By Jesse Allen and Boyd Swink

Kortney Backus, a sophomore rodeo contestant, and her mother had a tragic loss as they were heading to Hurricane, Utah for Kortney’s first scheduled rodeo of the season on Wednesday, Sept. 11. Kortney and her mother were heading over to the rodeo, when in an instant, the truck was engulfed in flames, and then a few minutes later, so was the trailer. They were between Green River and Salina, on Interstate 70, when shortly after 4 p.m. Kortney and her mother’s truck started to smoke, and then it lit on fire. “I could smell something burning and my mom said she was having trouble keeping the truck in gear,” said Kortney. “The next thing we knew, the engine was on fire.” They were able to pull the truck over quickly and jump out of the truck and grab the horses out of the trailer. Law enforcement was able to get there 20 minutes later, but the truck, trailer, and all the possessions, were already burned to ashes.

As soon as the fire department got there, it took them 30 minutes to put out the blazing fire. After the battle had been finished, the fire had taken everything with it. The only thing left of the truck was the frame because everything else had been burned away. It was a time of grieving for the family, and they were very disappointed in the outcome of the day. Kortney and her mother were able to be picked up by her father, and then the horses were picked up by Sgt. Weber of Green River and taken back to their home in Moab.

Fundraising is being held for Kortney and her family so that they can eventually build up enough cash to restore their truck, trailer, and their other possessions like clothes, horse gear, etc. They would really appreciate your help; they are in a time of need, and the money would fill the void in which these possessions had been taken away from them, by aiding them in their troubles and donating a few dollars to their cause. To donate online, search for Kortney or Moab rodeo on the gofundme.com website.

One Lady Devils soccer team will play its final home game of the season at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 30, when they face the Dixie Wolveres at 4 p.m. The team’s seniors will be honored at halftime of the match.

Wednesday, Oct. 1 will be the homecoming assembly starting at 10 a.m. The assembly will feature skits and performances, in addition to the introduction of the homecoming royalty, who will enter the gym accompanied by their escorts. The royalty were all recently elected by their fellow students. This year’s homecoming queen is Cora Johnston, with fellow senior Tanner White as king. The four attendants (one from each class) are senior Zhannea Rice, junior Kwincey Wells, sophomore Jayelen Knowles, and freshman Abby Mason.

The seniors from the cross country, boys golf, and girls tennis teams will also be recognized during the assembly. Football seniors won’t be honored that week, so they are in a time of need, and the money would fill the void in which these possessions had been taken away from them, by aiding them in their troubles and donating a few dollars to their cause. To donate online, search for Kortney or Moab rodeo on the gofundme.com website.

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By Sarah Woodward

One Grand County High School student was killed and another seriously injured in a rollover accident near Green River on the afternoon of Sept. 18.

Bailey Lynne Goode, a 15 year old sophomore, died at a hospital in Salt Lake City on Sunday, Sept. 21, from injuries she sustained after being partially ejected from a 2006 Scion TC driven by Heather Lockamy, an 18-year-old senior at GCHS.

As of Sept. 26, Lockamy was still hospitalized in Grand Junction, Colorado at St. Mary’s, where she is being treated for several injuries including a broken pelvis, jaw and leg as well as other internal injuries.

An account has been set up to help Lockamy’s family with medical costs at gofundme.com/eqtwig. There was also a similar account set up for Goode’s family to help pay for funeral expenses.

The Utah Highway Patrol said the accident occurred at 1:48 p.m. on Sept. 18 at mile marker 166 on eastbound I-70 near Green River. Lockamy, who was driving, apparently lost control of the vehicle in an area where traffic had slowed due to debris (pieces of car tire) in the road, according to the Highway Patrol. Neither occupant of the vehicle was wearing a seatbelt, the Highway Patrol added.

Goode had only been attending GCHS for a couple of weeks, having recently moved to Moab from out of state. She was living with her grandparents at the time of her death. Her funeral was scheduled to take place on Sept. 27 in Grand Junction, Colorado.
In a nutshell, Ms. Leticia Perez is a true student of the school of life. Before becoming a member of GCHS’s English department, she never stayed in one town, or occupation, very long. She lived in El Paso, Texas, for most of the time she was born until her senior year of high school. Her favorite subject was English and she wanted to study it in college but was deterred by its lack of lucrative job opportunities.

She attended Indiana University. She started off her college career with planning to be a nursing major. She changed her mind multiple times before graduating with an English degree and a minor in political science. She didn’t use her degree for quite some time though, choosing to work odd jobs here and there to make money and travel more freely. Eventually, she became certified to teach and has been doing so for six years.

Ms. Perez moved to Moab in 2012. When asked how she feels about the town she now calls home and new job positions, she says, “This high school is amazing, the area is amazing, and I expect to be here for a while.”

**Club spotlight: FFA**

By Amber Snyder and Mikayla Williams

On Aug. 25, the GCHS FFA (Future Farmers of America) chapter held an opening social at the old Spanish Trail Arena. The teens all played mud volleyball and then had a BBQ with hamburgers and hot dogs. The opening social was to get people to join FFA; they wanted to show everyone the cool things that the club does.

“It was a lot of fun,” sophomore Halli Stocks said. Everyone went home covered in mud; I’m sure their parents were pleased. Jesse Allen added, “The opening social was great. FFA is an organization that really helps many teens and adults.”

Added FFA chapter president Kortney Backus, a sophomore: “The opening social was a blast! It was good to see everyone come out and support and enjoy each other’s company! Through leadership and hard work FFA can teach you life lessons like any other! We’ve got a great year ahead of us with fun, learning and a whole lot of traveling! I love it and all the people I’ve met through FFA!”

One month after the opening social, on Sept. 24, several FFA members hiked to Delicate Arch with some of the Utah state FFA officers. They got to know the officers better and played games. Earlier in the day, the officers visited club adviser Ms. Ashley Violett’s classes and talked about the organization. Ms. Violett said the trip was a lot of fun and everyone enjoyed it. They ate peanut butter and jelly balls, the sandwiches were squished by the time they got up to the Arch. Afterwards, those that went on the hike went out for frozen yogurt.

In late September, the Moab FFA chapter also did a food drive for National Hunger Awareness Month. They challenged all fourth hour classes at GCHS to compete with one another to collect non-perishable food and toiletries for the Moab Food Bank. The winning class received a prize.

**GCHS Students of the Month for Sept. 2014**

By Sarah Woodward

Grand County High School is pleased to announce that the students of the month for September 2014 are Cora Johnston and Ronnie Dolphin.

Johnston, a senior, is the daughter of Susan and Jeremy Johnston. Photography is one of her favorite classes. “I’ve taken three photography classes throughout the years and have gained a lot of experience through them. They’ve also given me opportunities, such as my current internship with the Moab Sun News,” Johnston says, adding that she also really enjoys the USU concurrent enrollment classes. “I love knowing that I have the opportunity to get college credit in high school and to work with college professors,” she adds.

Johnston admits that her most challenging class at GCHS would have to be math. “I’ve always struggled with that subject and I doubt I’ll ever stop struggling with it,” Johnston confides.

Johnston played volleyball her freshmen year here at GCHS. She also plays tennis, swimming, and golf. She has been a co-captain of the tennis team. She has also been involved in student government her whole high school career and is the current student body president. She also participated in debate her sophomore year and attended Freedom Academy for a week this past summer at Camp Williams.

Outside of school, Johnston is the president and student Leader of Younglife and has an internship with the Moab Sun News. She is currently working as a lifeguard at the Moab Recreation and Aquatics Center, and previously worked at Crystal’s Cakes and Cones.

After Johnston graduates from high school, she plans on attending a four-year college and getting a bachelor’s degree in business management. Right now, she is strongly considering attending Colorado Mesa University.

Dolphin, a senior, is the son of Ronald and Melonie Dolphin. He says his favorite classes are weight training, physical education, and construction “because they are physical, hands-on, and help build character.”

Math is also the most challenging class for Dolphin, who says, “it requires thinking outside the box.”

Dolphin is into wrestling, football, and baseball and is lettering all three years in all three sports. He has won multiple awards including football defensive player of the year, second team all-state linebacker, football special teams player of the year, and the baseball team’s rookie of the year award as a freshman.

Outside of school, Ronnie works on the beautification of the cemetery, lays sod on the school grounds, and was an assistant coach for the eighth grade football team.

Dolphin has been employed with the City of Moab for the last two years umping, refereeing, and working on the field crew. He is currently employed with McElhaney Construction.

Dolphin’s future goal is to play football at the collegiate level. Snow College is among his choices.

The GCHS Student of the Month program is sponsored by the local Elks Lodge under the direction of Frank Vaccaro. The high school coordinator is Jeff Richards. The students are also recognized by the Rotary Club and Grand County School District Board of Education. The program was started by the Elks to recognize students who are outstanding in the areas of character, leadership, service, citizenship and scholastic performance.
Students welcomed back with ‘Red Devil Pride’

The students and staff of GCHS were welcomed to a new school year at the opening assembly on Aug. 27 in the auditorium. Among the highlights were performances by the drill team and cheerleaders, plus skits from each of the groups of class officers, plus the student body officers.

Student body president Cora Johnson and fellow student body officers Tanner White (vice president), Andrew Hugentobler (secretary), and Kesley Backus (public relations) introduced this year’s theme: “Red Devil Pride: It’s Up to You.”

Backus promised to keep students informed of events via Twitter, text messages, and announcements on other social media. The GCHS faculty, which has several new faces this year, was also introduced on stage, by department.

Devilettes performed dance in all-black outfits, white masks.

Sophomore class members hold up “It’s Up to You” banner.

Band, color guard are ready

Ever since band camp the first week of August, the GCHS marching band and color guard have been perfecting their show to get ready for their competitions, the first of which is the Nebo Tournament of the Bands in Payson on Saturday, Sept. 27.

According to band director Don McGuire, Grand’s show this year is titled “Harlem 1935” and features jazz and blues music from that era. There are about 20 musicians in the GCHS band and several other students in the color guard, which is being coached by Michelle Hueser. According to Mr. McGuire, both groups must rehearse and work together for many hours to achieve the high degree of precise choreography and musical quality that characterize top-level marching band performances.

They have already been performing parts of their show at the halftimes of home football games.

Devilettes pose before one of their recent football game performances.

By Molly McKinnon and Tanner Bisco

Bruises, floor burns, sore muscles, dripping sweat, and dancing so hard that gasping at the end seemed to be part of the routine.

After cramming 27 hours of dancing into three days at dance camp and having daily practices after school, the Devilettes feel confident in their team.

This year’s coaches, Stephanie Shepherd and Sommar Johnson, have also been bringing the girls together with team building to build a stronger team!

The girls have been giving every performance their all and dancing their hearts out each time! They are all so pleased with what this season has had to bring and are excited to see what else in store for them.

The girls say they feel like a big group of friends that are getting the opportunity to do what they love every day and they wouldn’t change it for the world! The 2014-2015 Grand County High School Devilettes are so proud of their accomplishments and they are ready for whatever comes their way! Go girls!
Mountain bikers compete in first 2 events

The Moab Red Devil mountain biking team placed fifth overall out of 39 Division 2 high school teams that competed in the season-opening race at Soldier Hollow on Saturday, Sept. 6. The Red Devils did even better in their second race, held at Nordic Valley Ski Resort on Sept. 20, taking fourth overall among 40 Division 2 high school teams.

At Soldier Hollow, the Red Devils were paced by Bjorn Nicolaisen, who placed third overall in the junior varsity division. Also for Moab, Max Lesoine had a strong showing in the very tough varsity field, placing 14th overall in a four-lap race that featured the top riders from both Division 1 and 2.

Coincidentally, Moab had two other riders also place 14th in their respective races: Sam Hansen qualified for state in the JV division and Tyler Moreau placed 14th in the freshman division, head coach Melissa Nerone said.

Also competing for the Moab boys were River Murdock and Jamie Marshall.

For the Moab girls, junior Brittny Ballard was the top finisher, coming in 27th overall among JV girls with a time of 1 hour, 0 minutes, 1 seconds. Finishing right behind her in the 28th spot was junior teammate Robin Willscheidt-Johnson, who had a time of 1:01:17.

Also for Moab, senior Delaney Manley completed her first-ever mountain biking race.

At Nordic Valley on Sept. 20, the Red Devils competed on a course that Nerone described as “hot, very dusty, uphill, then downhill, repeat two, three, or four times.” The Red Devils had 11 athletes competing in the event.

Preston Bagley-Gurtner, a junior, led the way for Moab with a 22nd-place finish in the varsity division, which comprises the top 40 riders in all divisions, Nerone said, adding that points are earned by each rider using a tiered or weighted formula.

Also at Nordic Valley, Nicolaisen placed second overall in the junior varsity category of Division 2, while Hansen took 14th in that JV division, and Murdock placed 19th.

Also contributing to Moab’s overall team score was Lesoine, who took 15th among female riders in the JV division. Ballard finished just 20 seconds behind Willscheidt-Johnson, and placed 18th in JV.

Also at Nordic Valley, Moab junior Cody Jones finished his first-ever mountain bike race. Also competing for Moab were Marshall, Manley, and Moreau.

The team’s next race in the five-race Utah High School Cycling League series will take place Saturday, Oct. 4 at Park City.

Girls tennis heads to post-season

Five members of the GCHS girls tennis team qualified for state after taking part in the 2A Southern Division tournament in Richfield and South Sevier Sept. 26. One Grand player, senior Robin Willscheidt-Johnson, took first place in division, outlasting her opponent in a match that lasted more than three hours.

Grand’s season started with a loss in its opening match to Nan Juan on Aug. 25, but the Lady Devils rebounded to sweep their next two region matches on the road.

At Gunnison on Aug. 28, the Lady Devils won five of five varsity matches. Despite losing her first set 4-6, Grand’s No. 1 singles player Kayla Weston, a junior, came back to win the next two sets 6-4, 6-4, and capture the match. In No. 2 singles, Grand’s Brittny Ballard, also a junior, won 6-0, 6-1. Robin Willscheidt-Johnson, a senior, also won her No. 3 singles match in similar fashion, 6-0, 6-1. In doubles matches vs. Gunnison, Grand’s Emma Sweeney and Mandolin Wilkinson teamed up to win the No. 1 doubles category with a 6-2, 6-2 decision. In No. 2 doubles, Grand’s Aiah Hawkins and Kyra Scovill won in straight sets, 6-1, 6-3.

Grand then traveled to Delta on Sept. 2, scoring another road sweep. The Lady Devils won all five varsity matches in straight sets, with Grand’s singles players winning by the following scores: Weston 6-0, 6-0; Ballard 6-1, 6-2; and Willscheidt-Johnson 6-0, 6-0. In No. 1 doubles, Tierra Hawks and Emma Sweeney teamed to win their match 6-0, 6-3. Wilkinson and Scovill won in No. 2 doubles, 7-5, 6-2.

At home against Manti Sept. 16, Grand won one of its five varsity matches, with Ballard picking up the lone victory in her No. 2 doubles match, 6-2, 6-1.

In the No. 1 singles match against Manti, Weston was defeated 3-6, 4-6. Willscheidt-Johnson also lost in No. 3 singles, despite winning the first set 6-4. She lost the second set 0-6 and the third one 5-7. In No. 1 doubles, Grand’s Tierra Hawks and Sweeney lost in straight sets, as did Wilkinson and Cassidy Walker in No. 2 doubles.

The Lady Devils fared much better in their home match Sept. 18 against Wasatch Academy, with Grand winning four of the five varsity matches.

In No. 1 singles, Weston lost her first set 4-6, came back to win the second one 6-3, but lost the third and deciding set 0-6. In No. 2 singles, Ballard won 6-4, 6-3. In No. 3 singles, Willscheidt-Johnson also won in straight sets, 6-0, 6-1. Sweeney and Hawks earned a two-set sweep in No. 1 doubles against Wasatch Academy, winning 6-2, 6-3. In No. 2 doubles, Wilkinson teamed with Scovill to post a 6-0, 6-1 victory.

The Lady Devils traveled to play South Sevier at Monroe on Sept. 29, in a match that was originally scheduled for Sept. 9 but was rained out. Grand won four out of five of its matches against the Lady Rams, the only loss being in No. 1 doubles.

After staying overnight in the area following their match at South Sevier, the Lady Devils competed in the division championships Sept. 26. All three Grand singles players qualified, with Weston taking fourth, Ballard taking second, and Willscheidt-Johnson taking first.

Grand’s No. 1 doubles team didn’t qualify for state, but its No. 2 doubles did, placing third in division. The top four placers in each category at division qualify for the state tournament, on Oct. 3 at Liberty Park in Salt Lake City.

Volleyball team wins first 2 at home

The GCHS volleyball team went 2-2 in its first four region games.

At Emery High School in Castle Dale on Tuesday, Sept. 16, the Lady Devils lost the first two sets of the match, came back to win the next two, but then lost the deciding set, 8-15. Grand also lost in a three-game sweep to San Juan at Blanding in their region opener on Sept. 11.

The following week at home, the Lady Devils fared better, coming from behind to oust the North Sevier Lady Wolves on Friday, Sept. 19, then sweeping Wasatch Academy the following afternoon.

Against North Sevier on Sept. 19, the Lady Devils won the first set 25-22, but dropped the next two by scores of 22-25 and 17-25. Grand came back in the fourth set to win 25-20, and then captured the fifth and deciding set, 15-6.

Grand senior Kasey Betts was named player of the match, according to GCHS head coach Deb Hren, who said, “Kasey was all-around our most consistent player for the match. She had 12 kills, 10 blocks, 11 digs, and passed consistently.” Betts also led the team with three service aces during the match, Hren added.

Also for the Lady Devils, Rylee Pruitt and Kesley Backus added nine kills apiece and Lexi Risenhoover added seven blocks.

Sept. 20 against Wasatch Academy, the Lady Devils swept the match in convincing fashion, winning the three games by scores of 25-15, 25-21, and 25-13. Senior libero Cammy Beeman was named player of the match for recording 26 service points, including five aces. She also added five digs, according to coach Hren.

The final week of September, the Lady Devils played at Monticello in a non-region content Sept. 25, which Monticello won 25-21, 25-22, and 26-24.

That game was to be followed by a region contest against South Sevier at Moab on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 27. The Lady Devils’ homecoming game will be Thursday, Oct. 2 against Emery.

Cross-country team running strong

The Red Devils during the Highland Invitational on Aug. 21. Photo by John Knowles

The GCHS cross-country team has had a busy season, competing in several meets, including the following: the Highland Invitational on Aug. 21 in Salt Lake City’s Sugarhouse Park; the Red Rock Invitational on Aug. 27 at the Moab Golf Club; the Lloyd’s Lake Invitational on Sept. 5 at Monticello; the Tiger Invitational on Sept. 12 at Grand Junction, Colorado; and the Emery Invitational in Castle Dale on Sept. 17, and the Carbon Invitational at Price on Sept. 24. At Emery on Sept. 17, GCHS senior Andrew Hugentobler finished ahead of 62 runners to capture first place individually. His winning time was 17:24.

“Andrew ran a very smart race from start to finish,” Red Devil head coach Randy Martin said. “He made his moves at the exact right time during the race to surge ahead of the front runners and then had the mental strength and physical stamina to continue to pull farther ahead during the race.”

The Red Devil runners are gearing up for the region championships Oct. 14 in Moab, as well as the state meet at Sugarhouse Park on Oct. 22.
Girls soccer off to a good start; Lady Devils hoping to contend for playoffs

The GCHS girls soccer team is off to a 3-4 start on their season, thanks to three straight region wins in mid-September.

The Lady Devils started off with an 8-0 scrimmage loss at Maeer Preparatory Academy on Aug. 26. Grand also lost their first region game 3-0 on Sept. 9 at American Leadership Academy.

Grand then earned its first win of the season with a 6-0 victory over North Sevier at Salina on Sept. 11. On Sept. 16, the Lady Devils played the first of five home games in a row over a span of two and a half weeks, when they faced the Gunnison Bulldogs. Grand won that game 3-1, with Taitum Cook, Heather Sweeney, and Skyla Sheldon each scoring a goal.

Two days later, on Sept. 18, Sheldon scored the game’s only goal late in the first half as the Lady Devils pulled out a 1-0 shutout victory over South Summit. Abbie Camps and Ellie Kelly shared goalkeeping duties and combined for the shutout.

On Sept. 23, the Lady Devils lost at home to undefeated Manti, 4-0. Then, on Sept. 25, Grand lost at home 2-1 in overtime to ALA. Hannah Rice headed in a goal in the first half to give the Lady Devils a 1-0 lead, but ALA tied the game midway through the second half, then won in sudden-death overtime.

Grand’s homecoming game will be Sept. 30 against North Sevier, after which the Lady Devils will have three more away games to finish out their season, with the possibility of qualifying for the playoffs.

Girls soccer off to a good start; Lady Devils hoping to contend for playoffs

Football team off to 1-4 start, with lone win coming on road vs. N. Sevier

The GCHS football team started its season with a 1-4 record, the only win coming against North Sevier on Sept. 5.

The Red Devils started off with a 30-12 non-region loss to Carbon at Price on Aug. 22. Quarterback Tanner White scored a rushing TD for Grand in the first quarter, and completed a TD pass to Joshua Stalpes in the fourth quarter to account for the Red Devils’ scoring.

The following week, the Red Devils played Rifle, Colo., in a non-region game at Moab. Rifle won the game 56-6. Grand sophomore Nolan Beeman prevented a shutout when he made a 15-yard TD run late in the game.

The following week at Salina, the Red Devils picked up their first win of the year with a convincing 42-0 shutout win over the Wolves. White scored two rushing TDs, and Seth Holyoak, Ronnie Dolphin, and Koby Sobremesana each added another rushing TD. Holyoak also caught a TD pass, which was White’s only pass completion of the game, in four attempts.

Grady’s ground game proved unstoppable, as the Red Devils amassed a total of 327 yards rushing.

“We challenged the team to know the game plan, and they executed it quite well,” said GCHS head coach Dennis Wells, who added, “We had a good ball-control offense. The only time North Sevier stopped us was the first half was on two fumbles.”

One week later, on Sept. 12, the Red Devils played South Sevier at Moab, falling to the Rams by a score of 34-29. The Red Devils staged a furious fourth-quarter comeback but ultimately ran out of time with five yards to go and five points behind.

Down 28-7 at the start of the fourth quarter, Grand scored three TDs during the quarter to pull within reach. White made a four-yard scoring run with less than one minute to play and fellow senior Koby Sobremesana added the extra point kick to bring Grand within five, 34-29.

Grand recovered the ensuing onside kick and managed to advance the ball to the Rams’ five-yard line in the final minute of the game, but the clock ran out before the Red Devils could hike the ball and intentionally throw it to the ground to stop the clock for one last play.

“We should have just run a play instead of trying to stop the clock,” said coach Wells. “We just needed one more play.”

White ended up with three TDs rushing, plus a TD pass to Sobremesana.

One week later, on Sept. 19, the Red Devils again played at home, this time falling to the Beaver Bears by a score of 28-21.

Despite giving up two touchdowns in each of the first two quarters, the Red Devils managed to shut out the Beavers in the second half.

“Our defense played tough in the second half, and we outscored them 7-0 in the second half, with a chance to tie it at the end,” said coach Wells.

Beaver quarterback Matthew Roberts scored on a 30-yard run early in the first quarter to put the Beavers up 6-0. Grand quarterback Tanner White answered a few minutes later with a 30-yard TD run of his own. Koby Sobremesana added the extra-point kick to put the Red Devils ahead 7-6 midway through the first quarter.

Grand’s next two possessions ended in interceptions, however, and both turnovers eventually led to Beaver touchdowns. Beaver made a two-point conversion on the first of those two TDs and added a PAT kick on the second to take a 20-7 lead early in the second quarter.

Later in the second quarter, Sobremesana scored on a two-yard TD run, and added the extra-point kick to bring Grand within seven points, 21-14.

Beaver’s Roberts threw a 24-yard TD pass with two minutes left in the second quarter to put the Beavers ahead, 28-14.

The only score of the second half by either team came on a 12-yard TD pass from White to junior receiver Brendan Bennett with about 4:53 remaining in the third quarter.

Grand played the third quarter and the entire fourth quarter of the game, but couldn’t convert a fourth-down pass attempt deep in Beaver territory with only a couple of minutes to play. Beaver then ran out the clock on its last possession to secure the win.

White and Sobremesana each rushed for 75 yards to lead the Red Devils. Defensively, junior Seth Holyoak led the team with nine tackles.

Remaining games on Grand’s regular-season schedule are as follows: Sept. 26 at Enterprise, Oct. 3 vs. Summit Academy (homecoming), Oct. 10 at Parowan, and Thursday, Oct. 16 vs. San Juan.

Girls soccer off to a good start; Lady Devils hoping to contend for playoffs

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Girls soccer off to a good start; Lady Devils hoping to contend for playoffs
The key to preventing suicide is awareness

By Emilia Cubelos

Suicide is rarely spoken about until someone well-known kills themselves. It’s a taboo topic brought into the lime light too often. If discussed properly, we can take these cases of celebrity suicide and make them something positive, educate the general public. Unfortunately, though, there’s just a chorus of praise for the deceased individual, petty gossip, and then the dark side of life is the shadow of the past, only dredged up when a similar incident occurs or on the anniversary of their death. When actor-comedian Robin Williams died over the summer, I think it’s safe to say that we, his fans, were saddened. We were still distant from the situation, though. We didn’t know him personally, and none of us believe it would ever happen to someone close to us. Suicide is a dark moment in most people’s lives, but imagining it happening seems pretty unrealistic. I am here to tell you different. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for people between ages 10 and 24, according to research. People care about you. Keep on living, because you are not beyond help. No matter how dark your mind has become, speak up. It's better to be safe than sorry. All of the warning signs can be found online. If you are feeling suicidal, PLEASE seek out help. Call a hotline, tell a friend or a trusted adult. No matter how dark your mind has become, know that it’s hard now. You are loved, you are needed, and you will negatively affect everyone around you in a negative way if you ceased to exist. People care about you. Keep on living, because you want to see the sun come out from the clouds.

Fashion tips for fall

Welcome back to school! This year trends are throwing it back to the 90’s. Plaid miniskirts and crop tops. Although the daring, adorable, short dos. Still in. Now it’s all about messy braids. I also really love all of the daring, adorable, short dos. But please, this does not mean that big necklaces are out. Last but not least BRAIDS. Braids have been in for so many years they are not going to go away. You can wear your hair up, down, and in between. Braids are the perfect way to have a fun, youthful look.

Delaney’s World by Delaney Manley

I started a band called 999 megabytes. We still haven’t gotten a gig yet.

Ba-dum tss

Should 10 Commandments be put on display?

The question was recently raised. “Should the Ten Commandments be allowed in a courtroom?” The answer was troubling. Almost everyone in the room raised their hand saying “No, it shouldn’t be in the courtrooms.” Then the question was asked “Why?” The answer returned was what really got my attention. The answer was “because of the separation of church and state.” This was puzzling to me because the separation of church and state is implied in the amendment of the United States Constitution. Examples would be Spain and Catholicism, and England and the Anglican Church. The nations were settled, even the governments worked in tandem. When the nation was formed, Jefferson helped the people of Virginia in the amending of their constitution to take away the power of the Anglican Church. When the nation was formed, the people had control over their church. This is found in the Bill of Rights. This portion from the Bill of Rights was written to ensure that the United States of America didn’t turn back into the countries from which its people had escaped. It made sure that a state didn’t make a law stating that a certain church was the only church you could attend. It did indicate that you could have the religious freedom of your choice. And when Jefferson talked about the separation between church and state, he meant it only so that the church didn’t have control over the government, and the government didn’t have control over any church.

In today’s world, some people take what Jefferson said in this letter “… building a wall of separation between Church and State” and twist into rules and regulations as to what can and cannot be said in the public places such as schools, and courthouses. In some schools, students are not allowed to carry around a Bible, or they are not allowed to say “… One nation under God…” in the Pledge of Allegiance. In other cases, a group of ten good moral principles cannot be written on a wall in a courtroom because they are Biblical teachings that supposedly violate the separation of church and state.

This I do not understand, for a world that is trying to be more “tolerant” towards others sure doesn’t have any tolerance toward what this country was founded upon. It can be brought on from a long struggle with depression, a mental illness caused by a hormone and chemical imbalance in the brain. No matter the reason, suicide is never the answer. It is a permanent solution to a temporary problem. In my opinion, the key to preventing teen suicide is awareness. A few years ago, several students from CTCHS hosted an anti-bullying assembly that had a focus on suicide attempts. It brought into focus the fact that there are students walking amongst us that are desperate enough to take this drastic measure. It was an eye-opener for many, and it’s a small step in the right direction. If you don’t think your friends need to be removed. Mental illness is a thing of our world and the stigma needs to be removed. People care about you. Keep on living, because you are not beyond help. No matter how dark your mind has become, speak up. It's better to be safe than sorry. All of the warning signs can be found online. If you are feeling suicidal, PLEASE seek out help. Call a hotline, tell a friend or a trusted adult. No matter how dark your mind has become, know that it’s hard now. You are loved, you are needed, and you will negatively affect everyone around you in a negative way if you ceased to exist. People care about you. Keep on living, because you want to see the sun come out from the clouds.

Caleb’s Column

By Caleb Howe

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**Game review: GTAV**

**By Taylor Cary**

The newest installment in the *Grand Theft Auto* series from Rockstar games has caught the eye of millions all over the world and sold the most copies in 24 hours than any other game ever. For over a decade, everyone has loved the criminal life that *Grand Theft Auto* has allowed them to live and it has continued to maintain its high popularity from upping the bar for every new game. The realism that *GTAV* has brought to the table is hard to go unnoticed from every little detail they put in the game including improved physics, texture, and the fashion style that is seen in Los Angeles, on which the game’s main city is based. The game’s characters and voice actors really make this game as good as it is. The story keeps you interested and emotionally invested. Having three main characters gives you a chance to live through three different perspectives. The three main protagonists are all completely different in looks and personality, and give it a nice contrast that just flows well together. The game has been revamped with today’s modern culture, music, and style. The cinematic cut scenes make it as if you could be watching your favorite movie, and it leaves you on the edge of your seat through the entire story. Also, having the option to plan out your own heists, play many different sports, and try out all of the new weapons and vehicles, all help make sure you never get bored. This is one of those games you can play for 18 hours at a time and still be saying “only five more minutes” and you will keep on playing. Grade: 4.5 out of 5 stars.

**Book review: The Scattering**

**By Brook Mick**

*The Scattering*, written by prize-winning writer Jaki McCarrick, is built up of a collection of nineteen short stories, several of which have won awards. The nineteen stories, set mostly on the Irish Border, all carry a sense of dark resonance. Some explore themes of catastrophe, death and despair, while others talk of love and longing. All of them are highly complimented by McCarrick’s sparse but emotive writing skills.

In the opening story, “By the Black Field,” we read about Angel and his expecting wife, Jess. We learn what is important in life and how quickly those that we know can pass. Once again, in “The Scattering,” we are really made to think about life itself, how we live it and how it how we should value it because again, you never know when your time will be up.

Although some of these stories do deal with rather gloomy thoughts of life, they are all written in such a way that the stories told are interesting to read and really do make you think. This collection of short stories is definitely an interesting read, with some of the questionable topics not always being fully answered. Although many of the stories cover such dark subjects, I truly found it a hard book to put down. I would give it five out of five stars.

**Movie review: The Fault in Our Stars**

**By Rhiannon Bohannon**

*The Fault in Our Stars* was a great movie. I absolutely loved it. It was such a good story. It was based off of a book, the book was much better than the movie but they still did a good job in this movie. It did leave out some key components though. This movie made me cry as well as everyone else in the theater. It is now out on DVD and I will have to go buy it. It is 2 hours and 6 minutes long and is rated PG-13.

I’d say it is totally worth it to go and rent it. Hazel Grace Lancaster (Shailene Woodley) is a 16-year-old girl who has cancer. She falls deeply in love with Gus Waters (Ansel Elgort) who is in her cancer support group. They have a lot in common, and they seem to understand each other. They can have fun together and it is clear that they are in love. All of the actors in the movie are such great actors that I could feel the love and pain all of them went through, making me like it even more.

I don’t see how anyone could not like this movie. This movie is about their lives together. I don’t think all ages would like this movie but since I am a teenager, I love it. Its audience is aimed more for teens anyways. I think they should have put some more detail in the movie but it was good nevertheless. I would rate this movie 4.5 out of 5 stars.

**DVD review: Marvel’s The Avengers**

**By Kristin Acosta**

Fellow comic book readers! Here is a movie that will get your heart racing and excited for other superhero movies to come. The exhilarating movie that I am reviewing is *Marvel’s The Avengers*. First off, I would like to say that this movie kept me wanting more. This movie is rated K-13 and is 2 hours and 22 minutes long. It was produced by Kevin Feige, the producer of other great Marvel movies like *Thor*, *Iron Man 2*, *Iron Man 3*, *Captain America*, and many more.

*The Avengers* movie includes everybody’s favorite Marvel superheroes, including the Incredible Hulk, Iron Man, Captain America, Hawkeye, Back Widow, and Thor teaming up to save the world from mass destruction.

**Game review: Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim**

**By Tyler Crosby**

I want you to subtract everything you hate about the past Elder Scrolls games you have played, and add everything you love to it. Also, add a better engine that does not crash on you every hour and is not a steaming pile of bugs, and you have entered into what *Skyrim* truly is.

*The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim,* to me, is a masterpiece. It’s one of those games that most people have been waiting for since 2011. And now that it is here, we are all addicted to *Skyrim* in every way possible.

It’s not often that I completely lose track of time and get lost in a game like I did in *Skyrim*, which is the greatest RPG (role playing game) I have ever played. It has amazing graphics, great outstanding fighting scenes, and an amazing map to explore and conquer your foes.

It has everything that a great game should have. *Skyrim* is a very vast and very open role-playing game which I think every gamer should have. It involves having missions involving bloody, unnecessary violence, along with others that require diplomatic social skills.

The game is largely based on what the user makes of it. The players can choose to either act nobly, maliciously, or pathetically. But the actions they choose are typically accompanied by appropriate consequences, meaning that players who do good will be rewarded while those two do evil will likely end up spending time in jail and facing loss of property and skill.

*Skyrim* is a very intense game with mature themes, including violence, sexuality, alcohol, and complex social, political, and economic problems. It was released in 2013 and is available for PlayStation 3, Xbox 360, and Microsoft Windows.
Top 10 Weirdest Mascots

10. Fighting Artichokes (Scottsdale Community College)
9. Dots (Poca High School, Poca, West Virginia)
8. Anteaters (University of California-Irvine)
7. Banana Slugs (University of California-Santa Cruz)
6. Beetdiggers (Jordan High, Sandy, Utah)
5. Midgets (Dickinson, North Dakota)
4. Awesome Blossoms (Blooming Prairie, Minnesota)
3. Papermakers (Camas, Washington)
2. Nimrods (Watersmeet, Michigan)
1. Maniacs (Orofino, Idaho)