

The LEOPARD PROWL

Student Newspaper of Lincoln Junior/Senior High School
 Printed in Partnership with the Lincoln Sentinel-Republican



Samuel Huehl and Chantz Vath compete at the 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament over the weekend



Volume 3 // Issue 5

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Mettner Field undergoing changes



Juniors Sean Obermueller, Cody Behrens and Dylan Wiebke stand in front of the Mettner Field gates they made in metals class. (photo by Joseph Foulke)



The new press box getting ready to be placed on top of the stands. (photo by Jason Curtis)

KATHRYN DETMER
 STAFF WRITER

Mettner Field has not had substantial renovation since the time it was built and because that was over 40 years ago, it's high time for renovations. The school board has received grants for all of these different renovations, no money will come from the school itself.

"Private donations, steel plate fundraiser and the Kansas Pride VIP grant are the only funding used for the Mettner Field Improvements," Superintendent Kathy Robertson said. "No USD 298 money will be used."

As the school board gets the grants they continue the remodeling of the field.

Dalen Rathbun said, "The field needs to be updated.

There are many things that need to be updated and repaired. There is a step by step procedure and there are certain plans that have been made. We have already made some changes but still need to do more. Hopefully we will be able to do this in the near future."

There are many renovations in the works for Mettner Field. The field has been in the remodeling stage since last year when an extension on the sidewalk in front of the field house was added. Since this sidewalk was added, Mettner Field has received a new press box, new stereo system, and a lot of landscape work. The school board hopes to have the rest of these renovations done before the coming 2017 football season. These updates are being done by volunteers and licensed contractors. The renovation process is long under way.

"We have raised over \$11,000 in private donations for a sidewalk which will be placed from the field house to the stadium," Nikki Flinn said. "At this time we will also address a lot of the drainage issues. We have also been rewarded up to \$15,000 for a Community Pride Grant. Once the grant has been received, we will know exactly what else we can do but we are looking at a retaining wall again to help with drainage issues, possibly a play area by the track and a lot of dirt work and grass planting. We have had new gates made and hung at two of the entrances. New grass has been planted and the sprinkler system has been fixed. Almost all of the renovations have been done with grant money, donated hours, or donated money."

Digital sign plans placed on hold



Pictured is the general design of the digital sign that would have been built if a Post Rock Community Foundation grant would have been approved.

HUNTER MEIER

NEWS EDITOR

The USD 298 Lincoln School Board, in partnership with the City of Lincoln Center has made the decision to write a grant for a \$16,000 digital sign that was going to be placed in front of Lincoln Junior/Senior High School. A grant request was turned into the Post Rock Community Foundation in order to afford this sign. The grant was not chosen to be funded at this time.

"This digital sign will provide and promote not only our district activities and accomplishments but also community upcoming highlights, programs and events," Superintendent Kathy Robertson said. "If the grant would have been approved, no USD 298 or City of Lincoln Center funds would be used towards this project."

The sign would have been placed on the south side of the highway entrance to the high school. The area would need graded and a brick frame built to house the sign. The sign, being digital, would also have needed electricity, which would be ran from the building. The grant amount requested was \$28,083 to compensate for the additional renovations and costs.

At this time, the sign is on hold and a search for other grants to fund the sign is underway. "This would have been a great way to highlight what is happening in our schools and our city. There are a lot of people that drive by on the highway and this would have been great promotion. Hopefully the sign will get built someday," Jason Curtis, English teacher, said.

Senior class conducts a community service day

On December 22, 2016, the senior class conducted a community service day that they planned with the help of class sponsors and administration. High school students spent their mornings helping out at numerous locations around Lincoln. Some of the places that students helped at were: The Bank of Tescott, Lincoln Park Manor, Lincoln Elementary School, the Lincoln Carnegie Library, the Lincoln County Historical Museum, the Post Rock Apartments (High Rise) and Sunset Dive Housing. Below are photos taken from the day's activities.



TOP LEFT: Sophomore Lauren Falder (back right) visits with Lincoln Park Manor residents as she leads an activity.
TOP RIGHT: Senior Faith Panzer (left) and Freshman Ashley Crenshaw (right) read a book to students at Lincoln Elementary School.
BOTTOM LEFT: A group of students help make treat bags at The Bank of Tescott.
BOTTOM RIGHT: Freshmen Jerry Marinhagen (left) and Kohl McBride (right) carry a door out of an apartment at Sunset Drive Housing. (photos by Brenda White)

WHAT'S INSIDE:

FEATURES.....2
OPINIONS.....3
SPORTS.....4

The Leopard Prowl

member KSPA, JEA

The Leopard Prowl is published by Lincoln High journalism students approximately six times during the school year.

The Leopard Prowl is primarily an educational tool, with its first goal being the training of staff members in newspaper production. Its second obligation is to its readers, the students of Lincoln Junior Senior High School. Efforts are made to meet the needs of community members.

School and local events will be covered as possible by staff members. Due to the limits of staff time and the fact that The Leopard Prowl is produced by students, some events may not be covered as thoroughly as mature readers would like.

National and international news will be part of the publication as related to LJSHS students.

The Leopard Prowl is an open forum for student expression. Opinions printed in The Leopard Prowl do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the student body as a whole, nor of the staff, faculty or administration.

Editorial topics will be chosen by the staff members.

Letters to the editor should not exceed 250 words.

Unsigned letters to the editor will not be accepted by the staff. The editorial staff withholds the right to publish letters and to edit letters as needed to prepare them for publication. The staff will not publish materials which are obscene, libelous or invasive of privacy of others.

Community service projects will be sought and undertaken by the newspaper when possible.

Staff members are journalism students. Students are encouraged to learn responsibility, cooperation, self-reliance and dependability in a supervised school situation.

Letters to the editor can be sent to: journalism@usd298.com

QUESTION OF THE ISSUE FOR THE STAFF

What are your spring break plans? Most excited for?



Dylan Babcock - Editor-in-Chief
"My plans are to go to Chicago with the St. John's Youth Group. I'm excited to tour some of the places in Chicago and I'm also excited to start watching March Madness basketball."

Amanda Wollesen - Managing Editor

"I am going to Chicago for spring break and I am excited to (hopefully) see the Cloud Gate and The Chicago Art Institute."



Hunter Meier - News Editor
"I am going to Chicago with the youth group and hoping not to die. I can't wait to freeze my butt off and get mugged."

Cassandra Aleshire - Opinions Editor

"I plan on going to Chicago with my youth group for Spring Break. I think I'm most excited to visit the Willis Tower and other attractions in Chicago."



Tyler Keathley - Features Editor
"My spring break plans are to stay home and rest since basketball will be over by then. I'm most excited for the new season of Game of Thrones and March Madness."

Allison Crist - Sports Editor

"I am staying home and relaxing with family."



Joseph Foulke - Photo Editor
"I plan on catching up on sleep. I'm most excited for not having school all week."

Brittney Heald - Social Media Director

"I don't have any big plans for spring break. I plan to just spend time with my family."



Tanner O'Bannon - Extras Editor
"I am going to Chicago over spring break, I am most excited about the sightseeing and hanging out with my friends in a new city."

Jason Curtis - Adviser

"My plans are to teach Hudson how to dunk a basketball. I am most excited to have the week off, relax, hang out with my family and watch some March Madness basketball."



Staff Writers:

Katlin Brummer, Abrielle Campbell, Emma Corpstein, Kathryn Detmer, Payton Emmert, Tia Hayworth, Preston Howard, Bristol McBride, Zach Obermueller, Michele Steinborn, Carson Walter, Macy Winters, Marissa Winters and Kaile Young

School board preparing for cuts

MACY WINTERS & MARISSA WINTERS
STAFF WRITERS

In the past, LJSHS has had some budget cuts. This year, Governor Sam Brownback and the state legislature are planning on cutting the budget even more for schools. This can cause major setbacks to some schools across the state of Kansas. Some possible outcomes of these cuts in Lincoln's school district will be reducing staff, cutting transportation costs, or even getting rid of academic and sporting activities.

"A couple years ago when legislatures figured the state aid formula, most schools took a hard hit to their budgets," USD 298 School Board Member, Patti Winters said. "However, there were a few larger schools that received additional funding."

As far as how much the school will be affected depends on how much the cut is. If it appears to be a large cut, the school district can lose more money than it would if it were a smaller cut. The school board has already started discussing plans for what can happen to the district's budget.

"The school board and administration are going to try and be as proactive as possible," Winters said.

Schools across Kansas are being hit by this budget cut. Brownback is cutting funding to most of the smaller schools and adding funding to some of the bigger schools around Kansas.

Due to having cuts, expenses for parents or guardians might have to be increased for enrollment or activities.

"Unfortunately, most school districts are taking a huge hit, as they have the last couple of years," Winters said. "The budget has to get balanced as the hole keeps growing. In order to balance the budget, you need to cut spending and increase revenue."

Governor Brownback's plan has caused disruptions in many Kansas public schools. If schools are yet again cut funding, districts will have to monitor their spending and try to keep their school financially stable. The district will also need the community's support if more cuts are made.

"Community support is necessary for any school," Winters said. "They need to do that to be successful."

All of this depends on the level of cut that the school receives. "It might be we can forgo a new curriculum that as scheduled to be purchased next year."

In order to run a school, there has to be a budget on how the school will use its money. The amount of money budgeted can depend on different things such as what the state government provides and what the school does.

Winters said, "How much USD 298 is affected by another round of budget cuts depends on how much the cut is. It might be fairly easy to absorb with a few changes or if the cut is substantial, bigger changes would have to happen. Budget cuts are never an easy thing to face."

Thoughts on current events

CARSON WALTER
STAFF WRITER

The past couple of weeks has been full of news, nationally and locally. There is no shortage of opinions here at LJSHS. Here are just a few on some current events.

An executive order was signed January 27th by the 45th President of the United States, Donald Trump. It is called the Refugee Ban, and it bans citizens of certain countries from entering the United States for 90 days. The seven countries he has banned all have a Muslim majority, causing the population to take up the name, Muslim ban.

"I think it goes against our ways of America, considering our country was founded on immigrants and I think that it goes against the rights of freedom of religion. I just don't think it's humanitarian," Junior Maruby McQueen said.

"I do not really know what my overall opinion is, I can see from both sides, good and bad. Why it could be good is, I think it could better the safety of the nation, but then on the other side I also think it gets a bad rep as being a possible ban of muslims," Junior Dylan Babcock said.

The Kansas government has redistributed money once again, leaving schools a little short. To be able to make the budget, school officials will have to put their heads together to find ways to cut down on the money spending.

"I think they have cut down about everywhere, but it seems like there is a lot of technology. Maybe we could stretch it a little further than we do now," High school cook Vicki Lebien said.

"I think that some of our sports do need to be cut. I think that we should cut cross country, baseball and softball. As for other things, I think our district has some employees that necessarily don't need to be here and I also think that our district board office could easily fit into our high school; it is an over expense to have another building downtown," Babcock said.

Last week the school has started requiring students to have a hall pass everywhere they go, because one, there has been some items stolen and two, to know where everyone is and to keep the kids safe. Another rule has been established: students now have to put any and all of their medicine in the office. When it is needed to be taken, they have to go to the office to retrieve it.

"I honestly understand the passes. This school has a

stealing problem and that's why we need the hall passes, although it does cut down on class time. I didn't realize the medicine was that big of a problem, but if it is that big of a problem I can see why we have to do it for our school," said McQueen.

"I think the hall pass rule is silly, I know their idea is to keep us safer and keep someone from stealing and prevent that from happening, but if someone wants to steal something, then they will find a way to do it. On the medicine, again it's for safety, and again I think it's silly because if students want to take ibuprofen they will take it on their own time," Babcock said.

The board of education is about to start the process of looking for a new principal for the year of 2017-18. I wanted to know one quality students and faculty wanted him or her to have.

"Accountability" Business teacher Nikki Flinn said.

"To be able to work with teachers and students," Lebien said.

"Support," Spanish teacher Hillary Holeman said.

"Being able to interact and empathize with his or her students," McQueen said.

"I want them to be understanding, and cooperative, and great with all students," Babcock said.

Student Spotlight
-Basketball Edition-


Mikayla Breneman


Trent Hachmeister

Describe your cross county rivalry in one (appropriate) word...

Loathing	Hatred
If you could have the pep band play one song at games, what would it be?	7 Nation Army
Thunder Struck	If anyone in your class would be on ESPN, who would it be and why?
Aubry because she's really athletic	Tyler Keathley because he's a sports guy
What was the most memorable school sporting event of the year so far?	
The second time we played Osborne	The first time we played Chase when I hit the buzzer beater

Catching up with the Clubs

Club:	President and Vice President:	What we're doing:	What we're planning to do:
Student Council	President-Tanner O'Bannon Vice President-August Walter	Going over ideas on how to be more helpful in our school and community	Purchase the school's vending machines to make more profit
KAY Club	President-Brittany White Vice President-Faith Panzer	Planning a seatbelt safety assembly with Trooper Ben for April 18	An Easter egg hunt at the grade school
Teen Advisory Board - Library	President-Dylan Babcock Vice President-Allison Crist	Planning a teen activity for the spring or summer	Plan activities for the summer reading program
National Honor Society	President-Faith Panzer Vice President-Bjorn Jonsson	Hosting a blood drive and buying items for concessions	Sell Krispy Kremes and pick out a theme for the academic banquet

OPINIONS

Trump is a celebrity

Celebrities are people who have a lot of impact and control among the lives of their followers and fans. This helps when they're endorsing a brand or guest starring in a TV show or an advertisement. It also helps when they're connecting to their fanbase about things they feel passionately about. We have seen a lot of this throughout the recent Presidential Election from Beyonce to Meryl Streep to Amy Schumer endorsing Hillary Clinton and Clint Eastwood to Mike Tyson to Kid Rock endorsing Donald Trump. There were a lot more celebrities and people with the right kind of power talking about and spreading news about the people they believed to be fit. Maybe there have always been a lot of this celebrity power during elections and I had not noticed because I wasn't old enough but I felt that the amount of celebrity endorsers was at an all time high this recent election.

Throughout Donald Trump's Presidency, thus far, he has arguably had the most response from the United States citizens and the rest of the world too. With a President like Donald Trump, a person whose views are very controversial, there's always going to be negative feedback. Unfortunately, though, this negative feedback has not been taken very lightly among his supporters.

Many celebrities have taken to twitter to share their disappointment on what's happening so far with Trump's Administration and a lot of normal class people don't seem to like that very much. Many people claim that those celebrities who are sticking their noses in politics need to take them back out and stick to what they're good at. But I think everyone is already forgetting that a celebrity was elected to the White House to be the President of the United States. A celebrity for goodness sake. To whoever doesn't know, Donald Trump has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, he was the host of *The Apprentice* for 13 seasons, and he appeared in *Zoolander* and *The Little Rascals* just to name a few. The man that was elected as the 45th President of the United States of America is a celebrity and people believe it's okay to tell other celebrities to stay out of politics, mind their own business and focus on their careers? That sounds a little bit hypocritical, not going to lie.

By making the argument that a 'celebrity' should mind their own business and focus on their careers is a backwards statement to make. Politics and

see CELEBRITY, pg. 4

Schools need help

In the midst of a Kansas budget crisis, it seems as though our public schools will yet again be on the short end of the stick. Why is this a continuing problem for public schools in Kansas? Why can't our state senators and representatives find a way to avoid cutting funds from public schools? Why are the future generations of Kansas being punished for the faults of our out of touch governor? We shouldn't have to be asking these questions in the first place.



Dylan Babcock

Dylan's Deliberations

Now I generally support most Republican political figures as I have conservative values and views, but I just cannot and will not support our governor, Sam Brownback. I feel the same way for legislators that don't make public education a top priority.

Public education gives everyone the opportunity to get an education, no matter who you are or what your background is. An educated society is what our nation has been built on.

For rural towns like Lincoln, public education is our backbone; without it, the town would soon dissipate. It provides employment to many people (it's one of Lincoln's highest employers).

It's quite depressing that today, public schools across the state of Kansas - both in rural and urban areas - have to start critically deciding how they are going to "survive" if our legislators can't find a way to adequately fund education.

On an even sadder note, the smaller school districts are feeling it the most.

Our school district, as well as other small districts, shouldn't have to be considering a shortened school week, shortened school year or cutting activities and sports. A shortened school week not only hurts students, but hourly employees would feel the hardship as their income would be less than anticipated. It's just sad that we even have to worry about possibly shortening our school year; and it's terrible that our district might have to face cutting some of our student's favorite sports or activities; I know I'll be extremely upset if any of the activities that I participate in get cut. Some may say that they aren't necessary, as they aren't academics; but,

see SCHOOLS, pg. 4

Bond issue: why everyone should vote yes

DYLAN BABCOCK

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"I want to pay more taxes"...said no one ever. Who wants to pay more than they already have to in taxes. No one that I know of; however, sometimes we just have to do it, because it's the right thing to do. I think that it is important that the taxpayers living in the USD 298 Lincoln District vote "yes" in the upcoming bond election.

For those of you who are unsure on how to vote, here are some answers to a few of the questions you may have:

I didn't have air conditioning when I was in school, so why do kids need air conditioning today?

First of all I will acknowledge that it would make sense to think this way. At one time it was uncommon to see air conditioning in schools; but then, schools would often not start the school year until after Labor Day and end it in early May. They did this to avoid a majority of the hot summer days. Today, schools generally open in early-to-mid August and end in mid-to-late May. For the schools that don't have proper air conditioning systems, students end up having to put up with conditions that make it hard for them to concentrate. Without regular concentration, students can't perform as well on their schoolwork. A lack of concentration from students also puts a lot of stress on teachers.

Lincoln hasn't seen a devastating tornado in a long time, so why do we need to invest in tornado

shelters?

In May 2015, Lincoln witnessed a fast-developing tornado. Luckily, it moved around the city; however, it came within a mile of hitting Lincoln Jr/Sr High School (LJSHS). This was a worrisome event for both the students of LJSHS and Lincoln Elementary School (LES), as well as their parents. In both buildings, you could find students crying about whether they were going to be okay or not as they were concerned that they weren't in a safe place. The event was also difficult for some teachers as they too knew that they weren't in a safe place.

If a tornado were to come through Lincoln again and hit the schools, and if the bond issue doesn't pass, people are going to feel awful if even one individual is killed. Is your small savings in property taxes really worth taking the risk of another tornado coming through and taking the lives of our students? I don't think so.

Properly constructed FEMA tornado shelters are needed in order to promote better safety in both our schools and community.

As an extra benefit, the FEMA tornado shelters would be able to be multi-purpose. This would be huge for both schools. At LES, the FEMA shelter would also be used as a cafeteria; a kitchen and commons area would be built onto the shelter. This would be great as the current lunchroom in the basement is outdated, limited on space and nearly noncompliant with the ADA regulations. At LJSHS, the shelter would also be used as a wrestling room. This would be beneficial as the

weight room could use the full space of the room throughout the whole year and the wrestling program could have a space of their own.

I don't have any children or grandchildren attending Lincoln schools, so why should I support a bond that neither I or my family will benefit from?

Yes, I can somewhat understand your thoughts on this. Why would you need to pay extra on your taxes when you or your family aren't getting any benefit from it? Well...first of all you should ask yourself if you care about the future of Lincoln and Lincoln County. There will be a number of students that will remain in the area after graduating high school. Don't you want the future generations of Lincoln County to go to a school that is safe and provides an environment that will allow for them to become well-educated?

Final Comments:

If you were to have the same problems that the schools are experiencing in your home, you would fix them - because the problems are things that just have to be fixed. You wouldn't want to live in a home that isn't properly heated or air conditioned. You wouldn't want to come home to an unsafe house with a roof that leaks.

Now...after reading this article, if you are still unsure on how to vote in the upcoming bond election, I don't know what else to tell you. All I have to say is that if you care about our schools and the future generations of Lincoln County, your vote should be a "yes."

floorays



Each day that passes is a day closer to spring break and the end of the school year....

I have a newfound love for the song Coconut by Harry Nilsson....I recommend listening to it.

My birthday is this month...so I'm finally able to buy my own ticket to get into an R rated movie..... wooooooooooooooooooooo.

Verizon unveiled unlimited data during The Grammy's, and don't get me wrong, I'm excited, but I'm waiting for them to rip it out from under us faithful Verizon customers again....

Also during the Grammy's, I heard of this new artist, Anderson .Paak, which is someone I will definitely have to start listening to.

Beyonce is pregnant with twins and still smashed her performance at the Grammy's...yet again proving that she is better than everyone in every perceivable way.

Boo-hoos

It has been in the 50s and 60s for the past few weeks AND IT'S WINTER MOTHER NATURE, JUST LET IT BE WINTER.

I only have one month left of Spotify Premium (it was only 99¢ for 3 months) and I'm not sure how I'm going to cope with not being able to listen to whatever song, whenever, without using tons of data.

Basketball season is almost over and that means sub-state.... against eight other big 2A schools...but that's okay KSHAA, we don't like making it too far.

February and January are over, yet we have not had a snow day... you know what Mother Nature, I'm not even mad anymore, I'm just disappointed.

If you are going to vote NO on the bond issue simply because you don't want your taxes to be raised, would you kindly consider not voting into office politicians that despise and defund public education.

Oh, oh, one more boo-hoo about the bond issue. It saddens me that people post untrue things on social media. I get it, you think the bond is a bad idea, but don't make-up "facts" to justify your vote.

So Trump's National Security Advisor has already resigned.... how will we ever Make America Great Again if we can't have secret meetings with Russia?!?!?

There are only about 45 days left for the seniors and recently I've been going through phases of "I'm going to miss you guys so much, never leave" and "I can't wait for these guys to get the heck out so I can be a senior."

Hall Talk

Which meme did you use most frequently this year?	Salt Bae	Kermit	How Bout Dat	The Roll Safe Meme (Think)	Joe Biden
If you were in charge of planning a concert for the school, which three artists would you bring?	G-Eazy, Jason Aldean and Twenty One Pilots	Bruno Mars, Adam Levine and Eminem	Nicki Minaj, G-Eazy and Logic	Bon Jovi, G-Eazy and Green Day	Drake, Big Sean and Kendrick Lamar
Which school tradition are you most proud of?	Bonfire	Spirit Week	Class Games during Homecoming	Bonfire	Bonfire
You can bring any three of your classmates on a cross country road trip in your family's hatchback: who would you choose?	Bjorn, Tyler K. and Tyler H.	Jonathan, Jack and Jackie	Mikayla, Emma and Libby	Libby, Aubry and Macy	Chantz, Tyler and Jordan
Would you ever consider coaching? If so, what sport?	Yes, Basketball	Yes, Football	Yes, Volleyball	Yes, Volleyball	Yes, Soccer
	Trent Hachmeister	Victor Vazquez	Macy Squires	Mikayla Breneman	Jose Ramos

SPORTS

Vath, Huehl compete at State Wrestling



TOP LEFT: Samuel Huehl goes for the leg in his first match at the state wrestling tournament. TOP RIGHT: Chantz Vath tries to flip his opponent in his first match. Vath placed 6th in the 120 lb. weight class. BOTTOM RIGHT: Samuel Huehl measures up his opponent before shooting for the leg in his second match. (photos by Tia Hayworth)

TIA HAYWORTH
STAFF WRITER

321A Regional Wrestling took place at Southeast of Saline this year. At the end of the day, two of Lincoln's wrestlers placed, getting them a chance to wrestle at 321A State in Hays at the Gross Memorial Coliseum of Fort Hays State University. The two were Sophomore Samuel Huehl in the 106 lb. weight class and Chantz Vath in the 120 lb. weight class. Huehl placed third in 106 at Regionals and Vath placed 1st in 120.

"I think that the tournament went very well, just overall," Vath said. Vath and Huehl were brought to Hays this

weekend and in the end of the tournament, Vath placed 6th in the 120 lb. weight class. Huehl won his first match, "I think the tournament was ran well, and everyone wrestled their best, and that's really all we wanted," Huehl said.

"I think I'll miss the actual wrestling the most now that the season's over," Vath said.

There were a few wrestlers from other teams that Huehl was excited to see at the tournament also. Rudy Rodriguez of Southeast of Saline, who placed 4th in the tournament, and Nick Davenport of Ell-Saline.

"I was excited to see Dayton Porsch and Riley Tubbs go at it for first and second," Huehl said.



Celebrity (From Page 3)

what's going on in this country is the business of all the citizens of the United States. We have a right to know what's going on in our country and what we can do to make a positive impact. Saying an actor, singer, or youtuber should stick to their day job would mean that all the farmers who get involved just need to stick to farming, or all the teachers should quit

with the politics and stick to teaching, or fast food workers should just focus on the food they're making instead of messing with politics. It's an argument that is invalid because it's everyone's business. The celebrity argument lost all validity when a celebrity was elected to the most powerful position in the world.

Schools (From Page 3)

extracurriculars can arm students with many of the skills future employers are looking for.

It would have been nice if our governor, along with the our state legislators, repealed the small business tax cuts - that were put into place shortly after Brownback was elected - soon after realizing that it was causing problems. I think that this is the prime cause of our state's billion dollar budget deficit that we are dealing with now. I also think that it's the prime reason to why our public schools are being cut our fair share of funding. In my opinion, I think that many small businesses would rather have a public school located in their area or county than having a tax reduction.

After thinking about all of that, it seems as though public education couldn't get any worse for us. Yet it just might. Now that Betsy DeVos has been sworn in as the Secretary of Education at the national level, our public schools face even more jeopardy. DeVos, whose had little-to-no experience with public education - or has probably barely stepped foot in a public school, has advocated for traditional school vouchers. If passed, these vouchers would immediately represent a financial attack on public schools across the nation. The

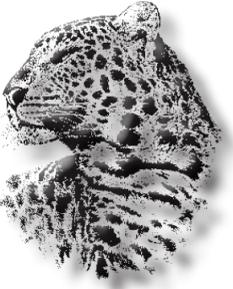
first moment these vouchers would go into effect, before a single child leaves a public school, millions of tax dollars would go out of the public system and into private schools. This is sickening to even think about.

If we end up taking money out of our public schools and giving it to private schools, I am for sure that there will be many small public schools that will be forced to be shut down. On top of this, it doesn't even make sense to have our tax dollars be sent to private schools. What would be the point of calling private schools "private" if they were receiving federal money just like public schools?

Overall, we have a huge mess going on in the public education world. We all have to stand up for our schools and start seriously thinking about how we are going to solve these problems. We have to contact our senators and representatives at both the state and national level to tell them how we feel about or public schools and how important they are to our students, teachers, staff members and community members because if we don't, it's not going to be pretty.

Leopard Prowl Pick'em Game Competition

- The class (or faculty) with the best record after the last newspaper issue will win a pizza party -

	 Tanner O'Bannon	 Victor Vazquez	 Sarah Cagle	 Preston Howard	 Mrs. Holeman
	Senior	Junior	Sophomore	Freshman	Faculty
HS Girls Basketball - February 24 6 p.m. Lincoln @ St. John's/ Tipton	Lincoln	St. John's/Tipton	Lincoln	St. John's/Tipton	Lincoln
HS Boys Basketball - February 24 7:30 p.m. Lincoln @ St. John's/ Tipton	Lincoln	St. John's/Tipton	Lincoln	St. John's/Tipton	Lincoln
Best Picture - Oscars Hollywood, CA ABC - February 26 - 7:30 p.m. Arrival, Fences, Hacksaw Ridge, Hell or High Water, Hidden Figures, La La Land, Lion, Manchester by the Sea or Moonlight	Hacksaw Ridge	Hacksaw Ridge	Hacksaw Ridge	La La Land	Hidden Figures
Men's College Basketball - ESPN March 1 - 8 p.m. Kansas State @ TCU	Kansas State	Kansas State	Kansas State	Kansas State	Kansas State
Men's College Basketball - ESPN March 4 - 5 p.m. Kansas @ Oklahoma State	Kansas	Kansas	Kansas	Kansas	Kansas
NBA - TNT - March 9 - 7 p.m. San Antonio Spurs @ Oklahoma City Thunder	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma City	San Antonio	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma City
Record	12-12	19-5	16-8	14-10	17-7

Mrs. Wolting - Had the best picking record last issue - "I'm shocked because I guessed on all of them."