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Warrior TV informs students on WHS news and events - Page 4

Standing 'O' for West Side Story - Page 10

You better watch out... Santa is coming to town! - Pages 11-13

Soccer team finds strength through unity - Page14

WEBER HIGH SCHOOL 430 WEST WEBER HIGH DRIVE PLEASANT VIEW, UT 84414

THE WARRIOR NEWS

DECEMBER 2013 SINCE 1946 VOLUME 281 ISSUE 2

Odds 'n' Ends

American Music Award

The United States has the most illegal music downloads (96,681,133).

All Beef Patty, Special Sauce...

In Norway, the McDonald's Big Mac's cost $7.15, making them the most expensive in the world!

Lots of A, B, C's and 1, 2, 3's

The country with the most amount of schooling is Finland with an average of 19.6 years.

A Helping Hand

Israel receives $3,075 million in U.S. foreign aid, making them the country that receives the most.

Just Can't Get Enough of Ice Cream

Australia consumes the most ice cream per year with 36 pints per capita.

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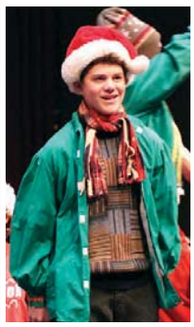
Christmas Special on pages 11-13

All in the Spirit of Christmas



To start the annual Quarters and Cans service project, Warriors attended a spirited assembly where over $5,000 was raised. As various donation goals were met, teachers, coaches and students faced various challenges.
(photos clockwise from top left)
After raising $500, all sophomore officers dressed as elves for the week. Tanner McKay is one of Santa's elves.
Officer Hollingworth shows Vice Principal Talbot the best way to eat pizza during the pizza challenge.
Senior Megan Keith performs the song, "Hallelujah," and SBO President Tyson Lund explains the importance of Quarters and Cans.
Another challenge was for the junior class officers. Senior Alex Goodrich adds cotton balls to the marshmellow creme that is on top of Gunner Poulson's and Chase Cragun's heads.
Photos by Levi Easley

Giving little makes big impact with fundraiser

By **Michelle Hartvigsen**
News Editor

Student body and class officers have been planning and carrying out activities and fundraisers the past few months for the annual school event of Weber High's Quarters and Cans.

Every year approaching Christmas, money is raised to help those in need who live in Weber's boundaries. Last year there was about $19,000 raised, $14,000 of that being cash donations. Five different anonymous families were helped with various medical expenses, and Christmas was given to 26 families within Weber's boundaries.

This year, the goal is to raise $30,000, a goal almost 50 percent higher than the previous year, but it's very attainable according to Mrs. Pearce, student government advisor.

"We should get involved because we can get involved," Pearce says. Although raising $19,000 may seem like a high achievement, Weber High actually raised one of the lowest amounts in Weber School District.

The focus of Quarters and Cans this year is to help Erin Nightingale, a visually impaired senior at Weber High. Equipment will be given to her to assist her with today's technology, so she can use it in college.

Green Acres Elementary will also receive equipment for their special needs department. Green Acres has the most special needs classes in the area, with students transferring from different school boundaries to get the classes provided there. Specialized equipment will be helpful for these students who have learning difficulties, whether it is with speech development, physical needs, reading assistance or other areas.

Not only will the money raised help Nightingale and Green Acres Elementary, but Christmas will be given to two or three families in each elementary school that feeds into Weber High.

Helping families with Christmas is Student Body President Tyson Lund's favorite part about Quarters and Cans. "Nothing at all beats being able to deliver the gifts for Christmas to the families and watching kids as they get so excited to see the presents. That is what makes the whole entire thing worth it!" says Lund.

Activities to raise money have already started. During Homecoming Week before the evening pep rally, students paid money to take swings with a bat at a Car Smash. Students and community members also came together to support Quarters and Cans at the Spoo-k 5K. Teams of community and students also took part in a dodgeball tournament on Nov. 9, and a volleyball tournament on Dec. 7.

Hunger Games fans counted down the days until the premiere of *Catching Fire*, the second movie made after the successful books by Suzanne Collins. Weber High students had the privilege of viewing *Catching Fire* even earlier than the public premiere at the Cinemark Tinseltown Theater in the local Newgate Mall on Wednesday, Nov. 20. Forty percent of the proceeds went to Quarters and Cans.

Quarters and Cans continues on page 13

Young adult author teaches about creativity

By **Erin Geiger**
Editor-in-Chief

Because of her love of reading and telling stories, Jennifer Nielsen shared her passion with Warriors on Oct. 28 and 29.

Nielsen says she's always known she's wanted to be a writer. "But then I also always wanted to be a detective, astronomer, spy, actress and teacher," she says. Nielson spent some years teaching theater and debate, but she continued to write stories while doing so. After quitting teaching to stay home with her firstborn son, she "started reading like crazy" because she felt like her brain was "melting from boredom."

While reading one book a day, "I started to see the mechanics of the books." She adds, "I wasn't enjoying the stories, I was just watching the mechanics. I started realizing it wasn't enough for me to just read anymore. I needed to create. Because I could see the mechanics, I needed to be doing my own stories."

At the age of 11, Nielsen made her first attempt at writing a full-length story about a girl who becomes trapped in her daydreams and finds that the world becomes real. Nielson's sixth grade story might not have been a masterpiece, but it led to the path she travels today.

Reading has been a love of Nielsen since childhood. She enjoyed the *Hardy Boys* and *Encyclopedia Brown* series as well as *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* by Joan Aiken. After entering junior high, she discovered *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. Hinton being published at the young age of 16 inspired Nielsen to be published young as well.

She wrote different kinds of stories in spiral notebooks and on an electric typewriter. At 20, Nielsen completed her first book. However, after finishing a couple more books, her style changed. She says the characters in her head changed from adult romantic suspense to young adult and children's fantasy characters, prompting her to switch genres.

"There is something magical about having a story idea and being able to bring it to life."

"The Young Adult (YA) genre picked me. I started out writing for adults because I thought that's who I was, but it just wasn't good. It wasn't great writing. On a fluke I thought of trying a YA book, and it wasn't very good, but I had a blast writing it. I realized that's where I belong and since hitting YA, everything has been uphill," Nielsen explains.

Nielsen's debut book was *Elliot and the Goblin War,* which would become a part of *The Underworld Chronicles* series. Her next series was the *Ascendance* trilogy, starting with *The False Prince.* The next book will be the sixth book of the *Infinity Ring.*

One thing most readers don't know about *The False Prince* is that Sage, the main character, was originally 16 instead of 14. Nielsen made Sage younger to fit a Barnes and Nobel requirement. "They told me they wouldn't shelf the book where they wanted it shelved if Sage was older than 14," Nielsen says.

Some authors may say they have a favorite book, while others prefer not to pick. It's different for Nielsen, though, who says her favorite book will always be the one she's in the process of writing. She adds, "If my favorite book is one I've already written, it means my best is already behind me. If I'm going to continue growing as an author, then my best always has to be ahead."

Another thing different from other authors is Nielsen's preference to write trilogies over stand-alone books. She says, "I like trilogies, but it's just because I think really big." She adds, "It's really hard for me to think of something that's contained to 250 pages, because my story ideas are so much bigger."

For those who aren't as writing inclined, writing a book may seem impossible with carrying on the same idea for chapters and chapters. However, Nielsen says there are story ideas everywhere for her. She says, "I try to keep myself open creatively and when I do that, suggestions seem to present themselves in little ways. Sometimes it's a total story idea; sometimes it's a trait in a character or a type of scene I'd like to write." She adds the most common prompts for her are songs and their lyrics, current events or dreams she has.

"I believe that at least once in their life, everyone comes up with a fabulous story idea. The only difference is in who decides to act on that idea and get it written down," she tells.

"There is something magical about having a story idea and being able to bring it to life," Nielsen says. She even compares having a good story idea to having an unreachable itch in the middle of her back. "Being able to write that idea is like finally being able to reach that itch," she adds.

Early on in her career, Nielsen learned the value of struggling and persevering. "Before I was published, I didn't understand how important the early struggles in writing are. For example, as awful as it is to go through the phase of being rejected, it helps to toughen the writer for later times when there's a bad review or poor sales numbers," she says. She also adds it would be great to have someone else line edit mistakes out of a manuscript, so it's ready for submission, "but the process of working with a critique group and learning to see your own mistakes is invaluable."

Although the struggle is impor-

Author continues on page 2

Jennifer Nielsen enlightened students about her experiences as an author. She gave tips on how to channel creativity.
Photo by Cara Darr

Author Jennifer Nielsen displays her novels *The False Prince* and *The Runaway King*.

Photo by Cara Darr

Author continues from page 1

tant, she does provide a little help to aspiring writers and authors, usually through tips on her blog.

"If I'm teaching or speaking at a conference or event, please try to come. I will try to give encouragement as often as I can, because the most important lesson I've learned is that persistence does pay off," Nielsen says.

In Nielsen's opinion, the hardest part about being an actual author is waiting. "There's so much waiting in this business, and I'm not a patient person. It drives me crazy. It's like run, run, run, run, run and then stop." She thinks one of the reasons some author are "messes" is because of this waiting.

Nielsen stays grounded during all of the hype and attention that comes from writing. Even on her busiest, craziest days, she comes home to be a wife and mother.

"Fame is not a real thing. I come home at night, and it doesn't matter what I've done in the day. All my kids care about is what's for dinner. It's just this little pocket, and author fame is even worse fame because no one knows your face. Only book nerds really know your name unless you make it to megastar-author status and maybe five or six make it to that. At the end of the day, I don't think about [the fame] much, because I still have to go home and cook dinner."

During Nielsen's presentations, she didn't just talk about writing, she focused on creating. She began the presentation by asking everyone if they were musicians, actors, writers, painters and so on, and then outlined the process everyone uses when creating.

Step one: Recognizing the creative spark. Nielsen says creativity doesn't just "strike like lightning."

Step two: Conditioning or giving ideas the right environment to grow. Nielsen listed a couple things to help create a good environment including trust in oneself, a firm knowledge base, focused distractions like walks and showers, and freedom to fail.

Step three: Remember growth and limitations are the mothers of creativity. She advised creators not to pick their first idea on the first try. Play the "What if, Who, and Why" game.

Step four: Execute or taking a developed idea and giving it life. Nielsen also gave advice to take risks: do what hasn't been done and dream big.

Step five: Share it.

"You get to big dreams by running," Nielsen says. She adds creativity isn't something people are born with and can and should be taught every day, so it can be developed. "It isn't magic, it's a process," she says. "Do not procrastinate brilliance."

Counselors encourage early college planning

By **Miriam Gameros**
News Editor

It's the most wonderful time of the year… preparing for college. Applying for scholarships and loans is what many seniors, and some juniors, are stressing over. Financial aid is also on their checklists; however, some students hope Weber High will pay for some of their education.

"I'm currently going to the ATC in Ogden to be a machinist. From what I know, Weber is paying a fraction of the tuition," said senior Aaron Soto.

Soto is not just hoping for money to land in his lap from Weber, though. He is also a part time custodian and uses some of his own money for his schooling expenses.

Although Soto is going to college before high school graduation, he is not living the college life. "I am really just going for the career part of school. I just want to get it all over with already. To be frankly honest, it is not fun; it's actually pretty boring. I am also taking several machine related classes at Weber right now, so that really helps out," said Soto.

Warriors have also found taking AP classes and college classes are an advantage when applying for colleges. Even though juniors and seniors often sign up for more vigorous classes, sophomores should also consider advance classes.

"Sophomores need to develop good study habits," said counselor Jen Paige. "If students start developing good study habits as sophomores, by the time they are seniors, they will transition well into college."

"I am currently taking a couple college classes and a few AP classes," said senior Shayla Ocegueda. "I don't really want to stress myself too much about them, but I know those classes will look good on college applications."

She added College Admission Offices often look at what AP classes are taken and the sooner college classes are taken, the less they have to be worried about during the first semester of college.

One of the many responsibilities of counselors is to guide students planning for their educational and vocational futures. Counselor Jennifer Paige advises Kieran Caywood, junior, about future classes.

Photo by Levi Easley

Many students decide to take the vocational education path after high school. "I want to do something related to cars and welding. That's the main reason I am taking a bunch of auto and welding classes," said senior Braden Dyer. He is also planning on attending the ATC the following semester.

"After the ATC, I will be going to Weber State University for four years. Throughout college I will be a cadet. After that I will be a second lieutenant and on active duty, so I will ship out and volunteer to deploy and serve," said Dyer. Dyer believes being in the army is a great help for him since it will pay for part of college and housing once he goes to Weber State University.

Another expense college bound students consider is living costs. According to Nikki Freeman, Yahoo Contributor, it is recommended to live on campus freshman year or if living on campus is not possible, live near the campus. Freeman said by staying close to campus, it will eventually be a natural habitat to freshman, and staying on campus also allows meeting new students who could help out with some homework or giving insight on which classes are required.

Even though Ocegueda likes the idea of staying on campus, it would be an additional fee; not just of a few dollars but hundreds. "Besides, if I were to stay at a dorm, I would starve," said Ocegueda.

College students will also find college textbooks are an added expense. "I am going to use my money to buy text books because the Army is already paying for a good majority of tuition. And the ATC might also pay for some of the tuition for Weber State," said Dyer.

Saving and finding money may be hard for some students, but that's not the case for Brian Nielson. "Since my dad actually works at Weber State, my tuition will only be half price of what I would have been originally paying," said Nielson, senior. "But I do have a job right now, and I am planning on starting a year after high school. I want to take a break from school for a while. Shocking right?" said Nielson.

To help seniors find money for college, Paige says counselors send out emails to all Warriors through student email. They list websites that will offer information regarding financial aid and scholarships.

"A good website to check out when looking for financial and scholarship information is fastweb.com and utahfutures.org," said Paige. "Also, checking with parent's employers regarding financial help is a good idea," said Paige.

One thing freshman often look forward to is the college social life. Joining clubs and parties sounds fun, but will it interfere with schooling?

"Just because I am going to college does not mean I have to be super studious. I mean, I will go to class and everything, but I want to get involved. I think it will be super fun. I will be more independent and more of an adult in a way," said Ocegueda.

To also prepare for post high school life, a college plan is something every teen should keep in mind. "Researching what college you want to go to is something you need to do. Also, research what majors they have," said Paige.

"Make sure to visit the college and meet with the advisor in the department you want to major in. That way you can get to know the college and major better," added Paige.

Ocegueda agrees college shopping and looking at what schools offer are good ideas. "I want to keep an open mind and make the college experience a learned one; not just through the classes I take, but through other different perspectives and experiences," said Ocegueda.

Planning on going to college is one thing, but it is another thing actually going to college. Seniors feel self-discipline is something to keep in mind when being determined to go to college.

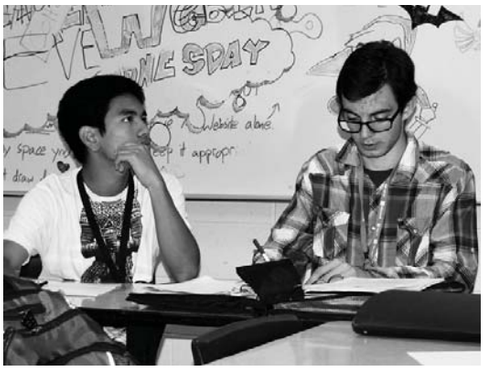
"I need to push myself to start college; otherwise, I know I will just put it off and end up going too late or maybe not at all. So once I am done with high school and my technical career at the ATC, I hope to be set and ready to start attending college to study psychology," said Ocegueda.

College is a big step in graduates' lives, and most are ready to move out of their comfort zone. "I feel pretty confident in myself and about my applications. I think I am ready for college," said Ocegueda.

"Actually, I don't think I am ready for college, I know I'm ready for college," she added.

Debate develops life-long skills

By **Levi Easley**
Photo Editor



Sophomore Natchaipat Samchun and senior John Lewis prepare for upcoming debate.

Photo by Braxten Fulmer

At the 2011 Speech and Debate national finals, Dylan Slinger stood in front of a crowd of thousands. His mind raced, his legs shook and all he could think was, "*Don't mess up.*" As he stood at the front of the crowd, he introduced himself and then let his 10-minute speech explode.

For Mr. Webster's Speech and Debate team, this kind of nervousness happens every day. Students will get up, walk to the front of the class and deliver a speech on any number of topics. According to Coach Webster, Speech and Debate is highly beneficial for those who give a try.

"The purpose of Speech and Debate is to help students learn to research, create and present arguments in a logically consistent and entertaining matter," says Coach Webster. "Every year I have former students email or visit me, saying Speech and Debate was their most valued class in high school. It gave them the skills they needed to make college more accessible."

"Students benefit from taking debate because it helps them gain motivation, and it builds skills that they use in other classes," adds Webster.

This year's team has many students who have never taken the class before. However, this has not stopped them from achieving glory. In the first tournament, members of the team won trophies and placed in many events.

"I'm really excited about this year's team. We've already had much success in writing, more success in research, more success in trophies, and it's only been one tournament. We have a team that can be solid and effective this year," adds Webster.

At the first tournament held at Clearfield High School on Oct. 3, seniors Austin Hanni and Madison Judd went undefeated in Public Forum, which is a debate event in which competitors argue an issue of national importance.

"The goal of Public Forum is to counter any argument that your opponent can make, and to win the round," says Hanni. "We did well. We came in really prepared, but we can still improve. We need to work together more during specific sections of the rounds," adds Judd.

Junior Derrek Studebaker, the Congress captain on the team, highly regards his favored event. In Congress, competitors will act like a real congress and debate over legislature and bills. "Basically, you have to have the best plan and give the best speeches to win. But it doesn't have to be about winning; just do the best that you can do," he says. "I love it. It's fun. But you really have to pay attention because if you don't understand what's going on, then you won't be able to do very well," Studebaker adds.

For the speech side of the team, Alex Fenton, junior, is well-versed in Extemporaneous Speaking, an event in which a single topic is given to a competitor and they have some time to form a speech about it by using evidence.

"You have 30 minutes of preparation, and you use that time to use your sources of info that you brought to write a five to seven-minute speech," Fenton says. "There's two types of Extemp: Nationals, which deals with things happening in our nation, and International, which deals with issues around the world. I personally prefer Nationals because it affects me more and I can relate to it," he adds. "To do the best you can, bring a lot of evidence, that way you have a great shot at winning."

However, while tournaments may be the highlight of students' time on the team, there's a lot of work that must be done before they can attend competitions. "I see three types of students: those who realize the team is hard work and they quit; the kids who think they can skate by without doing the work; and kids who actually give it a shot. It's worth watching the lazy ones fail just to see massive improvement in the ones who try," says Webster. "But don't get me wrong, it's fun and entertaining, too. In class, we often do team-building exercises which promote entertainment and cooperation within the team."

While Speech and Debate may be hard work, it does pay off, according to Colten McCormick, junior and policy debate captain. "The class teaches me social skills, and it has even helped me out on job applications by listing myself as a captain on the debate team," he says. "My favorite part of debate is standing up in front of people and giving speeches. Speech and Debate gives me the opportunity to give fun speeches to crowds. This is my second year on the team, and I look forward to it," he adds.

As Coach Webster looks forward to upcoming tournaments, he says, "I expect my students to try and never give up. Failure is okay. You learn from failure, but not giving up is the key to success."

Colorguard, winterguard offers scholarships, fun opportunities

By **Katie Montgomery**
Editorial Editor

"I've always thought the colorguard was fun and pretty when I was younger. They always caught my attention," says colorguard captain Kim Popham, junior.

Colorguard, as the name suggests, adds color to the marching band show. "It adds the entire visual element," says marching band advisor Jeff Johnson. "Without the guard, the show is like an empty picture frame."

In competitions, the colorguard's score goes into two categories. First, they have their own score, worth five percent of the total score and makes them eligible to win awards for the guard alone. Their score is weighed in the total General Effect (GE) score. This score is worth 35 percent of the entire score.

This year the colorguard is in the top six of their class in the state. Joe Windsor, marching band director, says next year he would like to see the guard be in the top three.

"I am always looking for improvement from the marching band and colorguard," Windsor says. The aspect he looks for the most improvement in is their skills as performers. "They have been told by judges to sell the routine more and perform to the audience. The routine has improved continually over the season. I think the routine fits the show theme well, but it has taken a while to complete."

The colorguard meets eighth period with the marching band, but there are also colorguard-exclusive practices with colorguard instructor and choreographer Shamra Johnson after school on Mondays and Thursdays for two hours each. Outside school, the guard members are required to practice three more hours on their own.

"Next year we should definitely have more in-depth practices," says guard member Caitlin Toponce, sophomore. "Two days a week for two hours just isn't enough time with the instructor to get the routines down like we want them to be."

Windsor says he'd like to expand the guard to 16 members next year and encourages students of any gender to consider joining colorguard or winterguard whether they have dance experience or no prior involvement in performing. "I believe the skills they are taught [during colorguard] will help them throughout their lives: teamwork, problem solving, leadership opportunities and the ability to perform in all conditions," he says.

Besides the $85 fee required for all sport activities, marching band has an additional $150 fee and colorguard has yet another $100 fee; the total cost for doing colorguard is $335.

Co-captain Rylee Voigt, senior, says colorguard is "so worth the cost" because it is a "fun experience."

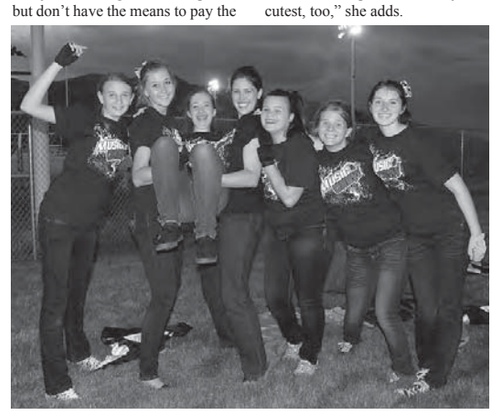
Popham agrees, "When you are doing things you love, it shouldn't matter the cost."

Jeff Johnson says to never let cost be the deciding factor. "If you really want to spin in colorguard, but don't have the means to pay the fees, talk to Mr. Windsor. Something can almost always be worked out."

Marching band season usually ends just after first quarter. After that, many band and guard members join winterline or winterguard.

Joining colorguard or winterguard could mean more scholarship opportunities. "Many colleges offer guard scholarships to those who wish to continue the sport," says Windsor. "Each school has different requirements for different scholarships. On the winterguard side, the state organization (Winterguard International) offers several scholarships for those who compete during that season. Wintergaurd scholarships can be used for any college in Utah for any school fee or expense, to the best of my knowledge."

Popham also says not to worry about the cost of winterguard, yet. "Just come see if it's something you want to do. The more people we have join, the less the cost will be." She says she will do winterguard because of the past positive experience she has had. "The boys who do winterguard are always the cutest, too," she adds.



Team shows their unity at a football game. (from left to right): Cambria Wicks, Caitlin Toponce, Kimberly Popham, Katherine Sowby, Linzee Hall, Abbi Fletcher and Elise Wilkinson.

Photo by Ellie May Kerr

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free coffee during breakfast
served daily from 6:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
-closed sunday-

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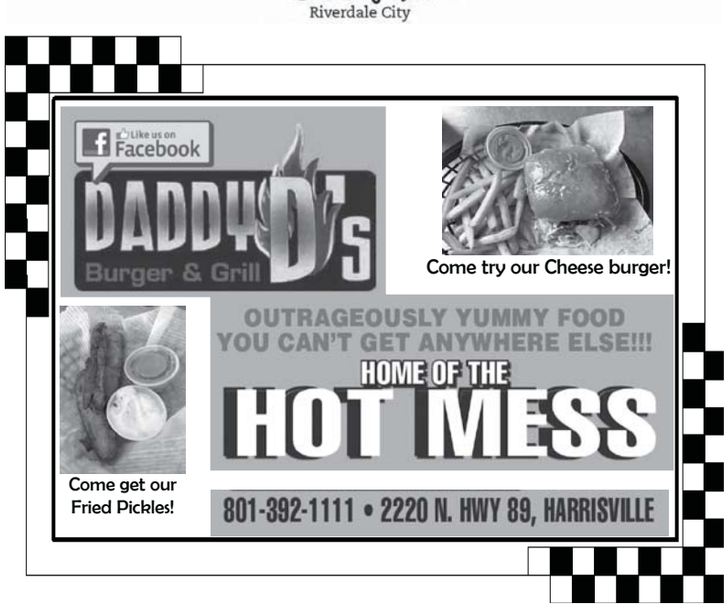

More students tune in for Warrior news

By **Landon Wood**
Assistant to the Chief

With school almost finishing it's second quarter of the year, events and information become more important. Football finished its season; it is followed by basketball and all the dances. Many people don't know when these dances will be held or the score to last night's game.

Fortunately, there is Warrior TV. It broadcasts in every room, depending on the teacher. Students get live feed from students who professionally, with a side of humor, lay out what's going to happen or has happened at Weber High.

Behind the camera and the anchor is a busy production crew and specialists in operating cameras and uploading segments online. Warrior TV is also a microcosm of local news. This class gives students who run Warrior TV a potential for careers in broadcast journalism, to be in a leadership role and gives experience in operating high tech machinery.

Jackson Kerbs, senior, said running Warrior TV is a very complex procedure. "We sign up for responsibilities range from anchoring, to being behind the cameras taking the shot," said Kerbs.

"It teaches you time management, and it helps with working around others. It's basically a class where students create a news channel of announcements and extracurricular activities in a fun way," Korbs added.

Mr. Potokar, video production teacher and Warrior TV director, said, "It gives them real life situations. The students run the shows. There are recorders, anchors and cameramen or women, and it allows them to do their own thing and be personally involved with their school."

Potokar added there are many hard aspects of running the news. One of them is working with others. "This class is all about high intensity teamwork," said Potokar.

With its student run staff, many find the class enjoyable.

Matt Hewlett, junior and staff member of WTV, likes the teamwork of being involved. "I get to take part in packages of news and be in different videos. This might just help me in my future career," said Hewlett.

He also has very few dislikes about his job. "Sometimes it sucks not being in a show or waiting for the show to come online for everybody to see," he added. However, he loves what he does and looks forward to informing students of school events.

Working hard to make WTV a success are seniors Brigham Harris, Nathan Arrington, Alec Alman and Noah Wilcock.

Photos by Brittany Slater

Seniors Jackson Kerbs and Kyle Checketts are both anchors for Warrior TV news. They enjoy informing students each week on current activities.

Kade Beckstead, junior, admires the creativity of being in Warrior TV. "I like making our own nerd segment and being able to work with the editing tools and new computer software," said Beckstead. He also thinks its beneficial watching the news. "It gives knowledge or information about what's going on and it's always relaxing to watch."

Just like Hewlett, Beckstead also believes being on the staff will help him in his future. "It's helpful for that nerd video game designer if that's what you want to do," he added.

WTV has been around for three years, and it has success informing students. Recent improvements are moving forward with the school district's support and increased broadcasts.

"We are even covering sports games and things like the Duck Dynasty Dance and other dances too," said Hewlett.

Potokar is increasing WTV's broadcasting to even more locations. "We're hoping to put new televisions in the commons and have live shows at lunches," said Potokar.

Potokar also appreciates the support from Weber School District. "The district treats us really good. We have brand new switchers and cameras and plenty more state-of-the-art things," he added.

Kayla Parker, junior, is a viewer of WTV and enjoys watching the reporters. "I like it when they interview other students at school and to hear their input on things going on. It's important because it keeps us involved in school," said Parker. She believes the students do a great job at broadcasting, but could improve upon a few minor things. "Maybe they could rehearse more and be prepared for those long pauses. You know, improvise a little bit," she said.

Jacob Tidwell, sophomore, is another viewer of WTV. He also likes the reporters who talk to students in the halls or at games. He recommends "longer interviews and more enthusiasm." Overall, Tidwell praises the crew and tunes in for the latest broadcasts to keep informed. What he has seen, he says is "very satisfying."

With increasing coverage and new televisions being installed at WHS, students will soon be able to tune in during lunch and see better quality filming. In the meanwhile, Warriors can watch news presented by student anchors during classroom showings.

Preparing for the next semester,

Teachers advise against homework procrastination

By **Katie Montgomery**
Editorial Editor

"I'll just check Tumblr for a second," you think to yourself. "Then I'll start on my homework." Four hours later, you realize you have such an enormous load of assignments, there's not enough time to do them all.

As the second semester is about to begin, teachers warn their students to not procrastinate on time-draining websites.

"Stay away from Facebook until all your homework is done," says Mrs. Barney, WHS math teacher. "Social media sites are extremely addicting, as are video and computer games, so it's best to just avoid them until everything is finished."

Wyatt Krogue, senior, says computer games are his weakness, so he does his best to stay away from them. "It helps me to focus more on the task at hand," he says.

However, there are those who just can't go without their daily Facebook or Tumblr fix. For those people, there are multiple website blockers that allow a set amount of time on a site per day.

Huffingtonpost.com ranks the Stay Focused extension for Google Chrome the best "procrastination buster." The nuclear option on Stay Focused blocks the entire internet for a predetermined length of time.

Leech Block is also an extension from Firefox which, like Stay Focused, does not allow changes to the number of minutes once the limit is hit.

Like most students, Katie Hogan, senior, says it's starting her homework she finds most difficult. "Once I get in the groove, it's really easy to stay on task," she says.

Kaden Dearing, junior, suggests setting a time to start work every day and "stick to it."

Highereducation.com advises the best way to beat procrastination habits is to first make a list of to-do's; one that is not too long and is accomplishable, and then start on it without thinking. "Over-thinking the list will cause more stress and the tasks to seem more daunting," it reports.

"A reward system is also a good way to conquer a to-do list," says Mrs. Barney. "Give yourself a break after two or three assignments, go outside or get a snack, then get back to work," she says.

"Avoid plowing through all your homework at once," advises highereducation.com. According to psychologytoday.com, teenagers have shorter attention spans, and can only focus for 20 to 30 minutes at a time on one subject.

Mr. Dave Shaffer, WHS agriculture science teacher and self-proclaimed procrastinator, says procrastinating now means students will procrastinate later in life when the consequences are more dire than a lower grade in a class.

"Over thinking the list will cause more stress and the tasks to seem more daunting."

"What helps me is staying organized and keeping a good calendar so I know when I need to get things done," he says.

Mrs. Malan, WHS Spanish teacher, wants her students to form good habits now that will help them in their futures. She does not accept late work in her classes. "Their grades are at stake; it's good motivation," she says. "Their minds are not focused when they are rushing to finish or to study, and all the information they memorized for the test last period leaves after the test is done."

Mrs. Malan adds, students who procrastinate do not take the time needed to retain the knowledge.

Junior, sophomore officers prepare school activities

By **Krystal Ruiz and Aleesha Mauchley**
Staff Writers

Junior officers look forward to uniting their class. (top row): Chase Cragun, Gunner Poulson, Matt Thorpe and Kelton Stokes. (bottom row): Chase Dahl, Jackson Meyer, Kayla Green and Lauren Murray.

With a new school year comes new officers. Many ran for junior class office, but only eight made it. The new junior class officers of 2013-2014 are Lauren Murray, Matt Thorpe, Chase Dahl, Chase Cragun, Gunner Poulson, Jackson Meyer, Kelton Stokes and President Kayla Green.

Being an officer takes a lot of responsibility and it is time consuming. Lauren Murray, who was an officer as a sophomore, said, "Being an officer is a whole lot of fun, but it takes lots of time and a lot of work as well. You are doing everything for the student body and that has to reflect on your school as a whole."

There are also many reasons for running for office. Cragun jokingly said, "I needed the exercise, so I ran! Punny, right? No, running seemed like a great opportunity to involve myself in the school."

Green added, "I have been an officer twice before, and I really enjoyed it. I didn't do it this last year, and I missed being one. That is what made me want to go for it."

As officers, they have plans for the new year and making it great.

"Mostly, I would like to raise some serious school spirit," said Thorpe. "I think this year could be really great when it comes to school spirit, but we haven't been showing it. This year is the year to make school spirit bigger and better than ever before."

Green said, "I'd like to involve the students who don't always get recognized in the assemblies and other student body activities."

But nothing will effectively work unless officers work together. "I think we'll do really well together," said Dahl. "I don't know all of them really well, but I plan to, and I think we all will make a great team."

Meyer added, "Of course we will work well together! These guys are my best friends, and I'm super stoked to be an officer with them all."

Along with their school commitments, these Warriors also have other talents as well as interesting personal information.

"I love soccer," commented Green. "Through playing soccer and other sports, I have learned a lot of the same lessons an officer would need to know, and I let the student body know that I was ready to be a good officer."

"I am single and ready to mingle," joked Cragun.

Murray added, "I'm 5'11" and still growing!"

"I'm told I'm good at drawing, so if you want a portrait, I'm here," reveals Dahl.

Poulson is looking forward to helping Warriors. "I want the student body to know that I like to have fun," said Poulson, "so let's make this year great!"

"I'm ready to make some great friends this year," added Stokes.

Thorpe praised one of his physical attributes. "I have a really nice mullet," said Thorpe. "Feel free to come touch it!"

"My name is Jackson Meyer," added Meyer, "and I like to party."

Preparing a year for the entire junior class is a great responsibility, but these officers are ready.

"It's a little intimidating to have everyone depend on you," said Poulson, "but it's exciting!"

"It feels great to have them depend on me," states Cragun. "but we also need their help. With their help, this year will be the best."

President Kayla Green also wants Warriors to know how much she appreciates serving others. "I want the student body to know that I am so excited and grateful to have this opportunity to be an officer," said Green.

"It couldn't have happened without you! Also, I want the student body to know that I care about them, and that I believe in being kind to everyone. I know that when you are a friend to all groups of people, it makes life that much better. Just remember that I love my classmates," she added.

Showing their dedication and desire to represent the sophomore class are Sam Harris, Tanner McKay, Thomas Ulrich, Emily Swenson, Kyler Hall, Casey Bond, Megan Price and President Avanlee Jessop.

"I was beyond grateful to be elected and very proud to represent our school," says Jessop. "I am super excited to be able to serve the students of Weber High School and hopefully be someone they all can look up to!"

And now the eight warriors are busily working, serving their class.

"I am grateful for the many opportunities I have," says Jessop. "I love helping everyone out and knowing that they can always rely on me as a friend. I am pumped for this year! It is going to be such a blast!"

Hall adds, "After I got elected, I was excited, but then I got nervous and knew I had a lot of responsibility and that people would be always watching me."

Sophomore officers hope to become friends with as many people as they can. McKay says, "This year I have a goal to get to know everyone of the sophomores names and be able to make some long lasting friends from everyone at Weber." Ulrich adds, "One goal as an officer this year would be to try to be everybody's friend."

Along with knowing their classmates, Swenson says, "My goal is to have a positive influence on people! I want them to feel like they are accepted by me and by others around them!"

Jessop adds, "I love talking to people and making new friends! I want everyone to know I am their friend; I want everyone's voice to be heard and to make a difference; I want everyone to enjoy their high school experience."

As far as getting along with each other, these officers are doing just fine. Swenson says, "We are already having such a fun time together in sophomore office. Even though we went into it not knowing each other, we became fast friends, and we work together really well."

Bond is enthusiastic about his fellow officers. "Oh my gosh, I flippin' love them! They're so dang funny and just awesome, exciting, nice people," he notes. Jessop adds, "I love all the officers. They are all amazing people and they are all people I can look up to in one way or another. They are all pretty awesome!"

As class officers, there are particular duties they accomplish. "As an officer, we are in charge of organizing events and assemblies. We are also in charge of keeping school spirit pumped up. My responsibilities as an officer are to always obey the school rules and to be kind and courteous to everyone," says Jessop.

"We get to do a lot of planning and fun work for school activities like dances," says McKay. "To make everyone feel included is our main aim."

Jessop adds, "I think the most important responsibility we have is we always need to be on our best behavior and be examples to everyone and to always get the job done and do what we say we will do. Also, to be an officer it takes a lot of organization in everything you do, and it takes a lot of your time and dedication," she says.

There are also challenging parts about being an officer "There's a lot of pressure on the officers to do the right thing, and although no one is perfect, you have to make an effort to be the best version of yourself," says Swenson.

"It definitely does take dedication, discipline, the right work ethic, honesty and all that good stuff," adds Jessop, "but if being in office is really something you want, then you will dedicate yourself to the school and once you've done that, then it's really all about doing what you need to be doing and being on top of things and getting the job done. When you want the best for the amazing Warriors of Weber High School, then you give it your all and that's not always easy but it's not always difficult either."

The sophomore officers look forward to serving the student body and uniting their class.

"I am very proud to be a Warrior and call myself a Warrior," added Jessop. "Every now and then my friends tell me I have too much school spirit, but I say you can never go wrong with school spirit; you never can have too much. Weber is the best place to be. I love being a Warrior because no matter what happens, we keep on fighting, and we never give up. We take it to the finish line."

Sophomore officers are excited to help the student body. (back row) Kyler Hall, Thomas Ulrich, Sam Harris and Casey Bond. (front row) Tanner McKay, Avanlee Jessop, Emily Swenson and Megan Price. **Photos by Cara Darr**

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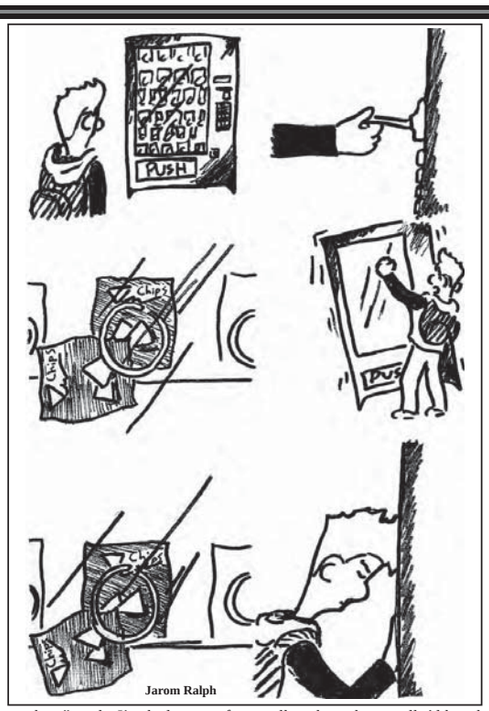
Students lose their cash to machines



Jarom Ralph

Let's just say I get peacefully robbed by a vending machine or two several times during a school year. This has happened to teens multiple times, right in plain sight. One would think school is a robbery-free zone, but not in Weber's commons.

When lunch starts and the commons is packed with people going to and from lunch, the machine is making bank off of stolen, entrusted money. The unfortunate thing about it is there is no snack, lost money and there is no way to punish the vending machine (you can, but it's illegal). The amount of money I've lost to the machines is low, which is fortunate, but it's still a loss. I could conduct a survey on the machines' delivery of product rate, and I would find the vending machines are not delivering as much product as what it is gaining in money. I spoke to the book keeper to discuss what happens to me and other students on these occasions. Then I talked to the school's resource officer, and they both told me the same thing: "Use at your own risk."

Although they are correct about using the vending machines at our own risk, what about the manufacturer or company that contracts through Weber High to allow the machines to sit in the commons? Do not think for one second I'm against the vending machines. I'm all for the vending machines, but I want a higher rate of getting my product and a little less mechanical robbery.

Almost every day, I go to the vending machines to get a nice, cold Sunny D. I sometimes get it but more often than not I get ripped off, or the machine drops my drink and there is no way to retrieve it. The machine has also been known to commonly stall out and then reset to the "waiting for another purchase" mode. I've had a case of paranoia because I have sat in line, and the kid in front of me getting a snack gets his, but right when I put my dollar in the machine, it goes full stupid and I sit there in disbelief that my money is gone and the snack I want is only separated by an inch of breakable glass (don't try; it's a losing battle breaking the machine).

So beware, all who use the machines. Sophomores, better keep that in mind when you go to the machine, because it can and may just steal your cash. However, if you're anything like me, then it's more of an all the time thing. Somebody has to keep warning the next incoming batch of kids about the felonious machines in our commons.

The machines need a fix-it or get-rid-of-it solution. I would prefer for our lovely administration to keep our machines and the snacks they provide for us students. However, if the money we put into it keeps getting stolen, then we might as well not have them at all. Although it is a use-at-your-own-risk situation, something must be done about it.

I am tired of losing money and if you're losing money as well, then you would probably agree with me. Next time the machine takes your money, put a big sign on it saying "thief" or a more appropriate sign signaling students that they may lose their money. I'm not encouraging you to vandalize or deface the vending machines, but warn other students who go to use them.

If at any time your anger surpasses mine, then there is a number on the top of the machines to call and although nothing may be done about it, enough calls to the manufacturer may spur them to send somebody to fix it.

Until then, if you do decide to pay a visit to the machines then remember, "Use at your own risk."

By **Landon Wood**
WHS Senior

Throughout mankind's history, music has proven to be influential

Music can express more than emotions. It can express hope unlike those relentless awkward feelings. Each song can fit a profile of emotion such as joy, hatred, sinking depression or anxiety. One three minute track can relieve angst while bringing in positive vibes.

Legends such as Bob Marley believed music could tear down limitations. Marley also believed peace and love could bring different kinds of people together for a common goal.

John Lennon fought against the world by using his music to declare about love and peace. Lennon felt war was wrong because of the death of innocent soldiers. He revolted against the norm by using music and creating songs that made people everywhere unite. His song "Bed Peace" had the message if you don't leave your bed, then you don't fight in the war. The United States government actually tried to deport John Lennon because many American's idolized him and followed his music's messages.

Because of Lennon's music messages, college students burned their draft cards in front of cops which caused many of them to go to jail. During wartime, if you burned a draft card it was punishable by people going to jail for refusing to go to war.

Music had importance even during the beginning years of Rock 'n' Roll. Women were not allowed to show their knees, let alone much skin. But once Rock 'n' Roll came out, it changed the way women dressed and attitudes of young Americans. Rising stars such as Elvis Presley even helped change the views of many racist groups of people.

Elvis was said to have the voice of a black man, but he was white. This shocked people everywhere because of his skin color. This helped make people believe that if someone like Presley could sound like a black man while being white, they could defeat racism.

Music is powerful enough to bring people together for a common goal, whether big or small. Music can help people visualize goals they thought weren't possible.

Even going to a concert can bring people together from different social groups or different lifestyles. Music has defeated feelings of self-image problems by letting people feel comfortable in their own shoes.

Music has changed my life, and I believe it can help anyone achieve goals for anything that they are passionate about. Artists of all types make songs to help defeat stigmas we fight every single day. This is the importance of music.

By **Xavier Switzer**
WHS Senior

Brigham Bailey

As texting on roads becomes more popular, accident rates increase

Is one little text really so important that you'd put your life at risk while you're on the road? You might not even think about it; maybe it's just a bad habit. But honestly, it's a bigger problem than you might think.

By texting and driving, people are not only putting themselves in danger of an accident, but they are also putting others at risk. Whether they are passengers in their car or people in other vehicles on the road, a texting driver is dangerous behind the wheel.

Look at the last text you received on your phone. Would replying to that text be worth getting in a car accident? I hope not.

AT&T has started a campaign against texting and driving called "It Can Wait." On one of their many websites made in response to this campaign, the University of Utah shares, "Texting while driving is the same as drinking four beers." After hearing about this campaign and learning more hazards and facts of distracted driving, many people from all over the country are taking the pledge to refrain from texting while driving.

People affected by car accidents due to texting have felt a huge change in their lives; whether they caused the accident, were a victim of a distracted driver or lost a family member or a friend in an accident caused by a careless driver who was texting behind the wheel.

According to an article posted on insurancejournal.com, it reveals many statistics of commuters who admit to texting while driving. Forty-nine percent of commuters admitted to texting while they drive, and 10 of those people say that three years ago, texting and driving wasn't a problem for them.

Many people who have the dangerous habit of texting at the wheel probably don't even fully understand the risks they're taking. Any form of distracted driving could be deadly, but it seems as though texting and driving for us, especially as teenagers, is hard not to do.

Our worlds revolve around our technology, and we're all about social media. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and even texting…it's all just a huge part of the everyday life as a teen. But can't it all wait until we're not behind the wheel? Our safety and the safety of others are worth more than a status update. Think about it.

There are more than a few people in our area who have been affected by accidents caused by this problem. I've seen so many people heartbroken from losing a loved one in an accident where a driver was careless and just had to reply to a text. Families fall apart and people ask, "Why? Why was one text so important?" People's worlds shatter all because of the push of a few buttons. Sad, isn't it?

So, maybe we should all think about what we're doing. One choice not to text while driving could save a life, and wouldn't you rather be a hero than a driver who doesn't give it a second thought and causes something to go wrong that is irreversible? Ask yourself that each time you get into the driver's seat.

Will you make the pledge to be a safe, focused driver? I truly hope everyone will because just remember, a text can always wait. Keep your eyes on the road. It's easy, and it's so worth it.

By **Abby Wight**
WHS Junior

Time Out

By **Meg Henley**
Staff Reporter

Hakuna Matata means no worries; the glass is always half full. When you're faced with a stressful situation, having a positive outlook is the best and healthiest way to deal with it.

Sophomore Hannah Lagerquist said, "My motto is, 'change what you can, accept what you can't, and have the wisdom to know the difference.'" Lagerquist added, "If you live by that, you won't be hung up on things you can't change, and that helps you keep a positive attitude."

When people are positive, they are banishing stress and keeping their body, mind and emotions under control. They look for the good in people, because they are feeling good. They have more reasons to smile and be happy.

Even better, having a positive attitude helps people to make more friends. When they are positive, people are drawn to them because they want to be happy too. And, when someone is positive, doing homework becomes faster and much easier to do.

Sharon Halliday, a resident of North Ogden, Utah, says, "A positive attitude helps you want to be the best you can be. It gives you strength to keep going when problems cross your path."

A positive attitude is determined by one weird body part, your mind. It controls how you move, how you act and how you say what you say. A mind is built to withstand major amounts of stress, excitement, really everything people go through is thought through by their mind. Now the determining factor of all emotion in the mind is one chemical called dopamine. This is what causes the emotions people are experiencing. When someone is really happy, his/her body produces large amounts of dopamine which acts almost as adrenaline. That's what the hyper-streak is after someone laughs so hard. The body is using the dopamine as additional energy.

There is a man named Norman Vincent Peale, who made his living off of positivity. He once said, "Change your thoughts, and you change your world."

Shannon Stoddard, sophomore, said, "People help you be positive or they don't. You can't expect to hang out with negative people and live a positive life." If you are trying to be positive and there are others around you that aren't, maybe it's time to make some new friends. There are a lot of people out there who are living positive lifestyles. You aren't alone.

Being positive makes the journey through high school, and life in general, brighter, better and easy going. When people are positive, it's easier to look up and see the good things, instead of looking down at the bad things. They don't let a dark cloud slide over their heads.

Peale says, "Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers, you cannot be successful or happy."

Being happy is the base to being successful. The more positive a person is, the better he/she gets at what they want to do. And when finding that happines, don't forget to smile!

WEBER HIGH SCHOOL 430 WEST WEBER HIGH DRIVE PLEASANT VIEW, UT 84414
WARRIOR NEWS

Weber High School
430 West Weber High Dr.
Pleasant View, Utah 84414
476-3700 (fax - 476-3799)

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Erin Geiger

Assistants to the Chief
Kierstin Pitcher
Cara Darr
Landon Wood
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Holidays: Teens share traditions, prepare for new year

By **Aurora Stevens**
Staff Reporter

No school, sleeping by the fire, hot chocolate and snowboarding… This is a typical high school teen's winter break in Utah.

It's that time of year where families break out the Christmas lights and old traditions such as setting up the Christmas tree and being grateful are enjoyed. Winter break is the time many students look forward to from the first day of school.

Ale Meza, sophomore, likes to spend her winter break "staying at home and watching movies!"

Meza also likes to do something many may not do. She plays soccer, indoor of course. "I like to play indoor soccer because it's fun! I've just always played it," she says.

The holiday tradition most teens have in common is opening pajamas on Christmas Eve and making desserts with their families. Nothing is better than tearing off that wrapping paper before they officially get fresh pajamas to sleep in that night. To top that, there is also eating some treats before going to bed.

Although some teens dread spending time with their family, the holiday season is when they are with their families the most. Jasmine Maldonado, junior, said her favorite thing about winter break is "watching TV, hanging with my family; and the fact that there isn't any homework…with most of my teachers, anyway."

Along with Christmas, Warriors also look forward to New Year's Eve and celebrating the entrance of a new year. For senior Marcus Carter, he plans on "partying it up with the boys." Rebecca McCroby, sophomore, hopes this is the year she will kiss a boy on New Year's Eve. Other Warriors, like sophomore Cindy Treui will follow the typical activity. "I will stay up until midnight and watch the count down," she says.

Morgan Martinez (10) – "Staying up until midnight to watch the ball drop."

Miss Webb – "I will be flying back to Utah to get ready to teach."

Another favorite winter break activity is skiing or snowboarding. Utah does have the best snow on earth. The important question for those snow people is ski or snowboard? "Ski," says sophomore Sam Love. It's her favorite winter activity. She would rather spend her winter break playing in the snow rather than being bundled up by the fire.

And for those cold nights, hot chocolate or coffee? "Hot chocolate, especially if it's from 7-11. It's chocolately and delicious!" raves Rebecca McCroby, sophomore.

Not feeling like 7-11? Starbucks is another Warrior choice for a hot drink, ranging from drinks such as chai tea, coffee and hot chocolate. They also serve bakery goods, sandwiches, yogurts and more.

Don't forget about all the shopping that must get done during the holiday season. For some, it's the best part about the season.

"I love spending time at the mall and all the decorations they put up. Even all the hustle and bustle!" says Ronnie Shelton, sophomore.

Looking for inexpensive yet fun date ideas? According to seventeen.com, the most common winter date ideas are ice skating, sledding, paintball fights, playing board games and watching movies.

Winter break is the best time for teens to relax and share the holidays with family and friends. While most will be out skiing or snowboarding, there will also be those doing last minute shopping, hanging out with friends or having fun around the Christmas tree with their families.

Mrs. Kloempken – "Spend quality time with family and do whatever they want to do."

Makenzie Malan (10) – "Stay up late with family and celebrate the New Year."

Cameron Benally (10) – "I'm going to rave/party and dance."

Karen Martinez (12) – "I'm going to Mexico and going to the beach."

Photo by Brittany Slater

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By **Meg Henley**
Staff Reporter

Allegiant is the explosive ending to the Divergent Series, written by number one New York Times best selling author, Veronica Roth. She continues to amaze many. The final book sometimes can be the worst part of a series if the author can't think of anything to write, but Roth knows what she's doing and wrote yet another amazing book.

"One choice can transform you. One choice can destroy you. One choice can define you," is the saying on the back of each novel. Each book is written about one of these choices made by the main character, Tris Prior. Each book has a cliff-hanging ending that will have you grabbing for the next book. *Allegiant* is definitely a must read. But first, check out Roth's first two books, *Divergent* and *Insurgent* which are also well-written, action-packed books. Each one is definitely five out of five stars.

In *Divergent*, Tris begins as Beatrice, a girl in a dystopian society which is literally filled with factions. These people are the Amity, who are peaceful and live in harmony; the Candor, who are frank, open and fair; the Abnegation are peaceful and live very simply; and there are the Dauntless, who are the fearless ones. They are in charge of protecting the city.

When Tris reaches the age of 16, she has to choose a faction. When she goes in for the faction testing, she discovers a part of who she is that she would have never expected.

When she chooses her faction, Tris travels to her new home where she meets her supervisor, Four. In a faction filled with secrets, Tris needs to be able to stay above and ahead of the people against "her kind" and the rapidly crumbling city.

In *Insurgent*, Tris is at war with herself and fighting to stay alive in the crumbling city. When the only family left is Four, staying alive is a trial that may just bring both of them to their knees.

Allegiant ties it all together and leaves you in, of course, an average "book hangover." You don't want a series like that to end. Each chapter has an action-packed cliff-hanger that leaves readers never wanting to put the book down until they finish.

The *Divergent* series is definitely a must-read even for those who are looking for good books. As some people know, the book *Divergent* is becoming a movie which will be released March 21, 2014. I hope it will be followed by sequels of Roth's other two novels. If you haven't read her series, I advise you to start.

"One choice will transform you, one choice can Destroy you, one choice will define you"

By **Emma Swanson**
Staff Reporter

Rick Riordan has done it again with his newest book, *House of Hades*. The thrilling new book grabs attention from page one and doesn't let go until the last page. The book, like all of his others, leaves readers wanting more. His next book could not come any sooner.

In the midst of all the myth, legend and fictional challenges, there lies some real life situations ranging from love and lost hope to the struggles of dealing with other feelings humans can't control. You become emotional when you read this book, and you can't help but feel bad, excited, or even worried for the characters as they go through their trials.

In *House of Hades*, the team of seven must go to the House of Hades to close the doors of death and stop all the monsters from coming through. On their way, they have many challenges. Some big and some so small you wonder why the challenges take so long. They must also get to Greece to stop Gaea from rising and destroying the human race. They then return the Athena Parthenos to Camp Half Blood to restore the peace among Camp Jupiter and Camp Half Blood. As you can see, the book was long for a reason.

Riordan adds new challenges, new monsters and new enemies that the seven Demi-gods must face. With all the new, sometimes authors can forget about the old, but not Riordan. Old enemies and monsters are seeking revenge and some of them are beloved characters from older *Heroes of Olympus* books and from the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series.

Every scene, whether intense or tender, are beautifully written. As the characters are traveling through Tarturus (Hell) or when they are chasing down "monkeys" that steal their stuff and try to keep it for themselves, every character, every line and every action are written with skill, respect and great understanding. Even younger age kids can read this book and understand most of what is happening, and they will also feel the emotion behind the story.

As mentioned before, this isn't Riordan's only series. He's written *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*, *Heroes of Olympus* and *The Kane Chronicles* series. *The Heroes of Olympus* is the second or follow up series for the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series. The series' don't just share characters, though. They share many other things as well. The *Heroes of Olympus* mentions past quests, old characters that are no longer in the new series and inside jokes from the Percy Jackson books.

House of Hades is the book to read, so grab a blanket, grab the book and read. You won't be disappointed.

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Siblings encounter teacher comparison, annoyances

By **Emma Swanson**
Staff Reporter

While some siblings have difficult relationships while at school, sisters Alexis and Erin Larsen don't.
Photo by Vicki Soderlund

School is tough enough, but throw siblings in the mix and it can be chaotic. Trying to coordinate schedules can be tough and working with siblings in clubs and activities can be annoying, but is that really what everyone thinks? Not all siblings find being with family a problem.

Sophomores Trevor Heywood and Bailey Porter both agree one of the most annoying parts of having older siblings is being compared to them. Trevor said, "Everyone calls me 'little Jake.' I'm my own person!" Bailey agreed adding, "The 'oh, you're Hannah's little sister' you get from everyone! I can't ever just be Bailey."

Sophomore Emily Hill says she hates it when she greets her sister in the school hallway, and her sister just ignores her or makes fun of her.

Another issue that can cause siblings distress is friends. Being at the same school, it's easy for people to make friends with the same people that older siblings already know or are friends with. However, that doesn't seem to be a problem for some siblings. Senior Alexis and sophomore Erin Larsen both agree sharing friends is fun and a great opportunity to have some of the same friends. However, sophomore Emily Hill and her sister Megan, senior, agreed with each other saying, "No, we do not share friends."

While the Hill sisters feel time away from family is needed, this is not the case for sophomore Trevor and senior Jake Heywood. Jake thought it was okay to share friends and said some of Trevor's friends were hilarious. However, Trevor said he didn't really like hanging out with some of his brother's friends, although he did add, "Well, a lot of his friends are girls…and they're pretty attractive. So yes, you could say I like it."

Another tough part about having siblings seems to be balancing schedules. "I have to drive her everywhere: school, games and extracurricular. I can't just get up and go, I have to think about her schedule as well," Hannah Porter says. However, Alexis Larsen adds it's nice to have someone to go with and remind you of school activities.

Balancing homework, social life and jobs can be tough, but these siblings seem to be able to manage that and sometimes help their sibling with homework. Erin Larsen says her sister usually knows what she is learning and is usually willing to help her when she needs it. Emily Hill adds, "Sometimes my sister will help me with my homework, it just depends on what it is. I do help her with her photography homework, sometimes."

While there are some negatives about siblings at school together, Warriors are able to find positives as well. "We are able to relate a lot more than we used to. It's nice being able to have legitimate conversations with him," says Jake Heywood.

"I always know there's someone there to have my back," Bailey Porter adds. Emily Hill feels the best thing about going to school with her sister is, "not having to ride the bus, and I think we get along better with each other now that we're at school together."

"I know I will never be completely alone and that I will always have someone there for me when I need her," says Erin Larsen.

Life with siblings can be tough, but these Weber High students find being with their older or younger sisters and brothers while in high school have a general positive affect on their lives.

the Jukebox

By **Aurora Stevens**
Staff Reporter

From girly pop to songs about her hectic life, Katy Perry's new album *Prism* can be enjoyed by everyone. With songs like "By the Grace of God," which is about her divorce from comedian Russell Brand, she shows people a much more grown up Perry.

Prism is a follow-up album to her huge hit, *Teenage Dream* which had five number one songs. All of Perry's "Katy Kats" have been awaiting this album since 2010. It sure won't disappoint them.

Born as Katy Hudson, she started out as a gospel musician. Her parents wouldn't let her listen to anything but that. At 15, Perry started her singing career by performing gospel songs. She even recorded a Christian album with a Christian music label in 2001.

When Perry turned 17, she left her home for Los Angeles. Her music idol at the time was Alanis Morissette. In 2007 she signed a recording contract with Capitol Records and took on her stage name, Katy Perry.

In June 2008, she released her first pop album called *One of the Boys*. This is when she started producing hits, like "I Kissed a Girl," "Hot N' Cold," "Thinking of You" and "Waking Up in Vegas."

"*Teenage Dream*" was released next with the hits "California Girls," "Teenage Dream," "Firework," "E.T." and "Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.)." Perry became the first female to produce five number one hits. She even topped record sales of famous Michael Jackson's hit album, *Bad*.

Perry has been through a lot of ups and downs since the start of her career. Recently she has been in tabloid headlines concerning her divorce from Brand. If listeners want a deeper look inside Perry's life, there's a documentary called *Katy Perry: Part of Me*. You see a whole different side of Perry, rather than just a singer and stage performer.

Prism became her rise from the ashes, so to speak. Even though this album is more grown up, it will still get people dancing and singing along.

A personal favorite on the album is the song "Unconditionally." The song starts out a bit slow, but it steps up the beat and gets listeners singing along with Perry. In this song, Perry dedicates her love to John Mayer, unconditionally.

In the song "By the Grace of God," listeners feel especially close with Perry because she brings you into her life and past relationships. She tells how she perseveres through her darkest time. Perry almost committed suicide after her divorce. Her sister and people who cared about her helped her through her dark days. This song really lets you know that she came back to life.

The most fun song is "This Is How We Do." It's perfect for partying. It reminds me of a Bohemian style of her hit "Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.)."

The first hit single from *Prism* is the song "Roar." It is on Billboard's Top 100 list.

"*I got the eye of the tiger, a fighter, dancing through the fire.' Cause I am a champion and you're gonna hear me roar; louder than a lion.*"

Once again, Perry discloses how she was determined to overcome her life's obstacles.

However, when I listen to the song "This Moment," I immediately want to belt it out with Perry. It's about living in this exact moment; forget about yesterday and live for now. It's the perfect message because I think people today get so caught up in things and forget this is the one life we have. We need to remember that and just live right now.

In the song "Dark Horse," I really liked the collaboration Perry did with rapper Juicy J. It's definitely not your typical Katy Perry. The song just gives off good vibes.

The song "Birthday" is a disco throwback. You basically wish it was your birthday while you listen to it. It's a really fun pop song; not a typical everyday song, though.

If I did have to choose one song that was my least favorite, it would have to be "International Smile." Sure, it's fun but there's something about it that I don't like. Maybe it's when Perry talks through the song and lists names of cities. I have to admit, it's annoying.

Perry said in a recent interview about *Prism* that she wants the songs to be unspecific to the listener, just so they can listen to it and relate however way they want and need to. I think Perry did exactly that. Each song will relate to the listener in their own unique way.

To sum up this album, I'd say it's not who you thought Katy Perry was or how she usually writes and sings her music. That's why I just love it. She's not just a one hit wonder. She's honest and lets all her emotions out.

No matter what, I'm a Katy Perry fan. This album made me even more of one. I love Perry's attitude and it is shown in her music. I recommend this album to anyone who likes pop and good lyrics that are honest. I'd give it four and a half stars out of five.

Unknown dates offer surprises,

Calendar shows every day is a holiday

By **Caitlin Toponce**
Staff Reporter

Autumn is over, temperatures are getting colder and the clothes get a little cozier. Snow can now be seen powdering mountain tops. While Thanksgiving and Christmas are just two of the many holidays approaching in the next few months that people look forward to, there are also several lesser known holidays.

Holidays come with many different traditions based on culture. For most Americans, Christmas is the time of year to put a tree up in the living room and have a close family dinner. What most people don't realize is almost every day there is an occasion to celebrate. For example, Nov. 3 was National Sandwich Day; Nov. 7 Bittersweet Chocolate with Almonds Day; Nov. 30 is Stay at Home Because You Are Well Day; and Dec. 31 is Make Up Your Mind Day.

These holidays often go unrecognized. Many people don't know, but there's a holiday almost every day such as Z Day. Z day falls on Jan. 1 and is dedicated to all the people whose name begins with the letter Z. Even the day before Halloween, Oct. 30, is a holiday; it's National Candy Corn Day.

Another unique holiday is May 4, Star Wars Day. "May the fourth be with you" is an efficient phrase to describe the theme of that day. Many people find these unusual holidays fun; some find them to be very irritating and useless.

As far as the weirdest holiday of the year, Kelsey Daniels, sophomore, said, "The weirdest holiday is Cook Something Bold Day. It's weird because cooking something bold doesn't deserve a holiday. You should do that for fun!"

Shaylie Bowden, junior, added, "I think out of all the holidays, Talk Like a Pirate Day is the weirdest. Pirates don't deserve a holiday; they're just mean and stealthy."

When polled, the majority of students say Christmas is their favorite holiday. "Christmas is my favorite," said Brock Gonzales, junior, "because I get to see family that I normally don't." The most widely celebrated holidays are those typically spent with family.

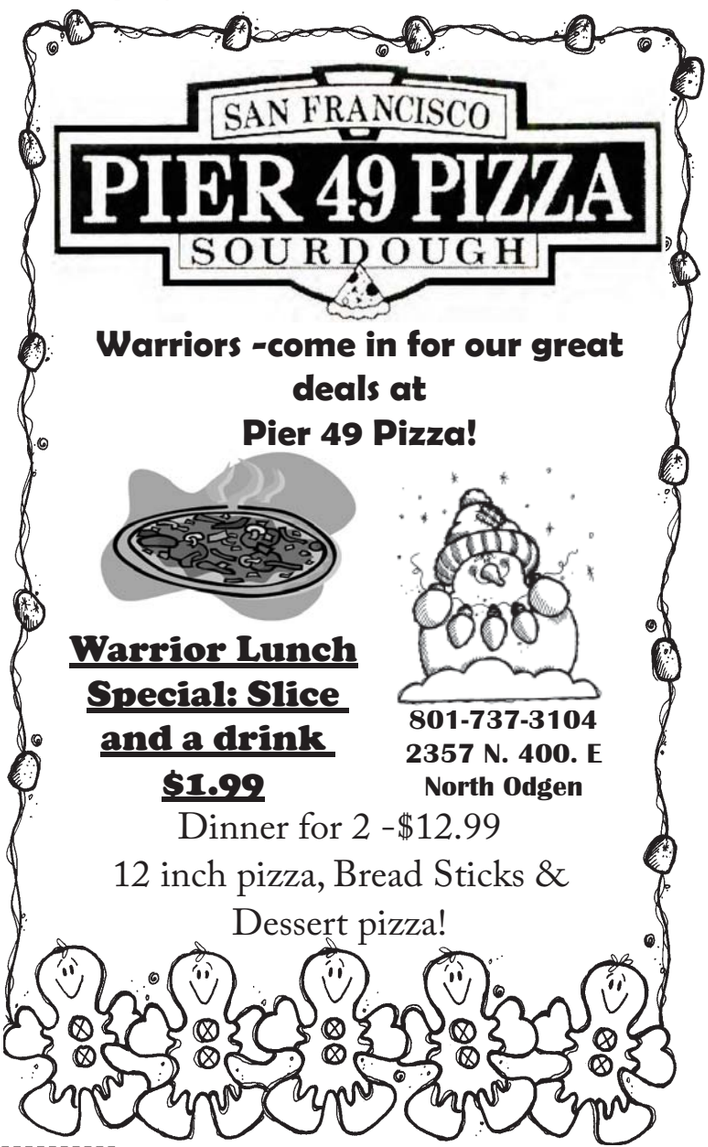
Bowden said she favors Christmas not only for the festivities that go along with it, but also for the holiday spirit. "I like the lights, hot chocolate and how much nicer people are. I like Christmas time the most," she said.

"The holiday season is just a lot more fun than any of the other seasons in the year," says Bowden, "and I don't really know why."

Not long after Christmas comes New Years, the end of one year and the beginning of a new one. "I'm excited for New Years because I just like that you can celebrate with your friends until late at night and get a fresh start in the year right after," said Daniels.

If there is a holiday missing from the calendar, people could create one. When asked what holiday he would start, Gonzales said he would make Hug a Stranger Day. "Let's face it; we've all had days when we have just needed a hug. I'd hug every stranger that looked like they needed it and pass on a good word," he said. "I'd celebrate it in late fall; it's just the perfect time for hugs."

Among all the days on the calendar, every one has an occasion. Whether it is a birthday, an appreciation day or a widely celebrated holiday, it depends mostly on the day.



Good role models offer guidence to students

By **Elizabeth Josephson**
Feature Editor

With certain celebrities in the news, it can be hard to find good role models in public life. Becky Butler, counselor, said a good role model is "someone who exhibits positive behavior; someone I can learn from." Tanner McKay, sophomore, said a role model is "someone who can work hard and do great things but doesn't show it, so they're not proud about doing it."

"I kind of look for role models everywhere. There's the sports side, the church side, the family side and the friend side," said senior Auston Tesch. He continued, "There are role models all around us, and I think if we just take the best we can learn from each of them, we can make ourselves better people."

Family members seem to be named most often as role models. McKay said his role model is his dad who is "such a hard worker" and always has "inspirational things to say."

Justine Zaccardi, junior, chose her dad as her role model. About her dad, Zaccardi said, "I want to be like him because he is strong and never lets anyone down."

Tesch also chose his dad "because he is just so responsible and caring, he is always on top of things and doing whatever he can for people, especially the people he cares about."

Marlee Satterthwaite, senior, said her mom is "always happy, all the time," which is why she calls her mom her role model. Krissa Woodring, sophomore, chose her grandpa as her role model because "he inspired her to go to college and get good grades."

With DUI's and shocking performances, fame is not always the best indication of being a good role model. About what makes a good role model, Woodring said, "I don't think it's necessarily being famous; it's just doing the best you can with what you have and just trying to make the world a better place and helping people."

Butler thinks it is better to have a role model people know as opposed to a celebrity. Admitting that "nobody's perfect," she said it is alright to look at celebrities as long as people can and do model positive behavior.

Some Warriors feel celebrities can be positive role models. McKay said, "The thing about celebrities, so many people know them, so many people will look at them and will always be watching them, so its important for them to be really good role models."

There are also many role models at Weber High. "We need to be as kind to everybody as we can and just say "Hi" to people" said McKay, adding that as a school officer, he gets to be a role model to students at Weber and feels a special responsibility to reach out to other students. The other officers are also good role models, according to Woodring, who said these officers are "always nice to people."

Tesch, a captain of Weber High's football team, said some of the younger kids on the team have told him they look up to him, so he tries his best to "make them proud."

According to Satterthwaite, the football players are role models of hard work and determination. "This year they worked hard and showed everybody they can win, and that hard work pays off."

Zaccardi said role models could be teachers and other students in our school. "You just have to find who you want to be like," she said.

Other role models Warriors chose included teachers. "A lot of the teachers can be really good role models just by the way they teach," McKay said. "They don't just teach about their subjects, but they also show how to act and be good people in real life."

Savanna Godlewski (11): Sleeping With Sirens and Lil Wayne. "It's just that kind of music that gets me up in the morning."

N.Suzann Habid (12): Rihanna, Eminem and Drake. "I really enjoy this music because it makes me feel happy and able to do anything."

John Child (12): Tech N9ne, Luke Bryan and Mumford and Sons "I like a lot of different music because there is so much music out there to discover."

Vann Rollins (10): Social Distortion, Misfits and Nirvana "I don't know why, it's just the stuff I like. Everything these bands make is amazing."

What's on your iPod?

Music interests show teens unique personalities

By **Miriam Gameros**
News Editor

Death Cab for Cutie, an American alternative rock band formed in Washington, is most known for their famous song, "I Will Follow You into the Dark" and are noted for their use of unconventional instruments as well as their unique lyrical style. Christina Aguilera, an American singer-songwriter is recognized for her profound and deep vocal range. The Beatles, a well known band from England, has much influenced pop culture. They could be called early innovators of rock and roll. All these artists are diverse and found on the iPods of Weber Warriors.

Throughout the years, iPods have evolved for the better. From 2001, Apple came up with the Classic iPod, which typically held up to 10 GB or approximately 1,000 songs. Now iPods can hold up to 7,000 songs. Not only does an iPod store music, Apple has also made it accessible to take pictures while listening to music. It can even record HD videos and show movies.

Several Warriors have their listening guilty pleasures on their iPods.

"I usually just listen to what is on the radio. I really like anything that is current and hip," said sophomore Alejandra Meza. She typically buys the most popular songs that are on iTunes.

"My favorite song at the moment would be "Sail" by Awolnation. Even if it is so last summer, it is still a fun song to dance and sing to, especially the chorus," said Meza.

Shayla Oceguada, senior, was indecisive about what her favorite band and favorite song were, so she fills her iPod with a variety of songs.

"Although I cannot really decide which is my favorite band on my iPod, some of the bands I have recently been enjoying are Grizzly Bear, Brand New, Beastie Boy and Modest Mouse."

One may ask where does she find these bands? "Pandora and YouTube are basically the main sources that introduced me to these bands that I now call my favorites. Some friends have also told me about similar bands and that is basically how they end up in my iPod," Oceguada said.

Some people just put their iPod on shuffle and let it choose what it wants to play, regardless of what they want at the moment. Others actually choose the music depending on their mood, whether it is upbeat, slower, or maybe even a bit more aggressive like rap.

"As weird as it may sound, I normally put rap music on my iPod because it improves my self esteem. You will find anything from Kendrick Lamar, Drake to Tyga on my iPod," said Aaron Soto, senior.

When teenagers listen to rap, some people may instantly think they are some sort of delinquent. However, teens often use the type of music they listen to as a safe rebound when no one is there for them or to relax from daily troubles. "When I listen to rap, I feel as if someone listens to my troubles," Soto added.

Often rap music has been stereotyped as songs full of swear words and meaningless music that just says random gibberish and talks about nonsense. Some people may like that, but Soto chooses this music for a different reason.

"You will find rap with meaning on my iPod," Soto said.

Every now and then there is a song on the iPod that does not get deleted. As annoying or as much as it is hated, it just stays on an iPod.

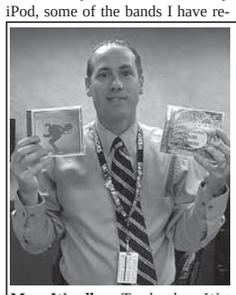
"As much as I really do not like "What Makes you Beautiful" by One Direction, I always find myself listening to that song. It is just so catchy!" said senior and foreign exchange student Maddie Jeppeson.

Principal Wardle's favorite playlist on his iPod consists of anything with Brian Adams to Toad the Wet Sprocket and maybe even some Taylor Swift.

"Currently, I have really liked Lorde, Monsters and Taylor Swift. That song of Lorde's is catchy. I am always humming or sometimes even singing to that new song of hers," said Principal Wardle.

Even the principal has that one song on his iPod that is not his favorite, but it can still be found among his other music."I have 'Feel This Moment' by Pitbull on my iPod and 'Call Me Maybe' by Carly Rae Jepsen. Those two are some songs I want to get rid of on my iPod!" said Wardle.

There is diverse taste in music at Weber, and to some students, music is more than just "music." As sophomore Angie Garcia calls it, "It is your escape from reality."



Mr. Wardle: Toad the Wet Sprocket, Bryan Adams and Lorde "It's what I listened to in high school. I don't listen to any of that head banging music. No rap!"

Reilly Shook (11): Parachute, 30 Seconds to Mars and Luke Bryan "Happy music about love really just makes me feel happy too"

Poll by Claudia Schneider

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West Side Story shows WHS musical talents

By **Jason Godfrey**
News Editor

West Side Story is a tale of two rival gangs – the Puerto Rican Sharks and the Polish-American Jets. The setting takes place in 1950's New York. The two main characters, Maria and Tony are star crossed lovers from the separate gangs. Sound familiar? Inspired by Romeo and Juliet, *West Side Story* was a book by Arthur Laurents and then turned into a Broadway musical with music from Leonard Bernstein and choreography and direction under Jerome Robbins.

This year at Weber High School, director Mark Daniels chose *West Side Story* as the fall musical, casting Jake Heywood, senior, as Tony; Hannah Porter, senior, as Maria; Ryan Liston, senior, as Riff; Alexa Jorgensen, senior, as Anita; Matt Taylor, senior, as Bernardo; along with many others making up the terrific cast. With a dedicated cast, a great director, and a powerful story with wonderful songs, I knew this was going to be an amazing production.

The setting/stage creation for *West Side Story* was permanent for the whole production. I liked that it stayed the same because I wasn't distracted every time the lights went dark. There was enough room for the cast to be on stage during the dance and fight scenes, so I think it was smart to have permanent scenery. The stage was supposed to be a kind of run-down, scary area where hoodlums would hang out. One thing I liked was the windows to the different apartments and the balcony in a couple scenes where Maria talks to Tony. This reminded me of Romeo and Juliet, adding to the list of similarities.

Since the Sharks are Puerto Rican, these cast members had to get spray tans, and some dyed their hair black or wore wigs. It was definitely weird to see people come to school tanner and with darker hair, but I think this also showed the level of their dedication to the production. It also added the realism to the characters. Although the spray tans made a few people look orange, overall on the stage it was easy to tell apart the different gangs.

The plot of *West Side Story* really starts to take off when Tony and Maria meet up at a dance. Them liking each other results in bad threats and them having to meet secretly. The next day, a rumble or a fight happens, and it doesn't end well. With great fighting choreography, viewers were captivated by the characters. By the end of the scene, through a twist of events, Maria and Tony questioned their true devotion for each other.

The plot of this story is simple and understandable. Even if viewers hadn't seen the musical or the film before, the storyline is not complicated. The theme of *West Side Story* is to not judge people by their appearance and to accept everyone. The two gangs have such strong hatred towards each other that two people can't even like each other without someone dying.

The actors did a fantastic job. Heywood captures his role and is convincing as he shows he has moved on from the gang life and how much he loves Maria. He also has a wonderful voice.

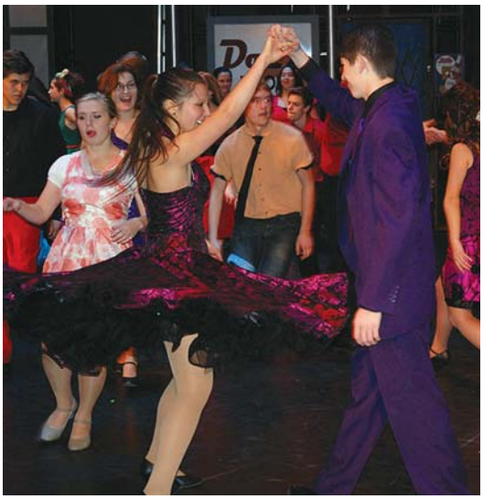
Porter, I thought, had some pretty tough acting scenes, but she, too, was dynamic and did them very well. Because her character is Puerto Rican, she had to not only talk with an accent, but sing with it as well. That probably wasn't easy, but she made her character very believable.

The musical is definitely a romantic tragedy. It shows romance because of Tony and Maria falling in love, and it represents a tragedy because of the deaths that happen in the story. Viewers had chills and tears by the end of the second act.

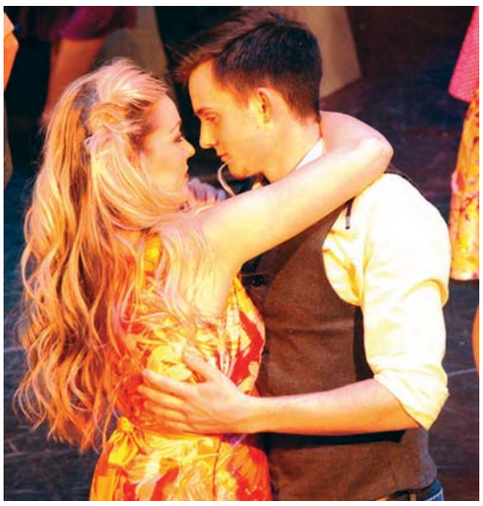
I loved *West Side Story*! The music is wonderful and the pit orchestra did a fantastic job. I loved all of the songs: "Tonight," "America," "Gee, Officer Krupke" and "A Boy Like That" being some of my favorites.

Mr. Daniels and his crew have done it again with another great production. All of the cast members showed their many performance strengths as they sang, danced and even fought.

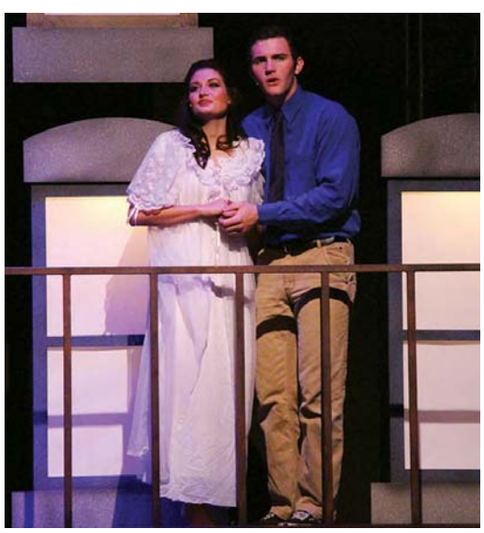
If you're looking for some fun, audition for next year's musical because these performers showed how much they enjoyed being in a play. And if you are not a performer, make sure you catch the next WHS production. Tickets for Tarzan will be sold starting Dec. 18.



Bernardo, (Matt Taylor), has a great time dancing with Anita, (Alexa Jorgenson), at the big dance at a gym.



A close encounter between Velma (Lindsay Albrechtsen) and Riff (Ryan Liston), shows their passion for one another.



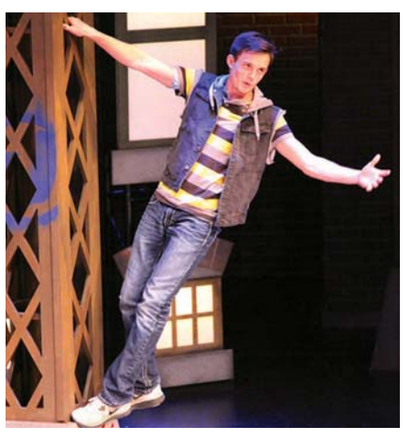
The star-crossed lovers, Tony (Jake Heywood) and Maria, sing about their love for one another other. They must hide their love from their friends, family and rival gangs.

During a rumble, Bernardo struggles as he fights Riff, leader of the Jets.

Photos by Cara Darr and Levi Easley

While getting ready for the dance, Maria (Hannah Porter) discusses meeting men with Anita.

(Above left): Officer Shrank (William Ross) taunts Action (Rylan Stocker) as his fellow gang members hold him back (Above right): Tony professes his love for Maria after he meets her for the first time.



(Above left): Riff tells his gang why the Jets are the greatest and how belonging to the gang gives them confidence. (Above right): The Jets perform "Cool" as the tension heats up against the rival gang.

(Above left): Riff argues with Officer Krupke (Gabe Walker). (Above right): The Jets sing about their problems in life and how Officer Krupke doesn't understand what they're going through.

Christmas time offers tidings of gift giving

By **Erin Geiger**
Editor-in-Chief

The winter season causes everyone to think hard and scout stores in search of the perfect gift. Whether people feel gift-giving is obligatory like Sheldon in the *Big Bang Theory*, or they earnestly look forward to giving and receiving, almost everyone will give some sort of gift to someone. In a poll of 60 WHS Warriors, teens shared their best, worst and funniest gifts given and received.

Sometimes, try as people might, a not-so-good gift is given. When this happens, the receiver can only try to smile courteously and remember it will make for a good story later. Some Warriors said receiving socks was the worst gift they've ever been given. Sophomore Sam Love said, "Socks are the all-time lamest gift ever." English teacher Mrs. Leake adds, "We need socks, but we are never excited to unwrap them!"

"I got a note from my family telling me how much they love me."

Fellow sophomore Abri Carney said, "My worst gift was a sock. It wasn't a pair of socks; just one sock."

Other teens' worst gifts had to do with food; some of them were gift cards to restaurants they didn't like and the remaining gifts were mostly about chocolate. Adam Olpin junior, said chocolate was a bad gift for him because he "ate it and then it was gone forever."

Unfortunately for teachers, there were students who said books were the lamest gift they've been given. Some students said they didn't like the books because they dislike reading or didn't want to read. Junior Emily Eldredge said she was given a "20 page book about George Washington" and disliked it because she was 15.

Who wants to receive underwear? Apparently not Weber students who said they didn't want the underwear because they "receive some every year," "were the wrong size" or "were not needed." Sophomore Samantha Middleton said she received "granny panties" and disliked them because "they were huge and ugly."

Other Warriors agreed on other clothing being the worst gift. These bad gifts included white shoelaces, ugly shoes and an ugly sweater from the dollar store. Senior Chance Hadley said pants were his worst gift, but not just any pants. "My mom insisted I try on women's pants," he said. "I advise people to gift clothes according to gender."

Other answers in the "worst gift you've received" category were a bit…non-traditional. Sophomore Connor Lee said, "I got wet wipes when I was 10 and I cried." Halle Martin, sophomore, said, "I got adult diapers. I don't need them and they weren't even my size!" Ambrie Bosworth, sophomore, added, "I got work out equipment. I think they were dropping a hint."

Some of these strange gifts weren't actually gifts, though. "I got the flu one year, and I was sick on Christmas," senior David Reynolds told.

Most of the favorite gifts that have been received are somewhat on the expensive side. These kinds of gifts included laptops, concert tickets, snowboards, skateboards, ski passes, game systems, dirt bikes, cars, vacations and phones. Senior Brandi Showalter said, "I got a laptop, and I've used it every day. It's perfect for my needs." Sophomore Benjamin Evans said, "My first dirt bike when I was eight was my favorite. It led to me being able to ride motorcross."

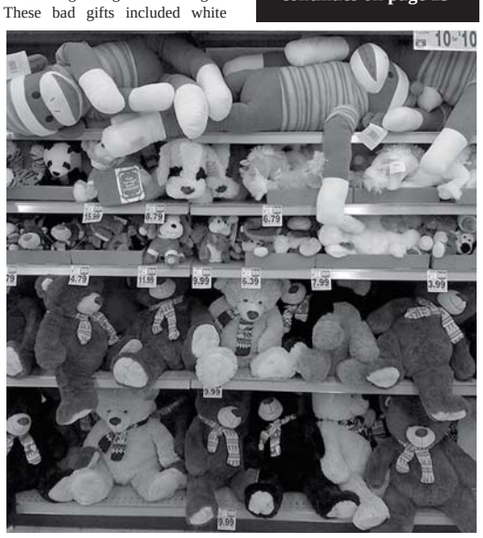
Some Warriors said money was the best gift because they could spend it on whatever they wanted. Others chose pets as their favorite—hamsters and dogs.

Some of the best gifts are unique ones. Junior Zackery Ferrin said "a waffle stick maker" was his favorite, while Emily Nelson, senior, said her best gift was "green orange juice and a grilled cheese sandwich." Other gifts are more personal, leaving the receiver with a warm and fuzzy feeling inside. "I know it's lovie-dovie, but I got a note from my family telling me how much they love me. I really liked it," said Olpin.

There are times when the gift one gives to another just isn't up to par, and it's known by the giver and receiver. Once again, socks have been given, despite the giver knowing it was a bad idea. Middleton said, "I felt bad because I gave my friend some socks when she got me something nice."

Other gifts were bad because they weren't gender correct. Sophomore Nate Gordon said he "gave a boy a Barbie," and Carney said she gave "girl underwear to a guy." Hadley

Gift giving continues on page 13



Stuffed animals are cute gifts to give anyone during the holiday season.

Photo by Cara Darr

Service unites Warriors during traditional dinner

FBLA and Drama give Thanksgiving dinner and free viewing of *West Side Story* to senior citizens. Photo top left: Jenica Lilly, senior, brings meals to guests. Photo bottom left: Also serving dinner is senior Cristian Garcia. Photo top right: Vice Principals Terri Spiers and Greg Jessop prepare plates of food. Photo middle right: Ashleigh Steed, senior, happily brings meals to the senior citizens. Photo bottom right: Greg and Jean Wilson enjoy their evening at Weber High.

Photo by Ellie May Kerr

Students get opportunity to help community

By **Kierstin Pitcher**
Assistant to the Chief

During the winter holidays, people are constantly looking for ways to give to their community. A popular way for people to give is through local charity groups and organizations. In Weber's community, there are many of these organizations, one of them being St. Anne's Homeless Shelter.

St. Anne's was originally opened as a soup kitchen in 1981. People were coming off the trains and going to local churches and asking for food, so the Episcopal, Lutheran and Catholic churches combined forces and opened up the first soup kitchen in Utah. Once the kitchen was in progress, people began to ask if they could sleep on the floor inside. Consequently, it was decided that a shelter would have to be built. St. Anne's then opened its doors as a homeless shelter in 1992.

Stacey Gallegos, the Capital and Development Manager at St. Anne's, says the shelter was built to house about 80 men and 30 women. However, in the past five to seven years there has been a dramatic increase in homelessness, and now there are not only more women at the shelter, but many families as well. St. Anne's is now at about 115 percent capacity.

"We've gone from having a few families to having 16 families stay with us right now. We have people sleeping in offices and on the floors in the kitchen and lobby," says Gallegos. Since the shelter is now worn down and unable to adequately fulfill its purpose, St. Anne's is now running their own capital campaign, so they may be able to raise the funds needed to build a new shelter.

Because of the efforts to get a new shelter built, St. Anne's is in need of volunteer work, now more than ever. The age required to volunteer is 18, but anyone can come if they are accompanied by an adult. There are many ways in which people can help, such as serving food, cleaning and planning activities for the residents of the shelter.

Such activities can include things like bingo night, making Christmas cards and playing any kind of game or just reading a book to the children. "We try to make life as normal as possible, especially for the kids," says Gallegos.

"We try to make life as normal as possible, especially for the kids."

Help is also appreciated in the kitchen. They have one cook right now who cooks all the meals, seven days a week. Gallegos also mentions cooks at the shelter have to be extremely creative because a lot of the food is donated and all the needed ingredients aren't always there. "And we have one stove that doesn't work very well," she adds. The meals provided by St. Anne's are a large part of what they do. Last August they served about 8,000 meals, with 18 percent of those meals being for children.

The shelter also takes donations like clothing, furniture and appliances. Volunteers are also used to sort through these donations and separate the usable items from the non-usable. Gallegos adds some people who still have the desire to give, but don't have the time to volunteer, like to have a monthly deposit of about $20 given to the shelter.

"A lot of people don't think $20 is a lot, but here $1 is a lot because $1 can feed a couple kids lunch," says Gallegos.

Another charitable organization where one may practice the spirit of giving is the Christmas Box House. Inspired by the book *The Christmas Box* by Richard Paul Evens, The Christmas Box House partners with other groups to help prevent child abuse. It serves as a temporary shelter for children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned.

Some of the groups partnering with the Christmas Box House include the Utah Foster Care Foundation and DCFS (Division of Child and Family Services). One service the Christmas Box House gives to these groups is that of providing a place for sibling groups, where in other cases they might be separated because there are few homes able to accommodate siblings.

The Christmas Box House does everything they can to provide for any and all needs of the children who enter into their care. Medical, emotional, mental… if it's a need, the Christmas Box House is trying to provide it. To take care of all these needs, the Christmas Box House depends greatly on service.

Lori Parrish, the Community Outreach Representative for the Christmas Box House, says volunteers are used to, "sort and organize donations, prepare for events and help with housekeeping and yard work." She adds donations are especially needed to help keep everything fully stocked.

During the Christmas season, they also provide Christmas for not only the children in their care but other children who stand in need. "Last year we helped give Christmas to over 400 kids," said Parish.

The donations that are most needed are clothes, hygiene items and toys. The Christmas Box House requires the donations to be new, so they can provide the best care for the children. If one is looking to donate, they can find "Wish Lists" at the Christmas Box House site: thechristmasboxhouse.org. Parish says all volunteers are especially welcome, but to volunteer with the children, a person has to be at least 18 years old and pass a background check.

Weber High also has its own program organized for the purpose of giving. Every year during the Christmas season, they have a benefit fundraiser called Quarters and Cans. It is called Quarters and Cans because during the entire length of the fundraiser, the Student Body and class officers carry cans which eager students fill with change. Can goods are also donated to help give families food for the holidays and to stock shelves at local shelters. This year all the proceeds will go to local families in need.

Student Body President Tyson Lund looks forward to the annual service activity. "It's an opportunity for us to give back, and it helps our community immensely. We were able to help 27 families last year."

Now Playing

By **Katie Montgomery**
Editorial Editor

Holidays are heralded by television specials and movies. What better way to spend the holidays than by watching Christmas movies.

The most anticipated special of any holiday is the Peanuts special. *It's a Charlie Brown Christmas* is a classic movie debuting in 1965. It features the cast of the comic strip Peanuts as they prepare to put on a Christmas pageant of the first nativity scene.

Charlie Brown is upset by the commercialized version of Christmas. When they want to integrate more of the commercial Christmas into the nativity, they send Charlie Brown to get a brightly colored, metal tree. He tries to put his foot down and instead buys a scrawny pine tree that couldn't hold a single ornament without falling over.

The rest of the crew is furious, but Linus recounts the scriptures from the King James Version of the Bible describing the first nativity story (Luke 2:8-14) to remind the gang of why they were putting on the play to begin with.

Although getting presents is nice and many enjoy it most of all, this movie is a reminder to focus on serving neighbors and helping others rather than having personal presents at the center of attention.

The *Home Alone* series is the epitome of a parent's worst holiday nightmare. In the first installment, debuting in 1990, Kevin McCallister (played by Macaulay Culkin), the youngest of five, is accidentally left home when his family leaves for France for their holiday vacation. Two burglars target the McCallister home, and it's up to Kevin to protect it.

***Home Alone 2: Lost in New York,* came out two years after the first film. This year for Christmas, the McCallisters are flying to Florida, but Kevin gets on the wrong flight and ends up in New York. He stays at an expensive, exclusive hotel, pretending he has his father with him. However, he runs into the two men who tried to rob his house as they are planning their next heist. They escaped their parole and want revenge on Kevin.**

There are three more movies in the *Home Alone* franchise; however watching these later *Home Alone* movies is just watching the same movie over and over with different actors. I recommend sticking with the first two *Home Alone* movies. They are fun and the best of the five films.

***Home Alone* helps people to remember family is important and to treat each other fairly and lovingly all the time but especially around the holidays. Show gratitude for people by having fun with family and friends: go sledding, drink hot chocolate or sing Christmas carols.**

"I'm dreaming of a white Christmas," is the beginning of one widely known Christmas carol, "White Christmas," which is featured in the musical by the same name. *White Christmas* first came to theatres in 1954 and stars Bing Crosby and Dany Kaye as army buddies, Bob Wallace and Phil Davis.

After WWII, Wallace and Davis leave the army for the entertainment business, hitting it big in nightclubs, radio and then Broadway. They eventually become successful producers. After supposedly receiving a letter from an old war friend, the two pack up and head to Vermont to audition his two sisters.

After the audition, they follow the sisters to Vermont for a performance. They discover their old commander, General Waverly, is running a ramshackle inn. To help raise money to save the inn, Wallace and Davis bring the cast and crew of their newest musical and put on a show.

Playing on themes of service and gratitude, *White Christmas* serves as a yet another reminder to think of others and help those in need. And with everybody falling in love with somebody, it's a great movie to watch with someone special.

Looking for something to help build Christmas spirit, I suggest these holiday favorites. They are great to watch with family and friends.

Saint Nick gives insight on Christmas duties

By **Landon Wicks**
Staff Reporter

Year after year, he travels around the world delivering presents to all good boys and girls. But have you ever wondered what it's actually like to do his job?

"I love being Santa Claus. Seeing all the children so happy and excited really makes me feel good about what I do," says Santa. Santa also adds he wishes he could grant every kids wish for Christmas, but some wishes are too difficult.

There are also those unique gifts Santa has been asked for that makes gift giving unique. "This one child asked for me to make the world of Pokémon real. Of course, I couldn't achieve as big a wish as that, so instead I gave him various Pokémon themed things for Christmas, and he seemed satisfied."

Santa has many other different tasks he must complete. "The most difficult part of my job is making sure that I don't go to anybody's house where the kids are still awake. Due to this, I will sometimes have to skip houses for a moment and come back before I leave the area."

"Getting ready for the big night is a lot of work," he adds. "I have to make sure all the presents are wrapped and put into the sleigh; I have to make sure the reindeer are all well fed; I also have to make sure to check my naughty list one last time because there are always two or three people added to the naughty list at the last minute. There's also making sure that I've got a 'just in case' supply of cookies, due to the decline of people putting out cookies in recent years."

Can you imagine trying to judge if someone is naughty or nice, year after year? Well, Santa said recent North Pole technology makes it so he doesn't have to. "We've actually got an automated list-making machine. This machine was devised by one of my elves. It's called the 'Naughty or Nice 3000' which automatically updates who's naughty and nice daily. It's made the work throughout the years much easier."

Santa gets asked for a lot of things, but some things he gets asked for more than others. "In recent years, mp3 players and iPods have been asked for much more often than before. Before these things, most boys asked for was Legos. They are still asked for quite often, but not as much as before. And for the girls, Barbie was always the most popular toy, only until recently has this began to go down as girls start to grow out of toys at a much younger age."

Jolly ol' Saint Nicholas is all bundled up and ready to visit homes.
Photo by Cara Darr

Of course, Santa has been a part of nearly every Warrior's life, and many Warriors have had favorite experiences with the jolly 'ol elf.

Kaitlyn Dejarnatt, senior, says, "When I was six, mysousins and I would all go to our grandma's house to unwrap presents. When we got there, Santa was sitting on the couch by the Christmas tree, and we were all so excited. He passed out all our presents to us and then walked out the door with a 'ho ho ho, and merry Christmas.' We then heard footsteps on the roof, and he was gone."

Everyone has also recieved a favorite present from Santa. Those special presents bring back fond memories and happy times. Michael Pettit, senior, says, "The best present my family got from Santa was our Love Sac. That thing is so comfortable and I fall asleep on it a lot." Derek Windsor, junior, adds, "My favorite present was Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle underwear. I loved that show and when I got them, I thought they were the coolest things ever."

As Christmas once again nears, Santa hopes he will not see Warriors' names on the naughty list and he reminds everyone to leave a couple of cookies out… it's a really long night.

Teens debate existence of Santa Claus

By **Alea Spendlove and Angeline Garcia**
Staff Reporters

We've all heard the legend of Santa Claus; a big, happy man who spreads Christmas cheer by bringing presents to all of the world's children with his flying reindeer buddies. Every year around this time, though, we hear reports of non-believers.

"I think it's okay to believe in Santa until you're 10," says Shaelie Huffaker, senior. "After that, it is not okay."

However, there are those who are firm believers and stand up for Santa.

"Of course he's real!" says Jessica Sparks, sophomore. "Who else would bring us presents, the Easter Bunny?"

Micah Meza, sophomore, adds, "I believe in him; I saw him in downtown Ogden once!"

"Santa represents the big guy that's going to bring me *Call of Duty: Ghosts*," says Connor Lee, sophomore.

As for junior Cami Mecham, she simply says, "Well, duh! He's too awesome not to be real."

Some of the non-believers, though, have very convincing stories on whether there truly is a Father Christmas. Caitlyn Baldenegro, senior, shared her Christmas spoiler. "I was in sixth grade and still believed. My aunt asked me if I wanted to go Christmas shopping for presents from 'Santa' for my cousins, which sort of ruined the whole legend for me."

Junior Addie Cantwell also presents her case on why Santa is not real. "I saw my mom sneaking presents in the middle of the night, and I connected the handwriting was the same as hers."

"I stopped believing in him [Santa] in the second grade," Kirsten Ficklin, sophomore, said. She thought about how Santa does his job and thought to herself, "He's a big fat guy who goes down a chimney; it is not physically possible! It is kind of creepy, just think about it. Imagine just hearing a loud thump noise and you run down stairs and find a fat man with a white beard eating your cookies!"

Jayde Salas, sophomore, discovered something was not right when she wrote to Santa. "I tried mailing him a letter when I was 10. He wrote me a letter back, but the letter was in my mother's hand writing."

While both parties have their strong and weak points, the spirit of the holiday may be more important than the legend.

"Christmas isn't really about Santa," says Ross Schow, sophomore. "Well, for the little kids, maybe, but in all reality it's supposed to be about sharing and spending time with your family, not presents and stuffing yourself. Although, I won't deny I enjoy that part."

"To me, it's about coming together with your family and having a great time with them," says Brittany Gill, junior.

Breanna Beus, junior, adds, "Santa represents families coming together and happiness."

Most Warriors agreed that families are the center of the holidays and the true spirit for Christmas. "Christmas is joy," says junior Kimberly Popham. "Christmas brings families together to make fun memories."

As Warriors look back at past holidays, they have many memories to share. Brayden Petersen, sophomore, says, "I remember this one Christmas morning when I was little. My family was around the tree, opening presents. My brother opened up this remote control car, and I was so excited for his gift, that I didn't realize I had the exact same thing in front of me! I knew that the car would make him happy, and it made me happy, too."

"My mom always makes us these delicious gingerbread waffles on Christmas morning," says Taylor Mills, sophomore. "The scent makes me hungry, but it makes me think of how awesome and exciting Christmas is!"

While some may not believe in the jolly 'ol elf who comes to their homes, leaves presents beneath a tree and eats cookies, Warriors say they do know the spirit of the holiday still exists, and the message of Santa lives in their hearts.

Gift giving continues from page 11

continues telling about a strange gift he gave his sister. "The first season of some random '80s children's show; it's still in the package after four years," he said

Weber Warriors think the best gifts they've ever given were either money or something heartfelt. Others said money or giftcards are the best gifts they've given to someone because the receiver can spend it on anything they choose. Carney said her best gift was "toilet paper in a box because it saved somebody down the road."

The other favorite gifts given involve time and thought—these gifts given to siblings, parents, grandparents, friends and even strangers. Evans said, "I gave a card to my great grandma. It was the last time I saw here before she passed away." Sophomore Chelsey Slama said she gave her mom crafts she'd done in school and made her mom so happy she cried. Sydnie Liechty, junior, added, "My family did the 12 days of Christmas for someone who really needed it."

Senior Tan Nguyen gets festive and hunts for creative gifts for his friends and family at Walmart.

Photo by Jarom Ralph

Sophomore Cassie Baldenegro spent a year creating a special gift for her friend. "I gave an album of 182 pictures of memories with my friend in the last year. There were some great memories."

Showalter added the best gifts don't have to be things at all. said, "I've never had money for gifts, so I give my time to help with things," she said.

After all the serious gifts are given, there's usually room for some silly prank gifts too. These are often called "gag" gifts or "white elephant" gifts. Some Warriors suggested the traditional whoopy cusion, socks and underwear, fake snake or fake throwup while others think a toilet seat, coal, cat litter, Snuggie or an electronic nose-picker is a good idea for a prank gift. Some people recommended an autographed picture of oneself, or a box of rocks would work while others said a bag of batteries with the note "toys not included" is a good idea. Of course, there are always those small gifts wrapped in multiple boxes and a cheap gift put inside an expensive brand box that make a fun prank gift.

Certain Warriors got extra creative with their gag gift ideas. Junior Stephanie Laubacher said, "Get a large amount of money all in one dollar bills and tape them in a long line. Roll it up and put it in a box, so they have to pull them out one by one."

Evans also offered a clever, albeit gross, idea. "At a white elephant party, I filled a diaper with melted chocolate and peanut butter," he said. "It looked nasty."

Giving gifts isn't always easy—often times it takes some brainstorming or investigation. However, many Warriors agree the trick to getting a great gift is knowing the person who will receive it. Leake advised people to "be thoughtful and personal to show that you know the person." Middleton shared the timeless advice "it's the thought and effort you put into it that really counts."

There isn't an exact recipe for the perfect present. There are lots of good options available and by adding a significant ingredient, that gift may become the best. Olpin says, "Add some emotion to [the gift,] whether it be humor or love."

Favorite Christmas carols deliver fond memories

By **Abby Wight**
News Editor

When the holiday season comes around, many annual things begin to happen. Commercials for Christmas shopping show up on TV, lights appear in yards and parks and, of course, Christmas music starts to play on the radio.

For many people, music is a huge part of what makes the holiday season so special. Warriors feel the festive spirit holiday music is a big part of the joy many people feel during this time of year.

WHS choir director Scott Wood feels Christmas would not be the same without music. "The holidays are filled with so many things that affect us all in a 'human' way: holiday food, decorations, snow, the manger, shepherds, presents and acts of service. Christmas music is the magical part of the holidays that ties all of these great things into something bigger," he says.

Ashley Holst, junior, shares her favorite Christmas song. She says, "It would have to be "Silent Night" because it's just so soft and meaningful."

"Silent Night" was heard for the first time in a small village church in Austria, 180 years ago. Franz Gruber is the original composer of this reverent Christmas carol, and his six-verse song was sung on Christmas Eve for the first time in 1818. Over the years, Gruber's "Silent Night" has become a holiday favorite among many people.

Braden Fureigh, junior, says he loves the song "Rockin' around the Christmas Tree."

"I've loved it since I was a little kid. It's the sickest song!" He feels this song brings back memories of past Christmases when he was much younger, and he says this song will always be his favorite for this reason.

This oldie was written by Johnny Marks and recorded by Brenda Lee in 1958 when she was only 13 years old. The song didn't sell very well until 1960 when Lee became a popular singer. Now, it is played all the time during the holidays. Many people, like Fureigh, really enjoy the song.

Another favorite Christmas song, according to Jacob Paul, junior, is "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Paul jokes, "It's the only one I know the words to." Along with Fureigh, Paul has also loved this song since he was younger.

Many prefer classics such as "Silent Night" and "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" because of the parts they played in students' childhood.

Photo by Jarom Ralph

"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was first seen in a booklet written by Robert L. May. The booklet is rumored to have been written by May while he was trying to cheer his mother up because she was very sick around Christmas time. The words of the book were shaped into a song that quickly became popular. The booklet was published in 1939 and has become a fun favorite among many listeners, especially children.

As people become busy with the many holiday activities, Mr. Wood hopes they will also take time to enjoy the sounds of the holidays.

"Christmas music triggers feelings, emotions, memories, smells, warmth, happiness and brings out our feelings of love for our families, friends and fellow mankind. Christmas just wouldn't be 'Christmas' without the music!" he says.

Quarters and Cans continues from page 1

Starting November, all student government officers carried around cans during school hours for students' donations. Along with this, officers approached the students' cars before school on Ashtray Day, so Warriors could empty their cars of spare change. "I think my favorite activity for Quarters and Cans is Ashtray Day because it's so cool how little change adds up to big numbers. Every little bit counts," says Student Body Officer, Dawn Gross.

To assist with the Quarters and Cans event, Big Buddha from Fox 13 visited Weber on Dec. 4. Choir students, officers, cheerleaders and other groups met at Weber at 5:30 a.m., so Fox 13 viewers could not only see talented WHS groups, but also feel the giving spirit of Warriors.

Because of the success of last year's Angel Tree, student government will be sponsoring another one this year. Fifth period classes can select an "Angel Star" from the tree and purchase items or donate money for the child who is listed on the star. Mrs. Pearce student body advisor adds, "We feel this will help give the students more opportunity to feel a more personal involvement with the charity.

First period classes also have a competiton. The class that brings in the most goods will win a special treat. The competition began on Dec. 3 and ends on Dec. 17.

During EO, Warriors can also purchase cinnomon rolls, and the money will go towards Quarters and Cans.

Another activity is ski day at Powder Mountain on Dec. 14 where a portion of proceeds will go to Quarters and Cans. There will also be a special holiday assembly held just before Christmas Break on Dec. 20.

Coach Trevor Ward wears a pink tutu after Weber receives $1000 in donations.

Photo by Levi Easley

Though there are many activities for Quarters and Cans, the largest rewards may be the fulfilling feeling people get when they give to others. Pearce says, "We should want to help other people. It's what brings us joy."

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Christmas traditions bring joy, excitement to others

Past holidays were fun, memorable

By **Chase Doughty**
Editorial Editor

It's sweater weather! Christmas will soon be here and Warriors are getting in the spirit; whether they are traditional activities or just the feeling one gets when hot chocolate is in hand and snow is falling outside their window.

Sophomore Millie Jones says, "My favorite Christmas memories are when I was little and booking it down the stairs to open my presents and getting Guitar Hero and playing the Wii, when we first got it, all night long. We didn't go to bed." She continues, "On Christmas my mom made us sit on the stairs before we could go down, and she took a picture. Also, on Christmas Eve, we opened pajamas."

Jones also says her favorite part about Christmas is the food and getting together with family. Sophomore Charity Parkinson agrees. "My grandma bought us a trip to Disneyland; none of us knew about it; it was a total surprise. She called at like 3 a.m. and took us to Disneyland."

When it comes to other holiday traditions, she says, "My whole extended family on my mom's side goes up to my grandma's, and we all exchange homemade gifts. We draw names and then you get your gift. It's way fun!"

Parkinson continues saying her favorite part about Christmas is the snow and being with family.

"One of my favorite Christmas memories," says Angie Fichio, junior, "was when we moved up to my house in North Ogden. I was five and it was 4 a.m. I ran into my brother's room because I couldn't sleep. I was so excited. We all ran into my parents' room jumping until they woke up. It was just a really good day." She continues, "Every year on Christmas, we wake up our parents somehow and we open presents usually oldest to youngest, and then we eat breakfast. After breakfast we go down to Salt Lake to hang out with my family."

When it comes to future traditions, Fichio says when she is married, she wants to make a specific meal on Christmas and then every year get the kids pajamas and a book on Christmas Eve.

Junior Holly Stocker says, "On Christmas Eve we have all of my family over and play bingo with my grandma, and we get all these treats and prizes. It's really like a pre-Christmas. We just get to stack our prizes with our other Christmas presents." Then on Christmas, Stocker says, "Everybody comes over again and we have a grand breakfast and play games until Christmas is over. The whole week of Christmas we do fun activities. We usually go sledding three or four times a week, so we bring hot chocolate up there and my dad brings donuts. Some mornings my dad makes toast and we dip it in our hot chocolate. It's so good! We go see movies and go to see the lights in these huge fur coats. We make fun of each other saying that we each look like eskimos," adds Stocker.

Stocker says her favorite part about Christmas is the presents, but she also likes the snow, sledding, hot chocolate and snowmen.

Senior Ellie Zurbuchen also has favorite holiday traditions and memories beginning with Santa. "Waking up in the morning and getting stuff is the most exciting part about my Christmas." She continues, "We always make sugar cookies with different colored icing."

Zurbuchen also says in the future she wants to make cupcakes and cinnamon rolls with her family.

For senior Hadley Handsaker, "My favorite Christmas tradition is going to my grandma's house on Christmas Eve with all my cousins and spending time together and getting pajamas." She also adds, "My favorite part about Christmas is getting presents! Oh, and spending time with family."

Handsaker loves spending time with her family around Christmas because she gets to see a lot of the family she normally doesn't see often.

As Warriors get ready for this upcoming holiday season, they are looking forward to re-living traditions.

Students confess secrets, reveal if they are on Santa Claus' naughty or nice list

By **Brenna Huggard**
Staff Reporter

Everyone has heard of Santa's list he looks at before he determines what gifts he's giving. The question is, have you been naughty or nice?

People have different perspectives on what makes people naughty or nice. Jacob Howell, senior, says his naughty moment happened during jewelry class. "I abused the blow torch in jewelry class." However, Howell claims he's still on Santa's nice list.

"Thing is, I've actually been nice all year. I try to do one nice thing a day for someone," he adds.

Random acts of kindness such as opening doors for people, complimenting and hugging people are all nice things he has done. Sophomore Miriam Gameros has also performed a great act of random kindness, setting an example of what students could do. "I paid for the person behind me in the Starbucks drive-through," she says.

On what Santa should give the nice kids at Weber, Howell says, "For being nice, kids should get more opportunities to do good and more kisses."

Senior Austin Dew feels he deserves to be on the nice list because he's been honest and hardworking. "Santa should bring me a girl to spend the holidays with, preferably a beautiful brunette who likes to cook, bake and cuddle a lot," he says.

Another student who believes she should be on the good list is junior Mikah Meyer. "I think I'm on the nice list because I haven't done anything incredibly naughty this year. Also, I feel my attitude has improved from last year." She adds she'd like Saint Nick to bring her earphones because her old ones are broken," she says.

As far as why Santa puts people on the naughty list, Howell says, "Just base it off Mikayla Lockwood and Tyson Pace." When asked what these two had done that was naughty, Pace and Lockwood had no idea.

As far as punishments, "Kids on the naughty list should get a spanking and asparagus. Along with their mouth washed out with soap," adds Howell.

Adults think differently than teenagers do about what is nice and what is naughty. Some adults feel more kids should be on the naughty list. As far as adults, Mrs. Leake, AP Language and Creative Writing teacher, says, "I've been nice, always. "I give my students opportunities to improve on shoddy work; I give extra credit opportunities… how nice is that?"

Sara Knight (12) "Nice, because I include others, no matter what."

Ben Turner (10) "Naughty, because I run people over with my bike."

Poll by Claudia Schneider

Mrs. Leake, like Howell, believes in doing something nice for someone every day. "I'm a personal advocate of secret acts of kindness," she says.

"Love is what I think I deserve for Christmas," she adds. "All a teacher really wants is a sincere note of appreciation."

Kolton Nay, sophomore, says he is on the nice list, since he isn't necessarily on the naughty list. "I've been nice. I don't know… I haven't been mean."

Nay also knows what he wants Santa to bring him. "Santa should bring me new skis."

However, Nay has had a naughty past. "Yes, when I was four I beat up my little sister, so I was on the naughty list."

Kaila Mleso, junior, claims she is always on the nice list. "How could I not be on the nice list? I mean, come on, I'm a sweetheart. I'm kidding, but I have tried to be nice this year." Mleso adds she thinks nice people should prove they are nice by giving to others.

"If you really are on the nice list, prove it by giving more, not expecting to receive more than others."

As far as Christmas gifts, "Santa should bring me a snowboard; I wouldn't even mind that," she says.

But, she too, worries about her tainted past. "Yeah I'm sure there was a time I was on the naughty list. I hope Santa forgave me."

Sophomore Ryan Virgil offers a different perspective on what giving and receiving is all about. "I'm on the nice list because I have tried my best to make everyone feel loved in one way or another."

When Santa's list is factored out, helping others feel loved and appreciated is a sure way to be on top of his nice list. It also puts you in a better position on other people's nice lists.

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X-Country finishes out strong season

By **Jason Godfrey**
News Editor

Amber Broderick, Samantha Heaton, Jennifer Tidwell, Lynzi Deeter, Haeli Rich and Bronte Fronk enjoyed running cross country.

Photo by Cara Darr

Many students find running to be miserable but for the 37 cross country athletes, they enjoy running between five to seven miles per day. The cross country season, which actually starts with summer practices, goes from the beginning of school through the month of October. The team meets two mornings a week in the summer.

The first week of school is the start of "Heat Week" which gets the runners used to running in the hot afternoons. Along with running to Bates Elementary and back, doing track workouts and running along the canal road, the cross country team also starts their season thinking of their goals.

Every day before a meet, the team separates between the girls and the boys, and they discuss their plans for each meet with Coaches Ryan Ortega, Tiffany Swenson and Susanne Hansen.

Haeli Rich, sophomore, started running the summer before her freshman year and made a goal of getting under 21 minutes for a three mile race. "I run because I love my team, and it gives me an excuse to eat all the food I want," Rich said. "Anyone can be a runner, but the lifestyle you live depends on how much you commit."

Coach Ortega said one of his favorite things about coaching is "really just setting goals and accomplishing them." Ortega, who has been coaching cross country for 12 years, said this has been a great season and "all the girls are doing great and doing better than last year." For the boys he said, "They are doing awesome. Way good group of leaders."

"The cross country season can be tough especially when you have to push yourself into that zone of being uncomfortable," Sam Good, sophomore, said.

Rachel Arner, sophomore, added, "It can be hard to beat your old time and when you're out of breath."

Senior Katie Spencer accomplished one of her goals this year. She lettered in cross country and did it by a lot of hard work and dedication.

"Well, since I'm not the fastest, I had to work really hard in the summer. I ran 26 miles a week and did three 5Ks. I PR'd (personal record) every week throughout the season."

Only two points away from lettering, she received those last points from the meet before region. "I had to stay with the group to get the last two points," she said.

So what makes the athletes have a good attitude about running? Rich mentioned one of her season highlights was the 24 hour run that was an all-nighter on the track, ran 200 miles, as a fundraiser. "It really helps to bond with your team," she said.

The team completed the 200th mile at about 11:45 p.m. Senior Devon Jennings and junior Sam Heaton won the competition with the fastest individual mile time.

Another activity the team did this year was the Torch Run. The Torch Run started at Layton High, and the team ran to Weber in shifts during the cold and even while it was snowing. Some of the team members shared holding a torch and dropping it.

Kiley Allman, sophomore, recalled the highlights of this race. She said, "We (the girls) accidentally lit Wadman Park on fire." Callie Birch, senior, dropped the torch and Alyvia Quayle, sophomore, tried to push it off the concrete, but it rolled on to the grass. Coach Ortega was able to stomp it out quickly.

Along with these events, runners also had success with their competitions. At the Murray Invitational, Ashleigh Steed, senior, was Weber's first rookie runner finishing 9 out of 276. The rookie girls took sixth place. Heaton, was the first girl to break 20 minutes for the season.

The rookie boys, who took second place overall, was led by Colton Layser, junior, who came in at thirteenth place. The JV boys finished fourth overall with McKay Hunt, junior, at the front. The varsity finished seventh overall with Jennings and William Palmer, seniors, in the front.

The City County meet started with JV runner Shyli Butters, senior, taking second overall and beating her PR by 1:19. Varsity girls finished second place in the end with performances from Heaton and Jenny Tidwell, junior.

Jennings led the varsity boys getting eighth place at 15:44. Braedin Butler's, senior, time was 15:49, Palmer had 15:51, and Stetson Hohman, senior, came in at 15:53.

Weber was also well represented at state competitions. Lady Warriors placed ninth and had several runners finishing with great times: Lynzi Deeter-19:56; Heaton- 19:58; Jenny Tidwell-20:21; Steed-21:59; Amber Broderick-22:06; Jenna Johnson-22:24 and Rich-23:20.

For the boys, they placed seventh and also had great finishing records: Palmer-16:24; Jennings-16:33; Braedin Butler-16:34; Stetson Hohman-16:56; Kyler Hall-16:59; Talon Hull-17:24 and Carson Stromberg-17:47.

Freshman Eric Lee and Sophomore Weston Lee are excited to be a part of Weber's cross country team while they exercise with the team.

Photo by Levi Easley

Positive attitude, team unity strengthens Warriors

By **Alexis Rague**
Sports Editor

Sophomore Megan Price chases down a Northridge player in an attempt to steal the ball.

Photo by Levi Easley

With the 2013 Weber girls' soccer season coming to a close, these Warrior athletes have developed a strong bond as a team with a desire to improve.

The team set many goals at the first of their season. Captain Brittany Gardiner, senior, says one of the goals the team had was to make it to state and keep building their personal strength.

They played their first game on Aug. 13 where the Skyline Eagles beat the Warriors with a 5-1 win. However, despite this rough start, the Warriors were able to snatch four consecutive wins the following weeks; two of the wins being shutouts against Bonneville (2-0) and Morgan (4-0).

The Warriors then faced some tough losses the following weeks but were able to claim two more wins against Layton and a tie against Syracuse (3-3).

Despite not making it to state, the WHS girls were able to finish their season with an overall record of 8-7-1.

Coach Sheena Knight said the girls worked really hard during the season, focusing on their other goals like getting shutouts and scoring earlier in the game. "The outcome wasn't quite what we were aiming for, but we improved each game and never gave up on each other," said Knight.

Gardiner also said some of the things they worked on was ramping up their intensity and working out their weaknesses before games.

Captain Nikki Pittman, junior, added one of their flaws as a team was "letting other teams get in our heads," which really affected how the team played. However, Gardiner said despite their struggles, to win games, they were still a tight team with a lot of skills.

To work on their strengths for future seasons, Pittman said the girls put in countless hours of conditioning and fitness training, working on ball control and reviewing past games in order to improve.

Pittman added some of their strengths included having good ball control and aggression on the field. She also said the team worked really hard at practice and connected as a team.

"Our stats didn't show it, but we bonded and have a really talented team," she said.

Coach Knight agrees that one of the team's stronger aspects is their positive outlook and strong desire to improve. "I think our biggest strength was our ability to have fun together and to always keep a positive attitude."

"Keeping everyone positive, no matter what, bringing everyone together, whether win and lose as a team, are also important for teams," said Gardiner.

The team shared memorable moments while on the field. Some of Coach Knight's favorite coaching moments were, "getting to know the girls and to see how much they grow over the years."

One of Gardiner's favorite moments of the season was when they scored in the first 20 seconds against Viewmont. Pittman added her favorite personal experiences were when the whole team went to the football game together and also when they hung out at the Ultimate Indoor Stadium.

"This was my favorite year so far out of the three years I've been playing," says Pittman.

Working hard at practice and setting goals are just a few things the soccer team did to prepare for a season. Making memories and having fun are also ways the players created a stronger bond and a more focused team.

Sophomore Brooke Kendall is defending the ball by running down the field in a game against Northridge.

Photo by Levi Easley

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Golf team reflects on past season

By **Kierstin Pitcher**
Assistant to the Chief

While the golf season may have ended, the team's achievements and skills are preparing them for future competition.

"It went all right; we didn't achieve our goal of state, but our team will be really good next year because they've gained a lot of experience. Our young guys did really well," says senior Bobby Killpack.

Sophomore Tyler Chugg adds, "The season went well because we all practiced and put in the time." Keaton Farnsworth, senior, agrees, "We didn't do as well as we wanted, but we still pulled out some pretty good scores."

The team was able to compete at region on Oct. 1; however, Layton High beat them for a place at the state championships by four points.

"The season went well because we all practiced and put in the time."

Farnsworth says he improved his golfing skills this season by going into every tournament with a positive attitude and believing that he was going to win. "We weren't just out there to be out there, we were out there to win."

Killpack says he improved most in his skill by attending all the tournaments where in the past year he had only gone to a couple. He also adds he believes the team gained enough skill to have a shot at the region title next year. As a sophomore, Chugg is one of these newer members who were able to gain more experience that will help next year's team. "My scores dropped, and I helped the team a lot this year," Chugg says.

(From right to left) Juniors Alec Messerly and Lane Nielson and sophomore Bridger Norris pratice their strokes at the White Barn golf course.

Photo by Levi Easley

This year the Warriors also enjoyed having a close team and great coaches: Cory Woodland, Keaton Woodland and Arny Lockhart. Sophomore Bridger Norris says, "They [coaches] were awesome; they're the funniest people I know. They make it great; it wouldn't be the same without them."

Killpack also says that spending time with the team was his favorite part of the season because of how fun the group is. Junior Alec Messerly agrees saying, "We're [the team] like brothers, we all just have a lot of fun."

Chugg says the closeness of the team not only made it more fun but also allowed them grow in skill. "The team became better friends and felt comfortable talking to each other about stuff that we needed help with in improving our game," he says.

Though golfing can be a lot of fun, it does not come without difficulty. "It [golfing] takes a lot of mental preparedness. It helps you focus and realize that it's all on you, and you can't rely on other people," Farnsworth says. "Mental preparedness is being ready for the bad shots and expecting they're going to happen."

Killpack believes the hardest part of playing golf is "keeping your cool because if you make a little error, you can lose a lot of strokes. But if you keep your head, you can recover."

Chugg also describes golf as a mental game. "You have to always be confident and committed to your shot and if you don't, your game falls apart," he says.

Messerly disagrees saying that the most difficult part of golfing for him is the "practice and the time you have to put into it." Norris adds, "We had a pretty young team, so all the practice helps."

The players all love their sport for various reasons. Messerly says he likes golf because "my dad taught me, and so I've grown to love it since I was a baby." Norris has a different reason for playing golf. "I love it because it's calming and it's all you," he says.

Killpack says he would definitely recommend this sport to others because "it's a life-long sport, and you can play it after you retire." Chugg says he'd recommend it as well. "You can meet a lot of different kinds of people at the tournaments and you can play by yourself if you don't have a team."

Chugg also adds he is definitely playing golf next year. "Golf is my sport, and I'm looking to get a scholarship."

As winter begins,

Warriors head to local slopes

By **Alexis Rague**
Sports Editor

The current winter season is now in full swing, but what sort of season are boarders and skiers expecting in 2013/2014? Utah could have an interesting winter this year, but timing is everything. A few things have to go right to get the perfect snow for the season. Despite good or bad seasons, winter still gets people excited, especially for the ski/snowbording resorts.

Due to its amazing snowfall, Utah is known for its "Greatest Snow on Earth." Good weather and powder are both great contributors to an amazing season, but it's the enthusiasm of the skiers and snowboarders that brings the memories, experiences and competition to the slopes.

Aurianna Peart, senior, says to make it a great season, she is going to attempt new tricks and get up to the slopes more often. "My favorite winter sport is snowboarding," says Peart, who is starting this season as a beginner. "I like it because you can do a lot more tricks."

Although Peart is just beginning to learn how to board, she still finds boarding more fun than skiing. "I've tried both. When you ski, I feel like you just go fast, and that's fun, but I like snowboarding because of the tricks you can do."

However, Ali Nordhill, senior, disagrees and says skiing is her favorite winter sport. "I like skiing because I almost broke my elbow snowboarding." Nordhill says skiing is easier because she's more coordinated on skis.

"Skiing has poles to catch myself with. I have a fear of falling on a snowboard," Nordhill says.

Senior Wyatt Jones also agrees with Nordhill and says skiing has more control. "I kind of suck at having my feet stuck together on one board," he says.

To make their favorite winter sport better, these skiers and boarders go to places where they can be at their best and go with those who make their skiing and boarding experience more enjoyable. Nordhill enjoys skiing with her dad who teaches her new tricks. One of her favorite places to go skiing is Mount Bachelor in Oregon, or she spends her time at Snowbasin because her family goes there to get the best Utah snow for skiing.

Jones prefers to go night skiing and agrees Snowbasin is his favorite resort. "I like Snowbasin because they have good slopes, terrain parks and lots of powder," says Jones.

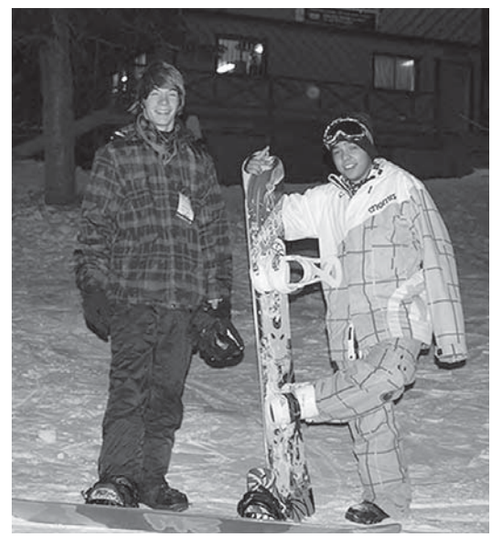
Peart likes to go to Powder Mountain because all her friends go there. "Just going up to the Powder Mountain slopes with friends is the best time to go," says Peart.

Most can agree that some of the best qualities of good boarding and skiing is to have a lot of fun and make new memories. One of Nordhill's most memorable moments was the first time she was able to ski all day without falling down. However, Peart remembers the time where she almost fell off the lift. "A random person had to help me out. But once I got up, I biffed it and ate snow,"

Jones has also had his fair share of biffs on the slopes, like his first crash on his skis. "Know how to stop," advises Jones to beginners.

Despite all the biffs and falls, skiing and snowboarding is still a favorite pastime among Utahns, and most people can't keep themselves off the slopes. "You can't take it too seriously," says Peart. "Just go out there and have fun. If you take it too seriously, then you're not going to have fun."

Trying, learning and sometimes failing, but also reaping the rewards from the experience is what makes skiers and boarders grateful for the winter season.



Juniors Joshua Vens and Tony Martinez enjoy their time snowboarding on Powder Mountain.

Photo by Elli May Kerr

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