

Knights In Shining Armor

By: Alisa Andrews and Allison File

Habitat for Humanity Polar Plunge!



North Lincoln’s Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter held their first BIG fundraiser on Saturday, February 9th. The chapter hosted a Polar Plunge into Lake Norman at Beatty’s Ford Park.



Over twenty-five people jumped into the icy waters and the chapter was able to raise over \$3,300. The funds will contribute to the Community Build that will take place later this year.



The Polar Plunge began at 9:30 am and involved NLHS students, ELHS students, parents, HFHLC board members, and many enthusiastic members of the community.



The chapter has helped raise lots of awareness in Lincoln County for safe, affordable housing. Their fundraiser event was featured on the front page of the Lincoln Times with a brief interview and their public social media accounts keep followers up to date on their activities.

Creative Castle

By: Grace Holbrooks & Liz Woodby

The Creative Castle is here to showcase the artisans of North Lincoln High School. If you want to share your creativity with us, our emails are below for submissions:

gracemack21601@gmail.com & llwoodby@gmail.com

Poetry

Don’t Look Back

What’s in the past is in the past
Or at least that is what I would like to think.
Sometimes the past comes back
Or rather is trapped in our memories.

Trying to forget it is harder than remembering it.

Forgetting
Struggles, Heartache, Mistakes.
All of them harder to forget than remember.

Dwelling in the past will do no good,
But that’s what is easiest.
Moving on is almost impossible.

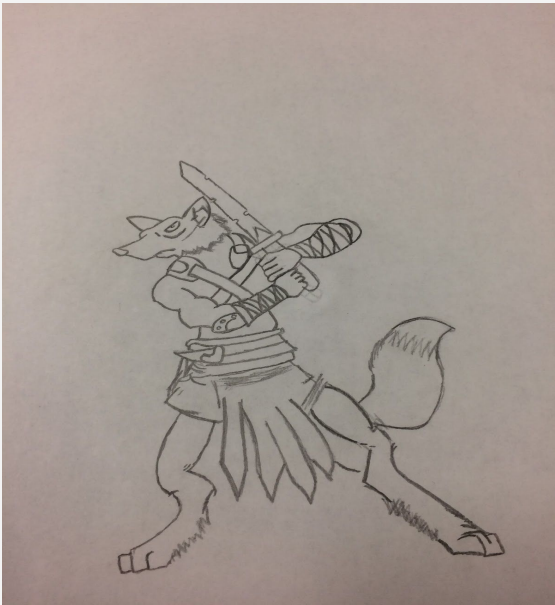
Struggling daily.
Still hanging on to the
Struggles, Heartaches, Mistakes.

Presence is what I strive for.
Be here now.
I refuse to stay put in the
Struggles, Heartaches, Mistakes.

I will defy the
Struggles, Heartaches, Mistakes.
I will be present.

- Anonymous, 12th Grade

Art



This is a cartoon character. Nic plans to make a more detailed drawing for next month’s edition so stay tuned!

- Nicolas Ruiz, 12th Grade

A Day in the Life of a Knight

By: Hannah McGuire

What’s The Tea About Being in The Musical?

When most people think of the theatre, perhaps they think of the lights, costumes, makeup, set, or stage. When they think of the North Lincoln High School auditorium, perhaps they think of the annual welcome-back meetings Mr. Sherrill hosts, Beta Club, NHS, or awards ceremonies. However, the first thing that comes to my mind is my white binder, stained and imprinted from all the times I have used it as a hard surface to write notes upon; paint from sets and attempted binder covers; makeup that had been wiped off my face with a sweaty arm across my even sweatier brow; ink that ran as I spilled my water bottle by accident during a dance rehearsal. I think of the drama room, where a large portion of the blocking occurs, the choir room where we learned our music in the first place, and the bright light that hits your face as you’re walking on the stage in the auditorium. I think of the friends I have made over the past three years, from *Grease* to *The Little Mermaid* and everything in between. And I think of the nervous excitement that leaves a trail of goosebumps across my arms and sends a shiver down my spine as I wait for my cue.

While the aesthetic of both the show and the thrill of being on stage are what a lot of people associate with being in a musical, the majority of being in a show is the rehearsal, both inside the school building and out. Typical musical rehearsals with Mr. Welch, the choir and theatre arts teacher here at North Lincoln, are about an hour and half long and occur between three and five days a week, depending on your role in the play. As a mersister and member of the ensemble in the up and coming spring musical, *Disney’s The Little Mermaid*, I get called closer to the three times a week mark, whereas Jillian Joyce (Ariel), Kennedy Case (Ursula), Cody Howard (Prince Eric), and John Nofsinger (King Triton) might be called four or even five times during the same week. Rehearsals are split into three main categories- music, choreography, and blocking. At a music rehearsal, we rehearse singing our parts. While these rehearsals are critical, we are required to come into rehearsal having practiced and learned our own music using an app that has the music recorded onto it. Choreography (or choreo) rehearsals are where we learn our dancing for the show. The big hit numbers that are in every musical have to have dancing- Under the Sea would not be nearly as amazing without the choreography, even in the animated Disney movie. Practicing the choreo on our own is also an essential part to making the show run smoothly. And finally,



Both the Denver paper and members of the NLHS yearbook staff took photos of the freezing jumpers as they ran into Lake Norman.



Lincoln County EMS, trained divers, and the Sheriff Department generously donated their time to the event to ensure safety.

Senior Interviews

This months interviewee:
Nicolas Ruiz
By: Rebecca Del Rossi

Q: What will you miss most about high school?
A: My friends and teachers.
Q; What’s your plans for after high school?
A: To attend a 4 year university where I’ll do ROTC, and serve in the military when I graduate from college.
Q: If you could change one thing over the past four years, what would it be?
A: I definitely would have played football!
Q: What was the most memorable thing to happen to you during these last four years?
A: I became an Eagle Scout.
Q: What advice would you give to underclassmen?
A: To have fun and enjoy all that high school has to offer. We only get to do it once, so make the most of it!
Q: What was your biggest challenge in high school?
A: When I had 4 AP classes second semester of junior year. That was pretty tough.

Photography



- **Liz Woodby, 12th grade** took this picture at Pisgah National Forest this summer

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

blocking rehearsals, which are almost everyone’s favorite, is where we put the choreography, music, and lines together. Character development, objective acting, and purpose is learned in these rehearsals.

Obviously, a lot of hard work goes into a show. But in the hard work, theatre kids will always find a way to have a good time, even if they have to contort the somber mask of tragedy into the mask of comedy themselves. With so much practice and hard work, it can be frustrating when an action seems awkward or a dance move just can’t be nailed over and over again. However, there is always something funny or exciting in each rehearsal and nobody ever knows what it’s going to be. A voice crack, a mispronunciation, an overly exuberant gesture, or a funny line can set off the entire cast into a bought of hysterical laughter, even if it never makes anyone laugh again. Sometimes hilarious mishaps like this even occur in shows. Last year’s production of *The Crucible* had many unplanned moments of comedy, perhaps the most memorable of which was CP McGuire, who played an old man with white hair that he achieved using baby powder, hitting his forehead with his palm and a cloud of baby powder going everywhere. But, as the old line goes, the show must go on.

And the show always does go on. While there might be feuds or fights between cast members, we all come together at the end of the day to put forth the best show possible. That’s probably my favorite part of being in a musical- you become a part of something bigger than yourself. In the grand scheme of things, it doesn’t matter if you didn’t get the role you wanted or fought with a cast member. The important part is that you poured your heart and soul into something for months and you worked together with those around you to make something beautiful.

North Lincoln High School’s production of *Disney’s The Little Mermaid* is set to premiere on Thursday, March 28th at 7:30 pm. There will be 7:30 pm shows on the 29th and 30th as well, and on the 31st, there will be a matinee at 2:30 pm. Please come and support all of the actors and musicians that will be performing these days!



From Left to Right: Lynlee Little, Kasey Varner, McKayla Myers, Michelle Medina, Maverick Holmes



From Left to Right: Michelle Davis, Cassidy Puddifin, Sharidan Farris, Hannah Tyson, Hannah Nazif

Upcoming Events!

By: Bella Reid and Mattie Lancaster

March 1st- Soccer game at home, Softball and Baseball game @ Hickory
March 3rd: National Honors Society Inductions
- At 1:00
March 4th: Soccer game @ North Gaston
March 5th: Softball and Baseball game at home
March 6th: Soccer game @ East Gaston, Softball and Baseball game @ home
March 8th: Soccer game @ home, Softball and Baseball game @ Bandys
March 12th: Soccer game at home, Softball and Baseball game @ WLHS
March 13th: Baseball game @ Kings Mtn
March 14: Soccer game at home, Softball game @ Hibriten
March 19th: Soccer game @ ELHS, Softball and Baseball game @ ELHS
March 21st: Soccer game @ Maiden
March 22nd: Softball and Baseball game @ Maiden, Soccer game at home
March 26th: Soccer game at home, Softball and Baseball game at home
March 27th: Softball @ Bunker hill, Baseball @ East Gaston
March 27-31st: History Club trip to Washington D.C.
March 28th: Soccer game @ Lincolnton
March 29th: Softball and Baseball game @ Lincolnton
April 13th: NLHS Prom!
- From 8pm-12am

Sports

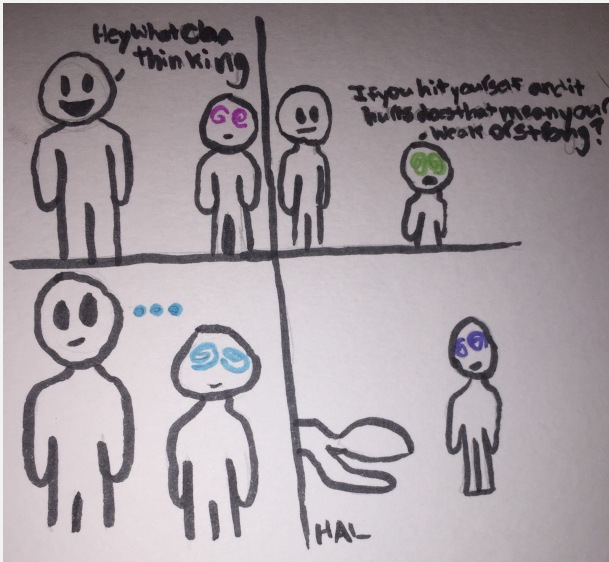
By: Bella Reid and Mattie Lancaster

Grady Bartro, senior, was named the South Fork 2A Conference’s male swimmer of the year. He gained his title after winning the Men’s 100 Backstroke event. Grady attended the State swim meet in Raleigh for his 100m backstroke and 200m freestyle. Bartro placed 11th in the backstroke event and 11th for the 200m freestyle. Kyle Heise, Kale McIntosh, Michael Figueroa, Eric Genera, and Logan Cummings also attended for the Men’s 200m Medley Relay and Men’s 400m Freestyle Relay. The boys placed 21st in the 200m Medley Relay and 19th in the 400m Relay.



Jesters Jokes

By: Holt Ludwig



Editor’s Piece

By: Allison File
Keeping Up

From the time I was little, my parents told me that I could do anything I set my mind to, as long as I worked hard enough. This simple phrase motivated me as a student from Elementary to eventually Middle school, putting time and effort into my courses and striving for excellence, eager to improve my own knowledge of the world around me, and therefore how I could one day contribute to it through my career.

Almost immediately upon entering high school, however, I was instead thrust into the notion of “keeping up” with my fellow classmates in terms of GPA and class rank. I was told that in order to be recognized and accepted by colleges, that I needed to be in the top 10 of my class, with a wide assortment of honors and AP courses on my transcript.

Furthermore, this concept carried to school clubs and organizations as well, with many college applications asking me to list all leadership positions I’d obtained through my high school experience, often times failing to consider the actual work done or time spent in each organization, leadership position or not.

Ultimately, what I’ve noticed through the years is that many students will begin to shape their education and school activities around these college expectations, selecting their extracurriculars and courses solely for their resume and their course weight rather than following their interests or curiosities.

With Gaston classes now counting for AP credit, this occurs even more frequently, with many students signing up for a large quantity of “easier” courses that they’re not really interested in, solely to move up in class rank and appear more desirable to colleges and scholarship programs. At the same time, other students are struggling in more difficult AP courses, such as AP Physics and AP Language, working hard all semester to obtain the same GPA that someone else taking Gaston courses could obtain with little to no effort. Likewise, many students run for officer positions that don’t really care about the club or activity simply to “bulk up their resume,” failing to put in the necessary work once elected to be successful.

However, as a senior who’s made it through the application process alive and was in the running for several major scholarships, I’ve come to learn that many of these assumptions concerning admissions simply aren’t true. Along the way, I’ve picked up several helpful hints to help to put this whole phenomenon into perspective and help you make the most of your time in High School:

1) **Be Sincere.** Often times colleges will require essays about your extracurricular activities and will ask you to describe your individual contributions and how they’ve impacted you as a person. So only sign up for clubs and activities that YOU are interested in, not ones that you think the colleges want you to take, and get involved!

2) **Challenge Yourself.** Especially when looking for scholarship recipients, colleges love to see students who went out of their way to challenge themselves. So while Gaston classes can still be helpful for college credit, try to take some AP courses that are out of your comfort zone or contain completely foreign material to you, and go for it! You never know what you could achieve if you don’t try.

3) **Explore your interests.** High school is a great opportunity to take courses in subjects

		<p>you're passionate about and to discover what you want to major in as a career, before you get to college. So honors, AP, or Gaston, take courses in classes that pertain to your INTERESTS, rather than simply for the credit towards the GPA. While grades are still important, the college will be happier to see that you made the most out of your time in high school and already have experience in some aspects of your major.</p>

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 junior and his friend, who have a secret! Read to find out more!

Previously in The Bard’s Tale.....

Joey and Charlie left the office, feeling much lighter than before. However, a few things didn’t feel quite right with Charlie. While Joey went on and on about how jubilated he was that they weren’t going to get in trouble, Charlie wondered how they had noticed that he and Joey had been hanging out. While Charlie didn’t care, Joey had wanted to be discreet about their several study sessions. He also wondered why they wanted to write an article about them in the school newspaper. Charlie read the monthly paper that was titled *The Blue News* after their mascot, the blue devils, and there had never been an article about that month’s character trait. So why now? And why about him and Joey?

And now, this week’s continuation...

Charlie’s day after that was rather uneventful. It flew by in a blur as he worked, talked, ate, and wrote. Before he knew it, he was at home, heating up the lasagna his mother had left in the fridge for him and Mae. The two ate, bantering playfully back and forth across the kitchen table the whole time. Mae, who had always loved acting and singing, talked happily of the upcoming audition for the middle school’s musical, and Charlie joked about her being a drama queen. After dinner, Charlie unloaded the dishwasher and then supervised as Mae loaded it. The two sat down together at the table with their homework as the dishwasher whirred slightly behind them.

“Charlie?” Mae asked, standing up and walking over to the cabinet. “Isabelle’s brother mentioned on the bus today that you got called up to the office. Are you in trouble?” Mae pulled down a cup and, leaving the cabinet door open, walked over to the fridge.

“No,” Charlie replied, watching Mae pull out the two-liter of Cheerwine. “And you’re not supposed to have soda after eight-thirty, Mae.”

She ignored him and poured herself a cup. “What did Mr. O’Brien want, then?”

Charlie sighed, but allowed her to finish pouring her Cheerwine. “He wanted to talk to a friend of mine and I about some projects we’ve been working on. Apparently, he wanted to congratulate us I guess.”

She sat back down in her wooden kitchen chair with a large plunk that did not match her size, causing her soda to almost spill. Everything Mae did was over exaggerated and dramatic. “Oh, congratulations then! What kind of a project is it? Who’s it with?”

“I was helping him with chemistry stuff. And his name is Joey, I don’t know if you know him or not.”

“Joey Jacobs?”

“Yeah.”

“His younger sister is in my drama class. Her name is Anna.” Mae smiled when she said her name, indicating that Anna was someone that she looked favorably upon.

“Oh, cool,” Charlie replied. He looked down at his calculus homework, which was tedious. Giving it up as a bad job, he pushed it back into his binder and stood, stretching his muscles that were tight from sitting all day. “Do you need help with homework?”

“No, I think I’ve got it. FOIL is weird, but I think I’ve got a handle on it. Is it okay if we watch a movie?” Mae looked up at him, giving him her best ‘puppy-dog eyes’.

Joey looked at the clock. 9:00. “How about we watch one episode of a TV show instead? It’s almost your bedtime.”

“Okay,” Mae replied happily. She jumped up and started digging through the cabinet for the popcorn while Charlie opened up his laptop. She joined him on the couch after a few minutes and the two argued for a few minutes before deciding on *Adventure Time*. Mae leaned her head on Charlie’s shoulder, using him as a pillow. While they were watching, Charlie thought about the meeting in the principal’s office and revisited some of his questions from before. Why was *The Blue News* interested in him and Joey? What was their goal in writing an article about them? *Well, it’s obvious*, the voice in Charlie’s head said *they know and they want to catch you*. However, Charlie didn’t think that could be it. Mr. O’Brien was not afraid of telling kids they were in trouble. *Maybe you’re just overthinking it*, another voice replied. That was probably it. Charlie always was overthinking and second guessing himself. There was no need to worry. Everything would be fine, right?

Charlie heard a light snore, and looked down to see Mae asleep on his shoulder. He sighed and shook her slightly. She batted her eyes slowly and then jolted into an upright position.

“Is the episode over?” Mae asked.

“No, but you need sleep. Go get ready for bed.”

	<p>Mae grumbled, but did as she was told. Charlie waited until she was closed into her room for the night before he got ready for bed. <i>Maybe I'll sleep well tonight</i>, he thought optimistically as he settled himself, showered and pajamaed, into bed. <i>Maybe I'll just sleep through the night and wake up rested and refreshed tomorrow.</i></p> <p>His last thoughts before he closed his eyes were of the day that had passed, of Joey, Mae, and Principal O'Brien. Overall, it had been a pretty good day.</p> <p>Do you want to know what happens next? Stay tuned for next month's segment of The Bard's Tale!</p>
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