“It’s like the academic version of the Super Bowl.”

-Jane Steinkamp, Assistant Superintendent SJCOE

*District Office and School Sites Closed – Monday, February 13, 2017*

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Check it Out!

**Give Every Child A Chance – 18th Annual Bowl-A-Thon**

Manteca Bowl & Family Fun Center

February 25, 2017

Bowling times: 8:00am, 10:15am, & 12:30am

For more information call/register: 209-823-6222

[Click here for flyer](#)

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**Lathrop High School – Valentine’s Casual Cookie Concert**

Friday, February 10, 2017

LHS Cafeteria at 6:00pm

[Click here for flyer](#)
Brock Elliott band and choir students loaded two full busses as they traveled to San Francisco, to attend the Symphony and tour the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Melissa Manalastas, music director, led the trip. Students dressed for the occasion and truly enjoyed their experience learning about the arts.

The Beginning Band performed well at their concert held at Brock Elliott. It was a first time ever opportunity for the students to perform in front of an audience. The audience was made up of family, friends and staff and under the direction of Melissa Manalastas, they performed various exercises they have learned in class.
It’s Spirit Week at French Camp!

On Monday, students wear purple in honor of all cancers. Tuesday, they wear gold/yellow for childhood cancers. Wednesday, they wear orange for leukemia cancers. Thursday, students wear gray for brain cancer, and on Friday, the eagles wear pink for breast cancer.

French Camp is participating in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Societies Pennies for Patients. Over the next two weeks, classes will be collecting pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and dollar bills. This campaign has become extra special and near to French Camp’s heart as one of their own French Camp students, Israel Estrada, is currently battling leukemia and undergoing chemotherapy. Donations raised from our campaign this year will be split between LLS and the Estrada family. Israel is one of four children being raised by a single mom, any donations would be gladly accepted.

Character Counts Award Winners for the month of January, students were recognized for Respect. Students were awarded a certificate and a pencil for their outstanding demonstration of respect. Photographed, are the award winners for Kindergarten and 1st grade.
Patriotism is Honored at Shasta

The students in two sixth grade classes at Shasta Elementary recently became published authors and illustrators. The students in Ms. Wofford’s class published a book entitled ‘Patriotism’, and the students in Mrs. Meranda’s class published ‘How to Bee a Good Citizen’. These books were dedicated to our nation’s veterans.

A significant amount of time went into the creation of these exceptional books. Students learned a great deal about the publishing process while they improved their vocabulary and writing skills.

Shasta is so thankful to have teachers who provide innovative activities that enhance the educational experiences of students.
STEMScopes engages Widmer students in NGSS and the 4 Cs

Junior High Science teacher Troy Merrill and 6th grade teacher Nicole Williams utilize STEMscopes science curriculum to actively engage students in hands on science activities and content aligned with NGSS standards.

This web-based transitional curriculum, piloted by the district at all sites and funded through LCAP, integrates science, engineering, technology and demands that students collaborate, think critically, communicate and craft creative solutions. Joseph Widmer students have enjoyed the challenges presented by STEMscopes and have shared that the curriculum has enriched their learning. The STEMscopes program addresses MUSD board goals in that it connects and engages 6 – 8th grade students and makes them future ready.
Warrior Success!

SUCCESS happens at Lathrop in many forms. From hands-on learning with worms in Ms. Gerial’s 1st grade class, to Ozobots in Mrs. Gilmore’s 3rd class. Staff development on accommodations vs. modifications led by our Special Ed team of Ron Covert, Marcia Finke and Doug Harper, and MacGyver Night at the district office complex (congratulations to Mrs. Silveira for winning the grand prize. It will be used to the fullest).

Celebration took place at Lathrop, where building snow people was the highlight of the 6-8 grade rally!
Four Sierra High FFA students competed in the Arbuckle FFA Field Day, Marketing Contest. The team placed 3rd High Team. Bridgette Walraven placed 2nd High Individual, Amber Zarevich placed 5th High Individual, and Jackie Brown placed 9th High Individual.
On January 27, 2017, Manteca High English teacher, Linda Sumrall was one of 10 teachers and administrators awarded a Promise of Innovation Grant from Teachers College of San Joaquin. The awards were presented by James Mousalimas, San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools and Diane Carnahan, TCSJ President.

The Promise of Innovation Award honors teachers for being innovative and meeting the needs of students in inventive ways. Criteria for funding awardees includes: projects that align with the mission of TCSJ, College and Career Readiness Initiatives, 21st Century Skills, Common Core Standards and/or Next Generation Science Standards.

Approximately $20,000 in grant money was awarded to 10 teachers and administrators attending TCSJ with seven awards in the amount of $2500. Mrs. Sumrall was awarded $2500 for the category of “Creative Technology Resources.” Mrs. Sumrall was the only teacher from MUSD!

On February 4th, the MHS Academic Decathlon Team again showed well at the County Competition. In the Super Quiz Relay, the Buffaloes won not once, but twice, winning the exciting team competition at both Division 1 and Division 2! The most exciting individual performance was from senior Isaias Mata, who earned six medals, including three golds and the overall first place medal for his Scholastic level. Dhillon Patel also netted an overall gold at the honors level. Other stars were Adam Collins and Praveen Jose with three medals apiece, each with one gold. Senior Lejla Pepic won twice, including the highest scoring essay in the competition, which she was asked to read to the assembled crowd. Joseph Poncini, Devin Campbell, Jackey Tang, and junior Logan Cope also netted individual medals. The team overall finished in fourth despite these individual honors. It was a great day for the Buffaloes!
Lathrop High Students Face the Real World

Submitted by Chase Hayes
Community Outreach Intern

“Mad Money City” is what organizers called this student event held at Lathrop High School on February 7th, 2017.

This simulation was put together by the Business and Home Ec. Departments to provide students with real world living and spending scenarios.

Life Management teacher Megan Armstrong said, “Students were able to use financial literacy, understand the difference between debit and credit, while practicing real life experiences.”

One instructor found this simulation fascinating as she claims, “they did not have this when we were kids.” She found this simulation to help students prepare to make good financial decisions in everyday life.

From the student’s perspective, they seemed to find the interactive simulation exciting, although difficult to balance their budgets. One girl even said, “being an adult is hard and you can’t always use money for fun things.”

As students experienced the stress of what their parents might go through, they also learned a great deal of life management skills they will use for the rest of their lives.
Making a Smooth Transition to WRHS

Submitted by: Joe Contreras
Community Outreach Intern

Students from Great Valley Elementary, George Komure Elementary, and August Knodt Elementary filled the WRHS gym for an eighth-grade visitation—for the first time ever!

The prospective Weston Ranch High School students were involved in many different activities during the afternoon on February 2nd. Including introductions of the WRHS Administrations, Campus Tours, Presentations, and an opportunity to sign up for one of WRHS’s 30 clubs. Future Farmers of America, JROTC, and be.Vital had interactive presentations.

Deborah Chavez and her Link Crew students put on the eighth-grade visitation. Their goal being to simply help eighth graders make a smooth transition to high school.

Link Crew Leader, Senior Jeanette Le, explained that not only do eighth graders benefit from the event, but she also did. She benefits from the opportunity to help expose students to what high school is like and what extracurricular activities it has. Le explained how she lacked this kind of introduction going into high school.

Le mentioned, “I want to help them (eighth graders) so that they have more knowledge of what high school has to offer.”

Senior Alan Hernandez explained that students also get to experience how different high school is, compared to elementary school. He also mentions that the students are introduced to a few clubs, a brand new campus, and a completely new vibe.

Hernandez added, “visiting makes the transition easier.”

Senior Christian Carino stated that his favorite part of the eighth-grade visitation was seeing all the eighth grade students preparing themselves for their high school experience.
East Union Soccer Star Signs with Stanislaus

Submitted by: Jessica Pablo
Community Outreach Intern

Since the beginning of freshman year, Jenna Zuniga has had her mind set on finding the perfect college to sign with. On Tuesday afternoon, she made it official.

It took a few years for Zuniga to figure out where her next home would be; in fact she didn’t have it all planned out until this past winter break. She visited California State University Stanislaus in December, to tour the campus and meet with head coach, Gabe Bolton. With very little hesitation, the star athlete committed four days later.

"It’s been a long journey trying to find the right college. The moment I signed was as if a huge weight was lifted off my shoulders and I couldn't be happier with my decision!” exclaimed Zuniga.

Zuniga has been playing soccer since she was four and began to play competitive soccer when she was just nine years old. "I followed in my brother’s footsteps," she explained "and I just truly enjoyed the game." The dream and passion of playing at the collegiate level drove her to success and kept her motivated during practices and training.

When asked what she enjoyed most about playing, she stated, "The competitiveness! Something about competition makes me want to strive to be better than I was the day before."

Jenna is not only an all-star soccer player, but also plays tennis and basketball at the varsity levels. She plans to join the track and field team this spring. Recently, her schoolmates recognized her as Most Athletic of her senior class for yearbook's senior superlatives.

Her biggest motivators and supporters through it all have been her grandparents and parents. "My grandpa Ralph has always been my number one fan", smiled Zuniga. She would also like to give a special thanks to all her friends, family, and few East Union staff members for making high school an enjoyable ride and awesome learning environment.

"I was honored to attend this gal’s college signing. I have watched her grow from a freshman to a well-rounded confident senior," said East Union Leadership teacher, and Activities Director, Jenaia Cano.

Jenna will attend CSU Stanislaus in fall of 2017 alongside current schoolmate Llena Rivera, and will begin practicing in August to prepare for her first year of soccer at the collegiate level. GO WARRIORS!
On January 6th, Lathrop High’s Leadership class took a trip to the California State Capitol to learn how our state’s legislature works together to make the state of California function.

The students met Emilio Perez, a graduate from the very first graduating class of Lathrop High. Perez is currently in a fellowship program at the State Capitol where he is responsible for walking bills through the process of becoming laws.

Perez said that the main reason he invited the class was because he never had a role model to look up to in high school. He wanted to share his experience, providing an example that someday they too could work in the State’s Capitol.

Students were also given the opportunity to meet and speak to the 12th Assembly District Assemblyman, Heath Flora. Mr. Flora shared his own story of how he began his political interest and expressed that whichever college or school you may attend, does not determine your future.

LHS senior Farhat Khairadah, who shows great interest in working in politics, said, “It was interesting to see the correlation between my own ASB class’ procedures and the State Assembly.”

The class was walked on a historical tour throughout the capitol. The field trip was intended to expose real world experience to the Student Council of Lathrop High.
Manteca Unified Schools Get 1st in the Academic Decathlon

Submitted by: Carly Cunial
Community Outreach Intern

Manteca High School and Lathrop High School’s Academic Decathlon teams both competed in the final leg of the academic competition this past weekend.

The Academic Decathlon is a scholastic competition of 10 tests; art history, an interview, science, language and literature, music, math, social science, an essay, a speech and economics.

The schools’ teams are made up of nine students, three compete at the Varsity level, three at the Scholastic level and three at the Honors level. All nine scores are compiled to create the overall team score, while the decathletes also are competing for individual scores as well.

“It’s like the academic version of the Super Bowl,” said Jane Steinkamp, Assistant Superintendent for Education Service.

For months the decathletes practice with their teams and coaches in either a class or an afterschool club. They participate in a scrimmage in December before competing in the actual event in February.

The competition is split into two weekends. The first weekend, the teams complete their essay, speech and interview and the County Office of Education. Then the second weekend, they complete the seven other tests and the live Super Quiz at Lathrop High School.

During the Super Quiz, each set of three teammates go on the gym floor, are asked a set of 12 questions each, totaling 36. They have 10 seconds to confer with their teammates and answer the questions while spectators are cheering for them from the bleachers.

“These are students who want to be on a team, want to belong to something, want to feel connected to their school and learn and grow,” said Annie Cunial, coordinator of student events. “We know there are many benefits along the way when you’re on a team, not just the medals and awards in the end. Those are fun and exciting, but most of the 350 students who are here have a good time, learn something and become friends with somebody they wouldn’t normally have met.”
Both Manteca HS and Lathrop HS tied for 1st place in the Super Quiz.

From Manteca HS, Lejla Pepic had the highest scoring essay and Isaias Mata was the highest scoring overall student in the Scholastic category which earned him a $500 scholarship. Manteca High School earned 17 individual medals in the test areas.

From Lathrop HS, Carlos Serrano came in 2nd place overall in the Varsity category which earns his a $100 scholarship. Justin Barber won a $5,000 renewable scholarship from the University of the Pacific. Lathrop High School earned 12 individual medals in the test areas.

“It’s been great to meet different people and compete against people from different schools,” exclaimed decathlete, Zaid Mamsa.

Tracy High School ended the competition with the highest overall score, getting first place and advancing to the state competition in March.
Weston Ranch's *The Prowl* holds First Major Interview

Submitted by: Joe Contreras  
Community Outreach

The Journalism team at WRHS walked up the tall staircase at the City Hall in Stockton for a very rare interview with the newest Mayor of Stockton.

Juniors Manuel Carlos, Joe Walkins, and Paul Comauex sat in city hall awaiting their scheduled appointment to interview Michael Tubb, Stockton's first African American Mayor and one of the youngest Mayors in the nation. Alongside them was Journalism Teacher Michael Wamble and Principal Francine Baird.

The preparation for the interview began long before the interview appointment was confirmed. With confidence in this opportunity and their journalism training, they began to brainstorm questions to ask the Mayor.

Carlos mentioned, "he (Wamble) wanted us to be ready like we were going to interview him."

The atmosphere in the room during the interview felt very relaxed. Although the interview was formal, it had a casual feel.

Mayor Tubbs answered all of their questions in great detail. He also spoke about his childhood and growing up in Stockton.

Walkins explained how relatable his story was, a story that "many kids could relate to."

For the first time in two years, *The Prowl*—WRHS school newspaper—makes a return in a new digital-only form embracing the Manteca Unified School District going digital campaign. The first digital edition, including the article about this interview is released February 10th. *The Prowl* will be released bi-weekly with articles made by the students for the students.
In Other News...

Manteca High Plans ‘Black Out’ in Battle for Healthy Hearts

Vince Rembulat
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February 4, 2017

Winter Gym is scheduled for a black out on Wednesday, Feb. 15.

And it’s for a good cause.

The annual “Hoops for Heart Black Out Game” will be held that evening at the Home of the Buffaloes.

In this Valley Oak League season finale, Manteca High will take on visiting Oakdale.

The varsity game will tip off at 7 o’clock.

Both teams and their fans will come together as one in bringing attention to the issue of heart disease, the nation’s No. 1 killer.

The goal is to raise $2,000 for the American Heart Association in its efforts to fight heart disease and stroke.

Students, players, cheerleaders, and fans will all wear black for the game. The MHS Link Crew will be selling “Black Out” t-shirts for $10.

A collection will be taken for the American Heart Association, with information being provided on heart disease prevention along with the warning signs to those in attendance.

This is the third such event hosted by the Buffaloes.

Heart disease and strokes are the leading cause of death in the area, claiming more than 831,000 lives across the nation every year, according to the American Heart Association.

The mission is to build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

The American Cancer Society has a goal of improving the health of all Americans by 20 percent while reducing deaths from cardiovascular diseases by 20 percent in the next three years. More information is available at www.heart.org.

To learn more about the Black Out game, call Manteca High at 209.858.7340.

http://www.mantecabulletin.com/section/1/article/141442/
In Other News...

STANFORD BOUND

Manteca High’s Lejla Pepic

Manteca High senior Lejla Pepic was joined by her parents as well as school administrators after recently being accepted to Stanford University. Standing next to her are her parents E.J. and Sanela Pe

GLENN KAHL / The Bulletin

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February 7, 2017

Lejla Pepic is going to Stanford University.

For the Manteca High senior, this, no doubt, is a dream come true.

“It’s really unbelievable,” said Pepic, who is the daughter of Sanela and EJ Pepic.

If her last name sounds familiar, her two brothers, Marhir and Edvin, were also top-achieving students at MHS.

Marhir Pepic was valedictorian for the Class of 20015 while Edvin Pepic was salutatorian for the Class of 2016.

Both are currently at UCLA.

Lejla did consider becoming a Bruin. But in December, she was accepted – via early action – to Stanford.

The great news may have come as a surprise for Lejla but not so for her brothers.

“Mahir and Edvin had both said that Lejla will be the one in the family to go to Stanford,” recalled Pepic’s counselor at MHS Martha Dias, who was also the counselor for both siblings.
In Other News...

Lejla Pepic is the first person from the school to be accepted to the prestigious university since Adam Knepp in 2000, Dias recalled.

Besides academics, Lejla Pepic has proven to be an all-around athlete. She ran cross country and played basketball, soccer and tennis for the Buffaloes in recent years.

She opted to step back from athletics this year to focus on her work as the Give Every Child a Chance site coordinator at Walter Woodward Elementary School.

Prior to that, Pepic was a volunteer tutor for GECAC since she was in fifth grade.

“She wanted to work to help her parents out,” said Dias, noting that they’re already supporting her and her brothers. “This says a lot about her, as a person.”

Pepic was also involved in the MHS Academic Decathlon squad. During this past weekend’s district-wide event at Lathrop, she did an essay on World War II as her contribution to the team.

Dias, meanwhile, noted that Pepic should be getting word on scholarships to help her way through Stanford. “They’ll come trickling in,” she said.

With college right around the corner, Pepic is planning to study Neuroscience, with dreams of becoming a neurologist.

“It’s been a lot of hard work (towards getting accepted to Stanford. But I couldn’t have done it without the support of friends and family” she said.

Pepic, in addition, acknowledge the teachers and staff at MHS.

“We’re all proud of Lejla,” Principal Frank Gonzales said.

http://www.mantecabulletin.com/section/1/article/141482/
Talking About MHS’ future

Community gives input on what they’d like to see done

Alumni and parents talk about topics ranging from rebuilding the tower to creating a safer campus for students.

JASON CAMPBELL/ The Bulletin

Jason Campbell
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February 8, 2017

In one scenario, Manteca High School would be two stories with a rebuilt tower, regulation athletic facilities, a cafeteria capable of serving as a rain shelter and better overall security for students.

And it would all sit on one campus – not separated by Garfield Avenue like it is today.

Whether those dreams can be realized on a budget of just over $32 million in modernization funds approved by voters, however, remains to be seen.

On Tuesday a coalition of students, staff, parents and alumni and the greater business community brainstormed their ideas on what they would like to see included in Manteca Unified’s overall plan to renovate and modernize the district’s oldest high school – regarded by many to be the “flagship” campus of a district that serves 25,000 students.

And that flagship is showing signs of its age and size nearly a century of serving the community that bears its name. Nearly at capacity – with 1,589 of 1,737 current spaces filled – the aging campus, which will be called on to serve an even larger body of students if current growth projections hold true, is plagued by facilities that were never designed to accommodate the number of students that call the campus home today. The school’s large gymnasium, for example, can only house one-third of the student body at any given time, and the school’s cafeteria is too small to hold the number of students on rainy days who are trying to find shelter.
In Other News...

While help is on the way in the form of $32 million made possible by the $159 million Measure G modernization bond that was approved by voters, where to spend that money is the issue that is facing the district as it reaches out to those who have a stake in the school’s future configuration.

“I think that the district administration and the school board had a lot of foresight in asking for input from all of the various groups in the community on this,” said retired Manteca High School Principal Steve Winter. “I think that this effort shows a commitment by the district to make Manteca High School the best place possible.”

Winter, who facilitated a group of parents and concerned alumni, helped brainstorm a flurry of ideas that were given during a series of exercises aimed at narrowing the focus of district administrators who will ultimately make a proposal to the school board that will forever change the campus’ future. In the eyes of the parents and alumni, the three things that the school doesn’t currently have but needs are regulation facilities – the pool, the basketball court, the softball diamond and the tennis courts, according to the group, are not regulation size – as well as better campus security and the rebuilding of the tower in front of the school.

And there was overlap in some of the groups who shared their ideas. Students who attended the meeting agreed with the parents and alumni that a larger gym and a pool was a priority – their top pick – but also called for a larger cafeteria so that everybody can be inside when it’s raining, and more convenient parking.

The parking issue was also addressed by the faculty when coming up with a list of what the campus would need if it were to serve upwards of 2,500 students, as predicted – calling for the construction of a parking structure that can accommodate the increase in the number of students and staff required to serve them.

Another item that was discussed was the need for multiple-story classroom buildings that would be required to serve the 2,500 students that could become reality in the future. While that would make Manteca High School the largest school in the district, it would present an interesting conundrum because the footprint of the campus is the smallest of the five high schools in Manteca Unified and the campus itself is landlocked with little to no possible growth opportunity.

The brainstorming session will continue inside of the cafeteria on Thursday at 7 p.m. to allow for more input from the community that was unable to attend Tuesday’s meeting.

While the $32 million set aside for Manteca High School renovations and modernization – which could take up to four years to complete because of the school’s place in line behind other schools requiring more urgent safety upgrades – wouldn’t come close to building the sort of long-range upgrades that were brainstormed, the district is hoping to gather input from the community on long-term funding solutions through growth fees that could generate the funding necessary.

To contact reporter Jason Campbell email jcampbell@mantecabulletin.com or call 209.249.3544.

http://www.mantecabulletin.com/section/1/article/141524/
In Other News...

MANAGING MONEY

Golden One provides teens money lessons

From left, Ashley John and Amrit Rai from the Lathrop High Life Management class display positive fund balances on the check books used from Tuesday’s Mad City Money event held in the school cafeteria

VINCE REMBULAT / The Bulletin

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February 8, 2017
Students in Lathrop High’s Life Management class got a dose of real life experience at the Mad City Money event Tuesday.

Never mind that the checking account, debit card, family situation, and occupation they were given was just pretend.

“The money sure goes by fast,” said sophomore Ashley John, who was assigned the job of an office supervisor with husband and children.

She also had to work with a $6,000 income, balancing house payments and furnishings along with food, child care, and other expenses.

And then there was the ‘Fickle Finger of Fate,’ which was a wild card thrown to some students for unplanned expenses.

John received two such bills, including one for a $150 a barbecue grill.

Mad City Money was held in the school cafeteria.

This fun and educational exercise consisted of nearly 65 students from the Life Management class visiting 10 stations while having to balance their accounts.

Those 10 stations – volunteers included community and LHS staff members – represented Mad City Money shop owners, which included:
In Other News...

Really Realty & Utilities – Housing (students had to see if they could buy or rent a home).

Big Wheels New & Used – Transportation (they had to figure out if they could afford to purchase a new or used vehicle).

Gotta Eat – Groceries (high end shopping consisted of steaks and pork chops while macaroni & cheese represented low-end spending) and Dining (fast food vs. fine dining at a restaurant).

Fun Stuff – Entertainment.

Home Stuff – Furniture and decoration.

Kid Care – Formula, diapers, child care and more.

Mad City Mall – Wants and extras (flat screen televisions, game stations, etc.).

My Closet – Clothing and personal care items.

Credit Union – Banking services.

Fickle Finger of Fate – Unplanned expenses and windfall checks.

Instructors Erlinda Selga and Megan Armstrong noted that the exercise taught life lessons – students, for example, actually had to learn how to write out a check and register their balance.

“They could take out a loan or use their debit card,” Armstrong said.

Representatives from Golden One Credit Union were actually on hand to help out.

A few students finished the 90-minute exercise with a deficit on their account.

Many such as John and Amrit Rai had positive fund balances.

Rai was also given job as office supervisor along with a family. She had enough to buy into a $400,000 home and a luxury car.

Rai and John, who didn’t buy a car, both finished with over $1,000 in their accounts.

Lisa Vang of Golden One Credit Union noted that any leftover money should be put into a savings account.

She heard from students their take on this exercise after figuring out all of their expenses.

“I heard ‘it’s complicated,’ ‘it’s stressful,’ ‘this gives me a headache,’ and ‘it’s realistic,’” Vang said.

Many came away appreciating the hard-working efforts of their parents.

To contact reporter Vince Rembulat, e-mail vrembulat@mantecabulletin.com.

http://www.mantecabulletin.com/section/1/article/141523/
In Other News...

East Union Basketball Homecoming
In Other News...

TOP PHOTO: Vonika Pok, center, is crowned as the 2017 East Union High Homecoming Queen at the halftime of Friday's basketball game at Dalben Center.

MIDDLE PHOTO: East Union's "Sixth Man" students cheer section was out in full force for the game against cross-town rival Sierra High.

ABOVE PHOTO: Grant Silva sings along with the National anthem before the start of the game.

BOTTOM PHOTO: Kelley Souler, center, is crowned the 2017 Homecoming Princess for East Union High.

HIME ROMERO/ The Bulletin
Manteca Unified School District conducted a job fair Saturday looking to hire more than 100 teachers for the next school year plus 200 classified employees for vacancies that are now available. TOP LEFT PHOTO: Elena Gallegos checks in job seekers. TOP RIGHT PHOTO: Sierra High Vice Principal Anne Marie, right, listens to job seekers in the 30-second speed round interviews. BOTTOM LEFT PHOTO: Lincoln School Principal Steve Anderson, left, interviews a teaching candidate. BOTTOM RIGHT PHOTO: Jamie Gonzales, right, speaks with job seekers in the presentation room.
In Other News…

Manteca Rotary Super Bowl Omelet Breakfast

TOP LEFT PHOTO: Pat Withrow, left, helps put with pancakes while San Joaquin County Supervisor Tom Patti, right, gets a kiss from his daughter Presley. TOP RIGHT PHOTO: Nathan Halford, right, was among the Manteca Interact volunteers helping with the breakfast. BOTTOM LEFT PHOTO: Manteca Interact Club Advisor Tevani Liordan, left, goes over breakfast orders with club members. BOTTOM MIDDLE PHOTO: Weston Ranch High student school board representative Joe Contreas, center, helps announce raffle tickets. BOTTOM RIGHT PHOTO: Manteca High soccer player Kaley Miller and the rest of the team help serve juice.
In Other News…

Panther Pride Recipients

Photo contributed

Nile Garden School recognized students for academic and citizenship achievement for January. The recipients of the Panther Pride award in the seventh and eighth grades were, back row from left, Lorenae Auksh, Sonny Elder, and Jaden Medrano. Middle row: Braden Nussbaum, Madison DiPietro, Alyssa Telcheira, and Austin Irwin. Front row: Jacob DeRuiter, Robin Sandhu, and Haley Hunter.

Photo contributed

Nile Garden School recognized students for academic and citizenship achievement for January. The recipients of the Panther Pride award in the fourth through sixth grades were, back row from left, Dulce Campestino, Noah Dominguez, Parnneet Singh, Leilani Kriz-mendi, Angel Guerrero, and Kimberly Vega. Middle row: Dylla Elder, Austin Hume, Kailie Shirley, Abraham Rodriguez, Martha Reynoso, Karla Diaz, and Michelle Cervantes. Front row: Duyan Do, Giovanni Napolas, Nathaniel Madrigal, Haley Sears, Mariele Dow, Naima Salcedo, Reinal Sepulveda, Lizzzy Bravo. Not pictured is Alaina Snyder.

Photo contributed

Nile Garden School recognized students for academic and citizenship achievement for January. The recipients of the Panther Pride award in the first through third grades were, back row from left, Jayden Cross, Olivia Bell, Sean Elder, Braydon Avalos, Angelina Zavala, Dale Gray, Mattie Cardozo, Jolie Montes, Alido Coafredo-Martinez, and Elijah Munoz. Middle row: Hugo Mendez, Victoria Saeed, Josleen Long, Isaiah Borjas, Seth Shaffer, Bryson Carreazo, Emily Tuula, Isabella Gutierrez, Isabella Marin, Tiskan Galaes, and Bryce Tetzla. Front row: Isaiel Ricalde, Isaac Aceves, Dana Sanchez, Harris Dhillon, Silas Young, Youcef Rahman, Isail Navarro, Lesley Navarro, Afnah Hassan, and Ricardo Victor-Velasquez.
In Other News...

Youth of the Year

Watson vying for Boys & Girls Youth of Year

Kiana Watson is among the finalists for the 2017 Manteca-Lathrop Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year Award.

The awards dinner takes place Wednesday, Feb. 8, at Chez Shari at the Manteca Golf Course Clubhouse, 305 N. Union Road, Manteca from 6 to 8 p.m. The cost is $15 per person. For ticket information call the Boys & Girls Club at 249.7324.

Watson is plugged into community service in addition to being hardworking and dedicated to whatever endeavor she tackles.

She is in Advance Placement classes for both Psychology and English.

Watson is an active member of the Boys & Girls’ Keystone Club — an in-house service organization. As a Keystone member she has helped on service projects both at the club and in the community. She also helped run games for the Day for Kids event. She earned the club’s recycling awards for her commitment to make sure everything that can be recycled at the club is recycled.

Watson has played basketball and competed in track for three years. She is also a mentor in the club’s effort to get kids to take a pledge and keep it when it comes to saying no to drugs and alcohol.

She wants to show other youth that hard work pays off and inspire them to succeed. Watson also likes stressing the positive advantages teens can enjoy by attending the Boys & Girls Club.

Nascimiento vying for Youth of Year

Eric Nascimiento is among the finalists for the 2017 Manteca-Lathrop Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year Award.

The awards dinner takes place Wednesday, Feb. 8, at Chez Shari at the Manteca Golf Course Clubhouse, 305 N. Union Road, Manteca from 6 to 8 p.m. The cost is $15 per person. For ticket information call the Boys & Girls Club at 249.7324.

“I come to the club every day and do my homework,” Nascimiento noted before he helps club staff with various endeavors.

For the last two years he’s worked as a volunteer with the club’s basketball and football programs.

Nascimiento played on his school’s Valley Oak League championship football team while maintaining a 3.5 grade point average. He also has earned first place in go-kart race competition.

Nascimiento noted he’s not only committed to volunteer at the Boys & Girls Club but he’s also committed to his fitness regime to stay healthy and in condition as well as being committed not to use drugs as they are bad for you and illegal.
In Other News...

Franklin vying for Youth of Year

Jaildalem Franklin is among the finalists for the 2017 Manteca-Lathrop Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year Award.

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The cost is $15 per person. For ticket information call the Boys & Girls Club at 249.7324.

Franklin is lauded for serving as a leader at the club besides being hard working and volunteering to help with projects every chance she gets.

She is a Sierra High Lobo Silver student thanks to her 3.5 grade point average. Franklin excels in Advanced Biology and has received the Black Excellence Award.

Franklin’s community projects have included Kids in the Box to help benefit HOPE Family Shelters, the Day for Kids event conducted at the Boys & Girls Club as well as cleaning up after special events.

She is involved in a lot of sports.

Franklin emphasizes that she stays away from people who do drugs and drink alcohol. She also refuses to give into peer pressure.

Franklin likes to stress people being positive, looks for the uniqueness in everyone, stresses equality, and believes anything is possible.

Gutierrez vying for Boys & Girls Youth of Year

Jocelyn Gutierrez is among the finalists for the 2017 Manteca-Lathrop Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year Award.

The awards dinner takes place tonight at Chez Shari at the Manteca Golf Course Clubhouse, 305 N. Union Road, Manteca from 6 to 8 p.m.

Gutierrez was a Character Counts recipient for Fall 2016 at Sierra High. She has earned the National California FFA Double Certificate for first year leadership and the Greenhand Degree for students with good grades. She also earned the Principal Award for Honor Roll and Certificate of Excellence at Sten Brockenham School.

She has participated in the Junior Police Academy and is a member of the JROTC. She also volunteers at Doctors Hospital of Manteca and is part of the Keystone service organization at the Boys & Girls Club.

Gutierrez participates in both swimming and tennis. She is involved in various high school clubs including Club Mecha and has helped stage Red Ribbon Week activities to encourage peers to stay away from drugs and alcohol.

Gutierrez strives to be a good example of volunteer service, leadership, education excellence and healthy living.

Her goal is to fulfill her dream of studying at a university.