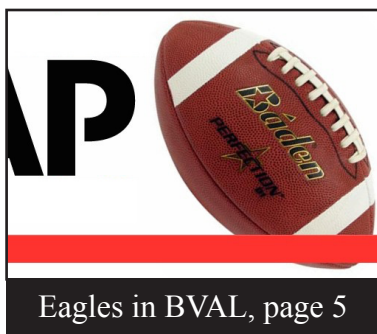




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The voice of Liberty High School students



# The Lion's Roar

2nd Place award-winner from the American Scholastic Press Association

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

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FREE

# The true cost of a drink

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



This Pennsylvania car crash involved a drunk driver.

Photo courtesy of www.blumfieldlaw.com

By Noel Corniola  
Staff Writer

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 Conn. 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 DUIs distributed by

law enforcement increased rapidly from December 2011 to early January 2014. About 24,000 DUIs 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.

## Taylor Swift breaks up with Spotify

*Is this the start of a trend in the music industry?*



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 stream various songs and albums

Picture courtesy of mensfitness.co.uk from Spotify's inventory of songs available. Taylor Swift's problem with Spotify is that customers pay to stream 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 upsets 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. But with all the controversy, it makes people think who might follow suit and leave Spotify? On September 4th, 2014, Spotify users got an idea of how severe the issue may be when artists Brantley Gilbert and Justin Moore removed their music from Spotify as well because they, too, believe that they do not get paid fairly on Spotify, according to The Boot. This may get other artists to follow suit as well. If these claims of unfair revenue are indeed true, the digital music industry as a whole could be in some serious trouble.



Picture courtesy of nydailynews.com

## Milk's favorite churro

By Adam Dawson  
Staff Writer

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's 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." Michele'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."

# Breaking News

## Black Friday shoplifters



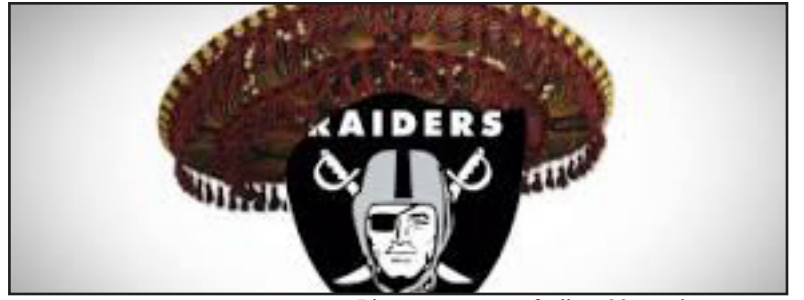
Picture courtesy of moviepilot.com

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 spending the night of 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 wthr.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 3,000 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. "Though 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 and think shoplifting is the correct way to do so. Overall, during the holiday season it is important to keep in mind the people that do not have enough money to pay for their necessities, much less gifts for their whole family. Shoplifting is not a solution to the poor financial problem our country and people are faced with.



Picture courtesy of tribcw33.wordpress.com

## San Antonio Raiders?

By Madison Trimble  
Editor

Oakland Raiders fans in California may no longer be able to support their team at games as the Oakland Raiders may become the San Antonio Raiders. The team's lease at the Oakland Coliseum will expire at the end of the 2014 season and the team would like to build a new stadium. However, at the moment, the Oakland Raiders and the Oakland A's are sharing the coliseum. According to buzzfeed.com, "if the Raiders do decide to build a new stadium on the land that currently houses O,Co Coliseum, the A's would also have to find a new home." Since a new stadium does not seem to be ideal, Oakland Raiders owner Mark Davis has thought of moving the team to San Antonio, or even to Los Angeles. "It'd still be a surprise to see the Raiders move to San Antonio, but the city is definitely a legitimate candidate," stated texasmonthly.com. Junior student Emily Alfsen 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 texasmonthly.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 texasmonthly.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 texasmonthly.com.



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# Campus Life

## The future of driving is now

By Richard Montalvo  
Editor



Photo courtesy of 4wheelonline.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 hear 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

can this dream be too good to be true? According to their site, it can drive at 100 MPH and fly at 124 MPH. This seems to be a decent rate, probably all you'd need for all your on and (literally) off-road needs. On one tank of gas, it can fly 430 miles or drive 540. Additionally, its wings can collapse, so it also fits into any standard parking space. It uses regular gasoline, can drive in regular road traffic, but as a plane, it can take off and land on any grass strip or paved surface just a few hundred meters long. So, what's the catch, you might ask? The answer is the price: Ac-

ording to The Guardian, the ballpark 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? Arx 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 and more advanced, 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 now. Today, 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 eupho-

ria 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 handling depression or 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 dreamy Philly Cheesesteak sandwich is overflowing with beef. Photo by Ryan Frerking-Ramos

## The Lion's Cafe

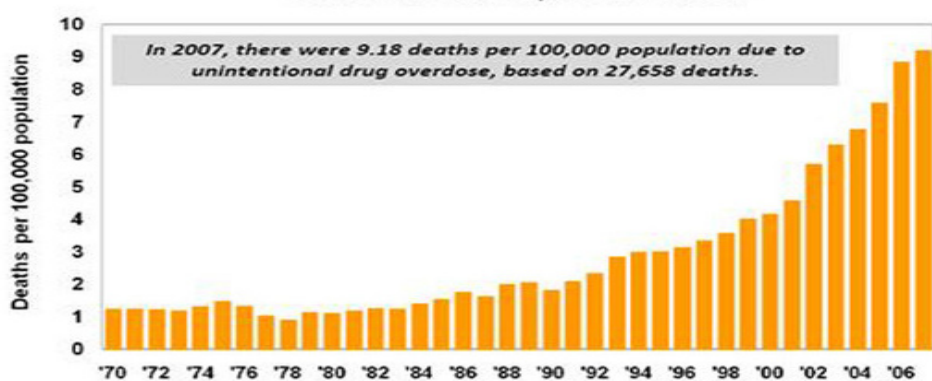
*A delicious meal right out on the savannah*

By Ryan Frerking-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 Espinoza. 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 Hunger Taxi service. Food can be ordered through the app or online at [www.hungertaxi.com](http://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 those, 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 Nunez. You can have the feeling of Christmas morning every day at Oasis Grill and Bar. Quality service and tummy stuffing food are just parts of the experience. Go check them out. You won't regret it.

### Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths United States, 1970-2007



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Unintentional Drug Poisoning in the United States (July 2010).

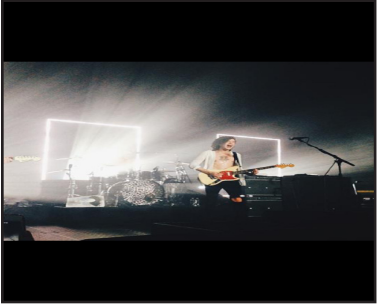
# Campus Life

## 1975 looking good in 2014

By Rachel Macdonald

Staff Writer

Just as expected, The 1975 put on a show full of wine, rock persona, and an almost entirely full catalog. Minus the tense venue and crowd disputes, the people got what they came for. The crowd was on edge starting the night, due to an unorganized entry line outside The Masonic in San Francisco and a mix of people that were not the friendliest to one another. The audience dynamic was the direct source of the tension beginning the show. Most were with their dads, boyfriends, or girlfriends. And people were also complaining about the smoke.



Once inside, and only after being teased for what felt like ten minutes of the lights slowly dimming and the ambient noise slowly getting louder, the band entered. Even with a rough start when front man Matt Healy sauntered on stage, wine bottle in hand, all other concerns were dropped. That was the first but not the last tease of the night. Although they played well there were a few instances where it would have been preferable to have Healy's mic turned up. For the songs that allow him to be just as loud as the instruments it wasn't



Photos by Rachel Macdonald

a problem, but as soon as his presence lightened and his voice was softer he was largely over powered. The 1975's dynamic is very strange. The drummer George was very present. He was powerful and involved. He even threw his shirt into the crowd. Matt Healy was prancing in his intoxication per usual doing what he does best for the band, being the spokesperson. And then there was Adam (Guitar) and Ross (Bass) who did their thing and left without drawing any attention to themselves. It was a strange balance, but a balance nonetheless, and it seemed to work for them. In comparison to the last 1975 concert eight months ago at The Fillmore, there was little contrast in the show but even in saying that this past show was by far the best of the two. It was the same setlist for the most part, Healy was on and off guitar, he drank a bottle of wine and smoked some cigarettes, but this show had a little more quirk. A little more sass. The best part of

the last show was during "Heart Out," John Waugh took the stage yet again to carry the rest of the song with his saxophone. The second tease of the night came after a beautiful performance of "Me" in which Healy specifically requested everyone put their phones away, more for him than for them (an almost ritual for their shows). When the next song began it was the ringing of the first four notes in "Robbers". The crowd went wild since half of them were probably there to see that specific song, but following directly after that instantly recognizable intro, Adam began the first chords to another song, "Settle Down," which the rest of the band quickly erupted into as well. It was a purposeful tease that Healy made no effort to hide his satisfaction with. The crowd made no effort to hide their satisfaction either. Except their satisfaction was regarding the show overall. Although the show was worthy of recognition there was a popular murmur among the

crowd concerning the new single "Medicine" that dropped only three weeks earlier. The songs they did play were phenomenal, but half of us there had already seen them all live before. "Medicine" is the only new song to be released since the show eight months previous and they didn't even play it. There was a confused disappointment over this that was haunting the crowd once the show was over. But when everyone had cleared out there was a new spark to light the fire against the venue. There was a very rude security guard who would not let anyone wait for the band to come out after the show. The 1975 are so well known amongst their fans for always greeting them following a performance which made this venue's behavior very peculiar and unfamiliar to those who are avid The 1975 concert goers. The show didn't really close because the end of the night always involved watching them drive away. Everyone was left hanging this time, but in no fault of the band themselves.

## 'Tis the season of final exams

By Faye Gilmore

Staff Writer

Finals are looming over the horizon, but they do not have to be as intimidating as they seem. Over the course of an average student's lifetime, he or she is bound to have picked up a number of studying tricks. Here are a few you may or may not have heard of before. In terms of studying, try to perform some sort of litmus test. For those unfamiliar with the term or have yet to take chemistry, try out the required material you expect to find on the test in an atmosphere as similar to the real thing as possible in order to find out what you are missing. This can take the form of a study guide given to you, or, alternatively, set up one for yourself using notes from class. If you have to give a speech or power point, familiarize yourself with what you

have ready and even show it to an audience of willing participants. If possible, inquire or listen carefully during class time to determine what is awaiting you. Once you know what you are missing, prepare to enter studying boot camp. So you have found your not-so-strong points. First, recognize you are human. If things seem insurmountable, recognize people climb mountains one step at a time. You will get there eventually. If you have found yourself backed into a metaphorical corner, unwilling to face improving, try skimming through the information and finding something you find genuinely interesting, or imagine a practical use for what you are learning. Irritated with derivatives? You may very well be able to use them to

calculate the movement of certain engine parts. Stumped with history? Think back to a historical event you find interesting and try to relate the information to it somehow, or try to imagine yourself living in that particular setting and time period. Dreading your P.E. final? Try watching some inspirational Olympics videos from Sochi or Vancouver. Find every resource you possibly can, internet, books, libraries, intelligent older cousins half-removed, and pour through it all to make sure your gaps get filled. Make sure to review the day before also. Try making a knowledge dump by taking a blank piece of paper and jotting down as much as you know about the topic. Writing down information is proven to be one of the best ways to learn

things, as well as working individually. During the test, if you're stuck, try moving on, or looking for the answers in other questions. Classical music is also recommended for study-time, as well as a clean environment, which is proven to improve behavior and mood. Aromatherapy, which involves incorporating smells such as lavender or anything else soothing, can cause us to remember things better. Surprisingly, taking the time to paint or draw, or even turn your material into a piece of art can also help you remember it. Maybe try teaching the concept to someone you know, like a parent or sibling. As the old saying goes, "if you can teach something, you understand it." Above all, and perhaps a little contradictorily, try not to take things

too seriously. You are human, after all, and if you feel burned out, by all means take a break (this is also proven to help you focus), however, you are also a valuable human being, as those who care about you know. They just want to see you do your best and shine, whatever that so happens to look like. To put things in the words of Captain Silver from Disney's Treasure Planet, "Stick to it, no matter the squalls! And when the time comes, you'll get the chance to really test the cut of your sails and show what you're made of! Well, I hope I'm there, catching some of the light coming off you that day." An intense overstatement? Hardly so!

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

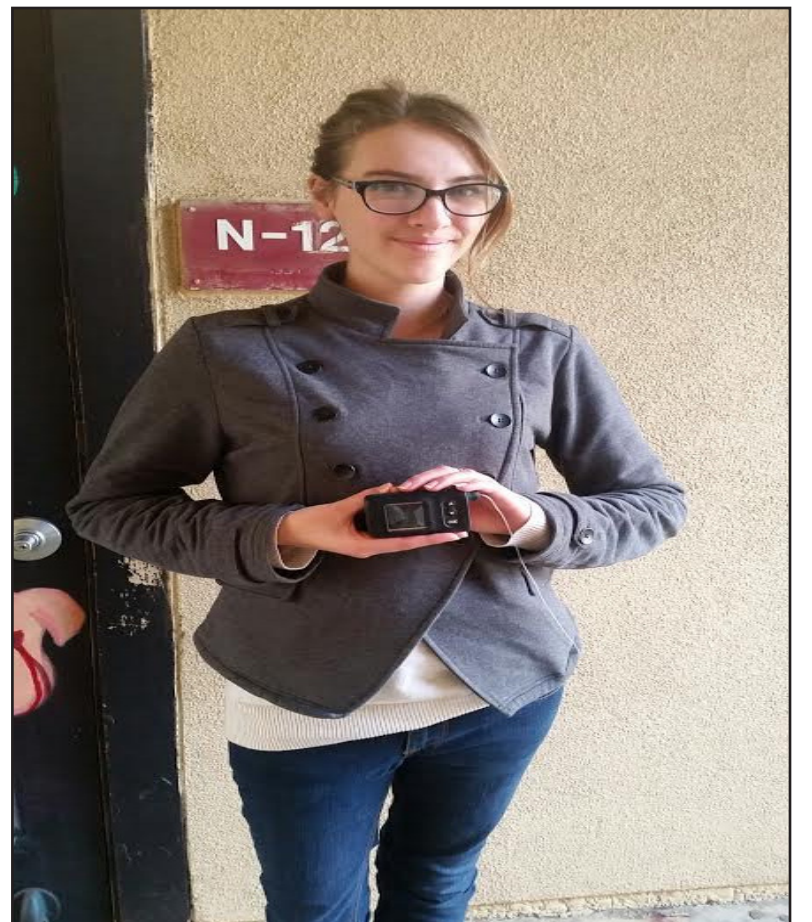
By Shelby Conn

Editor

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. To the average person 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 most common in children and young adults. According to [www.diabetes.org](http://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 puts 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 can cause scar tissue and bruising; the injections can 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 means that one has to eat 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 times when Mikayla's blood sugar levels do shoot too high or drop too low. She told of how one time she was walking to her mom's car and all of a sudden everything felt "surreal"; she was completely out of it and couldn't even speak. It turns out her blood sugar had dropped to 39. Diabetes isn't a death sentence. Mikayla is able to hold a job, perform in plays here at Liberty, and attend school normally. The most important thing to Mikayla when she was diagnosed was that her life remain as normal as possible, and so far it has.



Junior Mikayla Furey with her insulin pump.

Photo by Shelby Conn

## Are the Clayton Valley Eagles swooping in?

*Charter high school may join BVAL*

By Alex Einess  
Staff Writer

The Bay Valley Athletic League has undergone a major transformation 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 become a dominant force in Bay Area sports. This makes it no surprise Clayton Valley Charter 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 thirty-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 football is the main impetus for the jump: "Football is the main rea-

son 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 opportunity 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. Liberty Athletic Director Curtis Cunningham stated, "The effect in football would be felt most, due to the fact that an odd number of teams creates a bye week during the league season. These weeks are often hard to fill, as other leagues are involved in their own league schedules." Cunningham also went on to say the distance between Clayton Valley and all other BVAL schools may cause student athletes to miss more class and create larger 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 believes 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 and coaches, "I believe in our school, athletes, and coaches, so whether or not they join the league, I think we will be fine." League officials will make the final vote in early 2015, and their decision will take effect at the start of the 2016 school year.



The Stockton Thunder take on the SF Bulls Photo courtesy of sharks.nhl.com

## Hear the Thunder roll

By Ryan Frerking-Ramos  
Senior Staff Writer

Every day they tie up their skates. Loop by loop with the sharpened blade. They slip and slide defending their turf. It's all done with blood, sweat, and ice. This is the momentum of the game at the Stockton Thunder hockey team. The Stockton Thunder are a minor league professional ice hockey team based in Stockton, California. The Thunder are a member of the ECHL. The Stockton Arena is their home ice, with a capacity of 9,737 people. The team is an affiliate team of the New York Islanders of the National Hockey League. Stockton Thunder uses their hockey team for many ways to benefit the community. They offer different activities like Star Wars night,

the Teddy Bear Toss, and their breast cancer awareness event. Their current 2014-2015 season has many upcoming games including home games against Bakersfield, Utah, and Alaska. To find the schedule and more information, go to [www.stocktonthunder.com](http://www.stocktonthunder.com) As a part of an NHL affiliate and an arena that seats over 9,000, the Stockton Thunder laces up their skates nearly every night. If you want the rush of excitement or just want a good time in a family atmosphere, go see them play.

## Upcoming Events

### Boys Soccer:

- 12/22 vs Livermore (home)
- 12/30 vs California (away)
- 1/13 vs Freedom (home)

### Boys Basketball:

- 12/23 vs Irvington (home)
- 1/7 vs Stagg (away)
- 1/9 vs Oakland Tech (home)

### Wrestling:

- 1/14 vs Antioch (away)
- 1/21 vs Pittsburg (away)

### Girls Basketball:

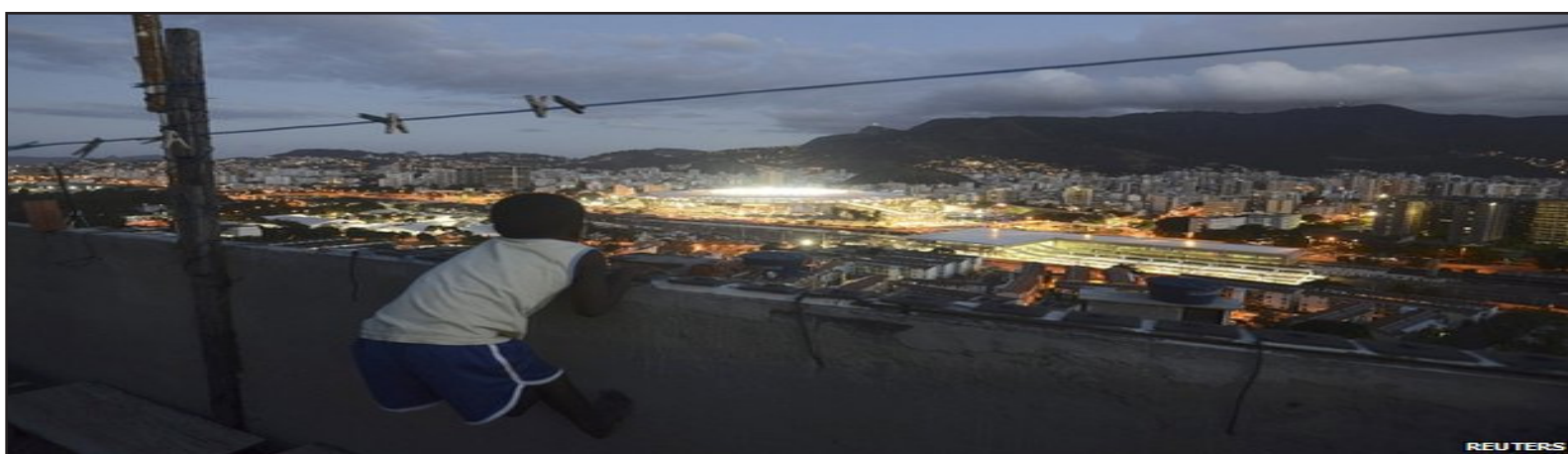
- 1/6 vs Lincoln (home)

### Girls Soccer:

- 12/13 vs College Park (home)
- 1/20 vs Heritage (away)
- 1/22 vs Deer Valley (home)

## Was it worth it?

*World Cup in Brazil promised big return economically but came up short*



Child looks over the World Cup from a Brazilian slum

Photo courtesy of www.bbc.co.uk

By Sean O'Connell  
Editor

All over the world, people look up to star athletes, not only for their abilities, but also because they live a lifestyle many envy. Neymar da Silva Santos, Jr. is a Brazilian soccer player. He grew up in the Brazilian favelas, (slums), and now plays for Barcelona, one of the best soccer teams in the world. His annual salary is 15.4 million dollars, and he is worth 50 million. While he lives a life of privilege, his childhood friends from the favela survive on about \$3,000 a year. He makes 5,000 times as much as them just because he can kick a ball better than anyone else. In communities all over the world, athletic ability can be a way out of poverty. Talented players can be found in slums like the ones in Brazil, playing soccer with balls made of trash bags. Or they can

be spotted playing a pickup basketball game in an American city. Although sports can be a way out for some, the communities they came from are still stuck in poverty. In 2014 Brazil hosted the FIFA World Cup Championships. They hoped it would bring more tourists to their country and improve their economy. Brazil miscalculated. After spending 11.5 billion dollars on stadiums that were only used for two months, they only received 7.2 billion in revenue. This loss adds an additional 4.3 billion to Brazil's already huge 3 trillion national debt. If that's what happens why do countries continue to compete for events like the Olympics? They usually don't come out ahead, and often find themselves with huge debts, unusable facilities, and a frustrated population. Some think it's worth

it because their country will be on the international stage with lots of news media and the publicity that goes with them. While still others believe that the only ones who benefit from these huge sporting events are the athletes, sponsors, and political leaders. For a country with a large poor population like Brazil, the World Cup held out hope for jobs and increased opportunities. Instead, they're worse off than before. International sports are often not a good deal for poor people. In 2022, Qatar, one of the richest nations in the world, will be hosting the World Cup. In order to build the facilities, they are importing cheap labor from Nepal. The working and living conditions of these workers are horrible. A human rights agency believes that as many as 4,000 workers will die from heat

exhaustion and construction accidents. By hiring poor workers Qatar hopes to avoid being stuck with 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 already 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 infrastructure, popularize soccer in surrounding 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.



The JV girls soccer team takes a short break from their hectic practice schedule.

Photo by Hayley Reyes

## So...is it a sport?

Cheerleading. Archery. Golf. Are they in the same category as football?



By Emily Lutes  
Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of youthdesigner.com

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 skateboarding, archery, gold, 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, dance and cheer were the two that came up the most. According to the definition, they would be considered a sport because they compete against other teams and they do contain physical activity. Another



Photo courtesy of youtube.com

student shared that a sport requires a team, such as football or basketball. Many would disagree because 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

### Ingredients:

- 1 (20 ounce) package brownie mix (with chocolate syrup pouch)
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 1 (12 ounce) container chocolate frosting
- 1 cup white chocolate chips
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 1 tablespoon butter or 1 tablespoon margarine

### Directions:

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Line rectangular pan, 13x9x2 inches, with aluminum foil, letting foil hang 2 inches over short ends of pan.
3. Spray foil with cooking spray.
4. Stir brownie mix, chocolate syrup, water, oil and eggs in medium bowl until well blended.
5. Spread in pan.
6. Bake 28 to 30 minutes or until toothpick inserted 2 inches from side of pan comes out almost clean.
7. Cool completely, about 1 hour.
8. Remove brownies from pan, using foil to lift.
9. Use football-shaped cookie-cutter to cut out brownies (or bend a round cookie cutter into football shape.)
10. Frost footballs with chocolate frosting.
11. Place baking chips, milk and butter in small microwavable bowl.
12. Microwave uncovered on Medium-High (70 percent) 1 minute; stir.
13. Microwave about 10 seconds longer or until chips are melted.
14. Drizzle melted chips over frosting to look like football laces.



Recipe and photo courtesy of www.food.com

## 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.
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 Doak Campbell Stadium with a narrow 24-19 win over rival Florida to remain undefeated and advance to the ACC championship.
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 bitter 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.

# Opinion

## Holiday on Ice skates away

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 come to 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 of 2015. According to the Brentwood Holiday on Ice website, the family hopes funding from local business-

es 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 company 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.



Will Farrell in the movie "Elf" was our writer's inspiration.

Photo courtesy of www.people.com

## Santa's little helper? Our writer plays elf for a day

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 Ocellan and Josh Rush, hand out candy to the good little boys and girls of Liberty High School. I really enjoyed spreading joy throughout the cam-

pus, especially to my friends because I got the best reactions from them. My favorite reaction was when I walked into Mr. Rinders' classroom and I was bombarded with "Awwwwws", hugs, and people telling me how cute I looked with my elf hat on. But most of the strangers we handed out candy to had either looks of confusion or excitement, usually followed by a question such as, "What's this

for?" But, of course, the Scrooges come out around this time of year. Some people were being rude by either asking for more candy or not even saying thank you. But the worst was a group of students who not only didn't say thanks but also left all the wrappers on the ground, so I had to pick them up when the trash can was no more than three feet away. Yeah, tis the season. But overall, I did enjoy being an elf!

## Radical Reality brings reality check

By Rajah Chavez  
Staff Writer

"You don't abuse alcohol and drugs, drugs and alcohol abuse you" spoken by Darwin Benjamin, a man that had spoken the truth and what he has learned through 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.

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 that can be scary. Just because someone looks different, talks differently, and even dresses differently doesn't mean they deserve to be treated differently.

"It feels like you're being treated like dirt, it feels like I keep doing what feels right and haven't accomplished anything," a former student at Liberty explained what being picked on for being different feels like emotionally.

Although friends seem to have a big impact on what takes place in everyone's lives, they can also be a weight keeping you down from greatness. What may seem cool now will not be cool when you're much older. Don't waste your own life on some drug or alcohol that isn't going to resolve anything.

What is alcohol? It means to be placed into a temporary false re-

ality, makes the brain believe it is okay to do such things that kill your brain cells that you will never get back. In 2012, there were just a little over 10 thousand deaths based on alcohol related driving accidents. That is one too many lives to risk each day, according to The National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIH). Alcohol and drugs are costing this nation over \$600 billion that are related to crime, lost work productivity and healthcare. Being in this dark hole doesn't have to result in temporarily taking the pain away for an everlasting heartbreak for those around you. We care, and don't ever think that the person next to you won't miss you if you are missing one day. Think about the choices you make because they don't just affect you emotionally; they affect everybody involved in your life. Be strong for that moment when you just need a break, and think about what you are really losing; hope is something you have for an eternity and it is strong enough to keep you for an eternity.



Photo courtesy of www.everythingbrentwood.com

## Discovery Bay parade lights up the night

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. More than 5,000 people lined the

streets for this year's Parade of Lights, and another 1,000 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 Parade 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!

**The Liberty Union  
High School District**

does not discriminate on the basis of race, color,  
national origin, sex, or disability.

Artwork by Rosa Robles  
Staff Writer



## He Said, She Said:

Advice from the male and female perspective  
*Guys and girls sound off on social media*

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.

I do like to see funny posts but not those that people keep reposting or retweeting. I love Christmas time. So I wouldn't mind seeing someone posting about Christmas like what they got for Christmas but NOT what they bought because I will end up seeing that like, five times a day after Christmas is over. I would also like to see what is happening with sports. Like base-

ball or football. I like the Giants and 49ers and I follow their Twitter and Instagram posts to see what is happening with the teams. For example, like how Pablo Sandoval is not on the Giants anymore; he is on the Red Sox. I would really like to see funny sports posts but not what people are doing right at that moment. Posts like these are just obnoxious.

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 girls' 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 a never ending 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 super different 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](mailto: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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