

# In this Issue...



Construction on Campus: Page 5



Mrs. Carreon's career on the ice: Page 6



A review of Tic Tok: Page 7

1st Place award-winner from the American Scholastic Press Association



# The Lion's Roar

The voice of Liberty High School students

Liberty High School  
850 Second Street  
Room J17  
Brentwood, CA 94513

Issue 1, Volume 31

December 13, 2018

FREE

## Holding out for a Hero: Liberty's new attendance program



Photo by Dylan Davidson

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

By Dylan Davidson  
Staff Writer

Some teenagers have an impressive habit of sleeping in too late. Despite this fact of adolescence, Liberty is taking a stand against the bad habits of sleeping in late, cutting class, and dilly dallying in the halls with the Hero program. Most students know by now that the Hero program entails late students getting a pass from a campus supervisor or attendance office, and depending on the amount of tardies a student has, the

pass displays a consequence ranging from a thirty minute lunch detention, to an entire session of Saturday School. The benefits the program provide include the student's new ability to simply go to a campus supervisor to get a pass instead of going all the way to the attendance office. This aspect effectively becomes a time saver as students are out of class for less time, as the previous tardy system was characterized by the long lines in each Den office. The system is not without

its drawbacks: the machine that the campus supervisors may run out of paper, and although it may only happen in rare circumstances, it still may prolong a student being out of class. Another possible drawback is when there is a larger than average group of students are lined up at campus supervisors, it can take a decent amount of time to get through all the students. Whether students were ready or not, the program came into effect early this school year, with campus supervi-

sors and the attendance office ready to administer the passes. While many students may be annoyed with the new attendance system, it does not drastically change the process, other than the requirement of a pass for all class periods before one enters a classroom late, rather than a pass for only first/fifth periods. Liberty can look forward to Hero's future, as Hero will be able to track positive student progress regarding attendance, and rewards will be given to the students who have done so.

## Gavin for Governor

What does California's new governor have in store for the state?

By Austin Belcher  
Co-Editor

As the leaves brown, and the air cools, America once again headed 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 election. 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 new issues pressing, this election was often equated to a rematch of the heated 2018 presidential election. Yet another socially and fiscally liberal candidate was elected in the gubernatorial race, begging the question, what is the difference between Governor Elect Gavin Newsom and current Governor Jerry Brown? To effectively answer this question, Newsom's legislative history must be brought to light. His political career truly began when he was elected Mayor of San Francisco in 2003 by a significant margin, where he pressed 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 New-



Photo courtesy of USlectionatlis.org

Less than one month remains before Governor-Elect Gavin Newsom (left) assumes control of the state of California.

som won reelection in 2007, where he pursued new issues like homelessness and environmental concerns. Newsom gained major recognition when he devoted his political career to the pursuit of same sex marriage long before legality on the state and national level 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 eight year 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.

“  
The high school students pick up concepts faster...  
”



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Martinelli

New band teacher Mrs Kellogg conducts a middle school performance prior to her hiring at Liberty High School.

“  
I was... excited for change, excited to bring new ideas...  
”

## Conducting a new program Liberty's band director, Mrs. Kellogg

By Sophia Ortega  
Staff Writer

After several failed attempts at finding a permanent director for the Liberty High School Band, a match was finally found with Mrs. Lindsay Kellogg. When longtime director Mrs. Hurst 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. Kel-

logg 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 Roberson, 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."

December 13, 2018



Photo courtesy of Suzzanne Slaughter

Liberty's first girls Rugby team was established in 2018, with coaching by rugby veteran, Suzzane Slaughter.

## Rugby rolls in: Liberty's newest sport?

By *Alegra Nelson*  
Staff Writer

A hard tackle, getting back up to run after the ball, and finishing covered in sweat: sounds like football, right? Wrong. Liberty High School is new on the rugby scene but not that far behind Freedom High School. Rugby is a game of tackling and running, but only a handful of Northern California affiliations have teams. The coach, Suzzanne Slaughter, decided to help and be a part of this club because her husband and son played the game throughout childhood and her son, now a senior, came to her with the idea of creating a Liberty rugby club. Although it is a sport, the rugby

club, advised by Ms. Swanberg-Kerns, must be eased into a team, explained Slaughter, and eventually it will become a co-ed girls and boys team. Liberty Rugby Club president, Niles Moy, revealed, "The reason I wanted to join was because my great-grandfather was inducted into the All-American Hall of Fame at Saint Mary's College and he was the captain of the rugby team...I felt like rugby was in my blood so that's what compelled me to join." Liberty has banded with the Freedom team, which formed three years ago, because Liberty has not met the Rugby Nor-Cal and USA Rugby rules and

regulations that would allow them to be an independent team.

The teams practice Monday, Wednesday, and sometimes Friday from 4-5:30, conditioning and running drills to be prepared for their games. The Freedom girls' team has taken "first in their D2 division and the boys came in 3rd in their Open Division," says Elizabeth Gray, the Freedom rugby coach of three years. The main goals for Slaughter is to "have viable and sustainable men's and women's rugby teams at LHS [with emphasis on bringing] knowledge, experience, and rugby's most important core principle to LHS for future seasons, teamwork."

## Who really works the voting polls: student volunteers for midterm elections

By *Ethan Lei*  
Staff Writer

The election station does not take the expected appearance of the physical manifestation of democracy. Its drab facade of frustratingly long lines, impatient visitors, and often utilitarian appearance hide the exceptional true function of the space. It takes dedicated volunteers to work in the face of this environment, but it is with the greater purpose of an American democracy in mind these poll workers strive to keep the polls working. The volunteers 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 Armoush, describes her role as fitting into three distinct parts. She began her day at six am in the Brentwood Unity Center to prepare for the oncoming 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 came to a close, she helped to close down shop. Additionally, student Hannah Hawley, illustrates her primary role at the polls: "I was assigned to work the machines. Basically, the votes are counted by this big machine that kind of looks like a copier. Whenever someone would finish their ballot, I would run it through the

machine. Since I was close to where the voting booths were I was also available for answering questions and helping people. Before the polls opened I set up the machines. Then after I took them down and took all of the ballots out of the machines." She also describes assisting voters: "It was a lot of responsibility and pressure. It's almost like if you didn't explain it right they wouldn't understand what they're voting for or against. So I was essentially responsible for if they were happy with their choice". However, while the job is essential to a functional democracy, the number of poll workers has fallen dramatically since the 2016 election. According to a survey conducted by the Election Administration and Voting Survey, 65% of jurisdictions reported "great difficulty" in gathering enough poll workers in 2016, citing difficulty in communication and lack of incentive and awareness. Additionally, nearly all poll workers were above the age of 40, and more than half were older than 60. So, what does one have to do to volunteer? To sign up, a student must contact a county election official in their jurisdiction, and must meet the legal requirements to do so. These requirements include being a legal permanent resident or a US citizen, being of at least 16 years of age, attending school, maintaining a minimum 2.5 GPA, and having permission from a legal guardian and school. Of course, the job is a difficult and long one. But, it has been

upheld as an extremely rewarding experience, and student Alex Emery agrees, "It was enjoyable to learn about the voting process and see all the different types of people coming out to vote. I learned so much and am so excited to be able to vote in the next election." Finally, Hawley adds, "Students should definitely go out and work the polls, it's almost a once in a lifetime experience. You get a sense of satisfaction when you're a part of the community and you're making a difference in the world. This is an impact that teenagers can make in the world just by showing up and working the polls." Working the polls is an active role one can take in the nation's government, and unlike many others, one which is also available to teens. It's hard work, for sure, but it's also accessible. It's an opportunity to participate in democracy, and in the community one belongs to. It's an opportunity to help one's country, or to meet new people and share a unique experience. For some, it's an opportunity just to get out of school and get paid for it. And for teens, it can be an opportunity to glimpse into their future as a productive, voting citizen.

**REMINDER:**  
Next week, Liberty continues with the regular A/B schedule. There are NO minimum days next week.

## Climate calamity Is Earth facing apocalyptic weather?

*Point of no-return expected soon, unless changes are made*

By *Reese Watkins-Nelson*  
Co-Editor

The end of the world has been a mind-boggling concept since the dawn of humankind. Different civilizations have prophesied its end into their own terms via religion and mythology, ranging from a biblical apocalypse, to the Mayan calendar, or even Norse Ragnarok. Furthermore, in the light of recent events, scientists have predicted that we are now nearing a similar world-devastating catastrophe.

"Climate change is the defining issue of our time- and we are at a defining moment. We face a direct existential threat" UN Sec.-General Antonio Guterres warns. Adding in that if humanity doesn't fix its output of emissions and harmful waste by 2020, there is a possibility that the climate will reach a point of no return. "Extreme heat waves, wildfires, storms, and floods are leaving a trail of death and devastation." Within the last couple of years, a numerous amount of weather records have been broken ranging from Hurricanes hitting the United States to skyrocketing temperatures across the world. In addition, CO2 levels have rapidly increased and are predicted to make the earth even hotter. "Not a single event during the past 66 million years released

carbon as fast as we're releasing now," Paleoclimatologist Richard Zeebe informs. These rising levels promote the global temperature to increase, prompting the possibility of reaching a tipping point that may produce a domino effect of virtually uncontrollable climate-related events. However, there is a chance to help prevent this from occurring. "The mountain in front of us is very high but it is not insurmountable. We know how to scale it" Guterres assures. Antonio continued on to tell that in order to save the earth we must cut down on carbon emissions and focus on Climate action. His ideas collectively cut out fossil fuels, deforestation, and other emission promoting techniques, and replace them with cleaner, smarter, and more beneficial ones. Other large organizations, like NASA for example, have also been paving the way for climate change through a process called "Mitigation and Adaptation." This approach reduces emissions and attempts to stabilize, whilst also adapting to the current conditions we have already done. Essentially, a major factor in how we start this entire process is cooperation with world governments and leaders. "The difference between possibility and impossibility is political will" lead climate change scientist Chris Weber pointed out.

## A new home light years away Mars exploration plans for 2020

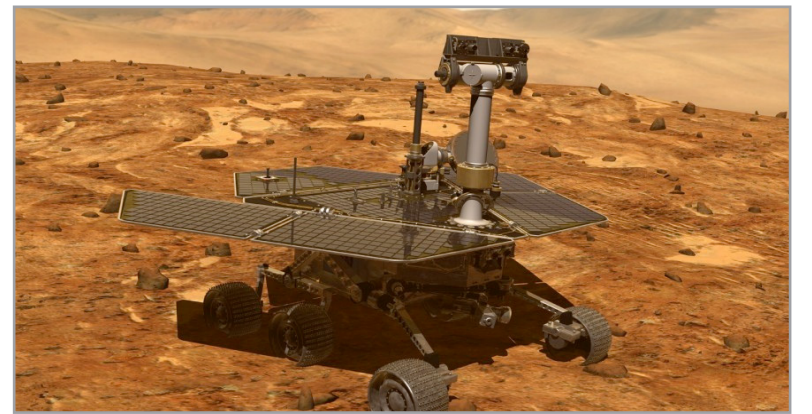


Photo courtesy of SpaceNews.com

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.

By *Maya Morales*  
Staff Writer

The future may be millions of miles away, but it's far closer than it seems. 2020 will be the year NASA begins their futuristic plan of exploration on Mars. The Rover will be launched July or August of 2020, when the Earth and Mars are 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 it's ancient life. NASA plans to explore more of Mars' terrain than ever before, thanks to advancements with technology and previous robotic explorations. The Rover exploring Mars in 2020 will weigh about 2,000 pounds and its design will be based off the robot Curiosity- the machine known for singing happy birthday to itself lonesome on Mars. "It's a little scary to think about humans living on a different planet, but at this

point it seems necessary for our survival" A Liberty High School student states. Additionally, Mars is said to be the most livable planet in the solar system. At a point in time, Early Mars resemble Earth before it's dramatic atmospheric transformation. Currently, Mars' atmosphere has almost no pressure or oxygen and contains life-threatening radiation. Yet, Scientists have ruled out short-term solutions for those obstacles such as: living in underground caves or pressurized buildings and wearing spacesuits. Considering Earth's current environmental conditions, Scientists are more determined than ever to make Mars a second Earth. Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, hopes to get humans on Mars by 2027. Scientists continue to research how Mars can be engineered into a habitable and safe planet humans can call home.

## The great divide: cutting AP World in half



Sophomore Araceli Gonzalez reads the current edition of the AP World History textbook.

Photo by Gavriel Curameng

By Gavriel 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 no longer tested on the AP World History test.

The traditional AP World History class starts at 8000 BCE and spans to the present. With this current split, the class will remove 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 with 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 college and career[s], versus memorizing facts."

According to The College Board, the AP World History course is the equivalent of two semesters of an introductory history class in college. This course has been known for the work and the time dedicated to learn the material. With this split, it is expected that there will be more time to go into writing and analytical component of the class that normally do not get sufficient time. "I think the length of history that has been asked of the old AP really is just is overwhelming and encourages students to memorize facts, where as they can focus on specific time periods and specific regions, we can work on skills such as writing, reading, [and] argument analysis," noted Mrs. Hatlen. "I understand why the split happened, but I am against the split" She continued, "I believe that the pass rate and the scores [of the AP test] will go up. However, 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 time frame essentially removes history before the expansion and development of Europe. She explains it tells students

that developments before that time are no longer important, though The College Board is requiring teachers to touch on the topics. A proposed solution to fixing the historical background problem is to split into two separate AP classes, AP World History: Modern, and AP World History: Ancient. However, Araceli Gonzalez, a sophomore taking AP World History, agrees with The College Board's decision.

"I agree with the split because as a student we have other priorities such as sports, and in my opinion, having material transferred into another class is pretty sufficient and will provide the students with more time to absorb the information," claimed Gonzalez. "With the split, it may relieve some stress off both the students and teachers [allowing] more time to review over information."

The College Board is planning to implement the cut by Fall of 2019.

"As a historian and any history teacher will tell you, we don't like removing parts of history because that changes the narrative of history, it changes our focus, [and] how it is told. However, ... if we just focus ourselves strictly on content and we don't have time to teach you how to write, analyze, [and] discuss, those aren't the goals of The College Board," noted Mrs. Hatlen.

## Owning a SAMSUNG in a world full of Apples

By Stephanie Snodgrass  
Co-Editor

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 a strong bias surrounding technology, specifically when it comes to the types of phones one may use. But why is this? A phone is a phone right? Well if you were to ask a typical American kid if a Samsung is even comparable 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 with each product. There are all kinds of jokes surrounding these gripes on social media. But different doesn't always equate to being bad. In all reality, both phones have the potential to take good pictures with outstanding quality,

as well as less than perfect ones. Emojis are constantly changing with new updates for both types of phones, and Samsung has its own aesthetic, along with a longer battery life, better speaker, 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 ostracisation that Android/Samsung users receive, Anthony Kilburn writes, "As an Android user, I experience this fairly often. I think the perception among less tech-savvy users is that Apple makes

'real' smart phones and Android is second-rate, a copy, or a poor substitute". He claims that among major tech fanatics, Samsungs are often considered superior. The idea that iPhones are the obvious choice, tend to date back to a time when Samsung phones were much cheaper and lower quality, which therefore shed a poor light on those who owned them. But times have changed, and the playing field for both companies are virtually the same, even though one type of phone may be more popular to most than another. The idea of Samsung's being less than is ingrained in people's minds, but is simply not the reality.



Photo by Leila Haddadin

Greeting people with a smile, crossing guard Kristie LuVisi keeps local students safe at a busy intersection of town.

## Smoke and mirrors

By Adelle Senneca  
Co-Editor

Vaping has become one of the fastest growing drug trends among teenagers, and the problem is 13.7% of teens don't even know what a vaping cartridge contains. An e-cigarette, or Juul, may not contain tobacco, however, it does contain nicotine, flavoring, and chemicals such as propylene glycol and glycerin as well as other unknown chemicals. An e-cigarette and a Juul both give the same effects yet the Juul is found to be popular due to its smaller features. A Juul can easily be mistaken as a flash drive, which helps allow students to get away with vaping at school or at home. Mrs. Lorenz states, "I no-



tice a lot more students vaping rather than smoking cigarettes." Teenagers choose to vape because they feel it's cool, it gives them a "high" or "pleasure", it has a variety of flavors, and once they have become addicted they find that it helps them get through

daily activities. It also doesn't help that teens have easy access to acquire vaping products at retail stores, from family or friends, or even the internet. Furthermore, the cost of the e-cigarette liquid is \$10-\$20, and it is a fact the vaping is a lot cheaper than smoking

cigarettes so that leads to teens being drawn into vaping. They also believe it won't affect their health in the long run; however, medical professionals made an announcement saying how vaping affects the brain in the prefrontal cortex of teens. The prefrontal cortex controls a person's emotions, decision making and impulse regulation; in addition, a person's brain doesn't fully develop until the age of twenty-five, and by vaping as a teenager it can make them struggle with their memory and paying attention. As most people know vaping is illegal to people under the age of 21; however, 23% of teens fall for this poisonous substance, and the percentage continues to go up.

## Lottery or fraudery?

Does lotto ticket money really go to schools?

By Hamid Chaudhry  
Staff Writer

One of the most common items people will see in most grocery stores are tickets for the California Lottery. Varying from Scratchers tickets to the Mega Millions drawings, there seems to be an endless amount of ways to get rich from the Lottery. Of course, they don't just reserve the money for winners. The Lottery pays back 95 cents for every dollar sold to the public in the form of jackpot winners and contributions to public and private schools. In fact, the Lottery has contributed more than \$32.5 billion to California schools since its creation in 1985. However, since the money is

contributed to all schools throughout the state of California, the amount one school receives becomes more modest. The contributions from the state Lottery go only toward improvements to the school's education and not administrative costs. Although the Lottery may seem to be giving a massive amount of money toward public education, their annual contributions only make up about 1.5% for public education as a whole. Every little bit helps, say teachers from across the state. The money is used for new programs and disposable resources like workbooks. LUHSD has received over \$2 million in the 2017 year alone, according to a report by the State Controller's Office.

## The psychology behind Black Friday

By Monique Willis  
Staff Writer

Your adrenaline is pumping as you make your way through an obstreperous and chaotic crowd. Your mind is set: you know exactly what you want. It's your favorite time of the year: Black Friday has rolled around.

Black Friday is an event that brings gratification and satisfaction to many people. Stores have unusual sales that draw in crowds of customers, and all in one night. Notwithstanding the craze to shop through the deals, there is a psychological factor that plays into this. Deals for various retailers are heavily commercialized on tv and ads are placed in magazines, as well as newspapers. In addition, a huge factor is in the frantic retail environment. Many retailers situate stores in a maze-like fashion, forcing customers to see all the store has to offer.

An equally important component is the timing of Black Friday. Sales take place as late as midnight into early morning. These late times can cause sleep deprivation, and this is all the goal of the retailer. Customers who have been out late frantically shopping have tendencies to make quick, thoughtless purchases, and have fears of missing out. Some families have even made it tradition. HHS student Ashley Escobar explains, "Each year my family and I go out Black Friday shopping. It's when we're all together and bonding. I love every second of it."

## Meet LHS' crossing guard

By Leila Haddadin  
Staff Writer

When people think of heroes, they often think of fictional superheroes. But they often neglect the heroes people see in day-to-day life. One example of this is Liberty's amazing crossing guard, Kristie LuVisi.

Located at the intersection of Brentwood Blvd and Spruce St, she has been working as a crossing guard for two years to keep the students of Liberty safe from traffic. It was originally supposed to be her first assignment, but she requested to stay permanently because she didn't want to leave.

An average work day for her consists of helping students and other people cross the street by the car wash. "I like the nice quiet days where I don't have to yell at people," LuVisi admits.

This is just a normal day for her, but once in a while something out of the ordinary happens on the job. One time, LuVisi says, there was a kitten on the street and she had to run all over to try to stop a car from hitting it. "I did save the kitten," she states.

Despite these happenings, LuVisi still continues on with her job, quite happily, in fact. "I love everything about my job. I love interacting with the students. It's the students that make me smile and put me in a good mood."

## Robbie's remarkable recovery

By *Charlis Vega*  
Staff Writer

During senior year, for most students the biggest struggle is taking the SAT and choosing what university to attend; but for Liberty senior Robbie Cleveland, his biggest struggle was overcoming arteriovenous 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's had a surgery or injury. These concerns arose coming back only a few weeks after surgery as she explained, "I 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 resurface as a problem again.

Robbie is within the 25% of patients who have survived from an arteriovenous malformation.



Photo courtesy of Valencia Cleveland

Simple tasks that people take for granted required the aid of Robbie Cleveland's physical therapist at John Muir's ICU Trauma Unit.

## Mystery of the missing yearbooks... solved

By *Vanessa Willey*  
Staff Writer

There's been one mistake that Liberty 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 entirely 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.

## The consequences of attending an enormous school

By *Jamison Capiro*  
Copy Editor

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

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 8, 2018, Liberty High School had a student count of 2,634.

When Gage Pigati, a junior at Liberty High School, transferred from Berean Christian High School, a private school

of about 400 students, he noticed a change in the atmosphere; he recognized the difference in people, as well as the curriculum.

"People were nicer, the teachers cared, and friends were easier to make," Gage reveals, "however, the curriculum was harder because the tuition goes toward preparing you for college."

"I went to Liberty for all of my high school years. I do get attention from some teachers...There's teachers out there who definitely care about their

students and will go through great lengths to help them, but there are other teachers who disregard students. But at Liberty, most of the time, any teacher is available," Ryan Wong specifies. Wong, another Junior at Liberty High School, believes that attention from teachers is very much given at Liberty, but students need to seek it out. While teachers may be spread thin due to large class sizes, the overall consensus at Liberty is that the teachers are always there to support the students.

But what about getting around campus? "About being on time to class, having a big school doesn't really affect how long it takes to get to class. It (the crowds) may be inconvenient at times, but I think seven minutes is reasonable. What's great about having a big school is that you're not confined to the same group of people, you could always just walk around and meet new people," Wong adds.

He believes that although he goes to an enormous school, Liberty High School

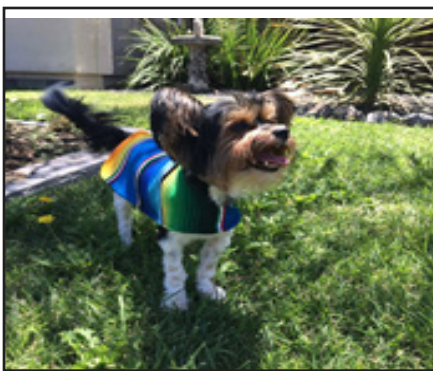
gives its students enough time to arrive to class on time. He also claims that those who attend a highly populated school are able to make new friendships with ease.

The effects of going to a huge school can be daunting, but it is always suggested that a student proceed with school that fits his/her comfort desired comfort level, whether or not that requires support from various teachers or students.

## Pets of Liberty

Here at Liberty, we all come from many different families and backgrounds, 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:

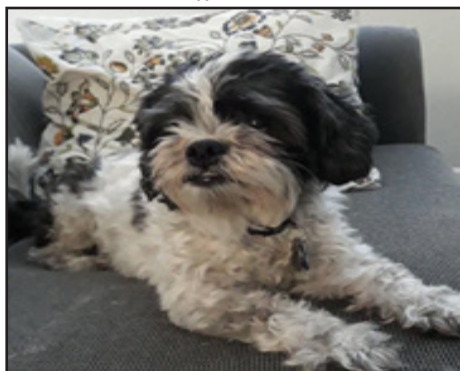
By *Vanessa Willey and Anya Rowland*  
Staff Writers



**Teddy**

Owned by Sarah Mohareb, 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."



**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."



**Oliver**

Owned by Stephanie Navarro-Gordillo, 10th Grade  
Breed: Domestic Shorthair Cat  
Age: 3 months

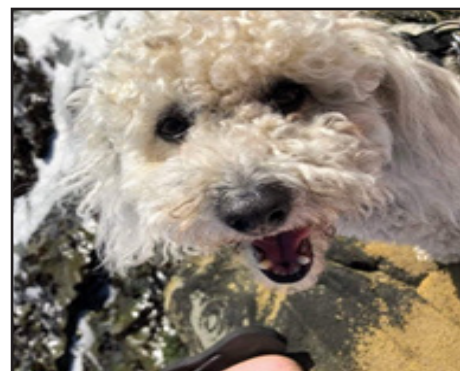
"Oliver is a classy boy who drinks water out of a wine glass and prays with his family."



**Amelia**

Owned by Isabella Guerrero, 10th Grade  
Breed: Pack Llama  
Age: 15

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



**Totoro**

Owned by Anya 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 Fletcher, 11th Grade  
Breed: Bantam Cochon Rooster  
Age: 9 months

"Li'l Marco enjoys waking people up early, attacking them, annoying them and eating sunflowers."

December 13, 2018

# Carreon carries on a legacy in the arts

By *Aliah Gaoteote*  
Staff Writer

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

Carreon initially started as a competitive roller skater at the age of five, competing in various categories including freestyle, pairs, 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 in 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 Championships. There, they came in 25th place, 26th place, and 29th place in three consecutive seasons



Competing at the Four Continents Figure Skating Championships on January 27th, 2006 in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Carreon and Luke Munana glide across the ice for the Free Dance performance.

Photo courtesy of Matthew Stockman

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

the Mexican Championships in the 2004-2005 season.

Seeking change, they moved to San Jose, California to train with Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko, who competed for the Soviet Union—competing at the

Olympic level and winning a gold medal in 1992. Klimova and Ponomarenko also competed in the Olympics in 1998 and 1984, winning silver and bronze medals. Under their direction, the duo further developed their technique and style and became motivated towards their craft. They continued at international competitions including Skate America, Karl Schäfer Memorial, and Nebelhorn Trophy before eventually retiring after the 2006-2007 season.

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.

## Profile on Hayden Item: jet ski champion



Photo courtesy of Kyle Moss

Item (pictured above), makes a big splash at the World Finals, making his mark both in and out of the water.

By *Ysenia Inguanzo*  
Staff Writer

Picture this: water splashes your face as the revving of your jet ski roars loud. You hear the crowd "ooh" 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.

Item was first introduced to jet skiing by his sister's ex-boyfriend at the young age of twelve years old. A month later, he saved enough money for himself to buy a jet ski.

According to Item, jet skiing makes him feel happy. He states, "It is a sport I love and it benefits me for the future and the present."

Competing at the International Jet Ski Boating Association World Finals in Lake Havasu, Arizona, during the October break, Hayden faced a total of nineteen competitors, all racing to win that number one spot. This year, however, Item was bumped up into the Adult Open division, amongst older competition.

He mentions preparing for this major event by getting "lots and lots of

practice", in order to beat out his tough competition.

Gaining the support of Jettribe Racing, TNT Performance, and Rhass Products, Item rose to the top with his talent and dedication.

"I was very nervous at first, because I have deals with sponsors who judge how good I look, but I know I am helped by amazing people. I have a full scholarship from TNT, who builds all my race skis and I even get to advertise his new line of x2 pipes."

However, the journey wasn't easy. Although Hayden is now acknowledged as the World Champion for jet skiing, the title came with years of hard work, and wasn't given to him right from the start. Like most athletes, he faced obstacles. He mentions, "In my first year at the world finals, I took eleventh place. The second year, I took sixth place. And this year, I took first."

Hayden plans on competing again next year and hopes to achieve the World Champion title for what would be the second year in a row. Additionally, Hayden revealed if he takes first place once again, he could be sent to compete internationally in places such as Japan, China, or Dubai.

## Maintaining a high quality team despite poor air quality

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 unfit 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 Saturday, November 17.

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 indoors.

"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.

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 Dis-

trict announced that all sports would be cancelled until the air improved. Once again, the game had been postponed.

As the team continued to prepare for the game, emotions were flustering 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 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.



The legendary Liberty High School varsity football team eagerly runs onto the field, despite being set back in the midst of an unexpected natural disaster.

Photo courtesy of Katrina Gibbs

# ATHLETICS

December 13, 2018

## 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 8%. 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 appropriate way to protest while 53% viewed it as inappropriate. When ques-

tioned if she believes kneeling during the national anthem is inappropriate, Sammy Stone, a senior at Liberty High School, answered with mixed feelings and believes "kneeling is a personal choice and if (one) feels the need to partake then that should be (one's) own decision, but personally, (she) believes that kneeling during the national anthem is the wrong platform to utilize to display such a sensitive topic". She also adds that "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 "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 large role in the contentious, or out-



After sparking controversy within the NFL to protest police brutality within communities of people of color, Eric Reid and Colin Kaepernick continue to kneel during at the start of the games for the National Anthem.

Photo courtesy of Getty Images

come of this issue. They concluded that 69% African Americans found the protests of the national anthem as acceptable. However, 58% of caucasian and 54% of Hispanic adults believed that the national anthem protests are never appropriate. Morgan Chandler, a senior attending Liberty High school, believes

"a lot of football players are black and most of the black community is liberal so [she] assumes that more black people support the kneeling." In addition, she also believes that "race is just a small aspect of it, it's mostly political". This continuous debate on whether or not players should have the right to kneel during

the national anthem causes one to wonder, what does this show about the culture in America? Should there be a point at which a line is drawn, blocking political involvement or ideology within sports, or on the other hand, was the kneeling ever the real issue?

## Reconstruction of softball field in full swing



The eager anticipation for completion of the new Liberty Softball fields continues, but it is estimated to be done some time in February.

Photo by Joey Weeden

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,

there will now be basketball 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. Liberty High School is a place where students come to be further educated

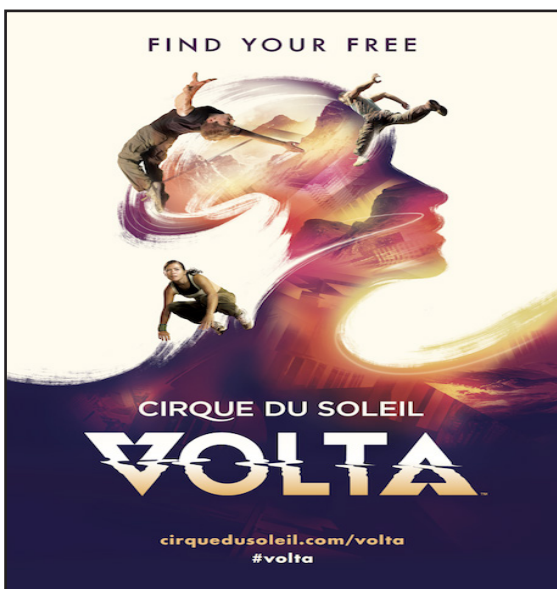
and better their curricular ability. But for many, Liberty High School is more than that. Being able to play the sports students love on well equipped fields, whether it's softball, baseball, football or any other sport one may enjoy, Mrs. Harper is making it possible to exceed these passions. Addressed by District Superintendent Eric Volta, "Now we are beginning our projects and working with architects and we can now

envison 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 varsity 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 cleats 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.

**Win Free Tickets**  
to  
**Cirque Du Soleil!**

January 6th  
5:00 pm,  
San Francisco



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."

Riddle:

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

**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.**

Follow us on Twitter

**@LHSLionsRoar**

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 acclimating to the construction on campus, we are 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 own staff, and is estimated to have been built around the 1960s. 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 dispensible. 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 LUHSD? Football fields and swimming pools are ways to improve school spirit, but libraries help strengthen school culture through education.

### Opinion Poll: What was your favorite childhood toy, and why?

By Viivi Kajula  
Staff Writer



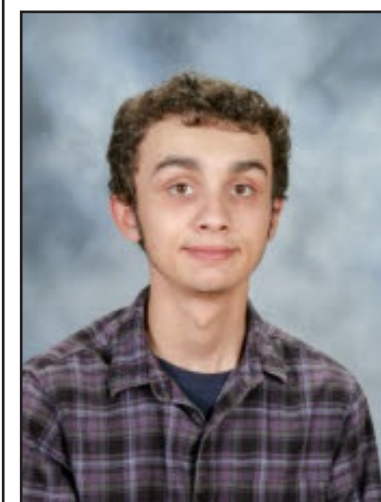
Jake Russel, Grade 9  
"Legos, because they're fun."



Kieran McIntyre, Grade 11  
"I don't think I had a childhood toy."



Paige Lind, Grade 9  
"Barbies, because you could pretend to do different stuff."



Daniel Hargus, Grade 11  
"I liked Legos because they were fun to play with and you could build stuff."

## Californians vote to turn clocks to the dark side

By Eddie Ramos  
Staff Writer

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 1895 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 world wide as 70 countries today use this method. As of November 6 in California, a proposition known as Prop 7 has passed. This proposition states that the California State Legislature can change the dates and times of the daylight saving 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 savings time. As of 2018, the Federal Uniform



Photo courtesy of dannykennedyfitness.com

Time Act allowed states to adopt one of two options, One they can adopt daylight savings time (DST) between the second Sunday of March or the first Sunday of November, or remain on standard time all year. This proposition was close, as 59.99% of people voted yes, and the remaining 40.01% of people voted no. But of course with the passing of this proposition comes the pros and cons. Let's start with the pros: for one it maximizes natural daylight, making it easier for people to do morning commute, or get out and

exercise in the morning. In addition, it allows for people to conserve energy. With support from a 1970's study by the U.S Department of transportation, they found that DST trimmed national electricity usage by 1% compared with standard time. That one percent might not be a lot, but it makes up a total of 2 million people here in the U.S being affected as 1.2% of the population is estimated to be around 3.2 million people. Now onto the downside of things that come with daylight savings time. Some cons of DST are that time changes can

disturb sleep patterns, even though it is just an hour, people often complain how much the taken time has affected them. Collectively, these complaints fall under the categories of time loss, sheer annoyance, and earlier sunlight patterns. This is especially true with parents who have kids as they have to take them to school in the mornings as well as families in general. Furthermore, DST poses challenges in time keeping. Even in this high tech age changing the time still requires someone to make the change whether its manually or with programming. No matter how individuals look at it making sure the clocks are adjusted is a detail to remember that some Americans do tend to forget which can drastically affect a person if they do not adjust their time accordingly. Overall, most countries observe and condone DST, making it an international principle that affects nearly everybody on earth.

## Is the TikTok app a hit or miss?

By Lily Castro  
Staff Writer

Take a trip down memory lane back to when everyone was making short videos lip-syncing to "Don't Mind" and making skits on Musically. Taking on a new title, the memorable lip-syncing app is stepping back into the spotlight as Tiktok, an app similar to Musically where users can choose to lip-sync songs/skits, or create their own. Some people think that Tiktok is a one-of-a-kind, kid-friendly app, but it also could be argued that Tiktok takes it in the complete opposite direction as well. The infamous app has a 12+ age range, however, some of the content it produces is questionable. When logging onto the app, some of the videos express strong language and inappropriate themes that shouldn't be seen by the young demographic it appeals to. The app isn't revolutionary or unique at all either, it simply repeats the functions of other apps such as Triller or Lomotif.



Some alternatives that similarly replicate the experience, but provide original expression is an app like iMovie. A feature that iMovie has that Tiktok does not is a longer time frame, and more creative freedom to put together unique

videos. In contrast, Tiktok mostly uses previously recorded sounds that were made by other persons, therefore destroying it's ability to be a product of personal ingenuity. Despite the widespread advertisement for the app, and the millions

of users that inhabit it, the application overall isn't that impressive. The sounds are overdone and the humor is bland. Although the app is geared towards preteens the content is not. The creators simply rebranded the app under a different title to make it seem as if it was a different concept. Even though some may not be big fans of Tiktok, it doesn't take away from the fact that users still use the app to express their creativity. However, at its core, Tiktok is just Musically with a new name where people are still finding the joy that they found when they first downloaded it. For some, the app is a platform for creative freedom while for others it's a source of embarrassing comedy. Overall, the application still has a long way to go in the social media world, and it's popularity amongst the younger generation displays that it could possibly be near the top soon.

December 13, 2018

He Said, She Said: The Male vs. Female Perspective

# Holiday spending: how much is too much?

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 splurge on holiday gifts. However, this tends to spark up the debate as to how much money we should actually spend. Some claim that 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 compare to the luxurious expensive gifts such as cars and shiny jewelry, however, they are equally as thoughtful and meaningful 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. Others claim that these gifts 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 present. 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 as 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 Aitchison  
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.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

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



Photo courtesy of: heuning.co.za

## 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 disappointment. Surfing through mealtime mediocrity is unfortunately a way of life for Brentwoodians. Sourdough and Co. located at 2375 Sand Creek Road at the Streets of Brentwood is the newest addition to 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. Let's cut to the chase: it's overpriced, and the sandwich was alright. There was simply nothing special with this sandwich, just a sloppy stack of ingredients absolutely drenched in mayonnaise. Six dollars for a four inch



Photo by: Allie Cone

A black pepper, turkey sandwich from Sourdough & Co. Each sandwich is served with lettuce, tomato, mayonnaise, house dressing, and a choice of cheese.

sandwich, eight dollars for a six inch sandwich, and nearly ten dollars for an eight inch sandwich, and that's just for the sandwich. The atmosphere let me know immediately that Sourdough and Co believes they are too good for some five dollar foot-long gimmick. The restaurant was clean, and the service was sweet, but the sandwiches were a let down to what the prices anticipated. 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 sourdough 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 steer clear of the sandwiches.

## Inequality in the Santa business

By Kristine Sanchez  
Staff Writer

The fictitious, jolly, bearded man we know today with his furry, red and 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's 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. At the end of the 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.

## Editorial Policy

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 [libertyslionsroar@gmail.com](mailto:libertyslionsroar@gmail.com). *The Lion's Roar* staff reserves the right to adjust or reject letters to the editor for any reason.

## Staff of The Lion's Roar



**Editor-in-Chief:**  
Allie Cone

**Co-Editors:**  
Austin Belcher, Adelle Senneca, Stephanie Snodgrass,  
Reese Watkins-Nelson

**Copy Editors:**  
Jamison Capio, Alegra Nelson

**Staff Writers:**  
Trevor Aitchison, Leah Carrasco, Lilyana Castro,  
Hamid Chaudhry, Gavriel Curameng, Dylan Davidson,  
Camryn Duncan, Aliah Gaoteote, Leila Haddadin,  
Ysenia Inguanzo, Viivi Kajula, Maximus Knecht, Ethan Lei,  
Roya Mohammad, Maya Morales-Cartwright, Sophia Ortega,  
Edward Ransom, Anya Rowland, Kristine Sanchez,  
Charlis Vega, Joey Weeden, Vanessa Willey,  
Monique Willis

**Adviser:**  
Kristina Busch