

Welcome MHS Students!!!



Ladies and gentleman, boys and girls, we have made it! It's the beginning of a brand new school year, and it will be LEGENDARY! We have many new teachers and new students, so make sure to make everyone feel like a special greyhound. As the 2014 summer comes to a close and the 2014-2015 school year begins, we can begin to crack open a new chapter in our high school lives and leave a mark in Manchester history; let's make history with our intelligence and our passion.

Manchester is changing quite a bit with the finishing of the athletic center and the health center, to the famous return of Mr. Chris Young as our vice principal and athletic director. As many changes happen at MHS, we can't forget the wonderful education we receive here. This school year will be great, from the first seventh grader to the last senior and everyone in between.

Jazlyn Rust

“School Based Health Center”



One of the astonishing additions Manchester High School received this year is the School Based Health Center. The School Based Health Center is not only beneficial to the use of the children at Manchester but also to the public. Services offered at the School Based Health Center are: primary medical care, behavioral health care, health education, preventive care, nutritional education, eye examinations, blood collection, and immunizations. An addition to the benefit of

this great new facility is evening hours are also offered! The hours of operation are: Monday 7:30 AM - 4 PM, Tuesday 7:30 AM - 7 PM, Wednesday 7:30 AM - 4 PM, Thursday 7:30 AM - 4 PM, and Friday 7:30 AM- 12:30 PM. They are closed on Saturday and Sunday. Lori Rumfield is the nurse practitioner at the health center, and there are two licensed practical nurses, Amy Applegate and Ashley Rodgers. By February, the center is hoping to have their dental office open. It will include brand new equipment for three dental rooms and a full time dentist and staff. Since the first week of school, the health center has already seen over 200 patients! Manchester, as a whole, is so grateful to have such a valuable and positive facility for our community.

Brooklyn Chaney

“Athletic Center Complex”



The second addition to Manchester High School this year is the athletic complex. As of right now, the athletic complex is still under construction. The center will provide several opportunities for students, families, community members, staff, and others to get involved in both educational and recreational activities. The athletic complex will provide a staff before, during, and after school hours, as well as on weekends. The Manchester Educational Activity Center activities will be aligned with Manchester High School, and it will be a shared-use facility so that members of our community, as well as students, can use it together.

The expected grand opening for the athletic complex is scheduled for early 2015. We, as a school, are hoping to have a coordinator hired within the next few months to begin the task of setting up the schedules and communicating all the activities and programs to the entire community. Mr. Craig Hockenberry, our superintendent here at Manchester High School, says, “The NEW Manchester Educational Activity Center (MEAC) is going to be a fantastic addition to our school district and to our community!”

Tera Himes

“Varsity Football”



This year our varsity football team is coached by Mr. Dustin Cook. Assisting him will be Mr. Peters, Mr. Fegley, Mr. Neria, and Mr. Greg Penny. There are twenty-five young men on this year's team. Playing their last year of high school football are seniors: Nick Hoskins #70, Brandon Saunders #13, Rylan Woolard #3, Leevi Francis #25, Jordan Franklin #56, and Mason Shively #68. Juniors include: Derek Mingee #50, Jordan Freeman #5, Austin Redmon #7, Gabe Horsley #78, Daniel Hernandez #24, Jeff Young #53, and Denny Blanton #51. Sophomores include: Arturo Hernandez #6, Austin Collins #52, Nick Huron #80, Gavin Baldwin #54, Bryan Young #32, Chase Darnell #10, and Ryan Henderson #41. Freshman include: James Arias #2, Mason Bilyeu #45, Johnny Sowards #73, Dylan Rigdon #58, Marcus Neeley #31, and Nick Woolard #4. Mr. Cook says, "I am extremely excited and optimistic for the upcoming football season. We have a great group of kids who have put in a lot of hard work throughout the summer. We have set very high expectations for ourselves this year, as we have many returning starters from last year's team and some key additions from the freshmen class. We will strive to get better every day in practice and hope that it carries over to the game on Friday nights." The football team just recently won their Jamboree game against West Union, with the final score being 46-0. Good Luck to the football team with the rest of their season!

Brooklyn Chaney

“High School Cheerleading”



Fear the bow! The MHS cheerleaders are back in action. On July 14, 2014, the high school cheerleaders competed in the Adams County Fair cheerleading competition. Out of four teams, the girls placed 2nd. The next competition the girls will be competing in is on September 6, 2014, at the Highland County Fair Grounds. The next competition will be September 24, 2014, in Brown County at the fairgrounds. On August 20, 2014, the cheerleading squad had tryouts for one more person to be on the team. The team ended up welcoming three girls to the squad and another to be the greyhound. The newest additions to the Manchester High School cheerleading squad are Kylie Lucas, Kylie Walters, Katie Fetters, and Megan Scolf as the greyhound mascot. The last thing that the girls have coming up is the bid for them to go to Disney World. The bid will be taking place in Lexington, Kentucky at the Rupp Arena in the second week of November. If they get the bid, they will be going to Disney World in February. Good luck to all the cheerleaders on their upcoming events.

Angel Rigdon

Varsity Volleyball

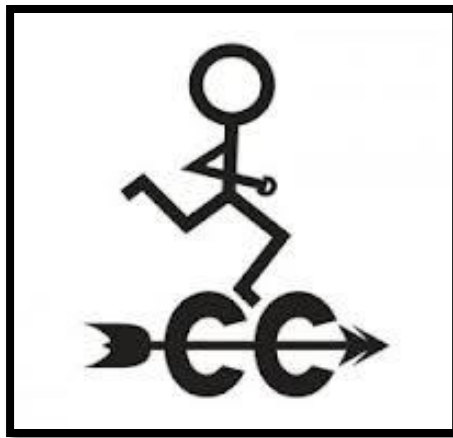


This year's JV volleyball team is coached by Mr. Mark Johnson, and the varsity team is coached by Mrs. Erin Reed. The JV team includes: Mckinlee Grooms, Gabby Lainhart, Cassie

Campbell, Carly Young, Sierra Thatcher, and Katie Sandlin. The Varsity team includes: Keisha Palmer, Morgan Johnson, Summer Wilbur, Mckayla Smith, Kayla Wagoner, Hannah Grimes, and Kylie Lucas. Both teams are working very hard this season and are doing their best to accomplish their team and individual goals that were set at the beginning of the season. Both teams are trying to get each girl to step up and help out the team in every way possible. Senior Keisha Palmer feels the girls, "Need to improve on working as a team. There are many talented players in the lineup. If we learn to work together, we will be unstoppable." We want to wish the volleyball team good luck on the rest of their season!

Brooklyn Chaney

"High School Cross Country"



Coach Victor Bowman will be the girls' and boys' cross country coach this year. Coach Bowman said, "This year should be a great year for the girls' and boys' teams! But everyone will be out to get the girls' team since they are SHAC Champs." Coach Bowman said, "The goal for the boys' team this year would be to get top three in the SHAC Meet." Their first meet was the Fayetteville Invitational @ Chatfield College; both teams placed first. Way to go and good luck, hounds!

Girls Team

Amanda Farthing- 11th grade
Shyanne Tucker- 10th grade
Xena Crummie- 10th grade
Kelsey Friend- 10th grade
Lydia Lopez- 10th grade
Kareemiah Brooks- 9th grade
Zoie Storer- 9th grade
Taylor Hackney- 9th grade

Boys Team

J.D. Stamper- 12th grade
Michael Crummie- 12th grade
Rickey Deatley- 11th grade
Jacob Purdon- 11th grade
Brendon Kessler- 10th grade
Ryan Dryden- 10th grade
Gage Lucas- 9th grade
Logan Hanson- 9th grade
Austin Stamper- 9th grade
Jamie Combs- 9th grade
Ethan Pennywitt- 9th grade

Keisha Palmer

“MHS Golf Team”



As the new school year takes off, golf season is in full swing. The greyhound golf team consists of eight players: seven boys and one girl, Bethany Sweeny. I interviewed two members of the boy’s golf team, Justin Aldridge and Jase Howard, about how they are feeling about the season so far. When asked how he is enjoying his first year on the golf team, Justin responded with, “It has met my expectations.” I followed up by asking about some of his personal goals, and he wishes to qualify to play at the Shawnee State College golf course at the end of the season.

When I asked about a favorite memory they had, Jase, who is a two year player, replied with, “When I hit my driver club against an oak tree during practice.” In closing, I asked the boys if they had any comments for students wishing to join the golf team next year, and they said, “The more the merrier!”

Adam Poole, the head coach of the Manchester golf team, took time to answer some questions I had. The goals he has for the 2014 season are for the team to represent MHS at the SHAC and sectional matches with the best golfers possible, to improve every match, and to just keep pushing forward each week. From the first matches to now, he notes that the golfers are, “Steadily improving. Maybe not as fast as I would like, but they are improving. Hopefully by tournament time they will hit their peak.” His final comments on his team were: “This year’s team is young and enthusiastic. With practice and time, I think they could become a very solid and successful team.”

Samantha Aldridge

“Junior High Football”



This year’s junior high football players and their new coach, Mr. Flannery, are expecting a good year. All of the players are learning the new plays and are becoming better athletes. This year is going to be a learning experience for everyone; even though practice doesn’t always make perfect, it does make improvements. Their first game is on Thursday, August 28, at Fayetteville. The roster is listed below.

J.R. High Football Players

Kris Walters
Wesley Jones
Brady Flack
Jacob Calvert
Vincent Schulz
Izhik Conley
Caleb Henderson
Cameron Breeze
Kaleb Henschen
Dallas Grooms
JD Brumley
Denny Polley
Avery Reed
Shaun Gould
Matt Lawrence
Landon Conn

Sammie Hanson

“Junior High Cheerleading”



With the new year beginning, our junior high cheerleaders have nothing but positive attitudes, and they wish to accomplish what they do best, winning. Over the summer, the team competed at the Adam’s County Fair. Even though the team won a second place trophy, the girls are working hard in order to get that first place win at Highland and Brown County Fair, along with SHL. The girls are very excited for these upcoming events. When asked about how everything was going so far with this year’s team, Coach Young replied, “These girls have been battling through injuries, so every time they get a routine together they have to change it to move the girls that are hurt around, so they aren’t doing things to further harm their injuries.” Despite the injuries, Coach Young is very proud of this year’s team, considering that they are the hardest working and most naturally talented group of girls that she has worked with. Coach Young hopes that they work to showcase their abilities each time out and have fun with what they are doing. Good luck, ladies, at the competitions!

Courtney Shirey

“Jr. High Cross Country”



Run, Manchester, run! As we start our school year out, the junior high cross country is already starting out of the gate with a hard working team consisting of seven seventh graders and

five eighth. Jerod Michael only had one thing to say about the group this year: “We have a hard working team that will run their Achilles heels off this year.” The team competed in the Invitational at Hillsboro on August 30th. Make sure you go and support your running Greyhounds! The team includes:

Seventh and Eighth runners:

Billie Kinhalt
McKenzie Smith
Jocelyn Barajas
Caymden Hughes
Taylor Morrison
Alexus Barlow
Sammie Young
Dylan Adams
Logan Bryant
Declan Huron
Daryan Rigsby
Dalton Williams
Matt Hughes

Jazlyn Rust

“Junior High Volleyball”



This year the junior high volleyball team has both a seventh and eighth grade team; both teams are coached by Shawn Palmer. The season for both teams has just begun. The seventh grade record so far this year is 0-2, but they played great considering they only had five players. The eighth grade has a record of 4-1, and they have lots of room to improve. The expectation for the season is to improve every player for high school and the next level. The players include:

7th grade

Kalyn Rideout
Kylie Abbott
McKenzie Leadingham
Jalyn Thacker
Melanie Thatcher
Karli Henschen

8th grade

Kaitlyn Palmer
Aalyiah Smith
Brooklynn Unger
Gracie Grooms
Naomi Jones
Abigail McFarland
Madison Young
Darrington White
Macy Huron
McKenzie Smith

Hannah Purdon

“FFA Update”



FFA is coming back bigger and stronger than ever this year, with new members coming in all shapes, sizes, and grades. You can count on Mr. Tony Sparks to be ahead of all the action. Sammie Hanson was able to disclose a few of the upcoming events, but the FFA is keeping a tight lid on a lot of the stories. Working as an AG group, the grass down by the football field and the new athletic center is getting mighty fine treatment with the groups tilling and leveling out of the beautiful, new surroundings. On top of having a wonderful year last year, the FFA plans to breed female rabbits and hold officer elections. Mr. Sparks only had this to say: "Big year and big plans."

Jazlyn Rust

“High School Teacher Profile”



The first high school teacher profile goes to Mr. Peters. He was brought into this world on December 4, 1984. His favorite color is Vegas gold and black. Mr. Peters' favorite person to work with would be Mr. Copas, but he loves working with the rest of the staff members at MHS too. *Top Gun* and *Varsity Blues* are his favorite movies. His favorite TV show is *SpongeBob*, and he loves watching it with his son, Talen! On his free time, he loves to play sports, workout, fish,

and spend time with his family. Mr. Peters' favorite thing about Manchester is the staff and that the kids are the best he could ever ask for. He has been at Manchester for five years now and he hopes to have many more years. You can find him in his classroom teaching health or in the gym. Mr. Peters attended college at Morehead State University and completed his masters at Concordia University. The reason why Mr. Peters became a teacher is because of his P.E. teacher in high school. He loves being able to coach and help kids become great men and women. He would like to end by saying to his football boys, "Get nasty☺". To everyone else, he will be looking for a new student helper next year!

Keisha Palmer

"Junior High Teacher Profile"



Mr. Michael Stanfield Fegley was born on May 1, 1990. His favorite color is blue, and he enjoys watching the TV shows *Dallas* and *The Big Bang Theory*; he also likes the movie *Hardball*. In Mr. Fegley's free time, he likes to relax, rodeo, play softball, and go to auctions. His favorite thing about Manchester School District is the family environment, and he is ecstatic to work with all of his wonderful colleagues. Mr. Fegley has been teaching intervention here at Manchester for going on three years. He graduated with a bachelor's degree from Shawnee State University, and he will attain a master's degree from Concordia University in Chicago in May of 2015. In his junior year of high school, he had a high school baseball coach/mentor that was a teacher that he worked with in "mentorship" that influenced him to be an educator. Also, both of his adopted parents were career educators, and they both influenced him as well, along with other family members. Mr. Fegley would like to end by saying, "Go Greyhounds!"

Brook Henley

“12th Grade Profiles”



The first senior profile goes to Mr. Ryan Palmer. Ryan came into this world on May 9th, 1996, which makes him seventeen years old. Ryan is single and ready to mingle, so be sure to hit him up, ladies! Ryan’s all-time favorite class is Ag. science, taught by his favorite teacher Mr. Sparks. Ryan has three best friends, and their names are: Jordan Franklin, Leevi Francis, and J.D. Stamper. Out of all of the underclassman here at Manchester, his favorite is Mr. Jordan Freeman. When asked what he did this summer, he answered with, “Farm work.” Ryan is having a great time back at school, and he is extremely excited about graduation. Ryan has no worries for this school year. Good luck, Ryan, with your senior year!

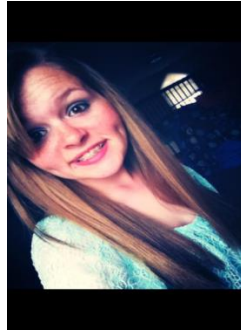


The second senior profile goes to Miss Tess Burns. Tess was born on April 21, 1997, and that makes her seventeen years old. Tess is also single and ready to mingle, so hit her up, boys, before it’s too late! Her favorite class is advanced P.E., taught by her favorite teacher, Mr. Peters. Tess has four best friends, and their names are: Jaycie Parr, Morgan Johnson, Summer Wilber, and Rainelle Casey. Out of all the eligible underclassman at Manchester High, her favorite is Miss Katie Sandlin. In her free time, she likes to watch her favorite movie, *The Blind Side*. Tess is enjoying her senior year so far, and she is looking forward to many things. Tess is a star athlete here at Manchester, and she is really excited for basketball and track season this year. Like most of this year’s seniors, Tess is most nervous about graduating. Tess did many things

this summer, but she mostly hung out with her best friend, Rainelle Casey. Good luck, Tess, with your senior year!

Brook Henley

“Sophomore Profiles”



Our first girl sophomore profile of the year is Ceaira Coufman. Ceaira celebrated her birthday on June 19th and turned fifteen years young. Sorry, fellas, Ceaira’s heart is currently captured by James Thoroughmen! Her favorite class is English, taught by her favorite teacher Mrs. Lovejoy. You can always find Ceaira with her two best friends, Xena Crummie and Hannah Grimes. Her favorite senior is Tera Himes. In her spare time, Ceaira enjoys relaxing while watching her favorite TV show *The Fosters* or her favorite movie *The Notebook*. So far, she hasn’t really enjoyed school; she just wants it over with. When she was asked what she was most excited about, she replied with, “Getting this year over with.” Just like any other current or previous sophomore, Ceaira is most nervous about the OGT. Over the summer, she traveled to California and also finished her grandmother’s bucket list! Ceaira would like to end by saying, “Bye, lol.”



Our first boy sophomore profile of the year is Bryan Young. Bryan made his arrival on December 13th, 1998, which makes him fifteen years old. Bryan is single, ladies, so snatch him up while you can! His favorite teacher is Mr. Sparks, but his favorite class happens to be P.E. Bryan’s one and only partner in crime is Chase Darnell. He has four favorite upperclassmen: Tera, Brooklyn, Nan, and Sammie. In his spare time, he enjoys watching his favorite movie, *Moto 5*. Bryan says he doesn’t enjoy school so far this year, and he’s most excited for school to

end. He claims that he isn't nervous about anything and that he did "everything" over his summer break. Bryan would like to end by saying, "NO RAGRETS."

Tera Himes

"Eighth Grade Profiles"



Our first eighth grade profile is Gracie Grooms. Gracie was born on April 27, 2001, making her thirteen years old. Sorry, boys, Gracie is currently in a relationship with Jamie Combs. Although her favorite teacher is Mr. Cook, her favorite class is Spanish. Gracie refers to Josie Campbell as her best friend, and her favorite upperclassman is C.J. Hobbs. You could find Gracie kicked back on her couch watching her favorite movie, *Let's be Cops*. Over the summer, while Gracie wasn't in Florida, she spent her spare time at cheerleading practice. Gracie is enjoying school so far, but the work? Not so much. Gracie says she isn't nervous about anything this school year, and she is just excited for it to be the last day. Gracie would like to end by saying, "Bye!"

Our Second profile is Landon Conn. Landon was born on January, 26, 2001, making him thirteen years old. Sorry, ladies, Landon is currently in a relationship with Abby Henschen. Landon's favorite teacher, Mr. Michael, just happens to teach his favorite class, science. Landon is often seen hanging out with his friends Isaiah Redmon, Logan Hayslip, and Garet Hayslip. Landon's favorite upperclassmen are: Jamie Combs, Chase Darnell, and Rylee Manning. In Landon's spare time, he's usually watching his favorite movie, *Neighbors*, or his favorite TV show, *Family Guy*. Landon is enjoying school so far, especially gym class. He's most nervous about Algebra I this year. Over the summer, Landon was busy playing football and basketball, as well as riding his dirt bike. Landon would like to end by saying, "I hope the rest of the school year is good."

Brooklyn Chaney

“Advice from Seniors to Freshmen”



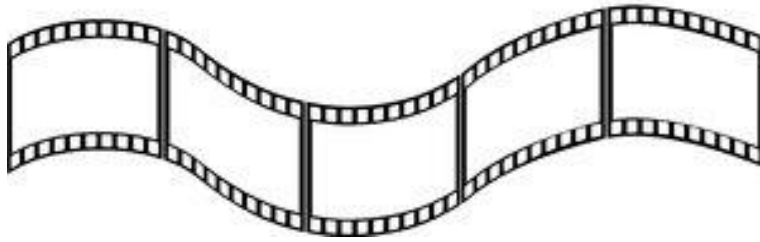
How did you feel on your first day of freshman year? I'll never forget the way I felt. I was a nervous wreck! I was on a new side of the building, with upper classmen who referred to the freshmen as “fresh meat”. There were new teachers, and I didn't know where any of my classes were. At the end of freshman year, everything wasn't so bad. I started looking at everyday like it was just one step closer to graduation. If the seniors then would have given us advice, maybe being a freshman wouldn't have been so bad.

My advice to you is to always pay attention in class. If you are not paying attention, you will get behind. Staying caught up is always better than falling behind. Doing what you're told will make everything much easier, and the year will go much faster. The education you're getting from your teachers isn't pointless. Everything you're being taught will be helpful in your future!

I asked a few of my senior classmates what would be some advice that could help all the freshmen through the rest of high school. Sammie Hanson said, “Don't smart off to your teachers, and don't act like you know every because you don't.” Samantha Aldridge said, “Don't take your high school years for granted.” Jazlyn Rust felt that, “Your designer doesn't matter as much as your dreams.” The person whose advice caught my attention the most was Keisha Palmer's. One thing she said was, “Keep your friends close and your enemies closer”, which is true. You may think you know who your friends are, but honestly they most likely haven't shown their true colors yet. You may have many friends right now, but by the end of your high school career you will only have a select few. Those people you think you know won't be the person you used to know. We don't expect all the freshmen to read this and take our advice, but one day everything we're saying will eventually help you. Maybe it won't right now, but it will in the next few years.

Angel Rigdon

“Movie Review”



If I Stay

If I Stay is a romantic drama, based on a book by Gayle Thorman, about a teenage girl named Mia (played by Chloe Grace MorteZ) who falls into a coma after a terrible accident involving her entire family. The story is told through a combination of Mia’s out-of-body experiences, while in the hospital, as she tries to find out if the rest of her family is okay, and through flashbacks of her life and relationships with her family and her boyfriend, Adam (played by Jamie Blackley). Like the title suggests, Mia has to decide if she wants to fight to live and come out of the coma or just let herself go.

The movie has a lot of really tragic, heart-wrenching moments, but it also has a lot of joy and humor in the flashbacks, so this keeps the film from being all depression all the time and makes it very enjoyable to watch. Music is hugely important in the movie, since both Mia’s father and Adam are rock musicians and she is a phenomenal cellist. The soundtrack ends up being an interesting mix of classical music and punk rock, and it works really well. The characters all seemed well developed and realistic, making the movie easier to get into.

Not everything in the movie is great, though. The odd camera angles, complicated background noise/setting, and unusual scripting and dialog at times put a damper on what I thought would be a flawless take on the book. *If I Stay* isn’t perfect by any means, but it’s still a really solid movie, so I do have to recommend it. If you like music, romance, and tear-jerkers, this movie is for you. Overall, I give it around a seventy-five percent rating.

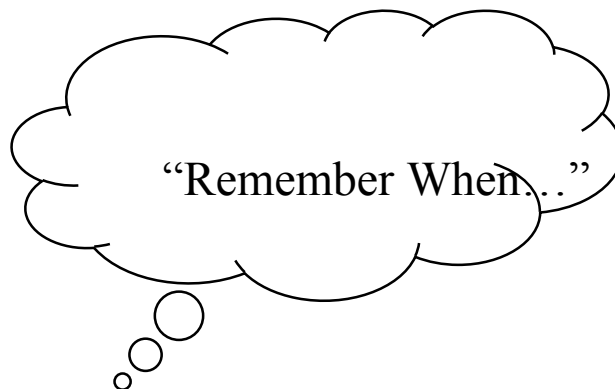
Samantha Aldridge

“Music News”



Many new and upcoming artists have recently appeared, which means new and upcoming songs. According to iTunes, the number one song downloaded this month was the new song “Shake it Off” by Taylor Swift, which was released on August 18, 2014. The new single is an up-tempo pop song, like many other of her recent hits that have been moving away from her traditional country songs. Unlike any other typical Taylor Swift song, this one was surprisingly not about a boy. In an article in *Rolling Stone* magazine, she stated, “I’ve had every part of my life dissected—my choices, my actions, my words, my body, my style, my music. When you live your life under that kind of scrutiny, you can either let it break you, or you can get really good at dodging punches. And when one lands, you know how to deal with it. And I guess the way that I deal with it is to shake it off.” According to *Billboard*, the number one song was “Rude”, by the Canadian band Magic. The hit is from their debut album, *Don’t Kill The Magic*, released on October 12, 2013. The reggae hit was written about the lead singers ending of an unhealthy relationship. In my opinion, both songs are up-beat and enjoyable hits. Listen to them and see what you think!

Hannah Purdon



- You saw the T.V. cart, and you knew it was going to be a good day?
- The “Razor” flip phone was today’s iPhone?

- We had Cosi?
- The magician would come to the gym to show us tricks and how to make cool balloons?
- Fun day had a bunch of inflatables?
- Heelys were cool?
- People wore Silly Bandz?
- We had smiley face fries?
- We had to follow the paw prints in the elementary halls?

Courtney Shirey

“The Purge”



Hoax or fact? What does your Facebook say? It seems like everyone receives their information exclusively from Facebook. The newest thing people decided to believe is “The Purge” coming to their town, city, or state. Despite popular belief and the public fear it created, these “events” DID NOT HAPPEN and the false information was meant to cause panic. “The Purge” is a concept from a horror film where the government makes everything legal for twelve hours, including any and all violent crime. “The Purge” that is being talked about on Facebook is NOT government ran, like in the movies. It was a threat proposed from an unknown source. Again, these “Purge” events WERE NOT REAL; it was a complete hoax.

The first threat that popped up was an article on Facebook citing a, “killing of 112 people in Chicago by teens that were re-enacting the second Purge.” Honestly, I freaked out, but after doing further research, I found out it wasn’t true. If 112 people were killed, then wouldn’t it be on the news? Unfortunately, many others did not fact check and believed these false “news reports”. This highlights the need for the public to always check and consider their news source.

Louisville, Kentucky, was supposedly having a Purge on August 15th from 8:30 PM to 6:30 AM. This announcement also came from social media. No crimes were committed that

night, and once again it was a hoax. Ohio's Purge was scheduled for August 30th, the weekend of the WEBN fireworks, from 8:00 PM to 6:00 AM. Police were aware of it, and said they were prepared if anyone tried to take action. On the night of any of the "Purges", crime of any kind would still have the same punishment as any other night, unlike the movie. This is just a tactic to scare those who don't fact check. Additionally, Texas had one scheduled on August 29th, and the Colorado "Purge" was set for September 6th from 6:30PM to 6:30AM. Again, all threats were just social media scares. Remember, fellow students, consider the source of your information before you fully believe it!

Sammie Hanson

"Disabled Girl Receives a Generous Gift"

Alexus Lasiter suffers from cerebral palsy, a seizure disorder, and heart trouble and kidney trouble. Lately, frequent trips to the hospital had left Alexis feeling a bit down. Wathena Sievert, Alexis' mother, decided to think of a way to cheer her little girl up. Wathena knew that Alexis' two favorite things are horses and getting mail, so she decided to combine the two. Her mother contacted an art student who participated in a Facebook group she had seen. Travis Barker, from Lakeland Florida, was contacted by Wathena and was asked to draw a picture of a horse and send it to Alexis. Barker accepted but decided to do it for free. He also decided to get some of his friends to help out as well, around thirty of them! They also created a Facebook group titled Horses for Lex.



Over a period of a few weeks, the Facebook page gained around 2,000 likes. Suddenly people from all over the world decided to join in and help the cause. After that time, her family began to notice the amazing amounts of mail Alexis had received. Alexis received an extensive plethora of assorted creations, such as paintings, drawings and sketches that had been sent from all over the country.



After hearing about the attention that the Facebook page received, a woman named Becky Anne Ross contacted Barker, informing him that she owned a rescue horse named Snickerdoodle. Due to the popularity of the page, Ross offered to donate her previously abused horse to Alexis. When Alexis' family found out about the horse, they decided to keep it a secret, in order to surprise their little girl. After the family decided to take it, Alexis thought that they were just taking a trip to Florida for the opportunity to ride a horse. Finally, her family told her about the exciting news that she would actually get to keep the horse for her very own. Alexis' mother said, "Seeing the look on her face and knowing that she was going to be able to bring it home. It's just unbelievable."

Kristin Darnell

“Panda Cub Celebrates First Birthday”



A new panda cub has just celebrated its first birthday this month. Bao Bao, meaning precious or treasure, was given cake made from frozen fruit juice and other treats, like pears and apples, in honor of her first birthday. Bao Bao is only the second panda to be born at this zoo and survive to become one year old. The cub started as a little, pink, wiggly baby, no bigger than a stick of butter, and is now a fluffy, black and white, forty-four pound little bundle of joy. Her favorite activities are sleeping in a tree; she also likes wrestling with a blue cylinder-shaped buoy that is filled with sand. The cub has also started eating solid food, like sweet potatoes and bamboo, and recently has gotten her first taste of honey. Lately, she has been, "getting really good at responding when her name is called", MacCorkle said, "and is exploring a little more and more every day. "

Kristin Darnell

