

Knights In Shining Armor

By: Alisa Andrews and Allison File

The NLHS Knights Run to Victory

On Saturday, May 12th, the Women’s and Men’s Track Team won first place at the regional meet. The meet was held at Bunker Hill High School. There were 19 State Qualifiers, which was an impressive feat because only the top four individuals in each event qualify for states. The team competed in 95°F, which also shows the level of difficulty they accomplished. I had the opportunity to speak with Angie Allen, a freshman on the team, about her thoughts on the meet and the season so far. Angie said “everyone did very well considering the circumstances of the weather, and I am very excited to see what this team will do at States!” When asked about her favorite part of running Angie said, “it is very fun to watch everyone succeed in their own events and hang out with my friends at the meets”. At the regional meet, Angie ran in the 4x800m, 800m, and 1600m. The team got first in the 4x800 and Angie placed second behind NLHS Senior Chandler McCaslin in the 800m and 1600m.



(above) Both the Women’s and Men’s team



(above) Sophomore Shay Rooney and Freshman Angie Allen



(above) Sophomore Jason Thomson in the 800 The State meet will take place on Saturday, May 19th. We wish all of the athletes the best of luck in their performances!

Thank you to Darcy Rooney and Angie Allen for providing the pictures shown above!

Creative Castle

By: Grace Holbrooks & Liz Woodby

The Creative Castle is here to showcase the artists of North Lincoln High School. If you want to share your creativity with us, our emails are below for submissions: gracemack21601@gmail.com & lwoodby@gmail.com

Poetry

War as an Attraction

Sunlight is shining on rich green landscapes,
on red-tipped trees,
on free-roaming livestock.
The sun is setting on twisting lakes of twine,
of reflections,
of a parallel dimension where everything that moves is not living.

The deep pools of my eyes are watching me from across the window
(from the other dimension)
sticking to the rolling hillsides,
dancing across mountainous puzzle pieces stacked to hide the souls stuck in their endless caverns.

- Kevin Zimmerman, 12th

Photography



“ These are the miscellaneous shells that my little cousin and I found together at Emerald Isle.”

Knight Life

By: Hannah Caldwell

Final Exams are the only thing that stands in the way of summer. As teachers attempt to prepare students for the final exams, summer is the only thing on their minds. It appears that everyone is suffering from “early onset senioritis”, especially people in AP classes that have already taken exams. For many of these students, the final days of school are filled with “enrichment”, but for the unlucky students who are going deeper in the curriculum, then just remember to keep your heads up; school's almost out. Good luck to everyone on their exams, have a safe and happy summer!!!!

Editor’s Piece

By: Hannah McGuire

The Reasons Behind the Rally

On May 16th, 2018, over a third of North Carolina’s public school districts were closed as teachers left their schools to rally in Raleigh with the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE). Most students attending North Lincoln High School realize that the protest occurred, especially since half of Lincoln’s adjacent counties did receive the day off of school while Lincoln County didn’t, but do not fully realize what the march was for. According to the NCAE website, the NCAE and teachers rallied for monetary reasons. Teachers marched to increase spending towards education, both for salary raises and an increase in spending per child. The NCAE claims North Carolina teacher salaries rank 37th lowest in the country and per child spending (which refers to the amount of money allocated to educating each child in the state) is \$2,400 below the national average spending amount. The NCAE’s website states:

“Our [North Carolina] students deserve better. They deserve resources to help make them successful. They deserve professionally paid educators. They deserve safe schools and schools that are not crumbling and in disrepair. We love our public schools and we deserve better!”

Although the NCAE seems optimistic, did the teacher’s efforts make any change in Raleigh? It does not seem so yet. However, as summer break approaches, the work of the General Assembly is not over. Teachers may remain optimistic that next year may be a better year than the last.



The above picture shows teachers

Scholarships

Congratulations to the following seniors for being selected for these prestigious scholarships:

- **Mckenzie Jones** was awarded the Stamps Scholarship, a business scholarship totaling up to \$176,000 at the University of South Carolina. She also received the AXA Achievement Scholarship, valuing \$10,000.
- **McCauley Palmer** won the UNC Kenan-Flagler scholarship, a full ride for the UNC business school.
- Katie Clements** was awarded the State Employees Credit Union “People Helping People” Scholarship, valuing at \$10,000.

Mystery Person of the Month

By: Rebecca Del Rossi
Last Month’s answer: Teigan DeLuca



- I do magic tricks
- I’m a lifeguard
- My lung collapsed last summer
- I like to sing

Upcoming Events!

By: Faith Guia

- June 4th- 8th: Final Exams:**
- Monday: 3rd Period NCFE, EOC, CTE Exam
2nd Period Exam Review/ **TME**
 - Tuesday: 2nd Period NCFE, EOC, CTE Exam
1st period Exam Review/ **TME**
 - Wednesday: 1st Period NCFE, EOC, CTE Exam
4th Period Exam Review/**TME**
 - Thursday: 4th Period NCFE, EOC, CTE
3rd Period **Teacher Made Exam**
 - Friday: Make-Up Exams
- June 7th: Senior Award Night**
- 6:30pm @ Main Gym
- June 8th: Last Day of School/ Graduation!**
- 7:00pm @ Football Field



“ This is one of my absolute favorite books that I read on the beach, the picture above has the quote ‘there are only the pursued, the pursuing, the busy and tired.’”



“This is Braxton, a six year old wild child with a big big heart.”

- **Alisa Andrews, 11th grade** took these pictures and offered her thoughts on each.

marching and wearing their #Red4Ed in support of students and teachers.
<http://abc11.com/education/list-nc-school-districts-closed-for-teachers-rally-on-may-16/3457360/>
<http://www.ncae.org/advocacy-day/>
<https://www.wfdd.org/story/thousands-teachers-across-north-carolina-march-raleigh>

Sports

By: Bella Reid and Mattie Lancaster

Softball
Congrats to the softball team which made it to the third round of playoffs! The girls went 18-5 this season overall and 12-2 for the conference.

When asked why the softball team was so successful this year, Aidyn Cada said, “We had a great group of talented girls who had a lot of chemistry on and off the field.”

Baseball
Congrats to the baseball team which made it into the semi-finals for the State Championship!! With a 25-4 season overall and 13-1 in their conference, the boys ranked 25th in the state.

When asked about why the baseball team succeeded, Matty Jorgensen said, “Since we’ve been playing together for so we’re more of a family than a team.”

Knight’s Kingdom

By: Grace Holbrooks, Faith Guia, & Rebecca Del Rossi

Volunteer Opportunities

All of these are great opportunities to help out the community and also help those who need volunteer hours for a club!

- Sally’s YMCA - Denver - (704) 716 - 7300
- Denver Baptist Church - Denver - (704) 403 - 3030
- Lakewood Care Center (Retirement Home) - Denver - (704) 483 - 7000
- Habitat for Humanity Restore - Denver - (704) 466 - 4300
- Mooresville Soup Kitchen - Mooresville - (704) 660 - 9010
- The Corner Table - Newton - (828) 464 - 0355
- Cornelius Animal Shelter - Cornelius - (704) 237 - 3602

Job Opportunities

Go and get an application at any one of these places if you are looking for a job!!!

- Burger King - Denver
- Arbys - Denver & Lincolnton
- Chick - Fil - A - Denver
- Wendy’s - Denver & Lincolnton
- Pie 5 Pizza - Lincolnton
- Homingstead (senior care)- Lincolnton



“After a tough loss against Ledford, the Knights end what has been the most successful season North Lincoln has ever seen. The Knights finished 25-4 overall, claimed both Conference Champ and Conference Tournament Champ titles, and broke NL baseball's curse of only making it past the first round of playoffs, by making it to the fourth round of the 2A State playoffs.

The team is one like no other. Watching them play, it's evident their love for the game and also each other. Their camaraderie, and determination is what carried them so far this season. It's sad to see the season end, and 10 seniors leave, but what they left behind will be remembered forever.

- **Laney Marler, 12th grade** took these photos and offered her opinion on each

Scroll below for the continuing story of Aria in *The Bard's Tale* by Hannah McGuire.....

The Bard’s Tale

by: Hannah McGuire

How often do students get the chance to just sit down and read a story? Now, all you have to do is look at each month’s issue of The Sword and Pen to get a few hundred words about a normal high school senior...except she has a hidden talent. Read to find out more!

Aria slid into a chair in the waiting room of the hospital, her eyes slightly puffy from crying. She remember hearing Melody’s voice on the phone call earlier.

“Hey Aria. Yeah, you know how tired I was this morning? Well, I guess I nodded off and then fell. My leg is broken. Could you come get me?”

Aria had left school immediately, barely even bothering to sign out before hand. She had driven as quickly as she dared to the elementary school, where her mother was also just pulling in. They had both gone inside and together were able to lift Melody into her mom’s gold SUV. The hospital was only a few minutes away from the school, so the three ladies got there speedily. Melody had needed to wait in the waiting room for a long time before a doctor was available, and they were now deciding whether or not the break was bad enough that they were going to need surgery to fix it.

Aria’s head spun with thoughts as she tried to recollect everything. She had asked for Melody to be allowed to miss the soccer game, and this power or whatever had taken that to mean that it should break a child’s leg? *Well*, Aria reasoned, *you did never say how it was to let Melody skip her game today*. If things like this were going to happen, she didn’t want any part of this “power” anymore.

Aria heard her phone ding as it had done persistently for the past few hours. Friends were asking where she was and people that had found out about Melody were sending their best wishes to the spritely eight year old. However, when Aria went to check her phone, she realized that she had not received a text message, but an email. Aria clicked on it out of curiosity, wondering who would have emailed her.

Ms. Becker,

I hope your sister is doing well. I remember this morning picking up your homework in first period and not picking up the homework of another student in the class. However, when I was grading homework, I had a paper with her name on it, but no paper with your name on it. I do not, as you know, tolerate cheating in my classroom. If you took someone’s homework, I would like you to tell me yourself and explain to me why you did so. If you do not, I will have no other choice than to report you to the principal for cheating, which could result in suspension. You have 24 hours to reply to this email.

Best wishes,
Mrs. Clark

Aria was shocked. Had she truly been stupid enough to not look at the name on the homework? Even though she knew it was someone else’s? This “power” may have been cool at first, but Aria was starting to realize that she didn’t know if she was the right person for it. *All I think about is myself, and my needs. And when I don’t, people just get hurt*, she thought to herself. She stood up from her chair suddenly.

“Where are you going, sweetheart?” Her mom asked.

“I need some air,” Aria replied. Her mom nodded, and Aria took off for the door. She used the signs on the walls and ceiling to try to make her way outside. After a while, she succeeded and pushed the big, heavy glass doors open and tumbled outside.

Aria looked up at the sky, which was a light blue. The day was beautiful, mocking her guilt. Aria walked a ways from the front entrance of the hospital to a little grove of trees. *This is perfect* thought Aria as she ran her hands through the leaves of the shortest tree. She took a deep breath and began to sing.

“This power that’s been plaguing me, it’s causing others pain and grief, so now that I am thinking clearly, take this power for the sake of those I love dearly.”

At first, Aria felt nothing. She just felt completely tired from the long day, as though someone had sucked out all her energy. She waited for a minute, but when nothing happened, she headed back to the hospital entrance.

When she reached the door, she noticed her mother standing there, looking happy and even energetic. “It was a clean enough break,” her mom said as soon as Aria was in earshot, “she won’t need surgery!”

“That’s great!” Aria exclaimed, truly meaning it. A week ago, Melody’s leg wouldn’t have mattered to Aria. Aria had changed.

“Yeah. And all of the sudden, I had this spurt of energy, so I decided to come and find you.” Her mom said all of this nonchalantly, but Aria’s spirits soared as she realized that the energy she had borrowed from her parents and Melody must have been returned. The powers were gone!

As they reached the waiting room, Aria thought for a minute before saying, “Mom, I have to do something. I’ll be right back.”

“Okay, sweetheart. I’ll be over here if you need me,” her mother replied as she walked over to Aria’s dad, who was pacing the waiting room.

Aria went and sat in a pleather waiting room chair that was in the hallway. She pulled out her phone and began to compose an email.

Ms. Clark,

You won’t believe what I’m about to tell you but I’m going to tell you anyway.....

The End