

Knights In Shining Armor

By: Alisa Andrews and Allison File

This month has been very busy for our high achieving NLHS students!

We are excited to announce that Bryce Mooney and Bella Smith were accepted into the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics residential program. Students Angela Allen and Aubrey Spiccocla were both accepted into the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematic Online Program that will allow them to take classes in addition to their NLHS schedule. The NCSSM campus is in Durham, NC and allows students to explore courses in advanced STEM fields. Their humanities department is also quite notable and features specific courses in political science. The school is a two year program that offers many opportunities to their students with highly qualified and invested faculty and staff. Congratulations to our new unicorns!! We wish you the best of luck as you accept the greater challenge with NCSSM!

NCSSM has an application process that all sophomores can take part in and students are accepted as rising juniors.

This is a link to admissions if anyone is interested in becoming a prospective student: <https://www.ncssm.edu/residential-admissions>

NCSSM also has summer programs such as Summer Accelerator. I had the opportunity to take Advanced Cloning with Dr. Martyn and would definitely recommend the program as well!

Here is a link to that application and details: <https://www.ncssm.edu/summer-programs/accelerator/admissions>

Junior Claire Snider and senior Alisa Andrews are ambassadors for the NCSSM online program and are happy to answer any questions you may have and help with the application process. Students Cassidy McCarty and Andrew Berley have also participated in summer programs.



We would also like to recognize a variety of seniors on their scholarship accomplishments.

Senior Lizbeth Woodby has received \$10,000 from the State Employee Credit Union! Congrats on your scholarship and making through the application process. Lizbeth is attending UNC Chapel Hill in the fall with the intention to major in media journalism and environmental science.



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 & llwoodby@gmail.com

Poetry

Flowers

A pansy for a violet.
A rose for a I'm not a flowers guy.
A hydrangea for a daisy.

Flowers:

The sweet scent that is nature's jewel.
A forbidden scent.

- Grady Bartro, 12th Grade

Photography



"This was a wedding. I admit I didn't know the couple that was doing their pictures at the Central Park Fountain in New York City."

- Lizbeth Woodby, 12th Grade

Sports

By: Bella Reid and Mattie Lancaster

With the arrival of May comes the end of the women's soccer season. This also means the end of the senior players soccer careers. There are four seniors on the team: Emma Beam, Alisa Andrews, Taylor Doss, and Sage Warren. In honor of the years of hard work and dedication they have put into the soccer team, we asked them about some of their favorite parts of playing on the team and what they would miss the most.

Taylor Doss, who will be continuing her education at Appalachian University, replied "My favorite part of the season was definitely senior night because we got to celebrate all the years of playing the sport we love. I will miss the people the most because we have always been a family, and it's going to be really hard to say goodbye to that." Doss plays as a center back and a midfielder for the team. She has played varsity all four years.

It is evident how close the team has become the past season because many of them talked about how they will miss their second family. For example, when asked about her favorite part and what she will miss the most Sage Warren replied "The thing I'll miss the most is

"A Day in the Life of a Knight"

By: Grace Holbrooks

Senior Year Wind Down

As the 2018-2019 school year is coming to a close, everyone is anticipating the end: both students and faculty. This is a common case for all students, but especially in the case of seniors. Seniors before us have warned us of the term "senioritis," meaning not being motivated to do anything because the end is so near. I didn't believe this was a real thing until I started to experience it myself this year.

After four years of hard work, dedication, tears, and laughs, the end can be described as bittersweet. The so-called "senioritis" kicks in and can't make the end come any faster, but on the other hand, all of the memories and the time spent at North Lincoln High School is sad to think about leaving. Every senior has a different opinion on how they feel about leaving and I think that I am dead even on the excitedness on what will be the next chapter in my life and the nervousness and sadness of closing this chapter I have known these past four years at North Lincoln.

For me, this time has been about reflecting on the years at North Lincoln. This ranges from the frustrating memories of staying up practically all night to study for a big test the next day or spending hours meticulously nitpicking a project to make it the best it can be or the better memories of having classes with my friends that made my days better.

The idea of "what's next" is on the minds of all the seniors. For me, my next step is attending UNC Chapel Hill in the fall. While I am ecstatic to be attending my dream school, there are also nerves of the unknown that come with it. This school and community are all I have ever known, and it will be both hard to leave and hard to get adjusted to a new area. I am excited to expand my horizons and have new experiences in my new home in Chapel Hill and will take what I have learned here with me.

My advice for all my fellow seniors and those that will be next year is to take everything day-by-day. When they say senior year goes by the quickest, they aren't joking. Don't rush through it. I know that all the new things happening in your life are exciting, but these moments happening right now will be some of your last and you don't want to miss that.

I am thankful for all the things I have learned, all the people I have had the pleasure of knowing, and the memories that I will take with me from these last four years of my life. Next stop: graduation!

Both Allison File and Andrew Berley have received \$20,000 from a scholarship offered through Duke Energy!! Congratulations on your recognition! Andrew plans to attend NC State University to major in engineering.

Allison File has been selected through a rigorous application process into the Levine Scholars at UNC Charlotte. This is a full ride scholarship that will offer her many opportunities that will set her apart on campus! Congrats on this accomplishment!!



Alisa Andrews has been selected as a Thomas Jefferson Scholar at NC State University! This program allows for double major in which she will pursue Political Science and Agricultural and Environmental Technology. She will also be joining the University Scholars program in the fall.



We would also like to recognize Brynn Price for her acceptance into the NC Governor's school!! She will be spending six weeks at High Point University this summer. This competitive program allows her to study natural science and be around people that share similar interests as her. Brynn specifically plans on focusing on physics. She said that she is a bit worried about spending so much time away from home but she's excited to learn with passionate students and staff. She is interested in chemical engineering as a career and this summer program will help propel her towards this challenging field! After a brief interview, Brynn stated that she thinks it is a good idea to have people proofread the application essays and to "participate in clubs and extracurriculars that are relevant to your discipline". She is a member of chemistry club and physics club. Brynn says that she is "one of the weird people who genuinely enjoys schools" and she thinks math and science are her favorite subjects but also likes to challenge herself in new areas! Best of luck this summer and enjoy your time in the program!!



getting to see all of the girls after school and talk about our days. My favorite part has been all of the times Carlos sends random uplifting messages to our group message." Warren will be continuing her education at the University of South Carolina.

"Being on a sports team is a valuable experience. It teaches you how to work together and be a leader on and off the field. For me, it's taught me to continue to challenge myself and work hard for others" said Alisa Andrews, a senior continuing her education at NC State. "I'll miss simply playing with the girls on the team, a lot of us have been playing soccer together for many years, even before high school started. I've always enjoyed playing games with them, but I'll miss goofing around at practice and just hanging out together after school."

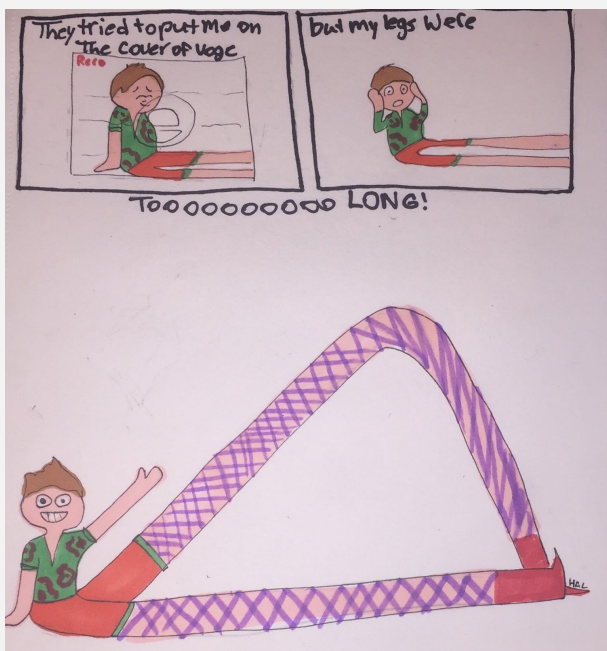
Sports teams aren't just teams; they are a second family. This is just one example of this at North Lincoln High School. Overall, the team has had a very solid season and hopefully can finish strong. Thank you to the seniors that devoted their time to the game, you've made North Lincoln extremely proud.



In order left to right: Emma Beam, Sage Warren, Taylor Doss, and Alisa Andrews

Jesters Jokes

By: Holt Ludwig



Editor's Column

By: Hannah McGuire

On Tuesday, April 30th at 7:00 PM, I turned on the TV in the living room of my house. My family and I watch Jeopardy together almost every night and we were excited to see how much the current champion James Holzhauer was going to add to his impressive total. However, instead of hearing the familiar Jeopardy theme song or seeing the mix of blues and pinks that make up the opening sequence, we saw the red breaking news banner and heard the voice of the Charlotte news anchors talking about the shooting at UNC Charlotte. Shootings always terrify me but watching the broadcaster report in front of the red brick University of North Carolina at Charlotte sign that I have seen dozens of times in person chilled me more than any other school shooting in recent memory.

I have visited UNCC many times over my three years in high school, mostly for music events. I have seen several of my role models and friends apply, get accepted, and move to UNCC and I have always thought fondly on my experiences with the professors and students there. When I first heard about the shooting, that was what I thought about. Is Matt okay? What about Austin, and Kelley, and Dr. Sullivan? Is Hannah on campus today? Even though six people were hurt or killed out of almost 30,000 students, I was terrified that someone I knew might have gotten hurt. I can't begin to imagine what it must have been like for the students of fo UNCC or Columbine or Stoneman-Douglas or any school that has been affected by a shooting. I hope that I never have to find out.

Times like these remind me of how thankful I am for my family, friends, and the safety of the school I am attending. They also remind me of how important it is to tell the people in my life that I love them. One of my goals for the summer is to be more appreciative of the people and the world around me, and I challenge you to do the same. Things can change so quickly, and you never know when it might happen.



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 high schooler with a secret. Read to find out more!

Previously on The Bard's Tale

Subconsciously, he was avoiding something. However, after the previous day's events with Joey and the principal, everything was starting to make a small amount of sense.

A few days later....

Charlie was more reserved than usual for the next few days. He was the type of person to overanalyze everything in his life. From the looks that he got at school to the smiles from Mae to his dreams, he was always trying to figure out what was going on and why. Perhaps his dreams didn't have any significance, but that didn't mean that Charlie wasn't going to worry about it constantly.

Eventually, the end of the week came. After his visit to the principal's office, Charlie had gotten an email from one of the school's newspaper reporters setting up an interview for that Friday after school. He had nervously agreed and hoped that Joey would be there too.

On Friday morning, Charlie didn't go to find Nick as he usually did. He went straight to find Joey. Joey always hung out with a large group of mostly athletes in front of the gym in the mornings. Charlie got weird looks as he crossed in front of the various cliques, making his way over to where Joey was leaning against the wall, smiling and joking with his friends. How strange it was to see Joey outside of the books and quiet of the library, and how strange for Charlie to seek out Joey rather than the other way around.

Joey looked up as Charlie approached. Charlie expected the smile to fade from Joey's face as the joke died away and reality hit him, but Joey's smile didn't wane or waver. If anything, it grew slightly as he saw his friend approaching. He turned to the guy beside him. "Hey Zack, I'm going to go. I'll see you in English." Zack looked at Charlie and rolled his eyes but replied with a quick "okay" before turning back to the rest of the group. Joey wove his way through the group and came up beside Charlie.

"Hey, Charlie. Do you want to go to the library?" Joey asked.

"Sure." Charlie replied. As the two began their walk, Charlie turned to face Joey. "So are you going to be interviewed by the newspaper today, too?"

"Yeah, right after school. I've been a bit nervous about it, but it'll be okay. I know the girl who's going to talk to us. Her name is Anya. She's really nice and won't try to make us say anything we don't want to." Joey's voice was confident, but his fingers started twisting in and out of the red fabric of his sweater, implying that he was more nervous than he was letting on.

"That's good," Charlie said, reaching for the door to the library as they arrived. He held it open for Joey, who smiled at him in thanks as he passed into the room.

The library was one of Charlie's favorite rooms in the school. The long, tall shelves of books contained so much more knowledge than Charlie ever thought he would be able to contain. The blue carpet softened the sound of their footsteps and the chairs were soft and large, perfect for getting comfortable with a good book.

Another great thing about it was that there rarely were students there. The only person in the library when the boys arrived was the librarian, a kind elderly man named Mr. Jones. He liked to read behind the desk when no one was in the library, and as the boys entered he looked up from a rather large book and smiled. "Hello Charlie, hello Joseph. If you boys need anything, let me know. I'll be over here."

"Thanks, Mr. Jones. We're just going to study," Charlie replied. He and Joey made their way over to the two chairs in the back corner of the library where they would not be overheard.

"What's wrong, Charlie?" Joey asked as soon as they were out of earshot of Mr. Jones. "You're not acting like yourself."

"I'm nervous about the interview. And I've been having this dream. I don't know." Charlie sat down in the chair heavily, listening to the springs beneath the soft, fake suede creak.

"The interview is going to be just fine," Joey answered, sitting down quite a bit more lightly than Charlie did. "We just answer the questions honestly. You helped me with my homework. You didn't do anything wrong. What is your dream?"

Charlie rolled his eyes at the first part, knowing full well that he facilitated any cheating that had occurred. However, he told Joey about his dream. He told him about how he didn't know what it meant and that it bothered him. He told him that he had been having that dream for several years. He told him about his sleepless nights and how he got into trouble at school for being tired.

"Wow," Joey said after Charlie had finally finished talking. "Charlie, how long have you been having this dream?"

"Since like seventh or eighth grade."

“Charlie,” Joey turned to Charlie and put his hand on the arm of the latter’s chair, “it’s going to be okay. It’s alright to not know the answers. It sucks that you’ve been having these dreams and losing sleep for so long. But whatever it is you’re running from, whatever you are trying to avoid, you can face it. You’re strong. I believe in you.”

Charlie’s heart soared at that. He had never had a friend, much less a male friend, say something that sweet or kind to him. He trusted Joey and knew that he wouldn’t just say something he didn’t mean. All of the sudden, he wasn’t worried anymore. No monsters or dreams or sleeplessness could harm him. No matter what happened in the interview, no matter what kind of dirt Anya could or would dig up, no matter what anyone else knew, Charlie knew he could take it.

“Thanks Joey. I appreciate it. A lot.”

The bell rang, and the two boys stood. “Anytime, Charlie,” Joey replied, smiling. The two walked to the door. This time it was Joey who held it and Charlie who thanked him. The two waved and parted ways, knowing that they would be okay.