50 BPA competitors head to State Leadership Conference

By Abby Miller

On Dec. 9, Castle’s Business Professionals of America (BPA) team competed at a Regional Leadership Conference competition held at Ivy Tech in Evansville. Sixty-one students competed, and 50 earned the opportunity to advance to the State Leadership Conference in Indianapolis from March 11-13. They will then have a chance to advance even further to the National Conference in Dallas from May 9-13.

“Students are studying for written competitions,” said BPA adviser Alicia Gilkey before the competition. “Some (people) research and prepare presentations for competitions. There are over 70 competitions that involve written tests, presentations and creative planning for new and existing businesses.”

For the last four years, Ethan Roberts, BPA’s president, has competed in different ways, such as an assortment of tests and interviewing. This year he competed in the entrepreneurism category.

“Everyone works so hard to prepare for our competition days,” he said. “What preparation is done is more tailored to the competition you do. For example, I’ll be competing in entrepreneurship, so I have, in theory, founded a new company and developed a business plan. I will use this to pitch to ‘investors’ who will hopefully be interested in my company.”

“I first got involved with BPA as a freshman when Mrs. (Angela) Cluck, my business teacher at the time, encouraged our class to join,” said Roberts.

Looking back, Roberts realizes now he has benefited from being in BPA. “BPA has helped me in the real world a lot, especially as I explore my career path and develop a company,” he said. “Ultimately, it has helped me grow not just as a person but intellectually.”

Roberts enjoys BPA and has goals for its future once he graduates. “Short-term, I would like to see our chapter get many of our members to state and hopefully national,” he said. “Long-term, I would like to see the groups become more involved here at Castle, as well as BPA was officially formed as the Office Education Association (OEA).”

“BPA has a strong history as a student organization that contributes to the preparation of global professionals through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic and technological skills for students at the middle, secondary and post-secondary levels,” said Gilkey.

Starting off the New Year with a new, improved you

By Paige Hunter

Have you made a New Year’s resolution for 2018? If so, what is it?

“To stop drinking the best drink ever. Sprite.” - Jasper Heubner, sophomore

“I am going to try and be healthier and work harder in sports and academics.” - Harrison Payne, junior

“Yes, finish out the school year strong, both academically and athletically.” - Zach Messinger, senior

“Make some bands.” - Grant Zehner, senior

“Yes, I would like to show the world why the society of today is broken.” - John Stafford

“Tyke, senior

“To gain 15 pounds but stay at 10 percent body fat.” - Dalton Settlemyre, junior

“My New Year’s resolution is to get fat.” - Courtney Rahm, sophomore

“To get my license.” - Kaylae Mercer, junior

“Be positive and more caring about others’ feelings rather than my own.” - Madace Beasley, sophomore

“To study French every day or to start to learn Dutch.” - Maddeline Wosley, sophomore

“ ‘To write more stories.’” - Emily Blake, sophomore

Did you have a resolution for 2017? What was it and why did you pick that? Were you able to keep your resolution or did you give up?

“Yes, I wanted to work at Pizza Hut. I gave up.” - Drew Heiss, sophomore

“Nope, I didn’t care about them.” - Matthew Moore, junior

“ ‘Ever since I was out of the womb. ’” - Grant Zehner, junior

“ ‘Yes, it was to achieve it.’” - Matthew Moore, junior

“ ‘I did not have any resolutions because I was in the womb. ’” - Madee Beasley, sophomore

“ ‘Yes, it was to achieve it.’” - Matthew Moore, junior

“ ‘Not every year, just the past three or four years.’” - Matthew Moore, junior

“ ‘I did not have any because I was in the womb.’” - Madee Beasley, sophomore

“ ‘Yes, I wanted to work at Pizza Hut. I gave up.’” - Drew Heiss, sophomore

“ ‘To write more stories.’” - Emily Blake, sophomore

“To write more stories.” - Emily Blake, sophomore
The Salvation Army is dedicated to ‘doing the most good’

By Kenya Brown

When the weather starts to get a bit chilly and the season starts to change, you begin to hear those delightful bells. Every year around the holiday season, the Salvation Army sets out again to change lives for the better.

Whether it’s a local bank or a grocery store, helping and organizing from home or sending money overseas, people from around the world volunteer their time and give their charity in order to give back to those in need.

Anyone can volunteer their time during the holiday season by ringing the bell for donations. One might wonder why any person would gladly stand out in the blistering cold for hours at a time, but many have confessed that they look forward to it each year.

“I love volunteering,” said Andy Moretz, who volunteered to ring the bell at the Newburgh Wal-Mart. “It helps me meet my friends and all new people. It’s also quite a judge of one’s character.”

Billie Morris is Newburgh’s local adviser for the Salvation Army. “Every penny we make goes to something meaningful and near and dear to someone’s heart,” he said.

Morris has been volunteering and organizing for the Salvation Army for more than 20 years. He often has to pay out of his pocket for many of the fundraising activities.

“Sometimes it’s a little difficult to round up a crew, but it’s definitely worth it to save and replenish someone else. Very refreshing!” he said.

Since starting at his church, Morris has grown the organization across the Newburgh area, spreading joy and the spirit of giving.

“The foundation may be Biblical, but the message is for everyone,” he said. “We’re here to do the most good.”

David Munks is another adviser and commanding officer for the Salvation Army. Not only that, he has been a pastor since 1986. Munks said that the organization is doing whatever it can to help out.

His main concern this year was getting enough volunteers to make the holidays special for others. There are a certain number of hours that are expected so that each individual in need will have enough of a donation during the holidays. Money is definitely a major factor when it comes to giving. In order to give, you have to receive.

In addition to service hours, the Salvation Army will donate $10 to a club of a student volunteer’s choice at the student’s school. As it hopes to have a good fundraising run every year, the Salvation Army is always looking for assistance.

Crafty crowds came to Castle craft show

By Elizabeth Cluck

The hallways of Castle High School were flooded with crowds of people searching for presents, décor, jewelry, clothing, soups and lotions.

On Dec. 2, the Castle Band conducted their 29th annual Art and Craft Show.

There were 170 scheduled vendors selling all kinds of crafts, from Christmas ornaments to woodsy pay toys.

Pam Phelps, Craft Show co-chair, was one of many who helped plan the event.

“I have some personal experience being a vendor in antique shows and thought that experience could be helpful,” she said.

There is a lot that goes into planning for the day of the Craft Show. In fact, planning for the next Craft Show starts the day of the current Cast show.

“Vendors who wish to keep their booths will pay for the next year before leaving,” said Phelps.

Although previous vendors pay for the next Craft Show on the day of the current show, vendor applications are accepted all year long.

“Vendors are important to have because without them there wouldn’t be any Craft Show,” said Phelps.

“Obtaining and securing vendors is the number one priority,” said Phelps.

There are many vendors, so it is important to have several things from which to choose.

We are very fortunate to have the support from our Band students and their parents. Without their many volunteer hours and participation, this would not be possible.”

Pam Phelps, Craft Show co-chair

“Keeping a balance can be difficult, but it is beneficial to allow patrons variety and allows vendors to have a productive show,” said Phelps.

Tana Orth, a vendor, has been coming to the Castle Craft Show for at least 15 years. She sells seasonal pieces that include ornaments, door hangers, centerpieces and barn quilts. A barn quilt is a wooden block painted to look like a quilt that normally is displayed on the front or side of a barn.

Orth works full time for the Warrick County School Corporation, so she must work on her crafts in the evening and on weekends.

“Most people relax when they get home from work, but I come home and work on my crafts,” she said.

Since there is so much to prepare, Orth starts preparing about six months before the Craft Show.

“In the summer, I work in the barn because of the warm temperatures and because not everything will fit inside of the house,” she said.

Orth continues working on her projects up until about 10 p.m. the night before the Craft Show.

The Janice Wheeler, another vendor, has been crafting for three years, although this was her first time coming to the Castle Craft Show. Wheeler sells wreaths, do-it-yourself Christmas trees and centerpieces.

“I work year-round because of all the holidays,” she said.

Wheeler has a little bit of a break between Christmas and spring because there aren’t very many holidays.

The Craft Show is one of the most valuable fundraisers for the band.

“We are very fortunate to have the support from our Band students and their parents,” said Phelps. “Without their many volunteer hours and participation, this would not be possible.”

The Truth Is: 8 out of 10 Warrick County teens never or rarely* use marijuana.

*Rarely = 2 or fewer times per year.

The Truth is - Warrick County Teens Never or Rarely Use Marijuana.
Castle’s creative, crafty kids give back

By Jennifer Whitaker

For some, art is simply a hobby. For others, however, it’s the only thing that can get their mind to focus on something positive.

Emma’s Art Kits, previously known as Emma’s Art Cart, is an organization that understands this notion and is striving to put it to good use.

It was started in 2014 by Lisa Durst with the help of a 501(c)(3) organization named Peace of HeART.

Emma Stumpf was 15 and battling an inoperable brain tumor when the organization began. The mission was to collect art supplies and create art kits for hospitalized children to bring them comfort in their times of despair.

In August 2017, Stumpf’s parents took over the program and gave it the new name.

Castle High School students had the opportunity to help this cause by bringing in art supplies to donate. Castle’s speech team, which is sponsored by English teacher Marissa Mitchell, sponsored the drive.

“The collection (was) sponsored by the Fishers (Indiana) High School speech team as an annual philanthropy project and contest,” said Mitchell in December. “At their speech meet in January, they will collect supplies from all competing teams.”

According to Mitchell, they collected “new packages of crayons and colored pencils, drawing paper and coloring books.”

All schools that competed in the supplies drive delivered their collected items to Fishers High School. The items were then delivered directly to Emma’s foundation.

Junior Sydney Beck, one of the 18 members of Castle’s speech team, saw the value in the supplies drive.

“I had heard about Emma’s Art Cart before, but I had never worked with them. I think it’s a worthy cause because it’s important to give back to the community in whatever way we can.”

This event lasted from Dec. 4-14. The speech team set a goal of 150 donations to be received.

Even though CHS students didn’t know about the drive until its starting date was near, it had been in the works among speech team members for longer than that.

“This event has been happening for a little while, but it was important to the speech team to establish itself, now we are able to give back to the community,” said Beck, who planned on bringing in donations when she first learned of the event.

Evansville MOD Pizza warms the community

By Isabella Greene

A new pizza place has popped into town and has been dripping sky-high with glory. The name is MOD Pizza, abbreviated from “Make On Demand” pizzas.

I had the chance to eat there on Nov. 29 and was more than pleased. As you walk in, you are greeted with fresh smells of garlic, baked dough and different kinds of fresh vegetables and meats.

As I stood in line, I noticed a collage of pictures of people who have been charity partners, customers, food purveyors and the MOD squad throughout all MOD Pizza restaurants. I waited in line for under 10 minutes on one of their busy nights, but it felt like time went by pretty fast. While in line, you see the industrial style of the building, with concrete floors and spacious seating areas. There is also a menu to your left with several kinds of pizzas that you can choose from; however, you can also add other ingredients to them if you would like.

You can also create your own pizza from scratch, with freshly baked dough — which is how all their dough is made — and any ingredients you would like. And no matter how many ingredients you choose, the original price will stay the same.

MOD Pizza also has salads, including deluxe, Caesar and simple. But you can also create your own salad.

They also have desserts, such as milkshakes — their seasonal one was a peppermint milkshake — but they also have a no-name cake that is like a Ding Dong with a white cream filling inside.

When I went, I chose the “Dillon James,” one of their “healthier” pizzas, but added chicken to it. My dining companion got the “Jasper” the way it was, with a side of garlic breadsticks.

As we paid, I noticed that the price was very reasonable. For two mini six-inch pizzas and a side of breadsticks, the price was only about $13.

Taking the first bite sent warmth to my mouth because the pizza was heated in a wood oven, so it had kind of like a “woody,” wonderful taste.

The sauce wasn’t overpowering, and the ingredients tasted very fresh and warm; it didn’t burn the inside of my mouth, so that was a good sign.

My dining companion also loved their food and let me have some of the breadsticks. The breadsticks were made on already rolled dough, garnished with fresh garlic and rosemary topping, and then baked with the rest of the pizzas in the wood oven.

The breadsticks weren’t too overpowering or even really that greasy; it was a good combination of flavors to send your mouth swimming with goodness.

I will definitely be thinking about going there more often. The service was nice, the food was unbelievably amazing and the price was very reasonable.
Andrew Dugary - Senior

Question: If you could turn any activity into an Olympic sport, what would you have a good chance of winning a medal in?
Answer: “Sleeping, because that’s all I do when I’m not at school or rehearsal.”
Q: What job would you be terrible at?
A: “I would be horrible at being a waiter because I would spill and waste all the food.”
Q: What would you rate 10/10?
A: “Food from Daelyn Quinn’s food drive was collected at Living Word Christian Church.”

Isaiah Swope - Freshman

Question: If you could have an endless supply of any food, what would you choose?
A: “Carrots, very healthy.”
Q: If you were to change your name, what name would you pick?
A: “Zebo West. In ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’, Zebo was my favorite character.”
Q: Please tell about your experience playing chess.
A: “I started in fourth grade with a dream to be the best chess player in the world. I taught myself how to play chess. Chess is very exhilarating and makes you think of complex strategies in a couple of seconds. Each move has to be picked carefully or you could lose. You have to come in the game prepared to play. I’ve been playing chess for six years now. And I have found out that if you move two pawns fast you have no chance. I’ve learned from chess that chess and life are similar. In life, you must move to your own speed in order to be successful. If you do choose to move fast without a plan, then you will move the wrong piece and that’s equivalent to making the wrong decision.”

Fred Bracher - English Teacher

Question: When you were little, what did you want to be when you grew up?
Answer: “I have always wanted to be a teacher. I loved being up in front of other students helping them when I was younger.”
Q: Which time period would you visit in history?
A: “The 1980s was simply the best decade. I love the hair and makeup of that time, and I would give anything to go back for a day. I still have my jean jacket from County Seat! I would fit right in again no problem. HAHAA.”
Q: If you could invite five famous or noted people to dinner, who would you choose?
A: “I would invite JFK, MLK, Rosa Parks, Steve Prefontaine and Marilyn Monroe. All of these people have made significant impact into our world for various reasons. I would love to spend time talking with each of them.”

Question: Tell us about your experience being inducted into the Boonville High School Athletic Hall of Fame.
A: “I was very proud to be inducted into the seventh class of the BHS Athletic Hall of Fame. It was amazing to be recognized in track and field and help lead the Boonville boys’ track team to three consecutive Big Eight Conference titles and two back-to-back IHSAA Evansville Sectional titles. We became the first non-Evansville school in 52 years to win back-to-back titles. I was a three-time All-Big Eight Conference selection while competing in the 400 meters. I set a school record in the 400 with a time of 49.6 (seconds). I advanced to compete at the Bloomington North Regional in track and field. I also competed at the State Track and Field Championships, where I won back-to-back Evansville track sectional titles — the Castle Knights.”

Jackson Haisley - Junior

Question: What did you want to be when you grew up?
A: “When I was little, I wanted to be a United States Navy SEAL. I always enjoyed the military and wanted to excel in it.”
Q: What is the most important quality in a friend?
A: “The most important quality in a friend is loyalty because without your friends you aren’t happy or true to you.”
Q: Please tell about your experience with Tae Koon Do.
A: “When I was in fourth grade, my mother introduced me to Tae Koon Do. She said this martial art was for self-defense and would be exciting for me. On my first day, I was super nervous and an outcast. My instructor, Mr. Daniel Merk, helped me meet everyone and even showed me how to punch through a wooden board. I have been hooked ever since that day. It has been seven years since that day, and I have learned many valuable techniques and principles. My instructor and classmates have taught me discipline, integrity, courtesy, perseverance and self-control. At my black belt testing, I had to do sparring, say all the Korean terminology, efficiency and board breaks. My instructor always says that you should crawl out of testing with a smile on your face. He was absolutely right. I was excited after I completed my requirements, but I couldn’t be happier. I succeeded in obtaining my black belt, as well as getting a degree in Rilev, my girlfriend, who is now a third-degree black belt.”

Daelyn Quinn - Sophomore

Food from Daelyn Quinn's food drive was collected at Living Word Christian Church.

Christian Church. Those are the three main goals that I hope this food drive will accomplish, especially during the bustling holiday season. “The drive will be active through Dec. 22, and we are collecting non-perishable food items, as well as soap, shampoo and toilet paper. Items are collected Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Living Word office, or they can be dropped off before Sunday worship service. All donations benefit Hope Central, an organization that assists those in need in the area in a variety of ways.”

Question: What did you want to be when you grew up?
A: “I would choose true love over a million dollars.”
Q: If you could have true love or a million dollars, what would you choose?
A: “I would choose true love because I would spend and waste all the money.”

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Question: What did you want to be when you grew up?
A: “I would be very proud to be inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame.”
Q: Where is the most interesting place you’ve been?
A: “Dubai.”
Q: What would you rate 10/10?
A: “Dubai, very peaceful.”
Q: If you could have an endless supply of any food, what would you choose?
A: “Carrots, very healthy.”
Q: If you were to change your name, what name would you pick?
A: “Zebo West. In ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’, Zebo was my favorite character.”
Q: Please tell about your experience playing chess.
A: “I started in fourth grade with a dream to be the best chess player in the world. I taught myself how to play chess. Chess is very exhilarating and makes you think of complex strategies in a couple of seconds. Each move has to be picked carefully or you could lose. You have to come in the game prepared to play. I’ve been playing chess for six years now. And I have found out that if you move two pawns fast you have no chance. I’ve learned from chess that chess and life are similar. In life, you must move to your own speed in order to be successful. If you do choose to move fast without a plan, then you will move the wrong piece and that’s equivalent to making the wrong decision.”

Photo courtesy of Daelyn Quinn

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THE LaNcEr
The Knights rumble their way through the season

By Kamryn Guerzini

Are you ready to rumble? Castle High School’s boys’ basketball team is on one mission this year: success.

This team has several goals for the season. One is that it wants this to be the best year it has ever had.

Coach Brian Gibson looks at the game two ways: a goal for each game and a goal for the season overall. “Our goals for each game are the following: Play hard! Play smart! Have fun!” he said. “Our goal for the season is to improve each and every week so that we are ready to make a long post-season run.”

“I hope our players learn to be better young men by being on this team and that they learn the value of teamwork and hard work. We had a record of 24-4 last season and made it all the way to semistate.”

“The leading returning players this year include Alex Hemenway, Tristan Wilkinson, Jace Steiler and Zach Messinger.”

“We need to become a better rebounding team and a better defensive team — that is our greatest weakness,” said Gibson. “Our greatest strength is that we are a very good shooting team.”

Hemenway, a junior, has been playing on Castle’s varsity since freshman year.

“At a young age, my passion for basketball wasn’t the greatest,” he said. “I always thought I was more of a baseball player. But as I got older and grew more mature, I realized I liked the up-tempo style of (basketball) better. Basketball was the game for me.”

“My expertise is being a shooting guard, and that is the position I play on the floor. I like to dream big, so I’m hoping that our team can bring home a state championship this year after being so close to getting one last season.”

He hopes to continue playing in college and perhaps beyond. “Being a part of Castle’s basketball team has shaped me into the person I am today,” he said.

As of Jan. 9, the Knights’ overall record was 8-5.

Nov. 29 - Castle 77, Boonville 60
Dec. 9 - Harrison 70, Castle 64
Dec. 9 - Floyd Central 66, Castle 64
Dec. 10 - Southport 71, Castle 62
Dec. 16 - Castle 77, Reitz 53
Dec. 17 - Castle 76, Parke Marshall 73
Dec. 20 - Castle 76, Wood Memorial 52
Dec. 22 - Castle 66, Princeton 48
Dec. 31 - Castle 55, Latourrette Jefferson 51
Jan. 3 - Owensboro Central 79, Castle 61
Jan. 6 - Memorial 66, Castle 63
Jan. 9 - Castle 68, Mater Dei 49

The Knights huddle during a timeout against Boonville on Nov. 29. Castle ended up posting a 77-60 victory over the Pioneers. Photos by Kamryn Guerzini

The 2017 GRAMMY nominations favor trends over talent

By Noah Labhart

The GRAMMY Awards have always been emblematic of the critical and popular divide within the music industry. Viewed as the music world’s equivalent to the Oscars, the GRAMMYs have a long history of nominating and awarding songs, artists and albums based more on their time on the charts than their overall quality.

Looking to the nominations for this year’s 60th GRAMMYs, the Billboard has become increasingly evident with JAY-Z’s “4:44” towering over the competition, with nominations in eight different categories. Other nominations that feel like ploys to appeal to younger demographics include Migos, Imagine Dragons, Khalid, and Lorde. The Recording Academy has seemingly become so afraid to award talented artists, instead leaning on this Hot 100 crutch, hoping to stay relevant and “trendy” in their decisions. So why does this keep happening?

One of the easiest things to blame would be an artist’s status in the industry. It’s no secret that the Recording Academy has a soft spot for JAY-Z and Beyoncé, considering the one time they didn’t side with the two, Kanye West was compelled to run on stage and make it clear. This year, having his “4:44” album and “The Story Of O.J.” nominated in eight different categories, JAY-Z’s influence is quite clear.

And the worst part is that they aren’t completely biased. Childish Gambino’s “Awaken, My Love” and Tyler, the Creator’s “Flower Boy” are both nominated in multiple categories and are both incredibly deserving of the praise they have received. Kendrick Lamar and Lil Uzi Vert managed to snag several nominations, and SZA’s breakthrough year hasn’t gone unnoticed. But with the Recording Academy’s history, the odds are likely stacked against these artists, and they’ll likely struggle to outshine JAY-Z’s industry clout.

My questions are these: Where are “Run The Jewels 3” and “Big Fish Theology”? Why did Brockhampton’s entire “Saturation” trilogy go overlooked? And why did Lorde receive any nominations at all?

The show will be broadcast Jan. 28 on CBS.

Eminem’s ‘Revival’ is dead on arrival

By Noah Labhart

Eminem’s discography has seen a decline in quality since his 2009 album “Relapse” and was kept just barely afloat by the release of “Rap God” in 2013. But with a highly publicized, controversial freestyle, in which he disses President Trump and modern racism during the BET Awards and a fairly well-made collaboration with Beyoncé in “Walk On Water” released in November to garner attention for his latest album, Marshall Mathers seemed to be gearing up for a bombastic return to the industry.

But with “Revival’s” release, Eminem has shown quite clearly that not only are the days of Slim Shady done and gone, but so too are Eminem’s more introspective, soulful moments. With nearly every track on the album, Mathers’ delivery is so lifeless and melodramatic that it drags on any emotion or connection a listener could gain from his lyrics.

“The political statements are another major problem. Eminem has never been one to shy away from political humor and satire, but bars about The Trump administration and social progressivism feel more like what your dad thinks a liberal progressive wants for this country; rather than what they actually want. In short, Eminem has seemingly sidelined his own career, and done so with dull, boring verses about issues that Mathers doesn’t seem to understand at all. And, no, the “Chloraseptic” remix isn’t a part of this review.

Rating: 2.5/10
Justice League is just as worthless as the rest

Everyone released at 2:40 bell

A committee at Castle reviews what it thinks are the school’s biggest issues. One was that students were not following the dismissal rules. (Only bus riders were supposed to leave at the 2:40 bell. Everyone else was supposed to stay in their classrooms until the 2:45 bell.) As of Dec. 4, however, Principal Doug Graham announced that the administration would try changing the rules to allow everyone to leave their classes at 2:40 p.m. Some students wanted to know where they were parked -- could they go to their cars at 2:40, while others had to stay in the building until 2:45.

For the change

I agree with the decision and hope that we continue the change.

Since I am in choir and theater, I have to change clothes before my orthotics. So if we are released at 2:45 (which is usually like 2:47), that gives me only 15 minutes to change for practice, which is especially hard when 50 other girls are getting ready at the same time in the same space. This means that I definitely do not have time to go talk to any teacher or get food from the Market Bistro before my practice.

With the extra time, I have to be able to get things done before having to get changed for my practice. The extra time makes everything less of a rush.

On the days I do not have to stay after school, I still like it. The wait before the second bell does not bother me because, again, I either use the time to finish something for a class or talk to my locker with my friends.

I do not have to go to work after school, but I know people who do who say they are getting home earlier.

One girl said she parks in the parking lot next to the football field, allowing her to leave before 2:45. The change has allowed her to go home and have time to eat before going to her long work shift.

I know people have complained that the changes make for bad traffic. But to me the traffic in the parking lot has always been bad.

Fixing the parking lots is an entirely separate issue.

If students really need to get out of the parking lot quickly, I advise them to try not parking in the front lot or the lot by the greenhouse.

As long as everyone is safe in the parking lot, the benefits of the change outweigh the challenges.

Against the change

The new rule allows students to leave at the same time as bus riders and go to their lockers and potentially leave if they parked in the band or baseball parking lot.

“The Castle High School administration sat down with a committee and looked over some of the top issues. One is the number of students getting in trouble for leaving at the 2:40 p.m. bell. (Other problems the committee considered included students getting in trouble for problems and the amount of trash around the building.)

In my opinion, the new bell schedule is a bad idea and should be changing back for multiple reasons.

When the 2:40 bell rings, the majority of students leave their classrooms to go to lockers or meet up with friends. Though it’s nice being able to go to your locker before leaving school at the end of the day, it makes the hallways very crowded and frustrating.

Another problem is that when the 2:45 bell rings, everyone is on their way to lockers and parents have to wait in traffic.

Another problem with the change, I would get home much earlier. This was very beneficial because it allowed me to have much more time to get things together and do what I needed to do before my next activity.

Because so many people are rushing to get their cars hoping to beat the crowd, this puts the drivers at risk. High school kids are still fairly new to driving and this makes the risk of accidents higher than ever before.

Many students at Castle work after school and need time to go home and change and gather school things before the end of the day, but it’s bad when the parking lot is packed and students have to wait in traffic.

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Because so many people are rushing to get their cars hoping to beat the crowd, this puts the drivers at risk. High school kids are still fairly new to driving and this makes the risk of accidents higher than ever before.
“A Special Cup” is open on Monday and Friday morning during first and second periods for faculty and students. Each drink is made by Life Skills students, Peer Tutors and staff. Teachers can email Kelly Cochren with orders for themselves and their students.

**Coffees**
- Hot Chocolate
- Mocha Steamer
- Vanilla Steamer
- Mocha Chill
- Vanilla Breeze

**Hot Drinks** - $1  
**Cold Drinks** - $1

**Smoothies** - $2
- Strawberry
- Strawberry Banana

Suicide is the second leading cause of death.

The Castle Marching Knights’ seniors stand together on the gym floor before being introduced during a morning pep assembly on Dec. 8. The assembly honed their season.

Members of the Student Council wrapped Christmas presents as a fund-raiser on Dec. 13. (Right) Senior Sydney Willerson wraps a box of tea.

Before Christmas break, many teachers decorated their doors as part of a door-decorating contest. Pictured above is science teacher Shannon Wenning’s door, which placed second in the competition. First place went to the attendance office, and third place went to math teacher Shonna Miller. Several teachers also received honorable mention.

When Navy recruiters visited on Jan. 4, they brought small basketballs and lanyards to pass out to students during lunch periods.

**Word Bank**
- veracity
- abstruse
- incorrigible
- euphony
- pedantic
- efficacious
- gravitas
- devoid
- pestiferous
- beguile
- ambivalent
- dubious
- adamant
- obligatory
- contentious
- tin-pot
- insular
- epiphany
- magnanimous

**Word of the Day**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flout</th>
<th>Trepidation</th>
<th>Choreography</th>
<th>Pernicious</th>
<th>Precocious</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algid</td>
<td>Blubber</td>
<td>Sagacious</td>
<td>Mortize</td>
<td>Eustat grandson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beseech</td>
<td>Colloquial</td>
<td>Dysania</td>
<td>Amortize</td>
<td>Assertive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Word Bank**
- abate
- precedent
- avuncular
- respite
- audacious
- egress
- ingratiate
- beseech
- colloquial
- dysania
- amortize
- assertive
- quorum
- futile
- verbose