




# THE LIONS ROAR

“Lion pride in print”

Friday, February 12, 2016 ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL ALBANY, TEXAS 76430 VOLUME 14 NUMBER 4

Students enjoy new gadgets



Students discuss safety issues, popularity of hoverboards and drones. — See page 4

Educators discuss romantic pastimes




Staff members share how they met their spouses, and marriage stories. — See page 5

Winding Down



Basketball season nears end with Lions headed into playoffs. — See page 6

Briefs



Winter Formal results


Seniors Drew Neece and Tobi Nall were crowned Mr. and Miss AHS at Winter Formal, which was held at the Whitney Theatre on Jan. 16.

Each high school class also nominated three girls and three boys as nominees for class prince and princess, while the senior nominees competed for Mr. and Miss AHS.

Princes and Princesses selected by the classes were freshmen Cameron Dacus and Haley Stewart, sophomores Dax Neece and Baley Green, and juniors Roman Fuentes and Michaela Reames.

Each of the honorees were given Chick-fil-A gift cards.

The Winter Formal is a project of the Student Council.




Prom plans, theme announced

This year’s prom, hosted by the junior class, will be held on Saturday March 19, the weekend following Spring Break, at the Whitney Theatre. All juniors and seniors are invited to the dance, and are allowed to bring one guest that is currently enrolled in high school. Junior High students or students who have already graduated are not allowed to attend.

The party will start at 8:00 p.m. and will be over at 11:00 p.m. The theme for the dance is Enchanted.

One senior girl and boy will be crowned prom king and queen at the dance.



Spring break release schedule

Spring break release will begin Friday, March 4 with a 12:00 p.m. release at both campuses. Classes on Thursday, March 3 will be on a regular schedule with a 3:40 p.m. release. The annual break will continue through March 13, with classes resuming on Monday, March 14 at 8:00 a.m.

While students will not have classes during the week, there are still several athletic events set during the week that will involve students.



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## UIL academic season begins



Science teacher Andre Raymond reviews material with Rylie Scott (left) and Shelby Snead during a UIL science practice. The two girls are members of the UIL science team. Students will travel to Wylie tomorrow for an academic UIL meet. PHOTO BY HENRY KELLY

Students start preparation for district

BY HENRY KELLY  
Entertainment Editor

The UIL academic season is in full swing with the Wylie practice meet set for tomorrow and district competition just a month away. Many students are returning from last year with hopes for another successful year.

“I’m hoping I will exceed my accomplishments from the last year’s UIL competition,” senior Levi Britting said. “I feel good about my events this year.”

Britting competes in science, mathematics, and number sense and grabbed a spot to go to state last year. Britting said, like most people, that he enjoys winning and beating rival schools at the meets.

Senior Newt Koemel, who competes in number sense, calculator applications, science, and mathematics is also looking for improvement.

“I didn’t do as well as I thought I would last year,” Koemel said. “I want to score higher in all my events.”

Sophomore Genevieve Stunkard intends to outdo her achievements from last year as well.

“I hope I do better in news writing and mathematics

SEE “UIL” Pg. 8

## One Act cast takes center stage

Students rehearse *The Bad Seed* before contest

BY RYLIE SCOTT  
News Editor

Students are ready to set the stage with the One Act Play production of *The Bad Seed*, with several returning actors hoping to advance further this year than last.

One-act play director Chanel Hayner, who will be assisted by Keren Liming, is pleased with the choice of play.

“*The Bad Seed* has always been a favorite of mine,” Hayner said. “The subject area it explores, I think, is foreign to most people. Children are supposed to be good and innocent, which makes this play all the more interesting.”

A total of 18 cast and crew members will be participating this year.

“Casting was definitely harder this time around,” Hayner said. “*The Bad Seed* has fewer roles than *The Crucible*, which made it difficult because we had many talented kids audition.”

*The Crucible* placed as alternate at district held in Stamford last year.

“I would like for us to



Senior Newt Koemel (left) and sophomore Natalie Hayner rehearse a scene from *The Bad Seed* during a One Act Play practice. The cast and crew will compete at the district contest on Tuesday, March 22 in Stamford. PHOTO BY RYLIE SCOTT

advance to the next level of competition this year, of course,” Hayner said. “Mainly I just want us to have a fun, learning experience together.”

Senior Newt Koemel has his eyes set on first place at the upcoming district contest, which will be held at Stamford again on Tuesday, March 22.

“I want to improve my acting well enough to positively impact the play,” Koemel said. “I believe that if the entire cast will perform to their potential, we have a big chance to succeed.”

Roles were set and results have been posted since Hayner held auditions on Jan. 11.

“Auditions were very successful,” Hayner said. “We had several new faces, as well as many returning cast members audition.”

New to the stage, freshman Caroline Masters will be performing as the lead role.

“I was ecstatic when I found out I was going to be the lead actress,” Masters said. “I really hope I can portray her well because I’m afraid to disappoint the older cast members.”

Sophomore Natalie Hayner was cast as Masters’ co-star.

“I am super excited to take on such a challenging

SEE “ONE ACT” Pg. 8

## Track undergoes resurfacing

Completion expected this month

BY PARKER MOON  
Staff Writer

Repairs and resurfacing of the high school track have been underway since fall, with plans for completion late this month just before the opening of the track season.

A large portion of the southeast curve settled and is being rebuilt, and the entire facility will receive a new running surface.

“The cause of the problems was a failure in the base material which then

caused the asphalt to sink and crack,” superintendent Shane Fields said. “When we built the track in 2007, we had a geological study and sampling from all areas of the track so that they could engineer the track properly so it wouldn’t settle. We took all precautions to make it so nothing would go wrong, but that area wasn’t sampled right.”

Hellas, the company that built the track seven years ago, is making the necessary repairs under a warranty agreement with the school, but also offered to resurface the remainder of the track at a cost of \$53,781.

“The board decided to do the rest of the track because it would be more cost effective since part of the new surface

is covered by insurance,” Fields said. “When they redo the track this time, they are putting down a material called a “geomesh” which is a woven fabric that reinforces the ground and prevents it from sinking.”

The project started in late Nov. just before Thanksgiving break.

“I think that the cause of the problems was that the foundation wasn’t strong enough originally, and they needed to go deeper to prevent the sinking,” Fields said. “We decided to resurface the entire track because of its age as well.”

Typically, the life span of a track is eight to 10 years.

“We are planning on the project to be finished on Friday, February 26,” principal



Two construction workers lay down tarps to prepare the track for resurfacing. The track is expected to be completed on Feb. 26. PHOTO BY PARKER MOON

Kevin Hill said.

The track being resurfaced does not mean that the field event areas such

as discuss and shot put will also be redone. Only the

SEE “NEW TRACK” Pg. 8