The GreenWaveNews

Inside the Wave Views/Opinions, Early College, Pageant, Theater, Sports, Awards, Back PageLeeds High School Quill and Scroll Honor Society(established October 10, 1947)International Honor Society for High School JournalistsVolume 8. No. 3Published OuarterfyPublished Ouarterfy

Alabama's Ice Jam/ Snowmageddon



Two inches *plus* of ice and snow surprised Alabamians on Tuesday, January 28, and stranded motorists throughout the metro area.

First responders were busy rescuing hundreds of people trapped in vehicles — many for 24+ hours. Alabama authorities announced that more than 23 injuries were reported, but the vehicle wreckage report was drastically higher.

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Alum meets Hollywood

Students, teachers, and administrators spent the night (and next day for some) at schools before travel was safe enough for "rescue" vehicles to maneuver the streets.

Tech Master



Jacob Smith continues to blaze trails in the Microsoft IT Academy. The first student to become a Microsoft Office Specialist with a score of 957 on the Powerpoint exam (700 is required to pass), Jacob recently passed the Excel 2010 Exam, which is the 2nd technical exam in the difficult Microsoft series.



Photo courtesy of Yearbook Staff

Mr. & Miss Leeder 2014 Jimeria Williams & Jared Hudson

Caitlin Brunell, 2014 Miss Leeds Area, served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the annual Mr. & Miss Leeder Pageant.

Young ladies from grades 9-11 competed for the Class Beauty titles. Ladies and gentlemen from the senior class impressed the judges to enter the winners' circles.

Jimeria Williams and Jared Hudson garnered the highest scores in all judging categories to win the titles, 2014 Mr. & Miss Leeder. Mr. & Miss Senior Class wins went to Maya Everett and Evan Kennedy.

Elise Turner captured the Miss Junior Class crown. Courtney Purkey is the new Miss Sophomore Class. Allison Beason won the title of Miss Freshman Class.

Contestants earned points in stage presence, interview, school & community service, and GPA.

The event was sponsored by FCCLA, the PTO, and the Senior Class.

ADDITIONAL STORY on PAGE 9

The Vision of Leeds City Schools is Promoting Achievement, Respect, and Success.

March 2014

Opinions and Viewpoints

Think Before You Speak

By Kalei Whitson

^aThink before you speak. The words you speak can only be forgiven, not forgotten." Your words are a crucial part of your everyday life. They are results of many decisions based upon your morals. The words you speak do not only affect you but can also be extremely harmful to others. Your selection of words is very important. Not thinking before you speak has no good outcome — not thinking before you speak can get you in trouble, give you a bad reputation, and hurt others.

One of the consequences of not thinking before you speak results in trouble for you. If you fail to think first and speak later, you may find yourself saying things that do not apply to your values. One thing that can get you in trouble is saying curse words. Be certain that you can own up to your selection of words.

Secondly, people who do not think before they speak find themselves labeled with a bad reputation. If you are not cautious regarding what you say, words may become unimportant to you. When you speak whatever you please, you might speak negatively about others. If you continue this action, you will be earning a bad reputation. Just stop and think because you never know who might be listening.

Not thinking before you speak not only hurts you, but it can hurt others as well. Hurting the feelings of others is a crucial topic and should not occur because of careless actions. Sometimes your poor selection of words might push a person as far as having suicidal thoughts. An upsetting part is that sometimes you will not even be aware of your negative impact on another person's life until it is too late. More so, I encourage you to not only take yourself into consideration when you speak but be aware of others' feelings as well.

I hope you will be more cautious in the words you speak because there are consequences that accompany what you say. Use your words to make a positive impact in the lives of others — not only will they feel better, you will feel better too.



Anna Warner sports a tee-shirt based on the popular Soup Nazi segments of the "Seinfeld" TV series. Students quickly seized the slogan and adapted the "Shannon Slogan" — no pass for you, no assignment for you, no book for you,

Grades dropping like flies....

By Aaliyah Abernathy

Grades were previously combined and divided by two. That actually helped us all out a lot. It gave us time to get our acts together, but now that has changed. Get help now! It was shocking to see the people who will have to take credit recovery but, the calculations woke others up.

A reminder that school is no joke.

Photos in this edition were provided by The GreenWave News staff, Miriam Turner, Mandy Beason, Natalie Hyde Susan Stovall & Julie Hubbard of Crown Photography, LHS Students, and LHS Yearbook staff.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Leeds City Schools is to develop confident, productive young people and enable them to become independent life-long learners. We will accomplish this through a dedicated professional staff committed to continued learning. A relevant curriculum will be taught based on thinking and reasoning skills. This will take place in a positive environment recognizing the individual differences in children.

The GreenWave News 1500 Greenwave Drive Leeds, Alabama 35094 205-699-4510 Fax: 205-699-4515

Fax: 205-699-4515 Email: <u>mshannon@leedsk12.org</u>

Advisor: Maggie Shannon

Senior Editorial Board Senior News Editor: Maya Everett Senior Features Editor: Jimeria Williams Senior Opinions/Viewpoint Editor: Blaise Herman Senior Academia Editor: Kelsey Mitchell Senior Clubs Editor: Mikal Williams Senior Sports Editor: Tori Carr

Media Editor: Rachel Stoves

The focus of *The GreenWave News* is to provide a school and community informational service highlighting activities of Leeds High School. Additionally, the publication seeks to provide a public forum for the opinions of students, the newspaper staff, and faculty. Articles and opinions expressed in the newspaper are not necessarily those of Leeds High School nor the City of Leeds Board of Education. The editorials are the opinions of the Editorial Staff.

Purpose

Corrections:

Errors appearing in The Green Wave News should be reported to the advisor. If a correction is warranted, one will be published in the next edition.

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College Credit for high school students

By Blaise Herman

A majority of high school students plan on attending college upon graduation, but why wait? With the University of Alabama Early College Program (UAEC), students can start earning college credits in high school! Early College is a dual enrollment program that allows students to take college classes online, 24/7 anywhere internet is available.

Students can even take classes on the University of Alabama's campus during the summer while living in a residence hall, dining on campus and participating in campus activities. Any sophomore, junior or senior with a GPA of 3.0 or higher is eligible to join this program.

Because college classes only last a semester and high school classes last two semesters, two college courses of the same subject count as a high school credit. UAEC provides core classes such as English, math, computer science, history, anthropology, political science, psychology, and foreign languages. All of these classes are available to students throughout the year.

College classes are more rigorous than regular high school courses. Students must be determined to succeed and must be self disciplined to stay on course. They must be mature and have time management skills. Online classes require students to complete work without being monitored. College classes require lots of time, but students have been able to keep up their grades while juggling high school courses, church, and other extracurricular activities.

UAEC provides students with academic advisers, peer coaches, and a prerequisite Gateway course

Academic advisers help students make the best decisions about UA Early College schedule. They help the students decide which classes to take and when to take them based on the student's interests, the student's anticipated major and high school commitments — both academic and extracurricular.



Peer coaches mentor students as they develop college-level study and management skills. They offer friendly advice and help students stay on track. If the student decides to move to Tuscaloosa to take courses over the summer, the peer coaches help students learn their way around, they coordinate fun activities and they ensure the safety of the students.

The prerequisite, UAEC 200 Gateway, ensures that the student is ready for college study. During this course, the student earns the first two UA credit hours.

Students learn to navigate online courses, to read college textbooks and prepare for college tests, research skills, writing skills, college communication, email etiquette, formatting a college paper using MLA, and how to be a successful college student

College credits can transfer to other universities if a student does not wish to attend the University of Alabama after high school. But, if the student decides to attend UA, Early College provides benefits. A student can earn up to 30 hours of college credit while in high school. Thirty hours is equivalent to a whole year of college credit, but students are still eligible for freshman scholarships.

When a student earns 17 hours, they are guaranteed admission to the University of Alabama, no ACT score needed! If the student earns those hours by Dec. of their senior year, they receive priority housing at University of Alabama.

Becoming a college student has many other benefits as well. Students receive an Action Card as a form of ID and entitles the student to discounts, and major bragging rights.

If you believe you are a motivated student, the University of Alabama Early College Program might be right for you!

Life... after high school

By Clarke Smith

As teenagers, we tend to think about today and not tomorrow. We continue to focus on what affects us today, but what affects us today might not affect us the same way tomorrow.

While in high school, many teenagers get jobs, play sports, and join clubs. Some may not have the same motivation about school. On the other hand, some students try to plan out what they need to do to be successful. Whether it is studying, taking a certain class, or joining an organization, these student know that the choices they make today will affect them tomorrow.

College isn't for everyone, I understand that. So what can be done? Well, some officials in our state wondered the same thing. They set up programs, much like the Eden Center at our school, for students who wanted to learn a marketable skill while in high school.

Additionally, Governor Robert Bentley has been bringing in new job opportunities for the people of Alabama. Air Bus and Remington Firearms manufacturing plants have been added to the state bringing more than 3000 new jobs. So yes, college isn't for everyone, but that doesn't mean you can be successful.

Administrator of the Year



Michael Turner, LHS Principal, was awarded the prestigious FCCLA 2014 Administrator of the Year at the FCCLA State Leadership Meeting in Montgomery on March 13th.

Miss Teen Birmingham

By Rachel Stoves

Rachel Stoves, LHS senior, was crowned Miss Teen Birmingham 2014 on February 9 at Oak Mountain High School.

Stoves competed against 70 other girls in her age division. The Miss Teen Birmingham Pageant judging criteria included personal interview, casual wear, formal wear, and stage question.

Stoves will represent the Birmingham pageant in the national competition in Orlando, Florida where the winner will collect \$10,000 in scholarship money and a new car.

> GRADUATION May 29, 2014 7:00 pm The Church at Brook Hills

Evolve/ Reverse: status of racial equality in our society

By Maya Everett

Black History Month, introduced in February 1976, was seemingly a step toward racial equality among African Americans, but many occurrences have denounced the month of remembrance as a step at all.

On February 26, 2012, Trayvon Martin was killed by Neighborhood Watch Coordinator George Zimmerman who defended his use of his firearm under Florida's Stand Your Ground Laws.

The SYG Laws state that ...individuals have the right to use deadly force to defend oneself without the requirement to evade a dan-gerous situation." As details from the trial emerged, so did turmoil among civilians. African American communities were sternly labeling this incident an act of racism, accusing Zimmerman of pursuing Martin due to racial profiling. At the conclusion of the trial, Zimmerman was found not guilty, a resolve implying that Martin's death was simply a result of self defense.

With recent cases, such as the Zimmerman trial, shining light on the issue of race, it has caused civilians to ponder the claim that the nation has evolved from its once racially partisan state.

The nation is again in an uproar as another African American teenage male, Jordan Davis, was murdered in an alleged association of racial profiling. The story is one that is familiar — the same landscape but a different perpetrator.

Davis and three friends were listening to music in a car at a gas station when Michael Dunn pulled up beside the victim's car. Dunn said he heard threats from the car after telling the teens to turn down their music. Claiming to fear for his personal safety, Dunn grabbed his gun and fired into the vehicle killing Jordan Davis.

Similar to Zimmerman, Dunn went to trial, claiming that the incident was a result of self defense.

Davis' mother said she truly did not want race to be the focus of her son's case. However, angered citizens in



the community are calling the matter of race in this trial inevitable.

An anonymous study was conducted at Leeds High School to note the students' opinions on race in our society.

Survey results showed that more than half of the students said "No" when asked if racial equality had been achieved in our society.

Almost a quarter considered themselves or close family members racist. These studies revealed the prejudice imprinted in so many in our communities.

One student responded, "I do not consider my family racist. However, I am not allowed to date black boys and my family does not believe in interracial marriage."

Another answered, "My family believes most black men are just bad!"

However, more than 60 percent responded that they would not associate themselves or their family with racism at all. The statements of those students resulted in a general belief that "My family believes in equal opportunity and gives any person, no matter their race, a fair chance."

The nation has made tremendous steps toward racial equality. Americans elected the first person of African American descent to the office of President of the United States. The Supreme Court seated the first person of Hispanic descent to occupy a position.

Yet, the true condition of the nation lies within the circumstances and statistics as the stride toward racial equality is nowhere near its conclusion.

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Leeder Pageant 2014 Photos courtesy of Crown Photography

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2014 Leeder Pageant





Interviews in the afternoon



Pageant about to begin for senior ladies and gentlemen



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Leeder Pageant

By Marisa Falletta

On February 8, 2014, Leeds High School hosted the Leeder Pageant. The day started out with 3-minute interviews for each contestant.

The Beauty Walk began at 7 pm and all young ladies were beautiful. The boys on the other hand had a little fun during their time on stage. They each had individual routines and a group routine. They were quite the show!

The moment that everyone was waiting for were the awards.

Freshman Class winners: Miss Freshman Class – Allison Beason; Miss Photogenic – Allison Beason; Miss Congeniality – Kaci Moses; Freshman Class Favorites – Olivia Clinkscales, Holly Hoover, Catherine Moore, and Kaci Moses.

Sophomore Class winners: Miss Sophomore Class – Courtney Purkey; Miss Photogenic and Miss Congeniality – Kalei Whitson; Sophomore Class Favorites – Daryl Marie Barkley, Elizabeth McDanal, Sydney St. John, and Kalei Whitson.

Junior Class winners: Miss Junior Class – Elise Turner; Miss Photogenic and Miss Congeniality – Elise Turner; Junior Class Favorites – Ali Chambers, Molly O'Barr, and Missy Thompson.

Senior Class winners: Mr. and Miss Leeder – Jared Hudson and Jimeria Williams; Mr. and Miss Senior Class – Evan Kennedy and Maya Everett, Mr. and Miss Photogenic – Aaron Brown and Maya Everett; Mr. and Miss Congeniality – TJ Piazza and Emily Claire Goodwin; Senior Class Favorites – Russell Alicea, Aaron Brown, Shea Callaway, Sydney Darabaris, Marisa Falletta, Emily Claire Goodwin, Monica Simpson, and Rachel Stoves.



LHS Librarian Terri Leigh Gibson acts as "Book Date Advisor" for Clarke Smith and William White.

By Tori Carr

During the month of February the library held Blind Date with a Book. The idea behind the activity was like you were taking part in speed dating.

"I wanted to get kids in the library, and show them all the books we have," Librarian Terri Leigh Gibson said about the purpose of the event.

When asked how she prepared for classes coming in to participate Gibson added, "My aides, Tori Carr, Lorin Martin, and Cali Killian all came up with a playlist of romantic songs to play in the background on YouTube. We also pulled books from all genres from the shelves for display on the *Dating Tables.*"

The event was successful Gibson remarked that she and the library aides had heard many positive remarks from students and teachers involved in the activity.

The activity produced active reading as approximately 357 students checked out a book during the time frame.

Pleased with the response to the activity, Gibson noted, "We plan on doing this again."





GREASE is the word

By Sydney St. John

Our Leeds High School Drama Department presented *Grease: School Version*. Theater patrons were impressed and entertained by the performances.

The actors really brought their characters to life and made the show interesting.

Molly O'Barr said, "I liked the fact that everyone seemed so confident and ready to perform."

The live band also added so much to the show.

The leading actors also did a great job of carrying their roles, but the supporting cast was extremely impressive.

Cara Anderson, "Frenchy" in the play, said, "It was a great cast to work with and we had a wonderful director. I hope everyone enjoyed watching it as much as we enjoyed performing it."

Five more minutes... By Alexus Davidson

The snow and ice added an extra five minutes to each school day to result in an approximate total of 300 extra minutes of instructional time through the end of May.

Many students were concerned because of after-school activities of part-time jobs, but those issues were quickly resolved.

On the other hand, as Mrs. Price said, "I'd rather have an extended day than have to come to school on Saturday."

There are pros and cons to both solutions, but the new system seems to be working out well.

March 2014



The LHS Softball team displays the true team spirit on and off the field.

Softball season is here

By Shelby Musgrove

The Lady Greenwave Softball team took on Pinson Valley as their 2014 season opener. Al-though the Lady Greenwave fell short with the final score of 9-7, they took the game as a learning experience.

Losing two seniors last year called for a little rearranging in the infield. New people in new positions can sometimes hinder a team's comfort zone and also cause a little confusion. The ladies pulled together and found a perfect fit for each open position.

Throughout these early games, the ladies have found their true

New sports at LHS

By Kalei Whitson & Molly O'Barr Jeff Thomas, LHS teacher and coach, has opened new competitive sports opportunities for students. LHS now competes in tennis and archery.

Thomas, a collegiate tennis player, organized tennis practice in February with nine girls and eleven boys on the high school teams. strengths and weaknesses as a practically *new team*.

Catcher, Emily Claire Goodwin said, "I feel like we can trust each other at our new positions. I know I have back up."

Coach Natalie Hyde noted, "Their current record does not reflect the awesome team talent because they've been playing 5A & 6A teams. But playing these larger teams, builds mental stamina and physical ability to move higher. Currently they are ranked #10 in 3A but we plan to climb higher and hopefully they will earn a spot in the state tournament in May."

"As leadership emerges, I look for our team to improve throughout the rest of the season." Hyde added.

Thomas hopes to expand the teams by including 7th and 8th graders next year.

LHS archery follows the LMS archery teams organized last year. Thomas is looking forward to the

expansion of both tennis and archery with the 2014-15 school year.

"The best thing about starting new sports teams is watching beginners fall in love with the sport and continue to improve," Thomas said.

Basketball's Lady GreenWave

By Kyroon Sierra

The season may have ended for the Lady Greenwave basketball team, but the memories will last a lifetime. The team, coached by history teacher Rayford Williams, finished the season with a record 3-9.

The team had their ups and downs and fell a short, but the team remained strong and is ready for the challenges of next season.

A four-year basketball player, Shenaaz Sierra, said, "This wasn't the best season that we were hoping for, but we kept our heads up high and kept playing our hearts out until the end."

Sierra, the only senior on the team, said "It doesn't really hit you until you put your jersey on for the last time/"

When asked about her final season, Sierra said, "Out of the four years that I have been on the team, the 2013-2014 season will be the season that I cherish for the rest of my life."

Coach of the Year



LHS football coach Keith Etheredge is no stranger to championship producing area and state championship teams, but now he, deservedly, has been recognized as Coach of the Year by the Alabama Football Coaches Association. Etheredge also served as Head Coach for the North All-Star team in the North/South All -Star Championship games and was Linebacker Coach for the Alabama/ Mississippi All-Star Games.

March 2014

The Great Gatsby student adventure

By Emily Farrington

The Great Gatsby, a 1925 novel written by F. Scott Fitzgerald, follows a cast of characters living in the fictional town of West Egg on Long Island in the summer of 1922. The story centers on the young and mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby and his passion for a beautiful young lady named Daisy Buchanan. The Great Gatsby involves themes of idealism, decadence, social upheaval, and resistance to change creating a portrait of the "Jazz Age" or the "Roaring Twenties" which has been described as a cautionary tale regarding the American Dream.

Approximately 90 LHS students enjoyed *The Great Gatsby* play on February 7 at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival Theater in Montgomery. English teacher Jeff Thomas, sponsor of the trip, and other teachers accompanied students on the day-long field trip. Abigail Smith noted, "The play closely followed the novel and I enjoyed it very much."

Smith added, "My favorite part of the day though was dressing up in the styles of the Roaring 20's. Many students and chaperone teachers dressed in the style of the time period. It was a wonderful experience."

Harley Armstrong agreed that the theatrical production followed the novel.

Armstrong's favorite part was "when Daisy started crying all over the actors' shirts."

She also said, "The most interesting part was when Daisy drove over Myrtle Wilson, but the saddest part was when Wilson shot Gatsby."

Armstrong added, "I think the sets could have been better."

Before returning to LHS, students enjoyed lunch and fun at Cici's Pizza.



Librarian Terri Leigh Gibson (on left in her *Gatsby* Roarin' 20s attire) joined trip organizer and English teacher Jeff Thomas for the trip to Montgomery's Alabama Shakespeare Festival Theater with 90 students to watch the performance of *The Great Gatsby*.

"Let us learn to show our friendship for a man when he is alive and not after he is dead."

- <u>F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby</u>





Teacher of the Year

By Franki Piazza

Our very own Mandy Beason received the Leeds Chamber of Commerce "Teacher of Year" award. The prestigious award carries a \$500 cash prize as well. Beason was nominated by a student and selected by the Chamber.

Beason previously won the Spain Park High School Teacher of the Year award before bringing her teaching talents to LHS.

Beason plans to put the prize money toward a family trip because they are very supportive of the hours and effort involved in her career.

She feels honored and proud to represent the hard working, talented educators of Leeds City Schools.

Beason said, "My students are my motivation to be a good teacher. I expect the best from each student every day so I try to give them my very best."

Beason feels that teaching is her calling and finds it rewarding to live out God's purpose for her through teaching. Her favorite part about teaching is getting to know her students and helping them become successful communicators.

Although teaching was not always her plan because she enrolled in pre-law at Alabama; however, she said, "God had other plans for me."

Beason has always been a teacher in some way. She said that teaching chose her. As a teenager she taught metro cheerleading, swim lessons, and Vacation Bible School.

The Counselor's Corner

GRADUATION May 29th, 2014 7:00 pm

The Church at Brook Hills

Mrs. Lisa Hudson, LHS Counselor Call 699-4510 for an appointment

POINTS OF INTEREST

- If you are a college-bound senior and have not taken the ACT, you need to get registered ASAP. Online registration is at <u>www.actstudent.org</u>. Check the website for test dates and registration deadlines.
- Progress Reports April 17
- LHS Prom April 26
- Awards Program May 9
- Senior Picnic May 22
- Senior Awards Program May 25
- Last Day of School May 28



LHS Alum Josh Everett with Hollywood legend Danny Glover

LHS graduate and Vanderbilt University honor student Josh Everett visits with Danny Glover following Glover's appearance as a guest speaker on Vanderbilt's campus during Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. remembrance activities. Glover spoke on his personal activism and on this year's theme, "Do Justice".



The Back Page

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