



# WARRIOR NEWS

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## Clubs create enthusiasm, promote school spirit

By Joseph Pitman  
Editorial Editor

School is difficult, and this is no surprise to students. Summer ended and students, teachers and parents re-adapt their schedules and activities to the school schedule. Students begin to get overwhelmed with homework, class requirements and having to wake up early in the morning. Because of this the spirit of school begins to disappear as students lose themselves to stress. Luckily, there is a solution.

There are a vast number of clubs and groups from social support groups to sport teams. If students want to participate in something they like, chances are there is a club for it. Clubs can help students focus on specific goals, gain social skills, get college scholarships and have fun.

people.” As for FBLA, she says, “I think FBLA will be beneficial to my college acceptance and also in preparing for a career in the field of business.”

Davidson is just one of the many students participating in clubs to help expand her Weber experience; junior Baylee Bastron is part of FFA (Future Farmers of America), and has her own personal reason for joining. “My dad talked to me about FFA when I was little, and it has been my dream ever since then to be part of it.”

Bastron also recommends students get more involved with clubs and activities. “We get to do a lot of activities together, and you become very close and meet some really cool people from around the state as well from other states,” says Bastron.

Senior Micaela Duran agrees students should join clubs. “I think each [club] is beneficial in their own way,” says Duran. Duran is part of FBLA, DECA, MESA (Math Engineering and Science Achievement), and the National Honor Society. She has also joined the Feminism Group, Humans United and Speech and Debate Team.

“FBLA and DECA have provided me with skills of marketing, networking and business management. Debate has allowed me to become better at argumentation and developing ideas,” Duran says. She adds all three clubs have boosted her public speaking and confidence. “I have developed skills that will help me no matter what career field I choose,” says Duran.

“One of the main goals of FBLA is to prepare students for future business jobs,” says business teacher Alan Rawlins. “But even if they don’t go down that route, there are different things that FBLA can prepare students for in other jobs like public speaking and getting more comfortable with public speaking.” Members are also highly encouraged to preform service. “We do an annual service project every month of November. It is really just a way

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Sophomore Allison Jones learns more about HOSA from members Emma Blanch, Mykol Munns, and Sydney Moore.  
Photo by Annika Chapman



(Top left) Students scramble for ammo at Quarters and Cans dodgeball tournament. (Top right) Mary Pitt, Sandy Julander and Linda Peterson are served dinner by senior and FBLA student Bailey Davidson. The club served Thanksgiving dinner to over 200 senior citizens before they enjoyed the school musical, *Mary Poppins* (Bottom left) Representing the football team during the Quarters and Cans lip sync are juniors Carter Green, Brayton Bell, Cy Denny and Chase Campbell.

Photos by Derreck Gaedke, Sam Leake and Faith Lawrence

## Bringing Christmas cheer to those in need,

## Warriors raise money for charity, assist families

By Jaden Pratt  
Assistant to the Chief

Christmas is a time associated with giving, whether it is physical gifts, time or money. At Weber High, Quarters and Cans is one of the biggest opportunities for students and community members to give back to those in need.

Quarters and Cans is an annual fundraiser that helps over 12 families receive Christmas. Sommer Gallegos was a recipient of this Christmas gift 10 years ago when she was pregnant with her twins. “When Weber High School’s Quarters and Cans helped my family with Christmas, I was so grateful! The gifts were just beautiful. It gave me a chance to give my children a beautiful holiday. It showed me that there are still people in the community that care enough to share some holiday cheer and bring my children beautiful smiles,” said Gallegos.

Gallegos spoke of the Warriors help and how she remembers their kindness, saying, “They sent warm clothes and cute toys. And for my twins they sent all that newborns might need to be comfortable and

warm for their first Christmas! It was an amazing experience, and I appreciate how people that don’t even know us helped to bless us, a family that was in need.”

Last year’s Quarters and Cans was successful due to the generous donations of the students and community members. Mrs. Pearce, student government advisor, said, “We were able to write a \$9,000 check for Mrs. James daughter who was going through cancer treatments at the time, as well as a \$9,000 check for Hannah’s Hope, a suicide awareness foundation. We did Christmas entirely for 13 families as well.” Pearce added. There were also raffle baskets set up by the sophomore officers that included donated coupons, free meals, and even ski tickets from local businesses.

This year’s focus for Quarters and Cans is Greg Thorpe’s non-profit foundation. Mrs. Pearce, said, “We are helping the JUST-a-BREAK [Foundation] which lets families dealing with cancer have time away from dealing with cancer. Whether it’s a mini-vacation or a Jazz game or just dinner, whatever they are able to do time wise.”

The student officers are planning a variety of activities to involve all

Warriors as well as the community. Pearce says, “For this year’s Quarters and Cans we have our Ash Tray day, two Miracle Minutes and we have caroling. Sledding is also on the schedule but that depends on the Utah snow.”

Pearce added, “What we’re going to do that’s new, which we’re pretty excited about, is we’re go-

*“It was an amazing experience, and I appreciate how people that didn’t even know us helped to bless us, a family that was in need.”*

ing to have a charity garage sale in December in the commons that is open to the community. All items will be donated from our students and junior high students and the people in the area. We have everything to sell from furniture to video games to clothes, and we’ll advertise the sale all throughout Ogden.” The date of the sale was Dec. 8.

“We relied on students to donate stuff they didn’t use that was still nice enough that someone else

would want to use it and then to come and buy stuff themselves as well,” Pearce added

Another donation event that takes place during Quarters and Cans is the Weekend Warrior Food Packs drive. Mrs. Pearce said, “We donate at least \$1,000 to Weekend Warrior Food Packs. This helps kids go home with some food instead of being hungry. HOSA organized this drive.” Pearce added the school also has a food drive competition in classes to see how much food students can donate.

HOSA advisor Mrs. Bird said they additionally raised \$3,000 and 2,543 food items last year during Quarters and Cans. Bird added, “HOSA tries to be actively involved in all the Quarters and Cans activities, and so we try to be involved in the assembly, dodgeball and all activities going on including promotion, education and being a direct part of that.” HOSA is also in charge of the food collection and distributing the food into the food packs.

Since Quarters and Cans is an annual occurrence at Weber, it is

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Magical musical entertains audiences - Page 10



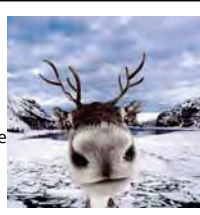
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Norwegian scientists hypothesized Rudolph’s red nose is the result of a parasitic infection of his respiratory system

The original reindeer were Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Dunder and Blixem.



Most of Santa’s reindeer are considered to be male reindeers; however, males shed their antlers around Christmas, so the reindeer pulling Santa’s sleigh are likely females.





Seniors Gage Slocum, Braden Hull and Becky Christensen talk about theatre department with students.

Photo by Annika Chapman

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to help students get job experience and give something back to the community,” Rawlins adds.

Another club many students participate in is HOSA (Health Occupations Student Association). “HOSA is a service-based club. We look at a lot of services we can do within the community,” says Health

**“The purpose of the club is to provide writers with a forum to work on any type of writing, anything they need support with.”**

Science teacher Melissa Powell. “It is a health sciences club, so we look towards service projects that will help both health-wise and science-wise.”

Powell also explains this is a good place for students looking for careers or positions in the health sciences. She adds not only does HOSA help the students learn their field, it can also help students get jobs and into college. “It gets a lot of service hours, and that always looks good on a resume and college applications,” says Powell.

A new recreational group at Weber High is the Star Trek Club.

“We basically are a group who just wanted to find others with the same interests,” says junior Enoch Wheeler. “It is for students and teachers who love Star Trek. We are a very small group and obviously not as popular as other groups, clubs, or sports,” he says, “but Star Trek can inspire us and it can bring people together with new ideas; it is focused a lot on science and philosophy.”

A popular group among aspiring writers is the Writers’ Club. The advisor of the club, English teacher Holly Leake, says, “The purpose of the club is to provide writers with a forum to work on any type of writing, anything they need support with.” There is also another purpose: “to have a group of people to create *Scripto*.” *Scripto* is Weber’s annual magazine full of works from different writers and artists. “It is a big process; from making the main scripts to making the selections to making the magazine itself,” says Leake.

However, Leake adds the club “really sponsors reading and companionship among writers. It [Writer’s Club] gives writers a space to socialize with other writers of their creative space.”

“It really is a good time,” says graduate Cambria Wicks. “We did a lot of random fun writing activities, and we got to make the magazine.”

(Additional reporting by Ashlyn Parmley)

# As cafeteria menu changes, School lunch strikes different opinions

By Kathleen Mejia  
News Editor

School lunch: students seem to either hate or love it. Every year the food guidelines change. Districts change the portions, calories and have new restrictions to follow. If students decide they don’t want school lunch, they have a couple other options: vending machines, home lunch, the school store or going somewhere else to eat.

According to Lisa Gunderson, school cook, schools in Weber District were not allowed to serve white pasta until recently. Other than that, most of the food is whole grain; however, every once in a while students may get a sweet dessert. “I wish they would release the guidelines a little more,” says Gunderson, who has been working at Weber High for over 12 years. “They could loosen up on the calories, get bigger portions and have more desserts,” she says.

Sheily Moreno, sophomore, adds, “The school lunch food portions are so little that you leave the cafeteria still hungry.” The food portions seem to be a problem for some of the students. Students can order two portions of the food if one portion is too little for them. Moreno also says she prefers the old menu. “It had better things; the food used to taste better,” she adds.

The flavor of the food is something else students don’t like about the present menu. “I don’t really like the school lunch because food either lacks salt or there isn’t any flavor,” says Moreno.

Loren Baguely, who has been a part of the cafeteria staff for over eight years, says she has an idea on why some students don’t like school lunch. “They want to eat more fast food because that’s what they are used to eating,” she says. Baguely also adds, “Here at the school we give students home cooked meals. We have plenty of food. For example, we used to offer Pizza Hut which only had two



Enjoying school and home lunch are juniors Cyrus Palmer, Noah Sowby and Brad Hawks. Photo by Marley Porter

flavors. Now we have over four different types of pizza.”

The cooks feel there are a lot of different choices from which the students can select. “The food quality is also very good,” says head cook Danette Cornell.

Schools that are part of the school lunch program have to meet pattern and nutrition standards. According to the Utah State Board of Education, “The recipes have been modified to reduce the fat, salt and sugar content of the school lunches. Items are reviewed and selected to improve the nutritional quality of the meals.”

All the meals the schools serve also have to meet the requirements in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans which was published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the USDA. It is not only Utah or the district that follow guidelines, it is all across America. The lunch staff need to follow the guidelines they are given by the state.

Not all comments about school lunch are bad, though. “I think that the school lunches look appetizing, and I’ve actually heard good things about them from my friends,” says sophomore Rebecca Peterson.

If school lunch isn’t preferred,

some go to vending machines at lunch time. Tommi Abbott, sophomore, says she doesn’t have time to eat cafeteria food. “I use the vending machines with snacks in them because it is easier than bringing lunch from home. If I’m going to stay after school like usual, it’s a quick and easy way to get something to sustain me through a couple hours of studying,” says Peterson. “I use the vending machines because they actually have

**“I wish they would release the guidelines a little more. They could loosen up on the calories, get bigger portions and have more desserts.”**

better things than the school,” adds Moreno.

Vending machines give students the opportunity to buy healthier snack options. Some students like to grab a quick snack in between classes, especially if they have second lunch. However, other students don’t use vending machines.

“I don’t like to spend my money,” says Sarah Martin, sophomore. “I [usually] eat home lunch or some snack because I don’t eat school lunch. It doesn’t look healthy or good,” she says.

Many students bring their own lunch from home, but that does require them to either wake up early in the morning or prepare it the night before. “I always look ahead. If there’s something I don’t like on the menu, I’ll bring my own lunch,” says Moreno.

Students can check ahead on the district’s website and see if they like what they are going to be served, or they can look at the TV screens in the cafeteria and see the lunch for the whole week.

There are also students who race to their cars and eat off campus. Lunch lasts 35 minutes, and since it is longer than most schools, students can eat somewhere other than Weber.

Another source of food for teens is the school store. The store offers a variety of food for students. They sell chocolates, Arizona drinks and Ramen Noodles for only \$1 each. Warm chocolate chip cookies are also sold for 50 cents each. The store will also sell hot chocolate during the winter months.

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# Seniors prepare college applications

By Jacob Spainhower  
News Editor

Senior year is the last year of schooling before students jump into the real world. This period of time is when young adults are pressured with college application deadlines, remedial work and trying to earn scholarships. For some, school is over with, but others will carry on afterward for a number of years. While to some people life after high school may seem complicated and nerve-racking, there are certain advantages to graduation.

According to former WHS student, Chase Berglund, graduates tend to have more time on their hands. "It's nice to be able to sleep in since I don't have to come to school at 7 a.m.," Berglund is able to work on his truck with his father during the day instead of spending the majority of his time at school. "I'm glad I finished strong and can do what I want and need to do these days," says Berglund.

Many students visualize what life will be like after high school. Some are considering a LDS mission, others plan on heading straight to college and some are even considering serving in the military. Whatever their plan may be, graduation comes first. "Your life begins here," says WHS counselor Wes Johnson. "The decisions you make here in high school will affect the rest of your life," he adds.

Senior Bryson Farley says he is making ambitious choices for his future. Farley will attend Snow College in Ephraim to pursue a degree in commercial music. "I'd really like to write, sing and produce my own music," says Farley.

It may be difficult for some people to admit, but some of the



**Southern Utah University ambassador talks to students on College Day.**

Photo by Megan Eldredge

best memories in life are the ones made during high school. Teachers assure students that their recollections of sitting in class, bored out of their minds, will fade away, but the memories made while getting involved and having school spirit will last for a lifetime. "It's a shame knowing this is my last year of high school," says senior Breanna Michel. "I'm really going to miss seeing my friends every day and having a blast with them at dances and other school activities," she adds.

Farley agrees and says he enjoyed attending football games, the Homecoming dance and FFA (Future Farmers of America) meetings. "We should make the most out of these three years we have here; they'll be over before we know it," adds Michel.

According to WHS counselor Jen Paige, over 400 Weber High students have applied for college so far this year. Many of these early applicants were rewarded by a waived application fee to the college they applied for. However, some students remain indecisive about their college or career choice. Fortunately for them, Weber offers a plethora of information, programs and scholarship opportunities. Military recruiters appear periodically throughout the year to enlighten those who have interest in serving

in the armed forces. The counselors are also happy to guide students toward a successful career. "We're here for you [students], whether you need to figure out how to fill out a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or determine what classes you should take in college," says Paige.

One thing counselors encourage seniors to take advantage of is the annual College Day at Weber. On this day, seniors are given the opportunity to interact with ambassadors from colleges throughout the state. It is a day to gather information about colleges that students may be considering. Ambassadors do their best to answer any questions a student may have about their college.

"College Day is pretty important; I'd advise that all seniors attend," says Paige. "It will help you to plan financially and you'll have a general idea of what to expect when you set foot on campus."

Students also concur College Day is beneficial. "I feel a bit more sure about what I'm going to do my post high school life," says Farley. He adds the representatives bring their message across in a clear, concise manner, and students who attend College Day leave with a clearer image of what they plan to do in the future.

# FBLA members anticipate future, compete at Utah State competition

By Lexi Olsen  
Staff Reporter

In high school there are many different clubs and organizations that students can join. FBLA, also known as Future Business Leaders of America, is one club that not only offers fun social activities, but it also gives teens a chance to find their future careers.

Advisor of the club Mr. Rawlins says, "Joining FBLA allows students to gain experience in fields they are interested in pursuing for the future. Through competition and teamwork, these students come together to compete against other schools."

Senior Tatijana Stewart has witnessed these benefits. "It is through

***"For me, it has really helped me overcome my fear of public speaking and has shown me that I can really succeed in the marketing aspects of business."***

FBLA that I have improved my presentational and organizational skills," she says. "I have also learned how to be more assertive and direct when claiming something. This can translate into real life because with job interviews, application interviews or even in the workplace, you want to be good at communicating, and FBLA really helps you prepare for that."

With FBLA, students also learn different ways to increase their knowledge in business related fields. "I love FBLA. I have been doing it every year of my high school career," says Micaela Duran, senior. "For me, it has really helped me overcome my fear of public speaking and has shown me

that I can really succeed in the marketing aspects of business."

Along with Duran, senior Kambria Smith feels FBLA has helped her accomplish things that other kids are otherwise too scared to even try. "We get up in front of a bunch of strangers and compete. That is something that takes practice because most people have stage fright," she adds.

Along with the competition aspect of FBLA, students gain a perspective on what managing and maintaining a business is like and then use that information in competitions. There are other events students can enter in that are loosely tied to business such as graphic design, sports marketing and entertainment marketing.

Sophomore Jackson Smith says, "I did sports and entertainment marketing because I just thought it would be fun since I enjoy watching sports and wanted to experience what it would be like to market for certain sports and see what ones are tougher to advertise."

Along with Smith, Stewart and Duran also look forward to competitions. "Micaela and I chose to do business ethics two years ago because the topic was pretty interesting and the event seemed straightforward," said Stewart. "Last year, we picked the graphic design event because we couldn't do business ethics again. I couldn't compete with that when it came to nationals, so Micaela had a different partner, and they ended up winning seventh in the nation for graphic design."

Every fall, FBLA has their first competition at Utah State University. At this competition the students have a small taste of what these competitions are like. Mr. Rawlins says, "There are really no qualifications for the competition other than making sure you have a goal in mind and are mentally ready to overcome that fear of second guessing yourself." Smith adds, "I was very thrilled to go to my first competition at Utah State. I chose to do entrepreneurship because I

was taking the class, so I already knew some of the aspects to it. I want to be an entrepreneur in the future, so going to these competitions and gaining that practice and experience is really going to help me succeed."

At the USU competition, 20 Warriors received several awards: Public Speaking I – Koby Pack, sophomore, and Natali Gonzalez, sophomore, took first; Business Law – Smith, senior, took first; Public Speaking II – Greg Boisvert, senior, Gabi Mortarotti, senior, and Alexandria Foos, junior, took third; Impromptu Speaking – Alexandria Foos received third; Computer Applications – Spencer Anderson, junior, won first and Braydn Linke, junior, took second; Marketing Team Test and Case Study Role Play – Duran and Stewart placed

***"There are really no qualifications for the competition other than making sure you have a goal in mind and are mentally ready to overcome that fear of second guessing yourself."***

third; Networking Concepts – Brandon Foos, junior, took second; Word Processing – Brittanny Hall, sophomore, won second; Business Communications – Stewart placed second; and Emerging Business Leaders – Foos and Linke received third.

With trying to start any new activity, there are always pros and cons. However, FBLA Warriors encourage more students to join the club. Sophomore Taylor Laing says, "FBLA allows anybody with a strong goal in mind and determination to achieve it. This club allows us to mentally and physically prepare for what the real world can hold for us kids who are interested in business."

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# Advice given on safety for road

By Isaac Driggs  
Staff Reporter

More and more teens are driving every day. This means the chances for accidents are increase. Teens are required to take an 18-hour long driver's education course in order to obtain a license. This includes six hours of driving and observing with an instructor. Even with all the instruction, teenagers like to have fun, but this fun can be dangerous, especially while driving. Playing loud music, texting and messing around with friends are just a few of the many distractions that can cause problems.

Miller Toliver, junior, recently got his license. Toliver has witnessed distracted driving habits. "I see texting mostly; anything to do with a phone and changing music, too," he says. Toliver adds things can happen in a flash when driving. "Taking your eyes off the road for even a second can result in problems," says Toliver.

Mr. Caldwell, a driver's education teacher, says distractions can lead to disaster. "Kids are listening to music loud and dancing, being distracted and not looking around," he says. He also adds driving can be a social thing for teenagers, despite how dangerous it is. "It is an event in a kids' lives when they get their license for both them and their friends. Buckle up every day and try not to let your friends or phone distract you," he says.

"Phones, music and friends are all the distractions I see most," says Trevor Ward, another driver's education teacher. "I also see a lack of fear. Kids don't think bad things can happen to them." Ward tells new drivers to look for safety tips and how to avoid danger. "Follow the rules, drive where you're most



Driving skills are practiced on the Weber High driving range.

Photo by Annika Chapman

comfortable and build up to the freeway," Ward says.

Driver's education instructor Bart Poll adds there are things students should do when driving. "Pay attention 100 percent on the road and not to your friends or anything else," he says.

There is also a Utah law that states new drivers cannot drive with anyone outside of their family for six months after getting their license. However, when teens get their license, the new drivers often want to take friends around and have fun. Toliver admits he drove with friends before he should have. "It's hard because people need rides or you want to go somewhere with friends," he says.

Ward knows teens don't follow this rule. "Parents don't know or don't care. It's dangerous because boys like to show off and girls will get caught up in conversation and it adds to the risk of crashing."

"No, new drivers don't follow the rule," agrees Caldwell. "I don't think parents understand the rule."

Poll tries to have his drivers understand this law. "Students drive with other students which is illegal for six months after obtaining one's license, but they do it anyway. They also play on their phones and it's dangerous," says Poll.

Another concern for new drivers is poor weather. Ward says Utah's winter roads can be very dangerous. "Slow down, when you start to slide; look where you want to go, not where you might hit," he says.

Toliver says to deal with snow and ice, make sure drivers have a

good vehicle. "I have four wheel drive and snow tires, so for me it's not too hard. Students should invest in something for their car to deal with the conditions," he suggests.

"Drive only as fast as the conditions will allow you to. Slow down even in rain," advises Caldwell.

Poll tells drivers when the weather may make driving difficult, "plan ahead before going out. Don't assume there is going to be good weather because that can change in a heartbeat; slow down," he says.

To get ready for a teen's driving future, they can sign up for driver's education through the WHS office. The fee is \$130 and students must have their learner's permit prior to registration. Weber High offers a three-part driver's education course: theory, range, and road. Students will complete 27 hours of classroom instruction. In theory, students learn the written rules of the road and how to follow them.

After theory, students will then practice driving on the range. They will use basic skills in a parking lot with their instructor before practicing on public roads.

Finally, students go to road. This is where the students spend time learning how to drive better. Half of the student's time is spent observing other student's drive and the other half is driving. After the course is completed, students can take their driver's test and obtain their license.

Driver's education is required for all new drivers, and a license cannot be obtained without completion of the course.

# Aspiring to mentor, New faculty prepares to educate

By Jaden Ficklin  
Staff Reporter

Along with the new sophomores roaming Weber's halls, there are also many new faculty members. Joining the staff are Mrs. Kelson, Mr. Godfrey, Mrs. Saunders and a new librarian, Mrs. Slater. The added faculty are excited and prepared to participate at Weber High.

Mrs. Kelson, biology teacher, is ecstatic to teach Warriors. "I've loved it; the students are great! Well prepared and ready to learn," she said.

Kelson was inspired to teach because of her passion for biology as well as being in a school where her senior child presides. When Mrs. Kelson attended Weber High, she admired Jan Keim, history, and Gail During, math, who were teachers then. She added they were great mentors, too.

While Kelson does not currently participate in any school clubs, she is looking forward to becoming more involved with any WHS activities. Her hobbies include skiing, camping and boating.

A quote Mrs. Kelson respects is "Never stand begging for that which you have the power to earn." She likes the principle "We can earn whatever we have the power to seek for." Her favorite movie is *The Lord of the Rings* series, and her favorite book is *The Da Vinci Code*.

The new librarian Mrs. Slater looks forward to helping students find good books and any information they might need. She was also inspired to work at Weber High and help all students. "Weber has been great. I love the students and teachers. It's really a great community," she says. She also participates in the school book club.

Mr. Godfrey, another WHS graduate, is a new English teacher who wanted to work at Weber High because of the "astounding environment" it has. "I love the students," says Mr. Godfrey.

Mr. Godfrey also helps spot/an-

nounce in the football games, and is considering helping out with the track team. His hobbies include all sports. He likes to watch, as well as play, football and basketball. He also enjoys being with his family, which includes his dog named Maggie. She is a maltipoo (a mix of the Maltese and Poodle).

Teachers he admires include Mr. Rawlins and Mrs. Stettler. He took their classes when he attended Weber High as a student. "Mr. Rawlins was a dear friend growing up and a close mentor," he said.

As far as Godfrey's favorite books, he enjoys *To Kill a Mockingbird*, which he added he enjoyed before becoming a teacher and *South Africa: Cry Beloved Country*. He includes his favorite movies are *Captain America: Civil War*, and *Remember the Titans*. He liked *Titans* because of the message it conveyed.

Mrs. Saunders, a WHS graduate, is looking forward to teaching. "Beyond words, all good words," she said about being at Weber.

When Mrs. Saunders attended Weber, she also admired several of her teachers including English teachers Mrs. Reyna, Mrs. Nielsen and Mrs. Stettler; art teachers Mr. Wilding and Mr. Larsen; history teacher Ms. Luncford; and math

teachers Mrs. Heiter, Mrs. Barney and Mrs. Kloempken. She has a passion for art and English and was motivated by her art teachers and English teachers as well as the other great people who have aided her.

Her favorite book is *Harry Potter*, while her favorite movies include *Lord of the Rings* and *Howl's Moving Castle* because of the impressive art in the film. Her favorite book is *The Count of Monte Crist*. Her favorite quote is "Och, wheest an get oan we aie" (Oh, shush and get on with it).

Another thing she enjoys about Weber is the school spirit she sees when she hears the "How does it feel to be a Warrior" shout. She elaborates by telling a story about when Weber actually had a knight in shining armor riding on a horse and charging on the football field. That's when she felt enchanted to be a Warrior.

In her free time, Mrs. Saunders likes writing, painting, drawing, lacrosse, spending time outdoors and hiking. She also enjoys Book Club, which she helped create when she was a WHS student. Another group she likes is Writer's Club. She looks forward to all the experiences that she will have at Weber High. "Go Warriors!" says Mrs. Saunders.



Mrs. Saunders assists junior Brooklyn Otto with her questions about a book she is reading.

Photo by Natali Gonzalez

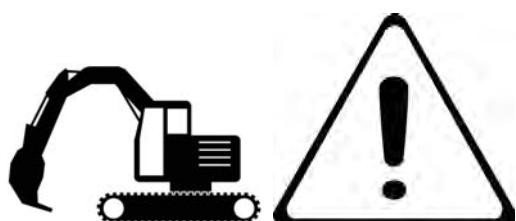
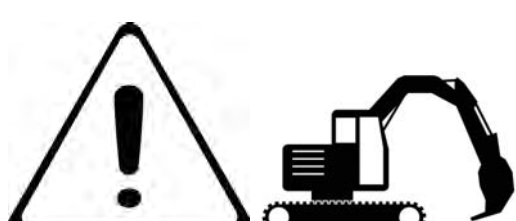
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# TEACHER FEATURE

By Natali Gonzalez  
Staff Reporter

Most people haven't transported \$30,000 in a duffle bag, but art teacher Mr. Larsen isn't like most people. He has served in the army and lived in so many places that he has a hard time keeping track. This includes everywhere from Missouri and Washington to Korea and Iraq. Mr. Larsen served in an intelligence officer unit and was in charge of a platoon of people in that field. It was one of these military jobs that brought him to the duffle bag. His job was to pick up the cash for linguistics at a corporation. Mr. Larsen had the money in the bag sitting on the passenger seat as he drove the same distance a person would go from Ogden to Provo, all on his own. He says he made himself a fast moving target by going as fast as the car would go. This incident took place in Iraq where he says his service time was the toughest. "It was really hot, dusty and miserable. We didn't do much there, we were really working for a corporation because they really didn't have a mission for us," says Mr. Larsen.

The best memories from this time are the people he was with. Mr. Larsen also says he liked traveling around the world, seeing new things and meeting new people. His life hasn't been all excitement. "I hated high school," he says. "I was a total nerd. It was hard for me." Growing up in Wyoming, he adds, everyone was either a jock or a loser. "I was known as a loser, but when college came around, everything became better," Mr. Larsen says. The lack of cliques in college caused him to be more confident and easy going. Mr. Larsen was able to attend Weber State University and study all types of art. It was Mr. Larsen's cousin who suggested he apply to be a teacher at Weber High. Mr. Larsen is now an art and AP Art History teacher. His favorite part of teaching is the students. He knows Warriors care and their dedication helps him be better at what he does. Sophomore Kylie Roberts says "Mr. Larsen's passion is his best quality because this helps create interest with the students. He teaches us to try new things and think outside the box." Another noteworthy teacher is



Art teacher Mr. Larsen gives junior Abigail Schwamm advice on her upcoming assignment.

Photo by Emily Suisse



Assisting junior Joe Storey who is working on his English assignments is Mrs. Leake.

Photo by Megan Eldredge

English instructor Mrs. Leake. Regarding her career, she says, "I sort of accidentally fell into it." Mrs. Leake wanted to do something she loves, and she loves stories. She teaches AP Language and Composition, Creative Writing, English 11 honors and standard English 11. Mrs. Leake is also head of the Writers Club. In the group, they discuss their recent personal writing, then give each other advice and feedback for each person's work. A member of the group, sophomore Emma Flattery, says Mrs. Leake's best writing advice is "just do it and don't get flustered when it doesn't come out the way you want it." Flattery also adds that Mrs. Leake helps them individually by giving advice, resources and feedback. Away from Weber, Mrs. Leake leads a girl scout troop of high school aged girls, an activity she has been participating in for 10 years. She was a girl scout for 11 years and became a leader when her daughter was interested in it. She said the girls always provide

each other with individual support for their personal activities, from going to *Nutcracker* performances to plays at St. Joseph High School. Currently, Mrs. Leake is leading a fundraiser with junior girl scouts where they are raising money to pay for traveling expenses. Junior Elizabeth Hatch has been in Mrs. Leake's troop for six years. She says Mrs. Leake has shown her what being a girl scout is all about: kindness, honesty, respect and courage. Hatch also adds, "One thing I have learned from her is the value of hard work specifically, how to accomplish anything I put my mind to." Mrs. Leake also has an unusual collection of rubber ducks. She thinks they're "cute and fun with a personality," says Leake. That's the reason she started collecting; each duck is unique. She has been collecting for 10 years and has over 100 different ducks. They're placed around her classroom like above the doorway. She also likes giving these ducks away to her students.



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## Tips given to stay safe while driving in winter

By Dallas Martinez  
Staff Reporter

Winter is coming and with winter comes snow. Snow is pretty and elegant looking until it is on the roads. Then it can become quite dangerous. Some of the dangers that can occur from winter, "icy roads, snow storms, fog, slush, plows, winter conditions and black ice can be extremely dangerous situations," said Driver's Education teacher Mr. Larsen. Mr. Ward, Driver's Education teacher, adds another danger is "people drive like the roads are not wet." Mr. Shaffer, mechanics teacher, agree and adds, "One of the dangers of winter driving is crazy people sliding off the roads or sliding into someone else." While spending hours on the road watching drivers, school resource police officer Robbie Done says, "Some dangers of winter driving are speeding and following too close." With all of these dangers, there are ways these situations can be handled or avoided. One solution officer Done suggests is "Try to go five under the speed limit if you can." He also adds, "Wherever you are going, give yourself plenty of time. Leave early, slow down and keep your distance between vehicles. Keeping a safe distance will slow down half of our accidents." He also repeats, "Always five under, that's my motto!" Mr. Larson says his safety tips include "Watching the weather, make sure you leave 5, 10, 15, or 20 minutes earlier to get to wherever you have to go. Slow down! Understand going a few miles per hour reduction in your speed is going to make you a lot safer on the roads." His last advice is to clean off the windshield from ice and snow. Mr. Ward agrees planning time will help when driving. He also suggests "Make sure your car is ready to drive, your tires are good, a full tank of gas and make sure you have everything you need ready before hand." One of the things Mr. Shaffer said is a winter road danger are icy roads, and people running into other cars. He also says, "The best thing to do is take a minute to practice driving in the snow or on the ice. Get out into a parking lot where nobody else is and practice. Do not practice on the roads. I think it is important to go out and do a donut here and there, so you know how it feels and how to react so you do not freak out when that time comes." Officer Done also tells people when their car is sliding, "let your foot off the gas, do not push your brakes and just steer with it. Do not over correct it. You have to steer with your skid." Some ways that can help prepare a car for winter weather is proper maintenance. Mr. Larsen says, "Your car should be checked probably every three to six months. You want to make sure your winter tires are on. Make sure you have wiper fluid." He also suggests people have an ice scraper in the car, gloves and a coat in the back of the car or in the trunk in case the car breaks down. Officer Done adds one's car should have "Winter tires, chains, checked air pressure, windshield wiper fluids and working windshield wipers." He also says that people should have windshield wiper fluid because it helps remove all the salt build up and remove the grime on the car.



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# Kaepernick’s anthem protest becomes integral in modern rights movement

It’s been in the news for months: Colin Kaepernick, quarterback of the San Francisco 49ers, and many other players in the NFL, are taking knees during the national anthem. What started as one man making a stand has spread to sidelines across America, both pro and otherwise.

There is a lot of controversy surrounding the act of taking a knee during the playing of “The Star Spangled Banner.” Some people said the protest to be just about the most unpatriotic and disrespectful thing a person can do. I don’t agree; I can see how this conclusion can be reached, but I think the context of the act is extremely important in deciding whether or not this is as unpatriotic as it’s said to be.

To me, the decision Kaepernick made to kneel was the bravest one he’s made. He’s a professional football player with a huge platform, and to solely decide to make a stand like he has is a big deal. Of course, that doesn’t make any of the other players who have followed in his footsteps any less brave; but to have the guts to even start something like this is amazing.

I also respect that nobody has once wavered in what this peaceful protest means to the people who are participating in it. For those who were too caught up in the “audacity of not standing during the national anthem,” Kaepernick said he took a knee because he was “not going to stand for a country that oppresses black people and people of color.” He also stated, “This is bigger than football, and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way.”

If there are some wondering what “this” is, Kaepernick is referring to the countless murders of black people at the hands of police officers. I think this is the perfect example of what to do when you’re on a platform this big and notice something affecting your community in such a strong, negative way. I think Kaepernick’s protest has been a humbling experience for a lot of

famous people who don’t speak up about hardships faced by specific groups of people for fear of losing status. The fearlessness with which Kaepernick has approached this is astounding.

I think many people have mistaken this protest as only a personal thing. As in, the players are kneeling because they feel personally oppressed. That’s not the case, No amount of money exempts one from oppression and racism. If it’s going to find you, it will. No, these players are simply pointing out there is a clear problem in the way people are being treated. While I do hold loads of respect for the players protesting, I am disheartened to notice that it took millionaires kneeling to



bring to light the injustice of civilians being killed. There is plenty of outcry from the black community every time there is another hashtag trending, but if millionaires kneeling is what it took, so be it. Better it be noticed late than never. That being said, the protest Kaepernick started is not limited only to the NFL. Pee wee and high school teams are also kneeling during the national anthem in solidarity. The growth of the movement will only help strengthen the cause of this protest.

I also think the importance of this protest is only strengthened by the negative response towards it. Kaepernick, and many of the other pros who have joined him have been met with a lot of hate;

from simple harassment to threats of violence and even death. Some of the arguments used to justify that harassment are also lacking. People have said these players are disrespecting their country, which doesn’t hold up when it’s a peaceful protest that is protected by the constitution. There have been people (civilians, mostly) who say our military doesn’t fight for people to just kneel while our national anthem is playing. However, on the other side, there have been veterans who say that’s exactly what they fight for: the right for people to speak their minds and hold their beliefs firm without fear.

I believe a lot of the disgruntled behavior towards this situation is because of a lack of understanding of the actual issue. This behavior isn’t necessarily a bad thing, nor is it the fault of those people who are upset with the idea of kneeling during the national anthem. But it’s important to know that some things and situations don’t apply to you. Hate to break it, but not everyone is feeling the same apprehension and fear towards police and authority as black people are right now. And I think that has a lot to do with whether a person sees this as good or bad stand to take.

I think the act Kaepernick started is a great step towards safety and equality for everyone. I also hope this protest is met with the seriousness it deserves. I don’t think the protest is just a trend, which is what some people have chalked this up to. I believe the protest has been a great way to bring light to the injustices people are facing. I also believe it is important to look more into the actual reasoning for this protest; people have gotten too caught up in just the kneeling part of it all with no real consideration for the underlying causes of the protest.

By **Siera Rose**  
*WHS Senior*

# Teens take advantage of internet; social media is useful resource

Everyone has heard the adults’ side of the story in regards to using the internet with safety and precaution, but I feel like the positive side of social media isn’t often talked about.

There is an unfair amount of news articles that paint teenagers as reckless air-heads who are helpless in the face of new technology. Ask yourself, when was the last time you saw a positive message about teenagers and the internet? That’s right, it isn’t that common. For example, it’s easy to come across an article titled, “While Other Teens Are Playing with the New Snapchat Filters, This 13-Year Old Created a Time Machine.” What is the point of writing about a tale of ingenuity if you’re going to generalize all teenagers into this degraded category that makes them out to be lazy for just using the internet to have a good laugh? It’s time to close the door on judgement and open our eyes to the advantages of social media.

Many find the public education system rarely touches on concepts such as feminism, cultural appropriation, racial discrimination...etc. There is still a majority of teenagers who don’t expand their knowledge on social issues because they don’t think it effects them, or they think what’s being taught in school are the only things they will ever need to know. Twitter has served as a tool to help people read about other’s experiences with injustice or inequality, especially when it doesn’t make the news. Also, the internet contains information about important topics that aren’t normally discussed in a classroom.

Adults claim teens are rendered illiterate from spending hours online but because of the internet, we are living in a time where the youngest generation is striving for a better world. As teenagers, we feel the need to act out, but we usually don’t do it through violent and foolish actions. Instead, we rebel by having more knowledge than our authorities.

Sharing original content online

has proven to help bring someone’s art into the world. It has the capability to attract an audience full of people who love the work, want to collaborate and have business offers. The quickest way to find inspiration is by looking up things you are interested in online.

Life-long friends from all over the world have been made through social media; an unbreakable bond created through common interests



**Using the internet for classes are seniors Jake Whitaker, Nicolaus Bennett and Darek Heaton.**

Photo by Faith Lawrence

and passions. I find meeting online friends is fantastic because it avoids the boring, small-talk based aspects of meeting someone for the first time. This online pal is already familiar with your background and sense of humor, so it makes it easier to just dive right into having fun.

Being a teenager comes with what feels like a life time’s worth of angst and dealing with it can be pretty tricky. Sometimes parents, best friends, counselors and teachers just don’t get it. In the online world, nobody is alone. There are a million other teenagers who offer great support systems and can relate to how you’re feeling. The internet practically encourages youth to take care of themselves!

Websites like *Rookie Magazine*, an online publication for teenage girls, offer advice to those in need. They even include a web series called “Ask a Grown Woman/Man,”

where a special celebrity guest sits down and answers the questions that were submitted to *Rookie*.

Cell phones today are like having a small computer in the palm of your hand and that’s awesome! You can communicate, fact-check, read, document your life...the list is endless. It’s interesting when adults or grandparents ask for help on computers because it further proves that being dependent on technology

isn’t a bad thing. Not everyone can afford to enroll their kids into a class that teaches them how to play instruments, karate or even how to juggle. Nobody should feel restricted from trying to pursue something they deeply care about. This is why YouTube has a growing community full of people who upload free lessons. It’s 2016 and this means there is a tutorial for almost anything.

At the end of the day, whether you would like to accept it or not, social media has had an enormous impact on our culture, business and, honestly, the world at large. It’s a massive tool to be positively used in a million different ways. It’s not too late to think creatively and give in to this new digital world full of real life opportunities.

By **Lily Davis**  
*WHS Senior*



By **Taylor Galusha**  
*Assistant to the Chief*

Christmas is a magical time. The change in the weather, the bustling crowds of people and the lights add to a different feeling when compared to any other times of the year. Lately, though, it feels like we have lost sight of what Christmas is really about. Yes, getting presents is fun. For lots of people, it’s probably the best part, but is that really the most important part?

Christmas is a celebration of joy, kindness and hope. It’s a time of year when we think about those who matter to us. It’s a time to be connected to friends and family and spend time with them. People who are far away often come back home. The feelings around Christmas are indescribable, but they are feelings of calmness and hope for a better world. At least it was at one point. Those feelings have changed. Christmas is commercialized and it seems like its main purpose is selling overpriced toys. It’s about the things under the tree instead of enjoying those who are sitting with you.

We have become so focused on “what do I want?” and “I wonder

what I’m getting this year?” We’ve completely forgotten about “what we could give to someone else.” I admit I’ve done this too, but what we are getting shouldn’t be our focus. Our focus should be the people we care about. I’m not saying go out and buy people extravagant gifts; just let them know that they matter to you.

Christmas isn’t about impressing your neighbors with the lights on your house, baked goods, snow or ugly sweaters. Christmas is about love, kindness, charity, hope and believing. The true meaning of Christmas isn’t something you can buy packaged at the store. It’s something you must find within yourself. We live in a time of doom and gloom. We are always waiting for the next bad thing to happen and maybe that’s why Christmas feels different. We’ve stopped believing in the good. We’ve stopped believing in hope, charity and kindness of humanity, and we don’t do anything to change that distrust we have. We don’t believe in people’s ability for kindness anymore, but why would we? We are too focused on ourselves and our presents.

Christmas time either brings out the best or worst in people. There are the people who are trying to bring peace on earth, good will to

men. People are collecting money, canned goods, toys and anything else imaginable for those in need. They are being nice in general, but then there are also those who are so stressed for this picture-perfect Christmas that they lose sight of what they are searching for. They want to look back and remember this perfect moment, but I think we all forget the best Christmas memories are the imperfect ones that just sort of happened.

Maybe if we shift our focus on the holidays away from the commercialization, and we focus more on people we will realize the true meaning of Christmas. When we remember those who need help and the people we most care about, then the real feelings of Christmas will come. The hope for a better world will also come.

In the wise words of Dr. Seuss, “Maybe Christmas doesn’t come from the store, maybe perhaps Christmas means a little bit more.” What’s under the tree is not the important part of the holiday. In five years, ten years or twenty years from now what was under the tree is not what will matter. What will matter are the people who were around the tree with you, and those who you may have served in a special way.

# Proactive measures still needed, bullying prominent school issue

Bullying is a problem that has plagued schools for generations. From retaliation to ignoring it, sometimes it feels like all of the responses have been tried and are unsuccessful.

The stereotypical in person, face to face conflict may seem obsolete, but it’s more common than one would think. There’s a lot of aggression between teens that doesn’t have a reason (not that aggression is ever advisable). The point is that it happens. Just because we don’t see bullying doesn’t mean it’s not there.

Additionally, a rising-menace is cyber-bullying. This happens more often, and teens often get away with it more. There’s something about the perceived anonymity of the internet that causes people to be unnecessarily rude or aggressive and makes it more likely to go unpunished.

We should all be informed of the school’s district’s policy, as every year we watch a video in bullying, hazing and the like. Yet, bullying continues to be a growing issue.

Even though we yearly watch the video, it seems like nothing ever changes, and it boggles my mind. How long are we willing to let bullying be an issue? How long must

our fellow classmates suffer before we do something? It’s up to us to do something about this. We might think that just because we aren’t actively bullying people, it’s enough. But it isn’t. We need to be proactive and do something about this. It’s up to us to report something we see happening. It’s up to us to look out for people. It’s up to us to set a good example, and we just need to treat other decent human beings like decent human beings.

Sometimes the line between hurting someone’s feelings and just having fun can seem really vague. In the school’s policy it says, “The difference between having good-natured fun and harassment is how it makes the other person feel, no matter what the intent.”

What we say and do leaves an impact on people, bigger than we know or realize. Our words mean so much, and it’s time we start doing more.


Kindness is one of the simplest and one of the most powerful things that can be done. I know high school can be hard sometimes. There’s always more to a situation than meets the eye. We almost never know the full story behind a given situation or person. Now understand, I’m not condoning bullying,

hazing, aggression or any of the like. I’m merely trying to illustrate a bigger picture. More often than not, a bully is projecting, taking ill feelings, insecurities or aggression from their own life and diffusing it by pushing it onto others.

Obviously, there are better ways to deal with these internal tensions. Reaching to a problem’s roots is the only way to effectively and hopefully permanently resolve it. Pushing these feelings onto others might provide temporary relief, but it won’t last; it can’t last. And in that process, someone else is put down.

I honestly don’t think it would be that hard to eliminate bullying behavior. This is something basic, something we’re all taught in elementary school: treat others the way you want to be treated. The way someone looks, how they behave, what they did, what they said, how that made us feel, none of it matters. None of it is worth putting ourselves and that other person in a worse place. Bullying hurts the perpetrator and the victim. It’s time we stop this senseless aggression and start seeking real, tangible resolutions to our problems.

By **Natalie Andrus**  
*WHS Senior*

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Quarters and Cans  
continues from page 1

considered as a worthwhile holiday fundraiser. Bird said, “I think it’s an important cause because it allows students to be involved in what needs the community has. It makes you guys [students] aware that there are families without food, and without things for the holidays. It impacts the community in a way that can help without knowing who we’re helping but knowing we’re making our community better and stronger.”

Pearce added, “I think Quarters and Cans has a big impact on the community. People call and ask for help well before we actually start doing anything [for the actual fundraiser]. We like to make as much of an impact toward a more positive outlook that time of year for as many of the students that are in the Weber cone as possible.”

Giving and volunteering is a major aspect of Quarters and Cans. Pearce added, “One of the best things that people can do to help better society in general is to look outside themselves and help somebody else. We’ve been doing that at

Weber High for over 30 years.” Mr. Rawlins, computer teacher and FBLA advisor, is in charge of an activity that occurs annually as well, the Senior Citizens Dinner. They have about 280 senior citizens come and eat a full Thanksgiving dinner. After they eat, guests watch the school musical. This year they watched *Mary Poppins*. “Students can usually volunteer by listening for the announcements or by asking anyone belonging to FBLA,” Rawlins said.

“I think the biggest thing at these senior citizen dinners that make it so fun is seeing the students interact with the senior citizens,” added Rawlins. “The younger generation really can learn a lot from the older generation and serving them and getting to know them really is a benefit for both generations. I think people should partake in any volunteer event just because it’s giving of yourself; you’re becoming selfless instead of selfish.”

While volunteering is considered a way to give to the community in a humbling, self sacrificial way, many colleges also ask for volunteer hours to be completed while applying to their school.

The Golden Spike Outreach



Guest speaker Greg Thorpe talks about the hardships of losing someone to cancer.

(GSO) is a place people can volunteer at and assist with college preparation. In the GSO’s mission statement it reads, “We are currently in need of committed volunteers who can give even just a few hours a week to work in our office con-


ducting research to help us connect clients with felony-friendly housing as well as transportation.” They also accept donations of hygiene products along with all other necessities. For more information go to [genesissutah.com](http://genesissutah.com).



During the Quarters and Cans assembly to help raise money, the Warriorettes lip sync to “Lip Gloss” by Lil Mama. They were awarded second place for their performance.

Photos by Faith Lawrence

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By Lexi Olsen  
Assistant to the Chief

Winter is fast approaching and this means it is time to update wardrobes. There is much more to winter fashion other than an everyday coat. Winter is the time to really accessorize! This could be with scarves, leg-warmers, gloves or hats.

There are many different factors concerning what you can wear for winter. The most common thing that comes to mind is a coat. So many different styles of coats are out in the world, so it makes it rather hard to choose just one specific style. However, with a recent trend happening, ski jackets are making a comeback. The waxed ski jacket has made its way from the slopes to your local department store.

Along with the ski jacket, blown up puffer coats have also made a comeback. It was not long ago that these classics were considered “uncool,” and nearly every kid dreaded when their mothers would force them to wear one. These coats have now become more than just down feathers and high-tech insulation. Now this season, the styles vary from feathery to flashy.

Another classic favorite, the patent trench coat, is also making a comeback. On days where the weather is too cold for a jacket and too warm for a wool coat, this trench coat will offer you just the perfect amount of warmth.

For obvious reasons, when people think of winter fashion they automatically jump to coats. This winter season, no coat has become more popular than the duffle coat. Camel and an olive green have been the most popular colors, but there are still plenty of other designs including extending the length or getting rid of the sleeves all together. These duffle coats have been more popular for men’s fashion rather than women’s.

The trend for the slick and shiny

bomber jackets, show absolutely no sign of disappearing anytime soon from store racks. These jackets have been ranging anywhere from luscious velvet, warm wools to fun leathers. However, many of these jackets have had embellishment work throughout the entirety of the jacket. As well as the bomber jackets, nylon parkas are also being represented. These parkas provide that raincoat look but they have a wool, winter coat warmth.

When it comes to winter, modest can be the hottest. This is a perfect time for that turtleneck to make its debut. Instead of packing away those summer dresses, we can layer them with a knitted turtleneck. Along with turtlenecks, there are also neckerchiefs. Forget about big wooly scarves, neckerchiefs are the new way to protect your neck throughout this winter season. These provide the same warmth to your neck without draping all across your body like a scarf. There are also funnel necks. These are lower, mock turtleneck tops that are not so restricting on your neck. These will provide the comfort and protection of a turtleneck without that claustrophobic feeling around your neck.

Winter is also a time when your feet become the most vulnerable. Feet are directly touching the coldest surface and require optimal comfort as well as warmth. For this I would recommend wearing a faux fur lined boot or even something with a little bit of a platform. These boots are a great way to stay in fashion while also protecting your feet from the harsh weather. Another option is to wear a patent leather version of those boots. These boots will allow feet to handle stomping through those slushy, snowy streets.

Boots may keep feet warm, but not the rest of our legs. Leg-warmers are another great option. These provide warmth on calves as well as acting as a stylish accessory to accompany whatever shoes you may choose.

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# Variety of new shows planned for performing arts theatre classes

By **Treighton Bindrup**  
Staff Reporter

To bring the magic of the theatre, WHS Drama Department has several performances planned to entertain audiences.

*The Little Mermaid* is a story many know from childhood. Mr. Daniels, drama teacher, says he is trying his best to make it entertaining for audiences. This is the classic tale of Ariel, a mermaid and teenage princess to the entire ocean. She wants nothing else in life but to be on the surface. She goes to the sea witch Ursula and trades her voice to get legs.

"It's just a fun show, especially when you have the right cast for it," says Mr. Daniels. Additional songs have been added for length and for

***"I love the story of Peter Pan; I love finding Neverland and I love the musical and play versions of Peter Pan. This is an original retelling of the story, and I wanted to take a chance on it."***

character depth.

This was actually Mr. Daniels's first choice for his Productions class. He will be working with Mrs. Day, the drama teacher at Box Elder High School. Mrs. Day and Mr. Daniels have been working together for many years. The collaboration on scenery and costumes saves both schools money.

"She designed some incredible costumes and I love the set we designed," says Mr. Daniels.

When choosing *The Little Mermaid* cast, Mr. Daniels was looking for people who fit the part. Mr. Daniels adds, "Not everyone can play Ariel and not everyone can play Ursula. I needed to find people with the best voice who would work well in the parts."

Some special things that will be added to the show are rollerblading

and aerial silks. He is bringing in the same team that he worked with in *Tarzan*, the Aerial Angels. They will be teaching the silks to the Productions Company. Mr. Daniels wants the silks to seem as seaweed, so the sea creatures can look like they are actually in the water. The ensemble will all be playing sea creatures from fish to seagulls and even sharks.

*Peter and Wendy* will be performed by Mr. Daniels Actor's Repertory Company as their Competition 1 Act. This is not a musical, the Actor's Repertory only does straight plays. While viewers are used to seeing Peter and Wendy as the happy people that are in *Peter Pan* stories, in this play Mr. Daniels says the story is a bit darker than the original *Peter Pan*.

"It's before Peter and Wendy met; it's about their individual lives and it's kind of the creation of the story but it has a very steampunk feel to it," says Mr. Daniels. He also adds, "It's not your typical Peter Pan story. It's the magic."

The cast has been chosen for the show, and they are ready to embrace the darker version of how Peter and Wendy met and how Peter got his magic. Mr. Daniels chose this more serious-style play due to his interest in Peter Pan.

"I love the story of Peter Pan; I love *Finding Neverland* and I love the musical and play versions of Peter Pan. This is an original retelling of the story and I wanted to take a chance on it," adds Daniels.

*Starfish Circus* is a performance Mr. Daniels added to the school drama schedule a year ago. He says students perform amazing tricks, and he is continuing it this year. The theme last year was a large junkyard full of boxes, newspaper and papers spread throughout the auditorium. Last year the Aerial Angels also performed, but they will not be involved in this year's show.

The theme this year will be decided as the performance plans are completed. It will most likely be decided by the Actor's Reper-

tory Company because they are the company that is in charge of the skits that are performed. "We create the theme as we go. We see what kind of acts we have and talent we have and then we write it as we go," says Mr. Daniels. "*Starfish Circus* can really be about anything," Daniels adds.

There will be about 150 people in the *Starfish Circus*, and there will be open auditions to everyone from kindergarten to 12th grade. The idea for this show is to teach silks to students and do acrobatic performances.

"A circus troupe of aerial acrobats will help us, and they do everything from juggling, Rolla Bola, trapeze, silks, hoops, fire eating and whips; they do all these different circus tricks," says Mr. Daniels. "I thought it would be fun to bring them and to teach these elements."

***"This trip happens once every other year, so you may only have one chance in your high school experience. But every student has the chance to go on this trip."***

One final activity for the Drama Departments will be a Disneyland trip. Performing groups will be going to Disneyland during spring break. These groups include the marching band, Orchestra, choir, Productions, Actor's Repertory and public relation classes. Students will be working with Disney professionals as they learn creative methods to enhance their various talents.

"It's a great bonding experience for everyone in our performing arts department," says Mr. Daniels. "This Disneyland trip happens once every other year, so you may only have once chance in your high school experience. But every student has the chance to go on this trip," he adds. "This year's trip is also the largest one ever taken at Weber High."

# Important qualities help build life-long friendships

By **Jaycee Galusha**  
Feature Editor

"A perfect best friend is someone I can laugh with, cry with and just hang out with," says senior Zach Berry.

Many people define a best friend differently. Berry defines them as, "someone to count on while having fun and relaxing, but they also know when to give you space. Everyone needs to be alone sometimes."

Sophomore Skylar Vanzweden agrees and defines best friends as "someone who is there for you when you need them, and you can be there for them when they need it." Sophomore Ethan Price simply defines them as "someone I can trust," and Aundrea Govatos, junior, adds, "A best friend is someone who is always there for you, no matter what."

For some, a big part of friendship is the certain attributes that are found in them. Sophomore Emmalee Larson looks for a good listener, someone who understands and a person who is willing to talk about his/her thoughts and views in a mature and respectful manner.

Jennifer Keeney, sophomore, looks for "people who I could be compatible with. Like, I usually watch them and their actions and stuff for a while before I subtly make my move. Usually I shoot for nice, friendly, a mix of outgoing and introverted and overall good."

Berry says he looks for honesty, fun factor and toughness. He adds, "I'm a firm believer of the truth even if it hurts. You don't want to be bored. If you tell the truth, there are bound to be people who argue." Vanzweden adds she wants some-



**Friends Tenaya Tidwell, junior; Faith Lawrence, senior; and Sadie Richardson, junior, talk on their way to class.**

Photo by Megan Eldredge

one who won't cause drama because she doesn't need that in her life. Govatos searches for people who are honest and nice.

Along with what people look for in friends, they also see attributes to avoid when friend hunting. Price makes sure to avoid people who are mean to others; Berry avoids liars, arrogant people and ignorant people.

"If they are a liar, you really have to take everything they say with a grain of salt," adds Berry. "If they are very arrogant, you can't reason with them and reasoning is a sign of a healthy relationship. Finally ignorance, you know everyone is ignorant in some way or another. It is unavoidable, but when someone is confronted with the facts and they choose to ignore them; that's what I can't stand."

Larson says people who want to know stuff about her but are not willing to share information about themselves are not people she wants to be around. She believes in being able to share a mutual trust. Keeney adds she doesn't want to be friends with people who are not capable of helping others in some way. She is accepting of flaws, but if there is something she can't get over, she will be nice to them, but won't be their friend. Govatos says people who are mean to her or put her down are not someone she looks to befriend.

Some teens find a variety of people as being "best friend worthy." Govatos thinks, "someone is best

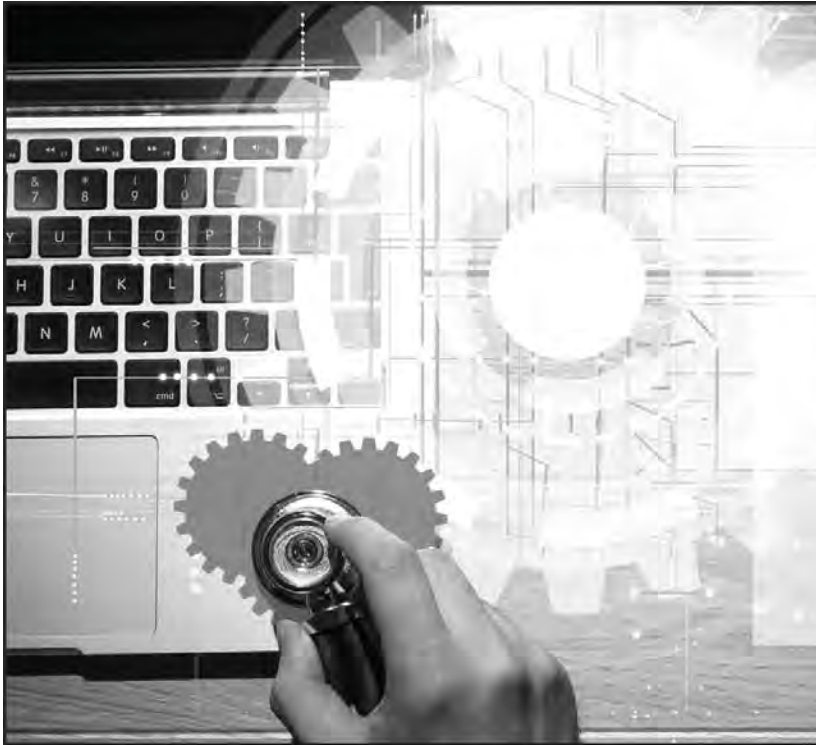
friend worthy when they love to do things with you and prove themselves." Pierce Callister, sophomore knows someone is worthy when, "I can trust them with anything personal."

However Chase Ellis, sophomore, doesn't think people should jump into quick friendships. "You can't necessarily tell from first impressions, it takes time and trial," he says.

Sometimes people plan future trips for themselves and their closest friends, or in other words, a dream vacation that they one day hope to achieve. Vanzweden would love to go with her best friends to the people she cares about the most. If Larson could live out her dream vacation, it would be a backpacking trip across Europe with her friends. Price adds he would be happy if his friends could travel with him to England. A trip to the sunny state of California is where Govatos would love to go with her best friends.

Some people also enjoy doing special things with their best friends, and they have also built traditions with them. Govatos has a tradition of skypping and doing homework with her friends. Callister's tradition includes calling his friends and sharing everything with them.

Ellis adds, "Every New Year's Eve I get a group of friends together and just have a good time until the ball drops." Vanzweden adds, "We celebrate the day we became best friends every year."



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Singing “Jolly Holiday” is Bert played by senior Merick Masters.



Miss Brill, junior Abbey Harris, and Robertson Ay, senior Jordan Grigg, show disappointment in the new nanny.



Mrs. Correy, sophomore Tessa Shelton, and daughters Haylee Dahlin and Lilli Thompson, seniors, perform with Mary.



Encouraging the children to feed the birds is senior Kaylee Holtry.



Mary Poppins performs the musical number “Step in Time” with the Banks’ children and the chimney sweeps.

## Mary Poppins captivates crowd with performance

By Joseph Pitman  
Editorial Editor

Marvelous, magnificent, amazing, stunning, captivating... must I go on? *Mary Poppins*, a tale created by P. L. Travers, directed by Mark Daniels and performed by Weber drama students was a masterpiece of a play. The acting by Becky Christensen (Mary Poppins), Merick Masters (Bert), and all other members of the cast were phenomenal. And the method that the already renowned story was told, kept the audience captivated for the entire production.

Congratulations must go to directors Mr. Daniels and Mr. Wood. Not only did they put together such a great play, but they also chose such a grand cast. Again, the acting was stupendous, complete with comical, well done British accents and beautiful singing. Even the supposedly nasty old nanny Miss Andrew (played by Victoria Wood) shocked the audience with her amazing alto voice. All in all, the actors, including background characters, all sung with remarkable aptitude and skill.

Of the story itself, it followed the movie interpretation, having the similar musical numbers and characters; different scenery and locations. Another change between movie and play was the beginning by removing the comical scene of lined up nanny’s being blown away into the sky by the wind, to then have Mary Poppins descend as the only present nanny for hire. However, they did manage to replace this scene with a simple, magical scene of a torn hire-notice being tossed into the fire by Mr. Banks, played by Greg Calvo. It is sucked up through the chimney into the hands of Mary Poppins herself.

Another major part of the play was the actual background setup and transitions designed to help tell the story to the audience. Between transitions of scenes, the set was seamlessly moved about the stage, hidden by darkness and with music to help distract the audience. There was never more than a 20-30 second interval between major scene transitions, and there was almost always still plot being told (via narration, singing, or actual characters moving along the stage). Moreover, actual transitions between points of interest within the current scenes were always skillfully done: lighting on them as they moved brought to the speaking character, actors not currently being focused upon moving slower or not at all. This all helped in the complete captivation of the audience, even over the extended time the play encompassed.

Speaking of the audience and showing the power of the play, something I noticed before, during and after the play was the way it affected the audience members. The production I saw was the showing to various junior highs and elementary schools during school hours. Naturally, the audience was excited at the prospect of being in a high school and to see a play. And as such, it was expected that they might be rowdy or disruptive. But the play with its entertaining music and instant action, quickly gained the attention of the young audience and brought them into a silent, yet enthusiastic interest in the play. They remained respectful throughout the entirety of the musical and clapping at the many times where the audience couldn’t help but applaud the great performance.

If I was to give this play a rating out of five stars, I would give it a solid five. This rating is in comparison to other plays of *Mary Poppins* that have received great prestige, one even making it to Broadway; all being rivalled, if not seconded by Weber High’s *Mary Poppins*. Well done, and we all look forward to the planned spring play, *The Little Mermaid*.

Photos by Faith Lawrence



Brimstone and treacle is administered by Ms. Andrew, senior Victoria Wood, to Jane, played by Mylee Harkness.



Mary Poppins, senior Becky Christensen, makes the crowd’s hearts light during “Jolly Holiday.”



Senior Ben Fenton plays Mr. Northbrook, and he gives his six pence to Jane and Michael, played by Bennett and Mylee Harkness.

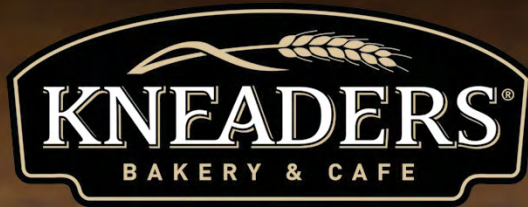


Jane and Michael watch the shooting stars with their parents played by Greg Calvo and Camiah Robinson, seniors.



After catching Michael’s kite, Mary Poppins flies above the bystanders.





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# Giving a Break to Those in Need

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(Photo upper right) HOSA advisor and health teacher Mrs. Bird informs students about the Weekend Warrior program. (Photo above) Sophomore officer Nathan Chugg lip syncs to "Ice, Ice Baby."



(Photo above) Coach Hammer leads his football team with a lip sync song and dance. (Photo left) After reaching a goal, sophomore officers were feathered. From left to right, Kolby Pack, Logan Crowell, Ryker Simmons, Caleb O'Neil, Paige Aardema.

Photos by Grayce McKay and Megan Eldredge

## Traditions unite families together, offer unforgettable memories

By Taylor Galusha  
Assistant to the Chief

Decking the halls and decorating trees are traditions most people have when celebrating Christmas. However, Warriors have other favorite traditions they look forward to each year.

"On my Dad's side, we will go ice skating for Christmas and then after that we all go to my grandma's house and decorate gingerbread houses," says sophomore Rachel Wright.

Family is also a large part of Rachel Marriott's, sophomore, Christmas. "On Christmas day we can't open presents until everyone is up and has eaten breakfast," she says. However, to annoy her sister, Marriott adds she wakes up late, so her sister can't get to the presents until later.

Junior Shawn Alder's tradition is getting new pajamas every year. "Every year we get to open a present on Christmas Eve. It is always a new set of pajamas," says Alder.

Like Alder's family tradition, sophomore Emmalee Larson also gets pajamas. "On Christmas Eve we get pajamas. We open them that night as presents from my parents," says Larson.

Senior Kaimee Larsen looks forward to receiving pajamas. "Every year on Christmas Eve, we make cookies and open one present which normally contains pajamas, hot chocolate and a movie for each of us kids," says Larsen. According to Larsen, this tradition is important to her because it brings her whole family together.

Christmas Eve traditions are also memorable for senior Madison Marriott. "Every Christmas Eve we go to my grandma's house to play

*"Then when we are sitting by our decorated tree talking, it reminds me of the reason we celebrate the holiday, and what really matters in life."*

games, and win presents and prizes," says Madison Marriott. "The game we play every year is my favorite because it's not a common game. It's called the ball of fun, and it's basically streamers rolled into a ball and as you unroll it there are mini games within. It's a fun game, and it's fun to be with my family."

A family tradition for Katie Hadley, sophomore, is traveling to her grandmother's house on Christmas Eve morning. "We go to Grandma

Kippen's house to eat breakfast. For breakfast we have waffles with whip cream, ice cream with berries; we also have bacon and sausage, hash browns and eggs. Then we do a gift exchange," she says.

Family is an important part of Mr. Rawlins', computer teacher, Christmas. "Probably one of my favorite family memories of the holiday season is when my mom would make her holiday goodies like cookies, fudge, etc. and then make up plates and I would get to help deliver them to the neighbors," says Rawlins.

Rawlins now continues the tradition. "When I go home this is still one of my favorite things to do, and I have started the tradition here where I live by making goodies and delivering them to my neighbors."

"I read a story every night starting from Dec. 1, and the story telling goes on until Dec. 24," says Samantha Smith, senior. "All of the stories have to do with Christmas. My personal favorite is called *Davy and the First Christmas*," Smith adds this story is about a boy named Davy and his donkey.

"They are both clumsy but love to help with Davy's father's inn. They get asked to clean the stables, and they do it twice, and it turns out that they cleaned the stable for Mary and Joseph."

Smith also says this is only one

## Quarters and Cans touches lives

By Sarah Calvert  
Editor in Chief

Quarters and Cans became an official tradition over 30 years ago. During one of the earlier years, in 1986, the student body raised \$1800 within two weeks. According to a *Warrior News* article from February 1986, five families received "canned goods and other food items." The article adds, "The families had no idea how much they really were receiving. All the families were very grateful and the officers said they felt the true Christmas spirit."

Lynette Atkinson, a former Weber High student government advisor, shares one of her most memorable experiences from Quarters and Cans. "There was one particular year when Cabbage Patch dolls were every little girl's wish from Santa and [they] were in very short supply; you couldn't buy one! Supply was non-existent and demand was off the scale," Atkinson remembers. "Parents were beside themselves trying to figure out what they would do if Santa wasn't able to get a coveted Cabbage Patch doll for their daughters."

"A Weber High student's mother happened to be a very successful businesswoman who had returned from a trip to New York City and brought back with her and donated a beautiful Cabbage Patch doll to our Quarters and Cans effort. Needless to say, word spread quickly. We had to lock up the Cabbage Patch doll in the school's vault. Parents in the community were calling and offering to pay hundreds of dollars for that doll!" she exclaims.

Because of the community interest in buying the doll, Ms. Atkinson and the officers had to decide what direction they should take when using the gift within the fundraiser. "We called a special meeting for the student officers and asked them what they wanted to do: sell the doll for hundreds of dollars or keep the original doll donation and give it as a gift to one of the girls in the list of families we had been given. The officers voted to keep

the doll," Atkinson says.

The officers then drove to the homes and delivered the gifts from Santa's elves. "When we drove to the home of the little girl whose name had been drawn to receive the doll, we started unloading the groceries and gifts. The father of the family caught us stacking boxes on the front porch and invited us inside. It was then that we learned the little girl who would be the new owner of this coveted doll was a severely handicapped little seven-year-old girl. Without missing a beat, the student officers went back out to the truck, found the gift con-

*"Quarters and Cans was a great opportunity for the students and the officers to learn and experience what it meant to serve others."*

taining the Cabbage Patch doll and unwrapped it. They kept the doll hidden as they re-entered the home and placed the doll under their very small and sparsely decorated Christmas tree," she says.

"When the little girl came into the family room, the student officers moved aside so she could see the doll," she says. "It was as if there were no one else in the room and that little girl moved as quickly as she possibly could, just sat and looked at the doll for a minute or two, and then picked up the doll and held it as tightly as she could as she rocked it and sang to it. There wasn't a dry eye in the place. It was the best decision they could ever have made to give that Cabbage Patch doll to a little girl who would truly give it all the love her heart could hold," Atkinson says.

It was moments like these that Atkinson believes Quarters and Cans is all about. "It required hours and hours of work and organization, but there were unforgettable lifetime memories made for every one of those officers," she says.

More memories have been made throughout the years as Quarters and Cans has become a continued Weber High tradition. Students are not the only ones who contribute; in 1999, some of the teachers offered to shave their heads when the donation goals were met.

Although Quarters and Cans focuses primarily on canned food and money for donations, past Warriors have used their time and talents to donate other items as well. In 2001, members of FBLA made blankets to give to needy families in the area. A handful of seniors also helped make jars full of cookie mix for the fundraiser.

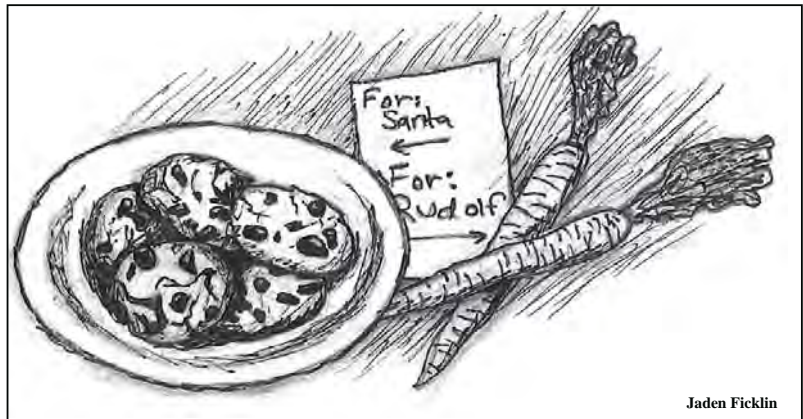
In 2005, Quarters and Cans was given the name "H.O.P.E.," an acronym that meant "Helping Other People Everywhere." In addition to providing six local families with Christmas, the students raised money to help three different families with various medical expenses.

One family they helped was the Starnes family. On Nov. 24, 2004, Karen Starnes passed away from a brain tumor. The students helped make Karen's wish come true by giving her kids a good Christmas. Mr. Rawlins, the student body adviser at that time, says, "Sometimes we have class competitions and are all competing against each other instead of with each other. In Quarters and Cans, we are all striving toward the same goal." That year, the students went above and beyond the previous years, raising over \$34,000.

Mrs. Pearce, the current student government adviser, has been over Quarters and Cans for four years and has seen the effects of the yearly tradition. "Quarters and Cans is something student government is the driving force behind," she says. "So depending on how they decide to focus their activities and things like that, kind of determine the success in terms of money that they bring in."

There are many different types of activities the officers plan. Sometimes they plan activities that

History continues on  
page 12



Jaden Ficklin

story in a book "full of wonderful stories that I'll love forever." Smith adds her family has had this tradition for as long as she can remember, and it's something she plans to continue with her future family.

For junior Meesha Brand, she says she likes waking up early on the holiday. "I'm already a morning person, so I really enjoy waking up early, and then there is the added excitement of presents which just makes the whole morning even more fun," says Brand. According to Brand, her family opens presents one at a time, starting oldest to youngest.

Another family Christmas tradition is finding the perfect tree. Junior Mari Shupe says, "Every year, the day after Thanksgiving, my family goes up into the mountains to get our Christmas tree. We spend hours upon hours looking for the

perfect tree for the season. It's my favorite because I get to be around my family away from all the distractions. It's just all of us together," says Shupe.

Junior Aundrea Govotos's favorite tradition for Christmas time is decorating the Christmas tree. "It's a super generic tradition, but I really love it. Every year when we get the Christmas tree, we decorate it that night. We each have our own set of ornaments because we get a new one each year. So, we get our new ornament for that year, and then we get our tree," says Govotos.

"When we take the tree home and set it up, we get to put our ornaments anywhere we want on the tree. Once all of our ornaments are on the tree, we plug the lights in and we just all sit in the living room staring at the tree and talking

to each other," says Govotos.

Govotos says this tradition is important to her because it brings her family together. "I'm the youngest and all of my siblings have left home, so it's something that brings them home. Then when we are sitting by our decorated tree talking, it reminds me of the reason we celebrate the holiday, and what really matters in life," says Govotos.

Senior Mary Nielson also enjoys connecting with her family during the holidays. "It's not really a tradition in the typical tradition type of things, but my family gets together on Christmas Eve. Most of my family lives in Springville, so I don't get to see them as often as I'd like to. When we get together, we trade presents and talk. So, while presents are nice, being connected to my family is probably my favorite part," says Nielson.



# Teens inform peers about local ‘Grinchy’ behavior, how to identify

By **Kyrsten Acker**  
*Feature Editor*

Some people are flat out ‘Grinchy’ during Christmas, but not very many know the true reason behind their behavior. Like the classic Dr. Seuss character, Mr. Grinch, certain individuals are unable to understand the allure of Christmas; perhaps one day they will be able to.

Mr. Rawlins, computer science teacher, said, “People who are ‘Grinchy’ around Christmas are going to be your people who are negative all time.” When it comes to the month of December, Mr. Rawlins tries to distance himself from these negative and ‘Grinch’ like people.

In his opinion, one of the best ways to stay in the spirit of Christmas is, “avoid the downers.” Rawlins has also figured out how to keep himself feeling merry throughout the holidays.

“I try to focus on giving to other people,” he said. The things he likes to give are made by him and don’t cost much. Some give away treats for Christmas, and Mr. Rawlins learned this gift idea from his mother. “The best gift is something you can make,” he said.

There are those who can’t become happy and joyful overnight for the sake of Christmas. Sophomore Abby Linford said, “Family illness is a contributor to depression” during this festive time. She feels it is best to remind a friend that it is “a joyous time and a time to be joyous,” said Linford. “The most important thing is to get them

to focus on the fact that at least one human-being cares about them,” she added.

Sophomore Maddi Purin thinks the worst Grinch is the person who tells a kid that, “Yo, Santa ain’t real.” In her opinion, “the spirit of Christmas is Santa.” Purin added, “Santa is a good role model, and children love him. Despite the fact that he is fictional, she believes his persona holds an impact. “When someone says he isn’t real, they are forgetting the point of Santa,” she



said, which she explained as, “To give to other people, or generosity.”

Dr. Seuss’s Grinch said, “There’s one thing I hate, all the noise... noise... noise!” However, junior Seance Miller believes singing is one of the best ways to celebrate the Christmas season. “I sing all the time,” she said. Miller also admitted she has never been a Grinch.

“I love Christmas with a burning passion of a thousand suns,” said Miller. With her love of Christmas so strong it is shocking to fig-

ure that Miller thinks very little of any ‘Grinch.’ “I don’t really have an opinion. I don’t know. People think what they want to think,” said Miller. To her, greed is the worst thing about Christmas. “People are always like, ‘Give me presents,’ and I’m like, ‘That’s not what it’s about,’” she added.

Riley Crezee, sophomore, said at this time of year he tends to act “a little bit weird because I’m a Christmas freak.” He loves Christmas, and his only ‘Grinch’ issue is carols and seasonal music starting right at Nov. 1. Crezee also used the term “Grinch” to describe himself on Dec. 25, “I’m usually a Grinch on Christmas day because I don’t want Christmas to be over,” he said.

Many, “horrible Grinchies,” said Crezee, have crossed his path. He explained, “I don’t like them. They are not my friends.” Crezee also said these people complained about things like Christmas decorations, songs and anything traditionally associated with the holiday.

To sophomore Ainsley Hilliard, a Grinch can help him/herself by, “just being happy and nice to people, even if you don’t like Christmas,” she said. A unique thing about Hilliard is she has never seen the movie, *The Grinch*. She thinks it is a good thing not to see the movie. “Because he seems mean. He likes to ruin people’s dreams and hopes at Christmas time,” said Hilliard. In her opinion, Christmas is about spending time with those you love and care about. She added, the only bad thing about Christmas is “spending a ton of money on junk for people,” she said.

# December has diverse traditions, celebrations add to festive time

By **Sam Leake**  
*Editorial Editor*

Christmas is a time of feast and celebration for many people, but not all people participate in this holiday. Some cultures have different celebrations that are important, and all of these holidays are commemorating something that happened in that religion, or country.

Yule is a Pagan holiday celebrated during the winter solstice, which marks the shortest day and the longest night. It is celebrated during Dec. 21-23 annually. Yule is mostly known now as an astronomical event, but many people still celebrate it. Heide Cottam is a former celebrator of Yule. “It was a time of quieting, of going underground to gather ourselves and heal what had been hurt in the outside world during the other seasons,” says Cottam.

When Cottam and her family decorate for Christmas, she said, “We focused on using the Earth to decorate; we dried oranges and cranberries, tied them together with cinnamon sticks using twine. Our house decorations focus less on Christmas winter and more on the generic winter kind.” Cottam added Yule and Christmas are slightly related because of what Christmas takes from Yule: The Christmas tree, wreath and the Yule log.

Hanukkah is the Jewish commemoration of the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem

after it was defiled by the Greeks. Hanukkah starts on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of Kislev (a Jewish month); in the Gregorian calendar, the date varies from year to year. This year it is Dec. 24 – Jan. 1. It is also called the Festival of Lights or the Feast of Dedication.

Most non-Jewish people know Hanukkah is a holiday, but it is actually a relatively small holiday. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are larger holidays in the Jewish faith. Hanukkah takes place over eight days where a gift is received each day, and a single candle is lit on the nine-pronged candelabra called the menorah. Other festivities include playing dreidel and eating oil-based foods such as doughnuts and latkes (potato pancakes).

“We celebrate Hanukkah but not the other holidays,” says Karen Thurber, who is a UU (Unitarian Universalist) and celebrates Hanukkah.

St. Lucy’s Day is a Lutheran and Catholic holiday commemorating Saint Lucy, who is said to have brought food and aid to Christians who were hiding in the catacombs. It is also said she wore a wreath with a single candle, so she could carry as much food as she could. St. Lucy was a virgin martyr during the earliest centuries of Christianity, under its worst persecution at the hands of the Roman Empire; therefore, making her one of the most glorious saints in heaven. People generally have a large feast to celebrate this holiday. It is celebrated mostly in Scandinavia and

Italy.

A holiday not many people know about is the Japanese holiday of Omisoka. It is the second most important day in Japan because it is the eve of the New Year, or the most important day. It is celebrated on Dec. 31. Around 11 p.m. on Omisoka, people often gather for one last time to have a bowl of toshikoshi-soba (year crossing noodle) together—a tradition based on people’s association of eating the long noodles with “crossing over from one year to the next.” Around midnight, people go to shrines for Hatsumode (the first Shinto and one of Japan’s two major religions).

Another holiday during December is Kwanzaa, a weeklong celebration of African-America heritage in African cultures, in the United States. It was created by Maulana Karenga and was first celebrated in 1966-67.

Korenga said his goal was “to give African Americans an alternative to the existing holiday and give them an opportunity to celebrate themselves and their history, rather than simply imitate the practice of the dominant society.” He named it after Swahili’s first fruit celebration, matunda ya kwanza. Similar to Hanukkah, Kwanzaa uses a seven-pronged candelabra; whereas, each candle symbolizes a principle: Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujamaa (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity), and Imani (faith).

History continues  
from page 11

don’t necessarily bring in a lot of money, but are still fun for the students like caroling or sledding. Pearce says although the student body officers repeat some of the activities that have been successful in the past, they meet in the summer and try to brainstorm new ideas that could also work. One of the new ideas they came up with for this year is a garage sale.

“We know sometimes students don’t have a lot of money, but they’ve got stuff. They’ve got things that they don’t use anymore, that they don’t wear, that they no longer play with. A lot of times, students don’t always declutter their own rooms. So we thought, why don’t we have them bring us all their stuff?” Pearce explains. “The other stuff we are taking to the DI, so it’s still getting right back into the community. I could see this becoming a big event in the future,” she adds.

Pearce thinks that although Quarters and Cans has changed over the years, the purpose has remained the same. “It evolves, but it’s still the same big picture. How can we help people in a positive manner in our community? That’s always the overall goal,” she says.

She also thinks people understand Quarters and Cans is meant to benefit the community, not only Weber High. “We’re not the charity,” Pearce says. “We just funnel the money to other things. We’re like the middle man. It doesn’t come to us; it all goes back into the community. We don’t keep any of it for ourselves, ever. I think as soon as the community understands that, they’re much more apt to get involved, and happy to do it.”

One of the major influences for Quarters and Cans in the community are local businesses. “Sometimes the community can get a little tired of Weber High asking for donations for various things, and we understand that. But at the same time, we’re their high school. We have their kids. We produce their employees, and they’re vital to our high school and fortunately most of the businesses in our area understand that,” Pearce says. “And they’re fantastic. ‘Whatever you need,’ is often the type of comments that we’ll get for the charities that we help.”



Assisting with Quarters and Cans lip sync contest is Mr. Newbold on the keyboard.

Photo by Gracey Mckay

One of the businesses that lends a helping hand is Smith’s Marketplace. Every year the money raised from Quarters and Cans helps provide Christmas for 12-20 local families. The officers go shopping for Christmas presents and food early in the morning at Smith’s.

“We always get the family gift cards to Smiths for food and gas,” Pearce says, explaining they seek to alleviate some of these families’ financial burden. “The focus goes mostly back to the kids for clothes and the things they like,” she says. “We ask the parents for their kids age, what they need, and what they like. We get anything from kids who love art stuff to kids who just love toys, so there’s a lot of variation and it’s fun,” she says.

The process of delivering gifts has remained mostly the same over the years. Atkinson also shopped at Smith’s Marketplace with her officers before delivering the presents. “On the night of the deliveries, student officers would meet right after school to start dividing all the cans into family delivery stashes,” she says. “Each officer was given an amount of money to shop for their assigned family member. After the gift shopping was complete, we would stop at Smith’s and purchase all the fresh groceries the families would need to prepare a Christmas dinner,” she adds.

When they had purchased all of the gifts, Atkinson and her officers drove to the homes of the families and delivered gifts. “We would

start handing down family’s gifts and groceries until it got to the last officer nearest to the front porch. That officer would stack everything onto the front porch as quietly as possible,” Atkinson explains.

“When we had unloaded everything, we would move the caravan of trucks and cars down the road and then walk back and hide as one of the student officers would ring the doorbell and run. We all would watch as the families walked out to see a porch full of food and gifts with every family member’s name on two or three gifts. There was lots of excitement and a lot of joy and gratitude,” she adds.

There are also many in the community willing to reach out and aid the efforts of Quarters and Cans. “One family last year asked if the firemen could come and help donate because they have a kid who loves the fire trucks. So they did! We called the fire department, and they came and picked up the kids and the presents and it was really awesome,” Pearce says.

Pearce thinks Quarters and Cans will continue in future years. “I see Quarters and Cans growing to be a common resource for the community to use as the ‘middle-man’ for a variety of causes, determined by the needs of the community at that time,” she says. “I hope it grows to be a common term for everyone in the Ogden area as a means to help charities as well as personally affect families and make a life lasting impact.”

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16-17



# Bringing back the magic, Santa tells ‘true Christmas spirit’

By **Hannah Jacobs**  
Staff Reporter

Happiness, family, music, lights and Santa Claus are just a few of the words students at Weber High think of upon hearing the word “Christmas.”

According to Matt Meltzer from *thrillist.com*, Christmas is one of the most celebrated holidays in the United States. For many, Christmas is a magical time of giving and joy. “Being able to help others is my favorite thing about the Christmas season,” says senior Rachel Shaw. “Helping others feel good is one of the many ways to spread the joy of the season.” However, Shaw believes that over the years people have forgotten the meaning of Christmas, saying, “people want gifts more than anything.”

Maren Jacobs, a WHS graduate, adds, “I think quite a few people have forgotten. I also think that a lot of people are striving to keep the true meaning prevalent in their lives.”

Both Shaw and Jacobs agree the loss of magic some experience can be fixed with a simple act: giving. “Stop being so busy,” says Jacobs, “and spend good quality time with your family.” Shaw encourages focusing less on yourself and more on others.

Someone else agrees with Shaw and Jacobs. “Christmas has always been about magic. It’s a time to remember the less fortunate, find peace in the world and celebrate the joy of different religious celebrations. All these things represent the true spirit of Christmas,” the special guest says before letting out a loud and jolly, “ho ho ho!”

Santa Claus, giver of gifts on Christmas Day, shares his thoughts on the meaning of the season. “We often get too busy in our lives and forget the best gift we can give others is the gift of ourselves. That is when the magic happens. By helping, and being there for others, that

joy will fill their lives. What an amazing world we would have if we thought more of other’s needs instead of our own,” says Santa.

He adds those who believe in him are the ones who will also bring the magic of Christmas back.

“Even with people who have lost their way, I have so many believers who haven’t,” says Santa. I think some say they don’t believe because they are grown up now,



so they look at believing as being childish. However, the innocent ones, they are the ones who have love in their hearts and the light of wonder in their eyes. Because they believe, the magic stays alive and will help melt the non-believers’ hearts.”

Santa also says the magic is often forgotten because people are too busy with the holiday preparations. “Maybe people are too busy with the hustle and bustle of the

holiday; making sure the lights are on the house, dinners are perfect and everything is in proper order. If they would realize others don’t care about ‘stuff’ and only want the magic of spending time together, they would once again find the real meaning of Christmas and enjoy the magic.”

Although Santa Claus is known for giving gifts, he too receives presents. “The gift I receive is seeing those happy faces as they meet me and tell their stories. To think for just a few minutes, someone’s day was a little better because I took the time for them...what a great reward!”

However, that is not the only reward Santa receives. A well-known tradition is leaving a treat or cookies for Santa to enjoy on Christmas Eve. “I love all cookies, cakes and brownies,” says Santa. “You put it on a plate by the Christmas tree, and I will love it!” Santa shares a time when someone even left a Diet Coke along with chips and salsa by the tree.

Santa lets out a merry laugh before talking about the magic Christmas music holds. “Of course, I like the funny songs about me,” says Santa. “Why I would run over Grandma has always confused me, though.”

Santa also talks about his love for songs that sing the true meaning of Christmas. “They tell of peace on earth, good will to everyone and to remember to make all Christmases merry and bright. It doesn’t matter what language the songs are sang in or who sings them, the meaning of Christmas is still there.”

Santa adds a last piece of advice for those who may be overwhelmed with the holidays and not feeling the Christmas joy. “If you are missing that true spirit, listen to those simple songs you sang in elementary school. Yes, that will help you find the real reason for the season.”

Santa Claus lets out one final “ho ho ho!” before saying his famous line: “Merry Christmas to all and to all a goodnight!”

By **Joseph Pitman**  
Editorial Editor

‘Tis the season for hot chocolate, ugly sweaters, warm blankets and great holiday movies. Everyone knows about the hit movies *A Christmas Story*, *It’s a Wonderful Life* and *Frosty the Snowman*. But what about the shows no one talks about? Well, here are eight less known holiday movies that are also great to watch

1. The first on the list is the movie *Scrooged* (1988). If you enjoy both classic Christmas movies and good comedy, *Scrooged* is the one for you. Join Frank Cross, played by comedy actor Bill Murray on a modern take of *A Christmas Carol* where he will learn the true meaning of Christmas the hard way. *Scrooged* was rated a 7/10 on IMDb, and made over 60 million at the box office.

2. Next up is the more recent comedy known as *Four Christmases* (2008). This hilarious flick is about a couple (Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon) who both have step families. They plan to visit Fiji in an attempt to avoid visiting their dysfunctional families. However, the plans are ruined due to an accidental interview on television. They are now forced to visit all four of their parents. During these visits, the couple begin to question their marriage and must decide if they are truly meant for one another.

3. *Jack Frost* (1998) This is a holiday movie starring Michael Keaton, Joseph Cross and Kelly Preston. It is a heart breaking, yet comedic story about a son, Cross, who loses his father named Jack Frost, played by Keaton, in a car crash. But because of a magical harmonica given to him by his father the night before the accident, a snowman built outside the house comes to life with the soul and memories of his father. This gives Jack Frost a second chance to be the father his son needed.

4. Another great holiday movie is *Northpole* (2014). This Hallmark movie is a child friendly, happy story about a young boy, played by Mr. Max Charles, who is tasked by an elf named Clementine, played by



Bailee Madison, with saving the Northpole. However, can he convince his single mother, played by Tiffani Thiessen, to help him on this quest? Watch it and find out!

5. *Naughty or Nice* (2013) is another Hallmark movie about a career woman played by Hilarie Burton. She is suddenly fired from her job, throwing her life into disarray. Her parents find her a small



and not particularly flattering job as a Christmas elf working at a mall. Later, she receives a mysterious box which contains Santa’s Naughty or Nice book. Realizing its’ validity, she now has the power to know all the bad and good secrets of her neighbors and friends. She has to decide if she should use the book with nice or naughty intentions.

6. If you enjoy *Naughty or Nice*, you’ll also enjoy *Santa Baby* (2006). This Christmas movie takes place in the bustling city where a young woman named Mary Class, played by Jenny McCarthy, is running a major and successful business. However, she does have one little secret, her father is Santa Claus, played by George Wendt. This year before Christmas, Mr. Claus has a heart attack and with his failing health, someone new

must take the responsibility of delivering presents to all the children of the world. Stepping in for her dad is Mary, but even her own father, Santa Claus, does not know if she has what it takes to spread the Christmas spirit.

7. Although it may be well known, this next movie is not typically associated as a Christmas movie. *Edward Scissorhands* (1990) is a classic that all must see. *Edward Scissorhands* is a romantic, dark-fantasy film that takes place in a suburban town. Edward, played by actor Johnny Depp, is found alone by a woman named Peg, portrayed by Dianne West, in his large, and previously-thought abandoned mansion. He is brought home, and Peg’s family is slow to accept him due to his most unnatural appearance... namely his hands which are made entirely of scissors. The story develops even more when Edward falls for Peg’s daughter, played by Winona Ryder, and he is not sure if someone like him can capture the love of someone like her.

8. Taking a more foreign approach to Christmas, *Joyeux Noël* (2005) is a French film taking place during World War I. The six main characters, Alex Ferns, Bernard Le Coq, Daniel Brühl, Gary Lewis, Benno Fürmann and Natalie Dessay, are from different sides of the war and begin an unofficial truce during Christmas Day. It begins with bagpipes and singing. They exchange gifts and the once war enemies become temporary friends. However, such peace is destined to fall back into war and chaos.

By adding these eight movies to your Christmas favorite list, they can enhance your holiday. Grab the hot chocolate and warm blankets for a Christmas movie marathon.

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Sophomore Braxton Welch sets up his stance for a drive.  
Photo by Sam Leake

## Hard work yields success for ambitious golf team

By Issac Driggs  
Staff Reporter

Weber's boys' golf team has created another unforgettable season. With a region championship trophy, the team also brought home third place honors.

Connor Howe, junior, has received individual winner of a state and region title for two years in a row. He said his goal was "to win region and state individually and to win region and state as a team."

Connor thinks by working hard, they were able to find success. "We have a pretty good team. I believe our team had a good chance of achieving goals," he said. To complete those goals, though, the team had to practice and overcome weaknesses.

"We needed to work some on not giving away easy shots because we couldn't afford to make many mistakes at state," said Connor. "I think we had a better team than last year," he added.

Kory Woodland, the boys' head coach, is a local pro at the White Barn golf course. He knew his boys would place at state. "The team was really good this year. Our main goal was to compete well. If a title came from that then that's a bonus," he said.

"There were always things to work on and practice. Just make sure we made those shots," he added.

One problem for his team was motivation. "I pushed them, I pushed them to be better and tried

to keep them on top of things," he said.

Hunter, junior, had specific goals in mind for both himself and his team. "I wanted to improve my state results, and as a team have all four of our scores under 73," says Howe. In order to make this happen, he added, "just good solid practice."

Hunter is proud of this year's season despite the perfect season last time around. "This year has been a great follow-up and improvement to last year's undefeated regular season."

During state, Hunter took an individual 12<sup>th</sup> and shot a 68.

Many high school athletes use sports as a social outlet or just a way to get general exercise. Howe is different; he has an appreciation for the same. "I love the sport, because it's all up to me to improve. There are no politics, just your score does the talking," he said.

Alex Baker, senior, added, "It feels good; all of our work has paid off." Kaden Lott, senior, is also stoked for his team. "It feels good to back up last year with another undefeated season," he said.

On the difficulty of the season, "it was pretty tough, but we all put in the effort and got what we needed to get done," said Baker. Lott added, "We put in the time every day after school and encouraged everyone to do better."

The team was able to reach a region goal and place at state. Baker added, "This is my second year. We have won the region title twice, we took second in state last year and had an undefeated season."

## Girls' soccer looks back on strong season

By Siera Rose  
Editor in Chief

Weber High's girls' soccer team had a strong season with a record of 14 wins out of 16 games. They were ranked second in the state and made it to the playoffs in October where their state final goal fell a little short.

In the first playoff game against Roy, they beat the Royals 3-0. Leading Weber to their win was Mylee Broad, senior, who scored twice and assisted on a goal made by Kellie Albrechtsen, sophomore.

Their next game after that was the region quarterfinals at Davis. The girls played their best but lost to Davis 2-0. "That game was a tough one, but I'm glad we made it that far," Navie Webb, sophomore, says.

Weber's coach Felipe Diaz is also proud of the girls' accomplishments. He knew the girls did their best against the Darts. In an *Ogden Standard* interview, Coach Diaz says, "We were attacking and they were playing counterattack. That says something about my team that we made them play that way. They [Davis] were not going to risk going forward the whole time because they knew that we could hurt them."

Brinlee Collings, sophomore, says it can be hard to get over a loss when the team got so far, "but that very same thought is what helps me know I love the game. I'm a little upset we lost, but we had an amazing season," she says.

Webb adds she uses the knowledge of a good season to help her on and off the field. "When we were playing, I just kept telling myself that we were doing well and we're going to make it to the playoffs; that helped me play my best in



Gaining possession of the ball from Mountain Crest is sophomore Camryn Karras.

every game," Webb says.

Weber excelled in many games this season. One of their favorite games was defeating Fremont on Sept. 22. Weber persevered and brought a 3-2 win over the Silver Wolves. Ellie Maughan, sophomore, and Andree Johnson, junior, scored in the first half with Cassidy McCormick, senior, who delivered a penalty kick.

Sweeping Clearfield off the field on Sept. 29 with a 4-0 win was another season highlight. Albrechtsen scored twice, with McCormick and Johnson, each scoring.



Senior Mylee Broad takes control of the ball against the Mustangs.

Photos by Megan Eldredge

As Webb looks back at the season, she says, "We've played some good and tough teams, but we still did awesome." Out of the 12 region games the girls played, they won 10 of them. "Region games are tough because we see these teams so often, but I'm happy with the way we played," Webb says.

The girls watched each other grow as the young team united on the field. "I think we definitely learned to play better as a team throughout the season," Collings says.

"At the beginning of each season, you kind of have to learn how to play together again if you've been on the team before," adds junior Amanda Kenney. "If you're a brand new player, you have to learn how the team works all-around because every team is different."

Webb says through the season a strong bond formed between the girls. "You kind of become a sister to your teammates. You want to be a good role model to your sisters, and it's not any different towards your teammates. If you want everyone to be their best, you have to be your best as well."

While traveling and playing with

the same girls all season, there's almost no way to avoid developing a connection with them. "This team is amazing. I love playing with these girls," Kenney says. Kenney adds while a team can have rough moments when playing, "[they] get through those moments together."

"We all work so well together and have a good time playing the games," Webb adds. "Playing with the team has been fun. It's always kind of a learning experience."

Kenney agrees with Webb and says, "You never know everything about everyone on the team. Being on a team with these girls is like having extra sisters you didn't really know you wanted."

With the season finished, the girls will miss playing together. "I will miss the team in general. We love each other like family, and I care about them a lot. It's kind of hard not having to see them all of the time," Kenney says.

"It's like going on road trips with your family. There are times when they don't seem too great until after you've gotten to where you're going, but traveling was the best part of the season, in my opinion," says Kenney.

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# On The SIDELINES

By **Tyson Wight**  
*Staff Reporter*

Getting injured is an athlete's worst nightmare. It can ruin an athlete's season and cause him/her to feel sad as they think of what could have been if the injury had never happened. However most athletes have stayed optimistic through these difficult times.

Christian Carter, senior, was in-  
"**Keep your head up. It's just a minor setback for a major come back to whatever it is you have left ahead of you.**"

jured while playing for the Weber football team. He broke his tibia and the cartilage in his ankle was ripped apart. This put an end to his high school football career, but he is still staying positive. "Things like this just happen. I know it will all be over eventually, and life just goes on. I get to ride this pretty cool scooter too, so it's not that bad," says Carter. He is also seeing a physical therapist to help heal.

Another athlete who has gone through the injury process is junior Cloie Malan. She was faced with a back injury when she was on a cheer team, but she has also stayed optimistic. "I just kept myself busy and involved, so I didn't focus on the injury," says Malan. She adds she did not slack off because she was injured. "I also worked on

the things that I could still do, so I was at least progressing at some things," says Malan. Malan also adds when she was injured, her team still included her in practices and activities. She felt this boosted her morale.

"A common response after an injury is to isolate oneself from teammates, coaches and friends," says Joe Walker, a sports professional and physical therapist. "It is important to maintain contact with others during the recovery process. Teammates, friends and coaches can listen and offer advice or encouragement during the rehab process. Simply realizing that one doesn't have to face the injury alone can be a tremendous comfort," he adds.

Brevin Dean, senior, also played for the football team, and he broke his fibula. "There is nothing to be negative about; what happened happened, and I can't change it," he says. Dean says a positive attitude has helped him during his recovery. He also adds the support he received from both the community and the team made an impact on his recovery.

Dean gave some advice for any other athletes faced with injuries: "Keep your head up. It's just a minor setback for a major comeback to whatever it is you have left ahead for you," he says.

Walker adds, "Coping with a sports injury requires both physical and psychological rehabilitation. Often times recovery typically focuses on physical rehab, but it is important to include a positive mindset." He adds a positive mindset can also speed the athlete's recovery.

# Cross country cools down, trains for nationals

By **Joseph Pitman**  
*Editorial Editor*

Nearly every sport demands some kind of dedicated exercise and talent. Football demands strength and dexterity; basketball demands agility and coordination. But alongside all these sports, cross country demands the will to succeed.

"We train for region and state, we work through all the meets, we don't take an easy day before a race and we are working all through the week," says Coach Ryan Ortega.

Cross country is also known as a national sport, and athletes who compete can receive national fame. "It's known nationally, and we've got people who have been ranked nationally. Talon Hull is currently nineteenth in the nation, and McKenna Lee made it to nationals," says Ortega. "Theoretically, runners in nationals are in the top 40 percent of the nation," he adds.

"Nationals last year was really fun," says junior McKenna Lee. "We got to meet people from all over the country, and it was just an awesome experience." Lee felt the national experience helped her achieve running success. "It felt really great, and it gave me the confidence that I could be the top in the sport that I chose, and that I could work hard enough to reach my goals," she says.

"Only 40 people in the country get to go, and it was just an awesome experience," adds senior Talon Hull. "You get to race with the fastest kids in the nation."

This season, Hull placed second in region, and third in state. His scores alongside his team mates, helped Weber place third in region, and seventh in state. On the girl's side, Lee placed first in region, and second in state. Lee helped her

team achieve first place in region and fourth place in state.

"We finished great, both boys and girls," says Ortega, reflecting on the season. "The girls weren't planning to win region, but they raced really well and they won it," he adds.

But, they're not done yet. Cross country athletes are training for a western national competition. "We're training for the Foot-Locker Western Regionals where the top 10 individuals make it to nationals," says Ortega. "They [Lee and Hull] made it last year, and I'm sure they'll make it this year."

So how does someone prepare for something as difficult and challenging as nationals or any race? Cross country members must train all year and do their best to improve both mentally and physically. "For mentally, I try to picture myself passing someone I want to beat at the finish line," says Hull, "Physically, just lots of training and getting in a lot of miles. Tons of speed workouts."

"You've got to warm up and you've got to run around a bit to get all the muscles moving," says senior Nathan Staker. "But you've also got to try not to get too worked up; getting up on the start line can be really nerve racking."

"The races themselves are 5ks, or about three miles, so that is what we train for," adds Ortega.

Health is another reason athletes join the cross country team. "A lot of people have running become part of their lives: healthy heart, healthy weight and healthy body composition," says Ortega.

"It can be bad on the knees later in life," he adds. "You have to learn correct form and such to help battle that. It is a lifestyle, and people who have done it [cross country] in high school usually end up running marathons when they're in their 20's or 30's."



Senior Talon Hull sprints past an Ogden High runner at the finish line during the City County meet.

Photo by Derrick Gaedcke

According to a study conducted by the *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise*, men can burn 124 calories every mile, and woman 74-105 calories the same distance.

"You feel good, you just always feel good," says Hull. "You have more energy; you're not sluggish. You feel really energetic."

Staker also appreciates the health benefits from running. "It really helps your heart and your lungs," says Staker. "Your legs will be sore, but you'll get better each time."

Cross country also brings people together, allowing students to get to know each other as they work and train, "I started cross country last year, and I didn't really know anyone. But now everyone on the team is my best friend," says Staker. "You all enjoy doing the same thing; you're out running for miles with these people, and you can just talk to them and get to know them.

Lots of inside jokes."

"There's a real homey feeling about it [cross country meets]. Everyone is cool, and everyone wants to be your friend," says Hull. "People are just really welcoming. No one on our team is an outcast. We make them feel at home."

Senior Derrick Gaedcke agrees on the social benefits of cross country. "If it weren't for cross country, I wouldn't be where I am right now. We are more of a family than a team, and I'd do anything for my family," he says.

Staker has advice for those wanting to join cross country. "It will be hard, and you won't be that good in the beginning, but as you work at it, you'll get better," he says.

Gaedcke adds, "Always run the second day because the first day is always the hardest. Also, you can learn anything from anyone if you respect them enough."



Making final races at a Weber home meet are senior Eliza Schafer, junior Madilyn Aardema and sophomore Shelby Murray.

Photo by Natali Gonzalez

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# Dance provides opportunities, showcases performers’ talents

By Rebecca Gonzales  
News Editor

Almost two dozen Weber High students have been preparing since May for Julie Moffitt Ballet School’s twelfth production of *The Nutcracker*, which they perform every year at Peery’s Egyptian Theater in Ogden on Dec. 2-5.

“For those who think they hate ballets, I suggest starting with *The Nutcracker*,” said Alicia Smeding, teacher and choreographer at the ballet school. “It has a little bit of everything: comedy, romance, conflict, fantasy. The story is easy to follow along and everyone knows the music. Plus, it’s about Christmas! Who doesn’t love that?” she adds.

“*The Nutcracker* story appeals to adults and children alike, and no one gets tired of it each Christmas season. It’s a tradition to see *The Nutcracker*,” said Julie Moffitt, the studio’s owner and director. “Also, in today’s dress-down society, going to a ballet is still a special occasion where people dress up. The mood of seeing a ballet is like no other.”

The audience at *The Nutcracker* is viewing the culmination of hundreds of years of history. Ballet originated in the 17th century and gained traction in the courts of France’s King Louis XIV. “The

1830 production of *La Sylphide* introduced the first ballet danced *en pointe*,” said Moffitt, explaining the origins of the modern tradition of dancing on the tips of the toes. “Ballet shifted to Russia and then to America by Russian-born George Balanchine, who founded the School of American Ballet,” she adds.

According to the Moscow Ballet, *The Nutcracker Ballet* is based on a story by E.T.A. Hoffman and set to music composed by Tchaikovsky. It was commissioned by Ivan Vsevolozhsky, director of Moscow’s Imperial Theaters. It premiered in 1892, but didn’t become popular in western countries until the 1940’s.

“Only subtle changes have occurred over time in the ballet world; it is a timeless art,” said Aimee Davis, another teacher at the studio. “It doesn’t matter if choreography is from the 1980’s - it would still be relevant today, whereas jazz choreography from the 1980’s would be dated,” she adds.

“Many disciplined dance styles and steps are linked back to ballet. Ballet includes stories that are theatrical and unspoken and sets the standard for classical and technical training. If you want to be a technical dancer, you must include ballet training,” said Moffitt.

According to Smeding, “There’s nothing quite like ballet. I’ve always thought that if you can fig-

ure out how to do ballet, you can figure out almost any other dance style. The interesting thing about ballet is that you are doing something so physically demanding that is not entirely natural, but you need to look graceful and elegant. This is why I characterize ballet dancers as ‘athletic artists.’ There’s nothing out there that demands all of that at the same time like ballet.”

The students agree with their teachers, as they found ballet to be their passion. “The most challenging thing about ballet is the commitment. It takes years of practice. You have to dedicate your entire life to it, but it’s worth it!” said junior Maddi Marker.

Emma Titus, junior, has performed in four *Nutcrackers* and spends 24 hours per week at the studio. “I’ve done plenty of other sports in my life and out of all of them, ballet has been the hardest!” she claims. “We have to have the endurance of a soccer player with immense amounts of physical strength on top of having to be incredibly flexible. Because of this, we are required to spend countless hours rehearsing and cross-training, and I absolutely think this makes it harder than any sport.”

Junior Sydney Pace agrees and adds, “Most athletes practice a couple times a week for one game. Dancers practice for many months for one performance.”

“Ballet is hard. The training, athleticism and discipline are just as, or more, vigorous in ballet than in any other traditional sport,” Davis claims. “In fact, football players are often asked to train in ballet because it is such an excellent form of cross-training.”

She hears remarks from adults in her beginning ballet class such as “I didn’t know I had muscles there!” or “You want me to do *what*?”

“These kinds of comments are indicators of how athletic ballet really is,” Davis says.

Junior Justin Roylance is mostly a tap dancer, but is performing the role of the Nutcracker Soldier this year. Ballet is “not just for girls,” he said, refuting the popular stereotype. In order to perform lifts, you have to be “pretty strong,” he claimed. Roylance said he has gained strength from dance, building “muscles in places [he] wouldn’t normally get.”

However, there is some debate as to whether dance can be categorized as a sport. Eliza Cragun, junior, says, “Ballet is an art, and I



The girls practice “Waltz of the Flowers,” ballet dance for their upcoming performance.

Photos by Megan Eldredge

personally believe art is harder than any sport.”

“Just like any other skill set, the difficulty and progression in dance is all based on the person’s ability to set goals, to listen to apply corrections, and to spend the time on the dance. I’m often apprehensive to say ballet or dance is better or harder than anything else because it’s dependent on the individual and their willingness to do everything it takes to progress and succeed,” said Smeding.

“To master ballet, as well as to master sports, it takes discipline, time, and years of dedication. I think ballet even requires more training because ballet dancers not only have to master the technical skill, but must also master the artistry,” added Moffitt.

The physical demands of dance, especially ballet, lead to many injuries, both minor and major, especially around performance season. Bruises, blisters, floor burns, and twisted or sprained ankles are common. As far as toes go, ballerinas often develop painful bunions and callouses from the demands of pointe work. Senior Chloe Carlile even lost three of her toenails while performing as the Sugar Plum Fairy in the 2015 *Nutcracker*, a process she described as “very, very painful.”

“You are taught from a very young age that if you fall, trip or make a mistake, you get right back up and keep going without batting an eyelash,” said Smeding. “I’ve known many dancers who have seriously injured themselves onstage but continue on until the final curtain drops, only to immediately repair and nurse the injury so they

can return to dance as soon as possible. No extra points or fouls, no special stretcher to dramatically whisk them away. In fact, dancers often hide injuries for long periods of time so as not to look weak or unfit for parts. This is how deep the drive and love for this art runs,” she adds.

In addition to the obvious physical benefits of dance, there are many mental benefits. “I love the emotion and passion that ballet brings out in me and my students. I love creating pieces that tell a story or convey an idea that is hard to put into words. It gives me and my students a creative outlet to express both joyful and painful aspects of life. Simply put, ballet makes you feel beautiful. It is my greatest antidepressant!” says Davis.

Krista Stone, junior, is an example of dance’s healing powers. “While I’m dancing, my anxieties, stresses and worries disappear. It’s such a wonderful feeling when I move to the music and all the problems in the world just float away,” she said. “Honestly, I would not be currently living if it wasn’t for dance.”

Titus has had a similar experience. She credits dance as the best help for her depression, stating that it has changed her life and was her “motivation to get up in the morning.”

Through the many hours spent dancing, teens can also form strong bonds with each other. “We are almost closer than family, considering we see each other more than our actual family,” said junior Allie Wilson.

“I think of them as sisters,” said senior Abby Leake. “We all share

something in common; we love to dance, and we bond over that passion,” she adds.

According to Smeding, the rigors of ballet and the long rehearsals in preparation for shows, such as *The Nutcracker*, can also help teens develop life skills and a work ethic that some adults don’t even have. “I found myself saying no to parties because of rehearsals. It taught me compromise and how to prioritize. It taught me how to be at the bottom and work hard to get to the top, and how to be gracious and kind when you’re on the top,” she said.

“There are a number of rules followed in class that all boil down to respect for themselves, their instructor and their classmates,” added Davis. “Because of the etiquette we require of our students, they are taught dedication, promptness, discipline and teamwork that will help them as they grow and develop into adulthood. Because of the time I spent at the studio as a teen, I didn’t have the opportunity that a lot of teens have to get themselves into trouble. We all had similar goals and values that kept us on track.”

Moffitt believes when someone wants to achieve success, they will develop self-worth. “I think that teens who aspire to achieve a higher goal and hope to gain a skill and master it - whether it be chess, literature, sports, taking care of animals or the discipline of ballet - all have the same thing in common: they are looking to better themselves and others. I think all teens need to dream big and make a difference. My hope is that teenagers find their interests and don’t let anyone tell them they can’t do it. And to never give up, even when they fail.”



Perfecting their dance are ballerinas Abby Leake, Eliza Owens, Elaina Anderson and Alyssa Hansen.

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