Senior Makaela Kestner dribbles the basketball down the court. Kestner plans on attending the University of South Florida in the fall. Photo courtesy of Talon Yearbook

Some of our very well known Liberty Eagle athletes have committed to a college to continue playing their favorite sports! Senior Makaela Kestner is on the varsity girls basketball team. In early January, Makaela announced she committed to University of South Florida for women's basketball. Although she was not always committed to USF, Makaela was originally recruited to the University of North Carolina, but in early December she decommitted.

“A couple years back they had a few problems with the NACC, so I was afraid of something happening when I actually got there, and I didn’t want to take any risk,” said Makaela. She believes the University of South Florida is a better fit for her because “I feel very comfortable at USF with the coaches, players, and the staff make me feel comfortable there and they run a system, and that is what I like to do!” said Kestner.

She also said she wanted to continue playing basketball in college “because it is a game I love and enjoy playing very much. I would like to see how far basketball takes me and if I get better in college, than hopefully play as a professional!” said Kestner.

Senior Julian Sams, a varsity football player and varsity wrestler, recently decommitted from a college as well. He was originally recruited to Old Dominion University to play football.

“After a long talk with my family and coaches, I’ve decided to decommit from Old Dominion and re-open my recruitment. Thank you Coach Wilder for offering me to play football at Old Dominion and thank you Coach Bankins for recruiting me. Please respect my decision,” Julian posted on January 17, 2018, after a weekend visit at ODU.

Although he has opened his recruitment again with many offers, Kent State caught his attention, and Julian went for an official visit on the weekend of January 27th and 28th. After the weekend visit, Julian committed to Kent State in Ohio.

“I would like to thank everybody for supporting me through this long process, with that being said, I will be furthering my football and athletic career at Kent State University,” posted Julian on January 28, 2018.

Senior Elizabeth Waln is a varsity softball player. She was recruited to James Madison University in early November of 2017 to continue playing the sport she loves most. She’s been playing softball since she was in second grade.

“I chose JMU because I felt like home when I stepped on campus and the coaches and players are welcoming. I was so excited and relieved when I found out I was accepted,” said Waln. Kinsley Lewis is a junior on girls varsity basketball, and she already has her future set for her! She signed to play for Radford University for women’s basketball in mid-December of 2017.

“I made my decision with Radford because I got to know the coaching staff so well and when I visited, I knew this was going to be my home for college,” said Lewis.

As juniors and seniors, students start to think of where they’d like to attend college. “I wouldn’t say this was my dream college. Everyone always asked me where I wanted to go and I would say I didn’t know, because I didn’t. But I knew Radford was for me when I went down there for my unofficial visit. I’m most excited to for the amazing teammates I am going to make! All of the girls were so nice when I visited and I can’t wait to go experience that again when I go as a freshman,” said Lewis.

Senior Madison Humphries is an athlete on the varsity field hockey and varsity basketball teams, but for college, she is strictly attending William and Mary University for academic purposes.

“I visited the college of William and Mary over spring break last year, and fell in love instantly. After that my mind was pretty much made up that I wanted to spend the next four year of my life there. But it was not my original dream school. I had always planned to follow in my mom’s footsteps, attending Penn State or attending Virginia Tech, but after visiting WMU, I realized that’s where I wanted to be. The atmosphere in Williamsburg is amazing and the quality of education that a student receives there cannot be matched. I really believe that it is a great fit for me. I made my decision to apply early, which is binding, but I knew that there were slightly better odds of me getting accepted and that’s where I wanted to go, regardless of where else I was accepted into. For those who aren’t completely sure, I don’t recommend this option because you could be stuck going somewhere that you’re not one hundred percent happy with,” said Humphries.
Snow Days Kick Off New Term

The 2018 Spring Term started off with a bang—a 2 hour delay the first day back and a snow day the day after! As if that wasn’t enough, the following Monday was also a snow day. January 16 was also a two-hour delay day. This is not much compared to previous years where there have been multiple snow days before the term even started or literally not coming to school a single day in February due to consistent blizzards!

Nonetheless, it is important to look forward and embrace what is going on in the new term. There are so many different opportunities waiting and so many things that have already happened in this short amount of time-new classes, a fundraiser, and so much more.

“I have a love hate relationship with snow days, one hand no school, on the other hand no education. I actually rather enjoy school and learning so there is a bit of a down fall in missing out on days,” said sophomore Cora Sheppard.

“I love my classes! I love snow days, but I feel like we could be a bit farther away, like we could be a bit farther away,” said senior Jenica Garnett.

“A normal day of drama is a good class. This class is dedicated to their shows and rehearse role play sce- narios for different economic situations,” said McCoy.

Many other DECA members were very confident and laid back. They obviously had a lot of practice and guidance from their teachers to be so sure that they would do well.

“During the competition we completed our role plays in front of judges then after that we shopped around until it was time for awards,” said McCoy. The students were all very successful and had lots of fun at the event and came back to bring some awards for Liberty High School.

The following students placed in their event: Brianna Duncan—Food Marketing-Role Play—3rd Place Grace Curry—Hotel and Lodging Management—Role Play—1st place. The following students placed and qualify to compete at the state competition March 2-4 in Virginia Beach. Morgan Hatcher—Personal Financial Literacy—Overall Winner 1st place-Test-3rd place; Role Play-1st place Olivia Castaldy-Human Resource Management—Overall Winner 1st place-Test-2nd place; Role Play-1st place Lynnssey Painter—Principles of Marketing—Overall Winner 3rd place.

Drama Goes Big

by Hannah Quang

Steel Magnolias actors Helen Mes- sick, playing Ouisier, and Kristina Rigby, playing Clairee, and the show in a tight hand hold. Photo courtesy of Talon Yearbook Staff.

A normal day of dra- ma includes theatre warm ups, improv warm ups, a lesson on theater history, acting, and learning about tech. Theatre histo- ry includes history from original Roman and Greek theatre. Some warm ups include acting games to get drama ready.

“My favorite thing about teaching theatre is doing what you’re passionate about and what you love. I like all my current projects equally because there is something different and unique that each show brings,” says theatre teacher Mrs. Cagglett.

Twelfth Night is a clas- sic play. This play is student di- rec ted. Steel Magnolias is another play and its story is about friendship and finding family. This play gives students a chance to prac- tice their tech they’ve learned in class. Beauty and the Beast is a musical that brings several de- partments to work together. The cost for this musical has just been selected, and they are hard at work already. Though there is much stress with all the ongoing projects, drama feels the process as very exciting and that the work isn’t as stressful when they’re all together and pitching in.

“Everyone in drama is like a big family My favorite part about drama is meeting new peo- ple and learning about the histo- ry,” said freshman Katie Castro. “Hanging out with friends, having fun, and doing what I love,” said freshman Tony Desouza. Tony decided to join dra- ma after taking a film analy- sis class. Mrs. Cagglett saw him acting and recommend- ing that he should join drama. “I don’t really have a
Fauquier County Public Schools is welcoming new health food initiatives that FRESH, in partnership with the Nutrition Department, is integrating into the school lunch program. I, being an intern at the PATH and FRESH Program, have seen this plan in action through the plethora of research done for the farm to school recipes and various training sessions held for the cafeteria staff throughout the Fauquier, Culpeper, and Rappahannock region.

Walking into one of these trainings can be a bit intimidating; all the wonderful cooks are not only friends, but resemble a big family. Even those who have never met before welcome each other through their shared occupation: feeding the student population.

One out of the three training sessions was held in Warrenton Middle School and involved nearly twenty cafeteria cooks from multiple schools around the county.

The session began with an overview presentation given by Natalie Ortiz, FRESH’s chef. The cafeteria staff then broke off into groups to prepare six new recipes including an apple orchard salad, roasted spiced pumpkin, honey-apple dressing, pumpkin bread broccoli harvest salad, and apple slaw. Two of the recipes involved the ever popular “pumpkin spice” which was composed of nutmeg, cloves, cinnamon, ginger, and allspice. The fragrant mix was tossed and turned into the diced pumpkin before it was cooked in an oven to make the roasted spice pumpkin. The pumpkin spice was also incorporated into the in the pumpkin bread which the cafeteria staff decided would be a huge hit for the students.

After the training session, I realized that the cafeteria staff truly cares about their students as if they were their own children and genuinely wishes to see us eat healthier and enjoy lunch. In reaching this goal of creating healthier lunches, schools can often cross barriers like budget, time, and the equipment available to them. This is where the mind of a FRESH coordinator comes into play. Farm to school recipes are being researched by the program in an effort engage students in food awareness and the way in which local farmers contribute to the food system.

“This is a very big improvement in school lunches. I was very impressed because school lunches generally have low reputations and aren’t the healthiest choices. Although I pack lunch I might start buying now,” said senior Victoria Machuca.

This attitude is important because it means that the gradual change to fresher produce is being noticed by students and will entice them to buy more school lunch. Another initiative that FRESH is implementing into schools are contests that promote healthy eating and trying out new fruits and vegetables.

Elementary school contests are composed of “What’s FRESH” activity sheets which the student fills out describing what and how the fruit and vegetable of the month help their bodies. The contests for the middle school level include creating a FRESH slogan that would encourage others to eat more fruits and vegetables, and “eat this, not that” poster where the student draws one unhealthy meal and another healthy alternative, and a “rainbow” poster which depicts colorful fruits and vegetables accompanied by a description of the nutrients in a “color” food group. The high school contests include creating an “Eat this, not that” poster, a healthy food drive, and a snacktivity vs. activity poster. The lucky winners of these contests will receive awesome prizes including 6 tickets for Luray Caverns, family pack for iFly, and 2 Fitbit Altas.

Some may believe that students will always find a way to eat unhealthy foods if they really want them. However, if there is a constant stream of healthy food stimuli at school, they will be more likely to reach for those choices out of habit when shopping on their own.

“I think that the farm to school effort will go a long way in positively affecting people’s food choices at home,” said senior Alanis Gordillo. With all of this sentiment I agree and am excited to see the healthier changes that will be made to our students’ school lunch menu.

Photos taken by Maria Cruz.

On November 15th at Great Marsh Estate, many departments from Liberty joined together to take part in a faux wedding. This event, organized by Lauren Shutt, included orchestra, culinary arts, graphic imaging, floral design, woodworking, photography, fashion marketing, and cosmetology.

It was originally planned to be a way for photography students to practice their skills in a “real world” environment, but soon became a larger scale project to involve multiple departments. Who was the creator behind this ingenious idea? The answer is none other than senior Lauren Shutt, who crafted this event under the supervision of art and photography teacher Danielle Spratling.

Lauren had already completed all of the photography classes available at Liberty, and decided to take Mrs. Spratling’s Photography Independent Study class. Originally, Lauren was inspired by Michelle Lieb, a professional wedding photographer that came to Liberty as a guest speaker. Additionally, Lauren was inspired by the Class of 2021 project. She was given the responsibility of coming up with ideas for the entire event, from the color scheme of the flowers and style of makeup to picking out music and helping with invitations.

When Lauren began to make her idea a reality, Mrs. Spratling served as a lifeline to help her coordinate with the teachers of all of the departments involved. The two of them worked together to find a way to make this dream possible. The first department involved was Photography. Students from photography came to take pictures of both the venue and the bridesmaids.

“We got there early, and then we loaded the cameras with film. In my class, each person took at least 30 pictures, which were of the bridesmaids, location, and the bride and groom. My favorite part had to be the house and scenery,” commented Photography 1 Student Brianna Yates.

The bridesmaids were portrayed by the fashion marketing students, who had their hair and makeup done by cosmetology.

“I said it was a great experience and a memory I will always have, I had a great time and if I could do it again I definitely would!” said Marketing student Rachael McCoy.

Then came the orchestra, who played music for the wedding. “We really just practiced the repertoire we already had, along with two new pieces.” Grace Gonzalez explained, explaining the process of getting ready for the event.

Fashion marketing designed dresses for the function and played the bridesmaids, and culinary arts prepared food for the faux wedding.

Graphic imaging designed wedding invitations for the occasion. Agriculture was also a big help; floral design made the bouquets, and woodworking designed a wooden arch for the mock wedding.

The gathering took place at Great Marsh Estate, a mansion and wedding venue located in Bealeton, Virginia. The manor is very sophisticated, with a stunning view and located on the water.

“Great Marsh Estate was beautiful. Much more grand and classic than I expected,” says photography teacher Danielle Spratling.

“It was simple but classy. The perfect size for a small scale wedding,” Debora Garcia, another orchestra student, remarks on the beautiful location.

All of this was made possible by one diligent and innovative student.

“The point of the project was not only to get me real world experience as a photographer, but also to engage my fellow photography students and the several other wonderful Liberty students in our beauty of applying what we’ve learned to our lives and showcasing all of our talents. I was incredibly blessed to work with a group of people who are very proud of all we have accomplished,” reflects Lauren Shutt.

All photos courtesy of Mrs. Danielle Spratling.
Swift’s “Reputation”…. Ready For It?

by Kristina Rigby

~Editor-in-Chief

Guitar’ video, as well as “Bad Blood”, “Out of the Woods”, and “You Belong With Me”. There are several different shade references throwed in this music video. Some might think that the image of Swift bathing in diamonds is a reference to the Kim Kardashian robbery, but I believe she made the most sense because at the conclusion, Swift says “I would very much like to be concluded from this narrative” which are the exact words she used when Kardashian referenced her drama with Swift in an interview. She also have been seeing singing with a snake on her arm, something that Kardashian referred to her as. While she’s in this bath tub of diamonds, a dollar bill lays across her, symbolizing this bathtub of diamonds, a dollar bill lays across her, symbolizing the one dollar she received from a court trial against a man who groped her. Swift even dresses up like Katy Perry, a much-anticipated rival fest, during this video. The video in and of itself is such a shade fest that I’m in love with. I even published a how-to-make-up tutorial on how to achieve her smokey eye and bold red lip look featured in her music video. For a while, this was the only single out. However, the next out was “Ready for It?”. This was not one of my favorites though it was pretty catchy. I wasn’t a huge fan of the overall meausage. Now, the rest of the album is out and I am still in love. “I Did Something Bad” is amazing. It may not be a single but you should request this song with “Reputation”. This has been a much-needed comeback from Swift. Some of her past albums has just seemed like a self-help book about how terrible her life is and how mean people were to her. This one was a major twist and so not like the traditional Taylor songs. Overall, I am incredibly impressed with “Reputation”. For this edition of Food Wars, I decided to put McDonald’s and Chick-fil-a’s chicken nuggets to the test. I went to both fast food restaurants to try their chicken nuggets and to decide who would take the victory in this competition. Although I share love equally for both these restaurants, this would become a pretty clear. To start off this competition, I traveled to the local McDonald’s here in Bealeton. Walking in, I made my way to the somewhat clean counter to order. While ordering a six count of chicken nuggets, I have to honestly say I had no trouble with the cashier. Even though there are millions of horror stories relating to McDonald’s and their employees, I have to say I was treated very nicely and with respect.

While waiting for my chicken nuggets, I noticed there was not a lot of people eating here but my food was taking a little more time than average to be served. Finally when I got my chicken nuggets, I made my way to a relatively clean table and was ready to eat. Opening the box of chicken nuggets, they looked delicious. Each one was perfectly cooked to be crispy and golden. As I took a bite of my first nugget, I met with a satisfying crunch. They tasted delicious and I guess I caught them on a good day because these chicken nuggets were delicious. They were cooked to perfection and I could not point out one thing they did wrong. The chicken nuggets were nice and juicy and I definitely wanted to order some more. When I finished eating, I made my way to the car and was thinking about who took the victory and the answer was very clear. Although McDonald’s chicken nuggets were very good, Chick-fil-a’s nuggets had one-upped them in every way, but both these fast food restaurants had excellent food and service and I cannot wait to eat at either of them again.

What’s On Your Playlist?

Gracie Derry-Freshman
1. Fall Out Boy - “Sugar we’re goin’ down”
2. Matchbox 20 - “How far we’ve come”
3. Train - “Drops of Jupiter”
4. Panic! At The Disco - “This is Gospel”
5. My Chemical Romance - “Welcome to the Black Parade”
6. Panic! At The Disco - “Victorious”
7. Panic! At The Disco - “I Write songs not Tragedies”
8. Marine Corps - “Running In Cadence”
9. Aeseth Ant Farm - “Smooth Criminal”
10. Militaria - “Around her hip she wore a 45”

Isabelle Maginnis-Junior
1. Twenty One Pilots - “Oh, Ms. Believer”
2. Hyper Potion - “Surf”
3. Panel At the Disco - “LA Devotee”
4. Twenty One Pilots - “Roly”
5. Moomintroll - “Feelings are Fatal”
6. Echos - “Leave your Lover”
7. Zayn Malik ft. Taylor Swift - “I Don’t Wanna Miss A Thing”
8. Bill Wurtz - “La De Da De Da De”
10. Twenty One Pilots - “Odes to Sleep”

Dylan Spell - Senior
1. Puddle of Mudd - “She hate me”
2. White Stripes - “7 Nation Army”
3. Pantera - “Walk”
4. Disturbed - “Stricken”
5. Rage against the Machine - “Know your enemy”
6. Lit - “My own worst enemy”
7. Hed Planet Earth - “Swan Dive”
8. System of a Down - “At ease”
9. Linkin Park - “With you”
10. Limp Bizkit - “Breaks Stuff”
Kazutaka Kodaka has done it again with the release of “Danganronpa V3: Killing Harmony.” Coming to western audiences on September 26th of 2017 with being highly anticipated for sometime by many, The Danganronpa series as a whole has gone a bit unnoticed by many, but has a place in the heart of its fans. The “Danganronpa” series has been known for being a visual novel along with being a murder mystery game about high school students fighting through a game without being “eliminated” themselves. The underlying theme is mainly hope vs despair, but V3 shakes things up by having the theme of truth vs lies. With that being said, I may go into spoiler territory. Here we go.

In the beginning, you meet our loving protagonist, Kaede Akamatsu, who was stuffed into a locker and is also the Ultimate Pianist. She then meets 15 other elimination, including Shuichi Saihara, the Ultimate Detective. Coming to western audiences soon, we are introduced to Monokuma, the icon of “Danganronpa” and the headmaster of the School for Gifted Juveniles along with the Monokubz, who are the children of Monokuma. They are Monotaro, the scatterbrain leader in red, Monokid, the ruthless guitar player in blue, Monosuke, the money focused kub in yellow, Mononamine, the more kinder of the kubs in pink, and Monome, the stoic kub in green. They find out that there is no way out of the school and that they can’t threaten Monokuma, along with meeting the Exisals, gigantic robots that the kubs control and can kill the students if they do not follow the rules in the student handbook on their Monopads. With that in mind, Kaede strives to find the mastermind and “solve” the mystery that most people will like.

There isn’t much of any evidence that the kubs control and can kill the students if they do not follow the rules in the student handbook on their Monopads. With that in mind, Kaede strives to find the mastermind and “solve” the mystery. However, the students find the Ultimate who forgot his talent, Rantaro Amami, dead on the ground. This then begins the investigation portion of the games. The group must investigate by collecting testimonials, evidence and other things you will need for the class trial. In the trial, you use “truth bullets” to hit the weak points in other’s arguments. However, “V3” had the idea to add lie bullets. Lie bullets basically help you lie your way to the true answer, however you must be careful, because lies can backfire. At the end, you must put together the closing argument and vote for the blackened. Along with the addition of lie bullets, there are the Scrum Debates. That is where there are two opposing sides and you must line up all the contradictions correctly. Lastly, there are the Mass Panic debates, where more than one character is speaking and you need to find the weak point in their argument. If the correct person is voted, they get eliminated in a way that relates to their talent. If you are not correct, game over as everyone but the blackened is eliminated. In a shocking twist, the first blackened is our “protagonist”, Kaede Akamatsu. As such, the protagonist role is switched to our real hero, Shuichi Saihara. With Shuichi, you can hang out with the remaining students.

Though “Just the Beginning” in Grace VanderWaal’s previous EP, “Perfectly Imperfect” in December of that year, which ended up being one of the most popular singles of 2016. For being such a young artist, VanderWaal is really talented. She has the voice so many indie singers aspire to have and yet sounds in no way like all those vines that mocked that unique tune. I’d listened to “Perfectly Imperfect” when it first came out. I liked it, but her songs seemed to run into each other because the tunes were similar and everything was acoustic. Now, “Just the Beginning” is the answer to all of the problems I had with VanderWaal’s previous EP. She put more effort into the production, making sure her songs had a lot of variety in the way of tunes and instruments. Now, there’s even a music video for one of her songs, “Moonlight.” The album starts off with “Moonlight,” then “Darkness Chasing Me,” released as a single and has its own music video. The music video is pretty simple, but it’s alright. The song itself has a good beat and the refrain is really catchy. There’s no question as to why she released this song before the rest of the album, but I wouldn’t say this is my favorite song out this album. The next song, “Sick of Being Told,” is about how the voice of VanderWaal’s unique voice in a way that makes the words still understandable to listeners. As such, this showcases a bit of her talent. As she soars through the notes she refers to. I really like this song on this album.

The different songs in this album showcase the range Grace VanderWaal has when it comes to writing and singing songs. When I first saw a video of her gold buzzer performance on “America’s Got Talent,” I was in awe of the raw talent she had when she was just twelve. When I listened to her EP, I knew she had potential, but was just churning out songs that all sounded exactly the same. I was a little disappointed, to be honest. This album is proof she can do so much more. The number of paths she could take is endless. I might have some preferences when it comes to songs, but either way I can’t wait to see what she has in store next. There’s enough variety that most people will like this album. What’s not to like?
Swamp Queen Palette Exceeds Expectations

by Zoe Lowe
~Features Editor

Tarte recently came out with a makeup palette called “Swamp Queen.” The palette was a collaboration of Grav3yardgirl and Tarte. Grav3yardgirl is a youtuber with thousands of viewers. She calls her viewers the “Swamp Family.” On the front of the palette, it has the name, Grav3yardgirl, and a picture of an alligator with wings. The texture of it is very unique and it has an antique kind of feel. I don’t usually wear makeup unless it is a special occasion and when I do wear makeup, I like it to look very natural. In this case, this palette has beautiful colors that have more of a natural tone. This palette is not only an eyeshadow palette, but it also comes with a bronzer, blush, and highlight. This palette is honestly one of my favorites. From the outside to the inside, it has its own special touch. On the inside, you get nine different colored eye-shadows, and the other three face makeups. The names of the eyeshadows are #SFS, Natural Peach-es, Dogman, Big Baby, Sassy Bun, Sippy Sippy, Haunting, Un-common, and Mancat. The name of the bronzer is “Sweet Tea.” The name of the blush is “Does This Thing Really Work?” And the name of the highlight is “Ga-tor Wings.” It also had a big mirror on the inside, and on the top of the mirror is a quote that states “Believe in yourself, love yourself, embrace your individuality.”

As a person that does not wear makeup a lot, this palette comes in handy when I do, along with a few other things. Before I start my makeup, I make sure I have a clean face. Next, comes the primer. I use e.l.f. mineral infused face prim-er. Primer is used as a base for your foundation, helps it go on smoother, and helps it last longer.

Next, I move onto my color correcting and concealing. For color correcting, I use Hard Candy Sheer Envy Conceal and Correct palette. I use a light orange/red for the dark circles under my eyes and any blue undertone.

Then, I use green to cancel out any redness on my face. Then I blend and blend for a while. After I am finished blending my colors, I start to conceal. Concealing helps give you an even look and helps cancel out any uneven skin tone colors. I use e.l.f concealer, which comes with a highlighter and concealer. After applying that I blend some more! I then start with foundation. I use a medium tone foundation by Physician’s Formula. This foundation goes on kind of light, it spreads really good, and blends well.

Next I do my contour. I use an angled contour brush, from a brush set called “My Brush Set”. The contour I use comes out of the Swamp Queen palette. I apply contour below my jawline to make it look more narrow. I apply it to my forehead to make it visibly smaller due to the fact that I have a larger forehead. I also apply it under my cheekbones. A little goes a long way when using this palette, and it is very pigmented, so you have to be careful on how much you get on the brush. Then I blend it so it doesn’t look so dramat-ic, still getting that natural look.

After I contour, I do my eyebrows. My eyebrows are probably one of the most time consuming things when I do my makeup. I use an angled brow brush and I am not sure where I got it from. I use a dark brown powder as my color to fill in. I start at the inner part of my eye-brow and work my way out to the end just following the hairline, making it look crisp. After I am done filling in, I go back with concealer underneath the brow to clean up. Next, I bake! I take an e.l.f. Mineral Professional Kabuki Face Brush and apply my translucent loose powder by Hard Candy lightly under my eyes.

Next, I start my eye-shadow. I start by taking an eyeshadow brush and covering the lid, crease, and brow bone with the shade Dogman, out of the Swamp Queen palette. Then I blend it so it does not look heavy. Next I take the shade Sassy Bun and apply it lightly to the outer part of my crease and lid. For the inside of my crease, I apply the shade #SFS and blend it all together so it looks clean. Again in this palette the colors are very pigmented, and a little goes a long way, so be careful on how much you use. You cannot forget about your translucent powder, so after I am done with my eyes, I go back with the Kabuki brush, and dust off the powder.

After this, I move onto blash and mascara. I use the blush that comes in the palette. It is a rose, pink kind of color with a shimmer tone. I apply the blush from my ear down my cheek bone to give me a pop of color. With mascara, I use the Tarte waterproof BTS mascara. I only apply it a few times on the lashes or it will get clumpy.

After mascara, I move onto highligter. I first use a liquid highlighter that comes with my concealer. I apply it to my cheek-bones, the bridge of my nose, the

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Fenty Beauty is Out of This World!
by Brianna Yates
~Staff Reporter

Fenty Beauty recently released an outer-space themed makeup collection in October 2017. Along with some eyeliner, lipsticks, lip glosses, and highlighters, she came out with a glittery eyeshadow palette that turned many heads in the makeup industry.

It had 14 different multi-chrome shades with shimmering effects. The packaging itself is beautiful and unique. With an oil spill, multi-chrome, sleek finish, it turned everyone's head in the beauty community.

Rihanna really wanted this palette to be special. She started off by making it 100% cruelty free and ended with the beautiful packaging, along with killer shade names.

I received this palette from my sister on Christmas. She purchased it from Sephora for $69.00 and received it about one and a half weeks later. Fenty Beauty is exclusively held at Sephora, so you can only order it from the website or a Sephora store.

When I first saw this packaging for the palette, I absolutely fell in love. It has a smooth box with glitter on the Fenty logo. When I first tried the product, I used it on my finger and swiped all fourteen colors on my arm. They were all very sparkly and opaque in color. The texture was smooth, non-chalky, and metallic. Although there are quite a few ways of applying the eyeshadow, my favorite method was wetting a brush with setting spray and packing it onto my lids.

The wide variety of shades gave me many opportunities to create very different and special looks. I could mix and match with these pigments to make more subtle looks, or I could really go all out and switch up the colors and crease shades. A couple of these bright metallic shades were also awesome for a pop in the under eye.

Some of the shadows were an eyeshadow topper, meaning that it’s not meant to be used on its own. These shades may be sheer but they are still a beautiful addition to the palette.

I divided the shadows into groups that I thought were appropriate for the palette. The first group of shades are the golds, yellows, or whites, and these include Sunburst, Sublime, Oh-zone, Milky Way, and Light year. Personally, some of these shades were my favorites and had great wear times. I found that the fallout with these shades were not as prominent as some of the darker colors.

The second group I selected was the pink/orange toned shadows. The shades are Mars, Moon, and Meteor. These shades were pretty opaque pigments with quite a bit of fallout, but the finished looks were worth the trouble. Meteor Crush was the prettiest pink glitter shadow I have ever tried. What made most people excited about this palette was the unique selection of blues and greens.

This pigments are really hard to perfect in the makeup industry and with the addition of glitter and light reflectors, the task was really difficult for Fenty Beauty. They succeeded in creating beautifully pigmented blues and greens, but the fallout of blue glitter on my cheeks was horrifying. Some helpful tips for these shades would be to wet your brush and do your eyeshadow look before any face products you may use. The green/blue shades include Midnight Bolt, Cosmic Ocean, and Xtra Terrestrial.

The last group of shades are the dark browns, purples, and any other dark colors that were left. Jupiter Sand, Space Owl, Ultraviolet, Planet Ex, and Lightyear were the eyeshadow list. The dark shades were easy to apply dry and stunning if applied wet. They were great shadows with little to none fallout.
Their Final Season Together

by Makaela Kestner
~Sports Editor

From middle school to high school, the bond has never been broken. Playing together from 6th grade to their junior and senior years, the starting five’s time together is coming to an end. As the Liberty girls basketball teams starters continue into the middle of their season, this will be the their last season playing together as a team. From middle school to the same AAU team, they’ve built a bond, a chemistry with one another, just like the rest of the team.

The team’s chemistry and bond is such an important aspect to having a good team and this helps for when the team has any sort of disagreement; they can always solve it on their own.

With the mindset they have and how they handle situations, it shows how mature the players are and how the coach can trust them.

With three seniors and four sophomores, the team is made up of mostly upperclassmen.

“We’re a very veteran team but we have a spread of classes on the team,” said head coach Ryan Washington.

With the starting lineup being three seniors and two juniors, the starters are considered older. With the starters being returning, there is also four other returning players. As the season started, the team added one new member to the team, sophomore Tiffany Shull, while losing two seniors from last season.

From the success of the women’s basketball team has had in the past, it gives the team something to reach for and use as motivation.

“After the last season was over, I think we are all looking forward to this season being very successful,” said senior Madison Humphries.

With the regular season going well for the eagles, their toughest competition is Millbrook’s basketball team but mainly it’s themselves, having to fight the same battle every day to get better. With the most recent Radford commit junior Kinsley Lewis, it has drawn a lot of attention to the team. With just being a junior, Kinsley, who has another year at Liberty.

“Our team goal this season is not to be second. Our goal is to be able to beat the tough teams this year,” said Kinsley Lewis.

A team’s goal is to always win as many games as they can so they can go as far as possible. A part of winning doesn’t always have to do with just the basketball aspect, it has lots to do with the coach and team. When the players buy into the coaching, it makes everything so much easier for everyone.

“I felt like I blended in with the team very well, they made me feel like family,” said by sophomore post Tiffany Shull.

When the team has chemistry, it makes the game of basketball much easier for them. Some parts of their chemistry are learning how they move and where their best shot is.

“When you ask any player what their goal is for the season, most will say win as many games as possible, but our team is different. Our goal is to become a better team,” said senior point guard Carly Shepard.

Becoming a better team is the first part into winning games. You have to learn the game and understand it more than anything and that all comes with becoming better.

“When you stay playing as a team, every part of basketball becomes easier for everyone,” said junior guard Maggie Williams.

Senior Madison Humphries is dribbling the ball, looking for a pass. Photo courtesy of the Talon Yearbook staff.

Maddie,Shown to the right, is dribbling the ball. Photo courtesy of the Talon Yearbook staff.

It’s the Thought That Counts

by Zachary Learnard
~Entertainment Editor

To be completely honest, the Academic Team has had it rough this season. But none the less, that has not stopped them from having a good one.

“When the season started, we noticed that we had a bit of a younger team this year. All in all, we have been a bit of a work in progress. And even if this season was a bit rough, we all used it as a learning experience,” says junior Collin Locurato.

But seriously, they weren’t kidding when they said they had a challenging season. Just to name a few, the last two at two meets against Kettle Run, the first being LHS at 100 to KRHS at 285, and the second one being LHS at 40 to KRHS at 375. There was also one meet where our team went up against Millbrook High School and we lost 90 to 305.

Meets for the academic team are a bit more complex than just hitting a buzzer and answering questions. Each meet has three rounds. The first round has 15 toss-up questions, which are questions that anyone from any of the teams can answer, and if that team answers correctly, they score. In the second round, questions are directed as one team. If that team doesn’t answer one question correctly, the question is given to the other team, and they have a chance to answer. Then finally, the third and final round has another 15 toss-up questions.

The estimated amount of time for each meet is 45 minutes. Another strange thing about the questions for the meets is that they’re actually not separate categories, so you never know what kind of question you’re going to be asked.

Some players on the team have had goals that they were trying to achieve this season. Some of them tried to improve their relationships with older players while strengthening their bonds with the younger players. Some tried to help make the team better with whatever way they could.

“One improvement I made over this season was that I was able to answer a lot more questions correctly than I did from the last season,” says senior Amy Lee.

Although questions aren’t split into specific segments, there are still questions that are given a specific genre based on what it asks. These range from pop culture to science. Each of the players has their weaknesses.

“My strongest areas are science and current music. However, I’m normally when asking questions related to classical music, operas, and plays,” says junior Noah Johnson.

The strongest areas at meets would be pop culture, but my weakest would be performing arts,” says sophomore John Tocheny.

Everyone on the team has goals for the next season. When going into the new season, when leaving one behind, you normally have some new things you want achieve and look forward to. Some want to try and continue creating new relationships, while overcoming their relationships with other players as well. Some players want to try to expand their knowledge of certain things.

“Even though I won’t be here for the next season, I would love to help get the word out. It’s not as scary as most people think, you just have to put yourself out there. It’ll be fine, as long as you participate,” says senior Gillian Tocheny.

Even after a rough season, the Academic Team has high hopes for what’s to come in the next one, and are going forward with a smile.

“We didn’t exactly win anything this year, but we improved and got better during it. We had a lot of outstanding people that never gave up. Everyone had lots of spirit. Everyone practiced and have studied our materials, and they have done everything they can to improve. The team as a whole worked together greatly,” said the Academic Team coach, Ms. Kissell.

January/February 2018

Senior Madison Humphries is dribbling the ball, looking for a pass. Photo courtesy of the Talon Yearbook staff.

Junior Collin Locurato answers a question. Photo courtesy of the Talon Yearbook staff.
New Season and a New Team

by Makaela Kestner
~Sports Editor

Senior Joshua Foote takes a shot from the 3 point line. Photo courtesy of Talon Yearbook staff.

When you asked any member of the mens Liberty basketball team who their biggest competition is, none of them ever brought up another team, or even hesitated a second to answer this question. They said their biggest competition is always going to be themselves.

When both returning players senior guard Josh Foote and junior guard Christian Reames were asked the same question, they made sure to make it known that their biggest challenge during the season is themselves.

“We are our own competition,” said senior Josh Foote.

With having more of a younger team, the boys are showing lots of growth. With only having two returning players to the varsity team, the new players have had to step up their game and mature in ways in a short amount of time.

“Eighty percent of our team had no varsity experience coming into this season,” said head coach Pat Frazer.

Since last season, the team has had many young players that has had to fill open spots. Losing ten seniors from last season team can be a big down fall for many teams and can take the program downhill but the Liberty team bounced back from losing those players with players that knew what they had to do to keep the team up.

From basically having to start from scratch to building the program up before the first game, the Liberty’s mens team accomplished that beyond expectations. From improving from last season, the team is understanding their roles and experiencing basketball at the varsity level.

“The team improves every day,” when you watched film from earlier games, you can see how far they have come. Mistakes we were making in early December, we are no longer making,” said Coach Frazer.

As the season goes on, you can tell the players have improved and matured with every game they play. They learn from their mistakes they make in practice or games and use that as learning experience.

“The reason for ups and downs so far but we’ve grown a lot closer as a unit and that will help us moving forward,” said Josh Foote.

With being able to learn how each other play and every player’s weak and strong points in basketball makes the game much easier.

The growth the boys have made this season has helped them out tremendously and this will be very helpful for the team next season also. The maturity the team has had to go through was a big part of growing up for them.

Learning many new things from either no JV or varsity experience to varsity experience shows how the boys grew up to the task.

“It’s been a learning experience playing with varsity this year,” said junior Carter Shepard.

Having to come together as one unit and learning how everyone plays their game is part of the many challenges the boys team had to work through but from all the many different challenges, the boys have overcome all of it.

“I would say the best game we played was a unit would be against Kettle Run. We came together as a team and played hard throughout the game and both oVertimes and pulled out the win against a county rival,” said Reames.

How they all play together is something to watch, from pushing the ball down the court to simple defensive plays, the boys have come together as one team. Showing that they buy into the coach and trust in him is a big part to becoming a better team and trusting in each other.

Wrestling’s Journey to States

by Keely Crane
~Staff Reporter

Senior Julian Sams wins a match. Photo courtesy of Talon Yearbook staff.

Last season, boys wrestling took everyone by surprise when they got their hands on the program’s first ever Conference/District title in all of Liberty’s history for wrestling and they plan to do the same thing this season.

With an amazing team of 14-1 the team plans to go and win the State Championship this year. I feel that we have a talented room. Do we have the best kids in Virginia? No, but we definitely have the hardest working team in Virginia. Now that our roster is healthy again, I know that we can win the team state title,” says freshman Keegan Shippe.

One reason that wrestling is doing so well this season and last is that they work together as a team.

“We always just trust working as a team, accomplishing your goals, and wrestling hard and physically,” says assistant coach Joseph Divello.

“This team is like a family. I can always know that they are always there for me no matter what,” says freshman Jordan Brown.

“Wrestling is an individual sport but I feel Liberty’s wrestling team is definitely more of a team environment. We all have a common goal and we go through a lot together so we are naturally one tight unit,” says Keegan Shippe.

To add to them being a great team and working together well, another reason they are able to shape them as a person.

“They have matured with every game they play. They learn new things and was able to shape them as a person. They are a great team and working together well, another reason they are a great team and working together as one unit and learning how everyone plays their game is part of the many challenges the boys team had to work through but from all the many different challenges, the boys have overcome all of it,” said senior Julian Sams.

Senior Julian Sams says his goal for him this season is to go 10-0 for his matches and that helps them excel at their tournaments and matches.

Many kids on the team have been wrestling for about two to three years and that helps them excel at their tournaments and matches. Not only has wrestling made them greater mentally and stronger physically, but it has made them learn new things and was able to shape them as a person.

“This team has taught me to work hard to never quit, no matter the circumstances,” says Adin Lemus.

“Liberty wrestling has taught me to work hard and to have faith and trust in my teammates and to know they will do their jobs as well as mine,” says Mr.Divello.

On the 16th and 17th of February, 11 guys from wrestling went to the state tournament and were very successful. In total, 5 out of the 11 guys placed that went there. The five were Jordan Florence, Ricky Ryan, Julian Sams, Mason Barrett, and Daniel Sennott.

Both Jordan Florence and Ricky Ryan placed in first overall and they were both very happy with how they placed.

“I was really happy about winning especially because I knew it made so many other people proud,” said Florence.

Taking second was Julian Sams and he didn’t have any stress about how he would do in this competition.

“It felt like any other tournament and after I celebrate with a few teammates at Taco Bell,” said Sams.

Lastly, Mason Barrett and Daniel Sennott placed in third overall. Both of them had good goals and mindsets that they used to accomplish placing in third.

“My goal I accomplished was to keep on scoring the most amount of points without putting myself in any danger,” said Barrett.

“I made sure to have a good mindset and trusting my training,” said Sennott.

Overall as a team, they placed third. All the guys that went to states worked very hard and now that their season is over, they will be ready to accomplish any challenge that will come at them next season.

With an amazing record of 14-1, District title in all of Liberty’s history for wrestling and they plan to do the same thing this season. I feel that we have a talented room. Do we have the best kids in Virginia? No, but we definitely have the hardest working team in Virginia. Now that our roster is healthy again, I know that we can win the team state title,” says freshman Keegan Shippe.

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On Saturday, January 6, 2018, the track team traveled to the annual Bulldog Invitational Indoor Meet held at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va. The coaches and runners arrived at 5:00 am, at the crack of dawn, and arrived at the university around 5:30 am with just enough time to warm up and prepare for the meet to start at 10:00 am. “We did not arrive back in Bealeton until about 10:00 pm,” said sophomore runner Kristeeena Kenny.

A number of runners on the team attended this indoor meet: Stuart Diggles, Sharaayah Jackson, Chris King, Ed Mangum, Jessie Smith, Ja’von White, Ryan Arey, Karla Castillo, Jake Waldo, Zachary Wilkens, Wenter Johnson, Kristeeena Kenny, Nathan Libby, Ryan Lutz, Bianca Purpura, Conner Rogers, Max Dubnowski, Amaya Gaskins, Jazmyn Reynolds, and Sam Rodman.

The track team competed in many field and running events such as, boys pole vault, girls pole vault, girls boys shot put, girls long jump, girls 4x200 meter relay, boys 4x400 meter relay, and boys 4x800 meter relay, 55 meter hurdles, 55 meter dash, 300 meter hurdles, 500 meter dash, 1000 meter run, and 1600 meter run.

To prepare for a Saturday meet, coaches have the team practice running fast for two hours after school Monday through Wednesday. Jessie Smith is a senior who has been all four years of his high school career. The event he participated in was the 1600 meter run with a time of five minutes and fourteen seconds to prepare for his run, Jessie makes sure he is ready to run.

“I made sure to do at least an 800 meter run for a warmup and then I go through different stretches and drills. I also make sure to drink plenty of water ahead of time,” said Jesse.

This is sophomore Bianca Purpura’s second year on the track team. One of the running events she ran in was the 55 meter dash and in her heat she placed second. The 55 meter dash sounds easy because it is short, but you have to get a good start and you have to maintain your speed or you’ll get dusted,” said Purpura.

Another senior who has been on the team for three years is Ja’von White. On January 6th, Ja’von ran in the 500 meter dash and got a new time of 1:07.04. Ja’von was placed in the 4x100 meter relay and 105 meter hurdles that competed in the event.

“IT feels good getting recognition, but there is always room for improvement,” said White.

“I’m super proud of his growth this season, not only on the track, but in the classroom. His work ethic of determination at practice has definitely contributed to his success this season,” said coach Eric Blackman.

Kristeeena Kenny, another sophomore who has run for two years, competed in the 300 meter hurdles at the indoor meet. Kristeeena said her biggest competition was a runner from another school that had fast speed. She came in first place in her heat. Karla Castillo, a junior on the team, participates in the 55 meter hurdles. It is similar to the 55 meter dash, but instead of running straight through, you jump over hurdles. “I think I did well. I felt pretty confident, and full of energy,” said Castillo.

“Each runner is at a different level and as long as they are working hard to achieve their goals, I am pleased as a coach,” said Coach Blackman about the overall performance at the Bull-dog Invitational Indoor Meet.

The coaches and track team traveled to Fred Hardy Invitation on Saturday, January 27, 2018 at 9:00 am. Friday, February 2, 2018 is the Northern District Championship, and to ramp up the season, states for indoor track is Saturday, February 24, 2018.
Recently, hip hop music has become increasingly popular. It is one of the most dominant music genres in the US and is the most popular within the teenage age group. With this increasing popularity, there has been an almost equal amount of negativity towards the genre. It is understandable why rap gets a bad reputation when certain rappers rap disrespectfully towards women, promote drug usage, and overall a dangerous and violent lifestyle. However, we hear their music and label the entire genre as bad.

Within everything, regardless of whether it’s music, sports, or acting, we label things and disregard the people in that industry that are good and positive. As a society, we need to recognize that there are good influencers. There’s good and bad to everything and we should not always focus on the bad.

For example, Logic, a rapper, released the song “1-800-273-8255” last year. This song featuring Alessia Cara and Khalid, speaks about racism, homosexuality, and suicide. The number is a suicide prevention hotline he encourages people to use. This proves that yes, there are rappers that are disrespectful and don’t use their fame for the right reasons, but there are some that do.

There are also multiple rappers that have donated to charities several times. Most recently, Chance the Rapper donated $1 million dollars to Chicago public schools. However, rapper, 2 Chainz, has also done several things for charity, his biggest being to raise money for the “Dabbin’ Santa” sweater. He raised a total of $2 million. Lil Wayne and Nas have also had a fair share of charity. Lil Wayne clothed kids in Haiti and Nas raised $65,000 for a family whose house was burned down in a fire.

Most people also have a misunderstanding on the genre and its message. Yes, certain rappers are disrespectful, but there are some simply just rapping about their lifestyle.

Some people live in bad areas and have tough lives. When rappers rap about gangs, drugs, and cops, it’s a part of their life. It’s not encouraging listeners to be and act like that because their life is great, it’s just them telling people, “this is my life.” This is a positive effect of rap music because it gives listeners social awareness. People need to know that there are others that live this way but first, you need to understand what message is trying to be made. It is not to get high all the time and disrespect women, but to get an understanding.

To most people, especially adults, rap is seen as strictly disrespectful. Not to mention the large usage of profanity that’s in almost every song. Some may say that old rap had a much better influence compared to our current rap.

Rappers like Snoop Dogg, 2pac, and Eminem seem like their music had a purpose and statement. However, all of the current artists are also rapping about their own lives and struggles.

Just like in any other industry, there are people doing good and unfortunately, most of the time that’s not what the media covers. We should start looking for those good people instead of labeling the entire genre as disrespectful when there are people who work hard to promote good and have a voice heard.
Have you ever done anything you felt your peers should know? Do you have some peculiar talent or a special skill you can perform? Perhaps you have ties to a celebrity or have performed in some special event. Well, my friends, now is your time to shine. This year, the “Did You Know?” section in the Patriot Press will exclusively feature Liberty students! Feel free to come find us any time during the day and tell us some amazing facts about you and we’ll be happy to write down your unique story! This month’s topic: What are you planning to do over this spring break?

Kasey Simpson is going to the beach over the break.
Carlos Ferrufino is going to be sleeping over the break.
Ana Balderas is going to get a job over the break.
Turner Day is going to his grandparents up in Alabama over the break.
Patricia Montecinos is going to study over the break.
Adam Moore is going to his grandparents over spring break.
Destiny Turner is going to the beach over spring break.
Jonathan Myers is going to play video games over spring break.
Luis Rodriguez is going to Mexico over spring break.
Cade Ochoa is going to Kings Dominion over spring break.
Alex Kim is going to help his parents with work over spring break.
Kaylie Albers is going to North Carolina over spring break.
Patrick Unger is going to eat over spring break.

February 2018

February 1: HOSA/FCCLA Thirty One Fundraiser, District Indoor Track @ James Wood, Boys Basketball vs Handley JV only, Girls Basketball vs Handley JV only, Twelfth Night

February 2: District Band, FCCLA/HOSA Donut Presale, FFA Leadership Conference, District Indoor Track @ Hagerstown CC, Boys Basketball @ Handley Varsity, Girls Basketball @ Handley Varsity, Twelfth Night, District Swim @ Clogan

February 3: District Wrestling @ LHS

February 5: FCCLA Body Scrub Fundraiser, FFA Strawberry Sale, Sophomore Class Candygrams, Valentine Flowers FFA, Boys Basketball Loudoun Co

February 6: Coffeehouse Show Chorus/Orchestra, Boys Basketball vs Kettle Run, Girls Basketball @ Kettle Run

February 8: Band to SC Conference, All District Band

February 9: Steel Magnolias, LHS Girls Basketball vs Millbrook, LHS boys Basketball @ Kettle Run, All District Choir

February 10: All District Choir, Steel Magnolias

February 11: Winter theater Production

February 12: LHS Tennis Pie Fundraiser

February 15: Science Fair, Guest Band Conductor

February 17: After Prom vendor

February 18: Football Mattress Sale

February 19: Full Day of School for all student and staff

February 22: CTE Pathways Fair

February 25: Youth Wrestling Tournament

February 26: Orchestra/Choirs Pre-Assessment Concert

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