a head start for college and give students good recognition on your transcript. How tough are AP classes? As heard from Cyrus Soheili, AP classes are very hard and takes effort and you must pay attention in order to succeed. Do all high schools have AP class opportunities? Many around the United State’s high schools do have AP classes but the students that are home schooled do not have the opportunity. The downfall of AP classes are that they do not give you extra credits for high school and they are not the same as college courses, they are only to prepare students. On the positive end of taking AP courses is that students will be ahead of the game when they reach college.

**Who are they vo-teen-g for?**

Should teens get to vote if their GPAs are high enough?

By Joshua Allen

Staff Writer

One privilege given to a kid, can change the world. There are many teens that are responsible, Responsible enough to drive, to watch mind, AP classes give you an advantage to get a head start for college and give students good recognition on your transcript. How tough are AP classes? As heard from Cyrus Soheili, AP classes are very hard and takes effort and you must pay attention in order to succeed. Do all high schools have AP class opportunities? Many around the United State’s high schools do have AP classes but the students that are home schooled do not have the opportunity. The downfall of AP classes are that they do not give you extra credits for high school and they are not the same as college courses, they are only to prepare students. On the positive end of taking AP courses is that students will be ahead of the game when they reach college.

**Streaming services killing the album industry**

By Marcus Henderson

Staff Writer

Music is a concept that will exist long after the last of human kind has passed on. However, its packaging is something that has changed over the years, and will continue to evolve in the future. Music streaming, in the last four to five years, has taken the industry by storm. It has always been the “American way” to create tools that help make everyday activities more convenient, but also more satisfactory. Streaming services, like Apple Music, Spotify, Pandora, SoundCloud, etc., make it easier for consumers to enjoy and appreciate artists instantly from their many different devices. For music fans, this is amazing. These days, you don’t have to leave your seat to explore thousands of different artists, genres, albums, and composers. Conversely, for the manufacturers who for years have distributed highly demanded compact discs, this raises brows. This past April, famous recording artist Kanye West’s seventh studio album reached number one on the Billboard top 200 chart. The album, The Life of Pablo, earned a whopping 94,000 album units. However, unforeseen by many, only 28,000 of those units were credited to physical album sales; the rest were streaming units. This is becoming a trend in the industry. High streaming units diminishing the shame of low physical numbers. This summer it was reported that compact disc sales fell by 11.6 percent. Digital album sales also fell but at a slightly lower rate. Studies show a high correlation between fading physical sales and burgeoning streaming opportunities. In summary, it seems that modern music consumers will continue to see the decline of physical album sales in the future, and their children might even witness the death of the compact disc as a whole.

**The Lion’s Roar**

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**Opinion Poll:**

**Would you rather date someone you know, or get to know the person you’re dating?**

By Elizabeth Leon

Staff Writer

“Someone you know, because you don’t want to date a crazy person.” - Adrian Soto, grade 12

“Get to know them, because it’s better.” - Perla Camacho, grade 12

“Get to know them, because knowing someone already can ruin your friendship.” - Ayana Vierra, grade 10

“Someone you already know, because you already know everything about the person.” - Sebastian Alvarez, grade 10

“Get to know them, because it’s always nice to meet new people in life.” - Alejandro Leon, grade 9

“Get to know the person, because I don’t want to date a friend and ruin our friendship.” - Alexis Alvarez, grade 12

**The stress of advance placement classes can lead to irrational behavior.**

Photo by Lily Aiwohi

Could voting for President at age 16 be a possibility?

Photo by Joshua Allen

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Could voting for President at age 16 be a possibility?

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One privilege given to a kid, can change the world. There are many teens that are responsible. Responsible enough to drive, to watch their house, and even to babysit. But are they responsible enough to the point where they should be allowed to vote, depending on their GPA? According to many students, it sounds like a great idea. Although, adults may be a little iffy about this whole idea. Students that attend Liberty High School were asked the following question, “Should students be able to vote depending on their GPA?” three students were asked this question, Eventually, junior Yasmine Cardenas responded by saying, “No. A GPA doesn’t determine political knowledge.” The student also added, “It doesn’t even determine your level of maturity.” Sheridan Belorde had two responses and she stated how 16 years would be an appropriate age to vote, and that there are many immature students that have political knowledge. These responses coming from these students sound very similar. Two adults were asked the same question. They followed up with the same response and included more information to their answers. “Absolutely not,” said Kevin Allen. “Just because you’re a good student doesn’t mean you know how the system works.” Marcus Allen later responded, “I’m not sure about a GPA but age 16 would be a good age to vote.” In conclusion, several people had similar opinions, but different views. Many people agreed that a GPA does not determine political knowledge and that students should not vote depending on their GPA.

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