Drinking and driving can run you into serious fines, jailtime, and even death for yourself and others.

Taylor Swift breaks up with Spotify
Is this the start of a trend in the music industry?

By Noel Corniola
Staff Writer

This Pennsylvania car crash involved a drunk driver.

The holidays are supposed to be a happy and joyful time to celebrate with your loved ones, but all of that could change in the blink of an eye due to someone getting behind the wheel after drinking. During the year 2008, there were around 51 deaths each day on US highways during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, according to Colorado law enforcement. Each year, these numbers seem to increase more and more. When someone decides to drive, even if they are only “buzzed”, their driving skills and judgment time are greatly impaired. Drunken driving accidents not only affect the people involved, but their friends and family as well.

“...my cousin was involved in a drunk driving accident and survived, but ended up killing his best friend. If more people experienced this, it would make them think again before they decide to party,” stated Liberty student Shelby Green. Her cousin is not the only one; this is something thousands of people have to live with for the rest of their lives. When a drunk driver is on the road, they not only put their life in danger, but also the lives of anyone around them. According to the NHTSA in 2007, there were 12,998 drunken driving deaths and 2,206 of those deaths were other drivers and pedestrians who were not under the influence. Another major consequence of drunk driving is the risk of receiving a DUI. During the holidays, the number of DUls distributed by law enforcement increased rapidly from December 2011 to early January 2014. About 24,000 DUls were given out last year, according to Arizona’s Governor’s Office of Highway Safety. When someone is given a DUI, they have to go to jail, appear in court, pay a fine, and have their mistake permanently listed on their driving record. Driving under the influence is never a good idea; the outcome is simply not worth it.

By Joseph Sanchez
Staff Writer

With the increase in digital distribution in products such as video games, movies, and music bringing in multitudes of revenue, why would some question the integrity of this system? For music artist Taylor Swift, she believes that the digital distribution on Spotify is flawed. Spotify is a free/paid service where you can bring in multitudes of revenue, but with all the controversy, it makes people think who might not under the influence is never a good idea; the outcome is simply not worth it.

Spotify is making money on the streaming music, not to buy individual albums and songs, and so she is paid per month, not per sale. For that reason, she believes it devalues her work. She also believes that she isn’t making enough money releasing her music on Spotify. As a response, she removed all of her music from Spotify. Spotify responded by saying, “We pay nearly 70% of its revenue back to the music community.” According to USA Today, Daniel Ek from Spotify artists says “So all the talk swirling around lately about how Spotify is making money on the backs of artists upsetting me big time.” Daniel also adds that Spotify helps protect artists from piracy because with piracy artists make no money when their work is pirated.

By Adam Dawson
Staff Writer

Milk’s favorite churro

Oreo has been known to get pretty creative with their cookies, with everything from root beer float to candy corn and mint chip. However, recently Oreo has decided to mix their star product with Spain’s favorite donut: the churro. Fox News’ Diana Falzone tried Oreo’s new invention and the results were exceedingly satisfactory. Falzone stated, “The Oreo dipping sauce tastes just like the center of an Oreo. It might be a bit messier, but just as fun.” Michelle’s opinion was, “I believe a warm Oreo churro will be delicious; however, they probably need to lighten up on the sugar.” Another opinion was from Andrew Woodruff who sounded very excited for Oreo’s new creation. He stated, “I very much look forward to this new treat. It’s combined my favorite cookie with my favorite pastry.”
Black Friday shoplifters

By Lauren Mennuti
Staff Writer

’Tis the season for long lines, shoplifting, and waiting hours to save money for the most wonderful time of year. There’s nothing more ironic than the thanksgiving waiting in lines at stores, or as some others do, shoplift. The holiday season is meant to feel warm, safe, and cheerful, but it isn’t that way for many.

Though the holidays are great for many people, others struggle with affording presents for their families and the shoplifting rate increases. According to wth.com, last year there was a black Friday incident at Kohl’s in Illinois that ended up with three people arrested and one person shot and injured. Nypost.com also reports that last year on Black Friday, someone was shot in the leg near their home after trying to wrestle his newly purchased big-screen TV back from a thief who had just grabbed it. Because of marketing, commercials, and pressure from society, Christmas and Black Friday are major causes of shoplifting.

This Black Friday, three women in Massachusetts stole around 1,000 dollars worth of items from their local Wal-Mart. Another woman in Oregon simply stacked her cart full of electronics and walked out of the store and was later arrested. Adults aren’t the only ones shoplifting, though. Last Black Friday, according to thecabin.net, Wal-Mart reported two teenage boys, aged 16 and 17, who shoplifted a $48 FM transmitter. According to reports, most of the popular items that people shoplift are actually on the more affordable side. Items that top the list consist of meat and food, razors, baby formula, alcohol, over the counter drugs, and clothing: all things that the average person in America will say are generally affordable and accessible to them.

“Although I do not shoplift,” says a Liberty student, “I do understand why adults and teenagers do feel a certain pressure to do so, especially during the holiday season.” With factors like our high unemployment rate, it is no question why shoplifting had been increasing over the years. Many people believe that shoplifters steal just for material items. What people don’t understand, though, is that many people do so because they do not have sufficient funds for the simple bare necessities that most people do not really think about not having. When one has a family who needs food, clothing, and medicine, they become extremely desperate and unfortunately, figure that shoplifting is the answer. During the holiday season, people have an incentive to make their families lives better and happier who needs food, clothing, and medicine, they become extremely desperate and unfortunately, figure that shoplifting is the answer. During the holiday season, people have an incentive to make their families lives better and happier.

Overall, during the holiday season it is important to keep in mind that shoplifting is the correct way to do so. The team is yet to make a decision off in a different environment.”

It’s still a surprise to see the Raiders move to San Antonio, but the city is definitely a legitimate candidate,” stated texasmontly.com. Junior student Emily Allen expressed, “I don’t think it is a good idea to move them to San Antonio. People fell in love with the Oakland Raiders, not the San Antonio Raiders.” Also according to texasmontly.com, “Los Angeles is a surprisingly difficult market for the NFL,” which effects the likelihood of that being their choice of relocation.

Neither of the candidates seems to be perfect, but San Antonio seems more suitable for an NFL team, especially based on what the future has in store. An NFL team needs to think of the future and since texasmontly.com “nearly sixty percent of Bexar County is Hispanic, San Antonio could be appealing to a league that’s looking hard at reaching new markets, and San Antonio’s growth rate of 6.1 percent in the past three years is impressive.” Agreeing with thinking of the future, senior student Jacob Devito noted, “I think the Raiders could be better off in a different environment.”

The team is yet to make a decision about where they are going to move or if they are going to move at all. It is a possibility that Mark Davis is holding out on this decision, and all the San Antonio talk, in hopes to gain leverage with Oakland. “Ultimately, it’s impossible to know how likely a move to San Antonio is for the Raiders right now, but the sports media is taking the question seriously, and it’s absolutely not out of the question. It’s still a ‘wait and see situation,” says texasmontly.com.
The air surrounds your field of vision. You’re speeding along at 120 miles per hour above the rush-hour traffic. Businessmen in their expensive Ferraris look up to you as you can practically feel them honking their horns in envy. You listen to some music on your MP3 player, as you’re sure you’ll get to work on time, even with some time to spare. This almost sounds like a commuter’s daydream, but this fiction is about to become reality. Aeromobil, a company located in Slovakia, revealed the very first flight-capable automobile at the Pioneers Festival in Vienna. But according to The Guardian, the ball-park price tag is around $279,000. It would be silly, though, to discredit this achievement because of a price tag. This is something that has been dreamed about for quite a long time, something our parents’ parents dreamed about, and now we’re actually doing it. We’ve really come a long way in technol­ogy, and this is not the only case. Did you know that hoverboards now exist? Arix Pax released a hoverboard known as the Hendo Hoverboard. For 10,000 dollars, you can actually experience something only seen in movies. Granted, it only works on metal surfaces and the batteries don’t last a very long time, but it’s proof that the future’s coming. Additionally, back to the topic of cars, Google is working on cars that can drive themselves. Of course, it’s still a work in progress and has major limitations (such as requiring tons of pre-mapping beforehand of everything from stop­lights to signs and not being able to detect potholes unless if they’re coned off), but the cars themselves have safely driven over 700,000 miles, according to Technology Review, and while they’re probably not going to be released to the public too soon, they exist. In just 135 years, we’ve gone from inventing the lightbulb to having cars that can drive themselves and fly. Technology is getting more advanced than ever, and who knows what will exist in the future? Perhaps one day they’ll invent a nanobot that can quickly eradicate infections and diseases from humans. Imagine a world where the cars can fly, everyone is healthy, and the roads are safe. That is the future, and it’s closer than we think.

Let’s give hugs, not drugs

By Katie Peelle

Staff Writer

Your grandparents were probably around when drugs weren’t so popular. What was it that made them so popular? Is it how much they were televised, or how everyone is starting to try them? Are they influenced by celebrities? The answers are obvious and the use of drugs has increased throughout the years for numerous reasons. Drugs themselves have also changed throughout the years. Back in the 60’s, drugs used to be more “plant based” and contained less chemical than they do today. Now, there are a whole bunch of “designer drugs” and chemical based drugs. Some drugs that are in the media today are bath salts, ecstasy, and fumes. Bath salts sound like the fruity smelling bath bombs you put in your bath water to feel more relaxed but now that is the name for a designer drug. It contains synthetic chemicals that can cause people to have hallucinations and suicidal thoughts. Ecstasy is a drug that gives a feeling of euphoria that makes people feel like they can accomplish anything, no mat­ter the possibilities. That can lead to all sorts of stupid and dangerous decisions. Fumes are chemicals you inhale, such as paint or sharp­ies, which will eventually give people a high and this can cause brain damage. Drugs have been in the media for as long as anyone can remember. All the rock stars were trying them, people hand them out at parties, gangs have been selling them, and believe it or not, if people see it on television, they may be influenced to try it. Using drugwarfacts.org as a reference, the percentages of illicit drug use have been going up and down but on a steady increase since 2006 with 17.4% of 8th, 10th and 12th graders using various drugs in the past month. That’s almost 1/5 of all 8th, 10th and 12th graders using drugs. Also, out of all these students, 24.3% drink alcohol. To also gain some insight with drug use, LHS counselor, Ms. Bigler was asked what she noticed about drug use increasing within students. She said, “Marijuana use has become what cigarettes were to people 20-30 years ago: recreational.” She also notes that along with marijuana use, she has noticed that a great deal of students have come into her office with depression and anxiety. “Essentially, instead of handing depression of anxiety as a medi­cal issue and seeking out a doctor’s help, they find their own ways of coping through using drugs. It’s called self-medicating. Based on this logic, I feel that the rise in anxiety and depression amongst our students is definitely adding to an increase in drug usage among our students.” When seeing that drug use has increased over the years, maybe society should take a step back and evaluate how depression and anxiety rates have been corre­lating with drug use. Maybe solving one problem will eventually eliminate the other.

The Lion’s Cafe

A delicious meal right out on the savannah

By Ryan Freerking-Ramos

Senior Staff Writer

It’s that one morning every kid looks forward to. It comes five days before the new year and in the month of December. You get pres­ents and your heart fills with joy. This Christmas-feeling is what a customer gets every time they step into Oasis Grill and Bar in Brent­wood, CA. Oasis Grill and Bar is a newly opened diner that serves traditional American classics like burgers, sandwiches, and salads prepared by head chef Eduardo Esp­inosa. Oasis is open Sunday-Sat­urday from 9am to 10pm. People don’t have time to dine in, deliv­ery is available from 4pm to 9pm through the HungerTaxi service. Food can be ordered through the app or online at www.hungertaxi.com. The menu has a great variety to choose. From a couple of great dishes they have are a huge Philly Cheesesteak with sautéed onions and bell peppers, fried calamari, and classic cheeseburgers. The steak on the Philly is evenly sliced and cooked perfect topped with pepper jack cheese melted down with bell peppers and sautéed onions. It is so big they give you a fork to pick up the drippings. In the mood for sea­food, then the fried calamari is the one for you. According to one time customer Brittany F. it was okay, but not the best she has had. On the other hand, if you’re a traditional person who doesn’t like change then a classic cheeseburger is prob­ably a better option. Not interested by these, then check out their menu for tons of other dishes like a reu­ben with sauerkraut, chef salad, or build your own oasis breakfast. All these are presented by server and local LMC student Lucas Nuñez. You can have the feeling of Christ­mas morning every day at Oasis Grill and Bar. Quality service and yummy stuffing food are just parts of the experience. Go check them out. You won’t regret it.
To give a speech or power point, using notes from class. If you have alternatives, set up one for yourself missing. This can take the form of finding on the test in an atmosphere as yet to take chemistry, try out the unfamiliar with the term or have some sort of litmus test. For those lifetime, he or she is bound to have organized entry line outside The Music Hall, and if you come for. The crowd was on edge and an almost entirely full catalog.

Living with type one diabetes: one student tells us her story

By Shelby Conn

Editor’s Note

It all started at the end of her seventh grade year; the constant urination and drinking six to eight bottles of water a day, the bad moods, and the exhaustion. These were the symptoms that led up to Mikayla Furey’s diagnosis of Type 1 Diabetes. Understanding the average person who has diabetes sounds scary, but to Mikayla, a junior here at Liberty, it is just a part of daily life. When she was first diagnosed, she admits that she was freaked out, and even a little mad. However, she looked at the reality of things; she realized that “things could be worse.” For those not familiar with diabetes, type 1 is not something that just happens to kids and young adults. According to www.diabetes.org, diabetes is the result of the body’s inability to produce enough insulin; a hormone that is needed to convert sugar, starches, and other foods into energy. The pancreas is the organ essential for producing insulin; and 70-80% of Mikayla’s pancreas is not function-al. One may ask how the body gets insulin if it cannot produce it. Well, there are two ways: there’s a pump that continuously pumps drops of insulin into the body, and then there’s insulin shots that must be injected every time food is consumed. Mikayla remarks on the pros and cons to each method: a drawback to the pump is that it cannot cause scar tissue and bruising; the injections cause welts and bruising as well. Mikayla has used both the pump and injections, saying, “I used to be afraid of needles and blood at first, but now they don’t phase me.” Some may think that having diabetes can stop you from doing one of your favorite things, but it isn’t a strict diet. However, Mikayla says that “food isn’t a big deal”, and that her only limitations are that she cannot drink any soda or fruit juice. As long as she takes her insulin, then all other food is usually fine. Mikayla does note that sometimes having diabetes can be irritating, but other times it doesn’t even bother her, it all depends on the day. She said that one of the most frustrating things is when her blood sugar goes too high and she doesn’t know why, and no matter how much insulin she takes it will not go back down. Blood sugar that is too high or too low can be dangerous. For Mikayla, her blood sugar should always be somewhere between 80 and 130. There has been a lot of excitement about the new blood sugar levels do shoot too high or drop too low. She told of how once she was walking to her mom’s car and all of a sudden everything felt “surreal”; she was completely confused and didn’t know what was going on. It turns out her blood sugar had dropped to 39. Diabetes isn’t a death sentence. Mikayla is able to do everything she wants to do and go everywhere she wants to go, and when she was diagnosed that her life remain as normal as possible, and so far it has.
Brazil, playing soccer with balls be found in slums like the ones in athletic ability can be a way out In communities all over the world, times as much as them just because $3,000 a year. He makes 5,000 of privilege, his childhood friends 50 million. While he lives a life world. His annual salary is 15.4 jump: “Football is the main rea dre Walker confirmed that foot- ball is the main impetus for the world. People look up to star athletes, not only for their was over the World Cup from a Brazilian slum World Cup in Brazil promised big return economically but came up short Was it worth it? World Cup in Brazil promised big return economically but came up short Are the Clayton Valley Eagles swooping in? By Alex Einess Staff Writer The Bay Valley Athletic League has undergone a major transforma- tion over the last five years. Whether it be sending five out of six football teams to the NCS playoffs, or consistently sending wrestlers to the NCS tournament, the BVAL has be- come a dominant force in Bay Area sports. This makes it no surprise why Clayton Valley Cham- bers hopes to jump ship from the Diablo Valley League to the BVAL in 2016. Clayton Valley has been dominant athletically, particularly on the football field, where the team has racked up league championship after league championship and is currently ranked the third best team in California. This year Clayton Valley earned an impressive 13-0 record on the football field, scoring at least 50 points in 12 of these 13 games. With that kind of success, it is logical that Clayton Valley is looking to shed its Division 2 label and join the Division 1 ranks. Clayton Valley defensive back coach and track coach Andre Walker confirmed that foot- ball is the main impetus for the jump. “Football is the main reason we hope to join the BVAL. We believe being in the BVAL will help us become the team we hope to be in the future.” Walker also added that joining the BVAL will be a great op- portunity for all athletes. However, Clayton Valley joining the BVAL could potentially cause a few problems. Despite Clayton Valley’s athletic prowess, adding another team to the BVAL could have a drastic effect on BVAL scheduling, especially as far as football is concerned. Half the BVAL schedule makes up the football, and Clayton Valley joining the BVAL would create a by week during the league season. These weeks are often hard to fill, as other leagues are involved in their own league schedules.” Cunningham stated, “The effect in football would be felt most, due to the fact that an odd num- ber of teams creates a bye week during the league season. Walker also went on to say the distance between Clay- ton Valley and all other BVAL schools could change as more travel expenses for all sports. Another concern about Clayton Valley joining is that a Division 2 school would downgrade the perceived level of competition in the league. Liberty Principal Patrick Walsh does not share these concerns. When asked about this, Mr. Walsh explained that he be- lieves Clayton Valley’s lack of geographical restrictions, which allows it to garner athletes from a broader range of areas, would largely offset the fact that Clayton Valley is a Division II school, a point in which Coach Walker also believes to be true. Mr. Walsh also expressed his confidence in Liberty’s athletes to compete at the international stage with lots of school, athletes, and coaches, so whether or not they join the league, I think we will be fine.” Cunningham also went on to say that a Division 2 school would be even less profitable. While Qatar is expected to spend a big bill like Brazil. However, the odds are that their World Cup will be even less profitable. While Qatar is expected to spend 200 billion dollars for stadiums and infrastructure, there are al- ready problems. Turns out that the special air conditioned stadiums aren’t possible, and they’ve already reduced the number of stadiums they’d committed to build. Why would Qatar want to spend all of this money? They see it as an opportunity to build new infra- structure, popularize soccer in sur- rounding nations, boost trade, and help the local economy. It will be interesting to see if this happens, but the real question is if it’s worth the cost. For up-to-the-minute information, follow us on Twitter @LHSLionsRoar
JV girls soccer looking toward a bright future
By Hayley Reyes
Staff Writer

You are pushing yourself beyond your limits. Constantly running which seems to be never ending. You need this goal to win but you want to take a break. You push yourself even more and suddenly the ball is at your feet. You have a split second to score in the goal with the pressure of everyone counting on you. You shoot and hear, “Goal!”

This season girls JV has high hopes in going far and doing well. There are a total of 24 girls on the team. There’s 20 field players and four goalies. Most of the team are freshmen along with a junior. The coach this year is Mr. Morris also known as just Morris. He has been coaching girls JV for a long time and definitely knows what he’s doing.

“I believe this team will do very well. There’s a lot of good and dedicated players on this team. The expectations are high,” said girls JV player Ali Bischof. The competition is crazy on this team and girls are constantly trying to improve themselves as individuals and as a team as a whole. Important team goals are for them to develop team chemistry, learning how everyone plays, adjusting, and to represent Liberty in a positive light. They also want to win as many games as possible and leave everything out on the field.

The girls definitely showed their dedication this off-season. They had restless days of practicing and grueling conditioning, ranging from after school or to the morning. They pushed themselves every day and have improved since the beginning. Another part of their training was to have a clinic at six in the morning for 3-4 weeks. This team is willing to dedicate themselves and is looking very strong for this exciting season.

Recipe and photo courtesy of www.food.com

So...is it a sport?
Cheerleading. Archery. Golf. Are they in the same category as football?

By Emily Lutes
Staff Writer

The definition of a sport: a contest or game in which people do certain physical activities. There is always ongoing debate regarding many sports such as skateboardboarding, archery, golf, cheerleading etc. as to whether they are considered a sport or not. Kristian Cubero, Liberty High School sophomore, shared that a sport should contain physical activity and have a goal to reach. Numerous students were asked what sport shouldn’t be a sport in their eyes, and figure skating, diving or gymnastics do not require a team but they do require physical activity and skill, making them a sport. Liberty’s athletic programs continue to excel by the amazing coaching from our staff. Mr. Walters, Varsity Head Football Coach, said it best. He stated that a few factors such as “1- That the sport must have rules. 2- There should be competition. 3- Physical activity should be involved. 4- There should also be a prize.” So yes, cheerleading, golf, skateboarding, archery would all be considered a sport.

Satisfy your Super Bowl sweet tooth
The big game is approaching; making these brownies will make you the hit of any Super Bowl party

By Alex Einess
Staff Writer

The AP rankings as of now:
1. Alabama: Alabama survives a major defensive lapse and remains number one after a 55-44 win over rival Auburn and advances to the SEC championship game.
2. Oregon: Oregon remains number two after a dominating 47-19 win over rival Oregon State and advances to the Pac-12 championship game.
3. Florida State: Florida State escaped with a narrow 24-19 win over rival Florida to remain undefeated and advance to the ACC championship game.
4. TCU: TCU moves up one spot to enter the playoff picture after a convincing 48-10 win over Texas.
5. Baylor: Baylor moves up two spots after barely scraping by rival Texas Tech in a thriller 48-46.
6. Ohio State: The Buckeyes remain at number six after a bit of a bit sweet 42-28 victory over rival Michigan, but losing its starting quarterback.
7. Michigan State: Michigan State continues to quietly climb up the rankings after a 34-10 victory over Penn State.
8. Arizona: Arizona jumps three spots in the rankings after a huge 42-35 win over rival Arizona State to clinch a spot in the Pac-12 title game.
9. Kansas State: Kansas State remains at number nine after a 51-13 thrashing of rival Kansas.
10. Mississippi State: The bulldogs fall six spots after a crushing 31-17 loss to rival Mississippi.

College football playoff rankings
By Alex Einess
Staff Writer

One of the most controversial topics in the sports world today is college football polls. Only four teams can earn a spot in the newly formed playoffs. Here are the AP rankings as of now:
1. Alabama: Alabama survives a major defensive lapse and retains its number one rank after a 55-44 win over rival Auburn and advances to the SEC championship game.
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10. Mississippi State: The bulldogs fall six spots after a crushing 31-17 loss to rival Mississippi.
By Emily Gonzalez
Staff Writer

The holiday season has arrived, and that means family fun and keeping holiday traditions alive. Those who live in and around Brentwood have enjoyed going to the Holiday on Ice for the past six years, but this tradition has reached an end. Many people in our community have gone ice skating at Holiday on Ice, and have memories of skating with friends and watching people fall. I remember learning how to ice skate with my cousins the first year Holiday on Ice opened in Brentwood. I believe that it should be funded because it has become a part of our community, and people look forward to going ice skating around the holidays. Holiday on Ice was the only local place to go ice skating.

This season, Holiday on Ice will not be returning, however it may be coming back in November 2015. According to the Brentwood Holiday on Ice website, the family hopes funding from local businesses or the city government will help support their efforts to return next year. But this year there were some problems that caused the small family owned business to not be able to come back to Brentwood. One reason Holiday on Ice will not be returning, said on the Brentwood Holiday on Ice website, is the significant loss they recently experienced and vandalism damages to the equipment. The small, local, family owned business will not be able to open this year due to many problems. I believe that it should be opened again because there aren’t many things to do in Brentwood around the holidays, and ice skating is a fun activity, especially for young children and teens. Holiday on Ice gives the people of Brentwood memories to hold on to forever. Going ice skating has even become a tradition for many people over the past six years. Hopefully, funding and other problems will not stop Holiday on Ice from opening again in 2015 and the years to come.

By Troy Dias
Staff Writer

On December second 2014 I went from Troy Dias, the average student, to Santa’s little helper. My job was to dress as an elf and with my assistants, Sean O’ Clock and Josh Rush, hand out candy to the good little boys and girls of Liberty High School. I really enjoyed spreading joy throughout the campus.

For 12 years the lights have been spreading down Discovery Bay Blvd. Each year the floats get more elaborate and more detailed. This parade has become a tradition to Discovery Bay residents and communities in surrounding areas. It is a time to come together and celebrate the Holiday Season. 12 years ago the parade didn’t come close to the elaborate floats we have now. The first parade consisted of mainly lighted corvettes and PT Cruisers. Nevertheless, the parade has continued to improve every year. The number of floats entered in the parade changes every year. For example, in this, the parades 5th year, they had the most floats ever register, with 62 floats participating.

More than 5,000 people lined the streets for this year’s Parade of Lights, and another 1,500 participated on floats. This year’s pirate theme was a huge success, with hundreds of pirates walking the streets of Discovery Bay, and some absolutely spectacular pirate ships. With 41 floats and 103 vehicles participating this year, it was an amazing sight to see. The previous three years the parade was drenched in rain; however, this year the spectators and participants enjoyed a true California evening.

Rumors have been swirling through the community that the Parade of Lights might not happen next year. Amanda Dove, the parade organizer, assured us, “The Blizzard of Lights will absolutely take place next year.” In addition, Dove gave a hint as to what next year’s theme is going to be: Frozen!

Don’t be scared. Don’t be afraid to talk to someone. Drugs and alcohol maybe the ‘friends’ that you seem to turn to but don’t take that path, make the right turn not the left.

As growth takes place in everyone’s lives, so does maturing and experiencing, especially when feeling small on the inside and not one person around you seems to notice the changes about you. You’re feeling as if your chest is caving in and you can no longer breathe. walk or think for yourself anymore. You’re turning to friends that aren’t really your friends, maybe even the devil himself; those so called friends can end up getting you into a worse state of mind. It is as if no one around you can relate but there is someone who can. Don’t worry.

Radical Reality brings reality check

By Rajah Chavez
Staff Writer

“You don’t take alcohol and drugs; drugs and alcohol abuse you” spoken by Darwin Benjamin, a man who had spoken the truth and what he has learned from his past. This truth was spoken a few weeks ago during the Radical Reality assembly, held during 2nd period in the gym. This quote inspired me to reflect on this issue.

In that moment, the thoughts in your mind are no longer your own. They’re thoughts of someone you never expected to be, someone you never wanted to be. The darkness is hard to escape but you keep running, especially when feeling small on the inside and not one person around you seems to notice the changes about you. You’re feeling as if your chest is caving in and you can no longer breathe. walk or think for yourself anymore. You’re turning to friends that aren’t really your friends, maybe even the devil himself; those so called friends can end up getting you into a worse state of mind. It is as if no one around you can relate but there is someone who can. Don’t worry.

Radical Reality was the only local place to go around the holidays. Holiday on Ice was the only place to go to ice skate with my cousins the first year Holiday on Ice opened in Brentwood. I believe that it should be opened again because there aren’t many things to do in Brentwood around the holidays, and ice skating is a fun activity, especially for young children and teens. Holiday on Ice gives the people of Brentwood memories to hold on to forever. Going ice skating has even become a tradition for many people over the past six years. Hopefully, funding and other problems will not stop Holiday on Ice from opening again in 2015 and the years to come.

Our writer plays elf for a day

By Scott Scruggs
Staff Writer

For 12 years the lights have been parading down Discovery Bay Blvd. Each year the floats get more elaborate and more detailed. This parade has become a tradition to Discovery Bay residents and communities in surrounding areas. It is a time to come together and celebrate the Holiday Season. 12 years ago the parade didn’t come close to the elaborate floats we have now. The first parade consisted of mainly lighted corvettes and PT Cruisers. Nevertheless, the parade has continued to improve every year. The number of floats entered in the parade changes every year. For example, in this, the parades 5th year, they had the most floats ever register, with 62 floats participating.

The Liberty Union High School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability.

Photo: courtesy of www.everythingbrentwood.com
Opinion

By Joshua Rush
Staff Writer

Look at that, another funny and random picture with an interesting story. I have already seen, like, 10 of those today. You know what really grinds my gears? When I see things that I have already seen before on social media. And when people say things like “At La Costa!” WHO CARES? Because I know I don’t.

By Jasmine Folsom
Staff Writer

We log onto Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr or Instagram to see a dozen different types of posts. Girls and guys have varied perspectives on things they do throughout the day. The things that girls post about mostly consist of boyfriends, Starbucks, and sad movies; am I right? Well, I don’t think we really see the full harm that social media can do on a teenage girl’s self-esteem. Personally, I use social media but I don’t take it as seriously as others might. Girls want to be liked and ultimately as they mature and go on through high school, are made to believe that if they are not ‘Tumblr famous’ they’ll be shunned, or bullied for being themselves. Without self-confidence, and reassurance the need to find ways to please others sends them into an endless self-loathing makeover to be what society and social media have shown us as perfect. Social media has the power to make this a real problem, which is highly unhealthy. The ridiculously uncountable amount of content on social media sites and empty interactions with people you meet on them has the power to brainwash young high school girls into a “Twitter is my life” frenzy. A lot of girls honestly turn to these sites to figure out who they are, what they should look like, who’s hot and who’s not, who they should try to be and how they can make themselves into that image they’ve taken from what Twitter, Instagram, or Tumblr shows them. Overall, I think that maybe social media is viewed differently between girls and boys especially in high school.

Opinion Poll

What is your family’s holiday tradition?

By Devyn Bennett and Sonny Dingle-Pinela
Staff Writers

Nico Goateote (10): “Make cookies with family”

Mauricio Baltrons (12): “Give presents to the homeless”

Allison Capocci (12): “Bake with mom and work out”

Cameron Mills (10): “Go to grandma’s and celebrate”

Darryn Harper (11): “Family comes over for dinner, we open presents, and we all have our own Santa hats on while we open”

Brandon Diaz (12): “Open presents too early, and enjoy dinner with the family”

Editorial Policy

The opinions and views expressed on this page are solely those of the author, 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 libertyslionsroar@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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