**Concerts**

 “Come a little closer!” shouted Matthew Shultz, lead singer of Cage the Elephant, as he dived into the crowd at the Buzz Beachball concert. Fans enthusiastically held up the singer as he crowd-surfed during the band’s hit songs. The concert was hosted by local radio station 96.5 The Buzz, a popular site for alternative music. Apart from Buzz Beachball, the station also sponsored the sold-out “The Night the Buzz Stole Christmas” concert.

   Sophomore Steffen Seamon, a big alternative fan, was excited to attend the show.

   “I listened to all the bands’ albums the whole day up to that point to get ready for the concert,” Seamon said.

   The concert included performances from the Arctic Monkeys, Bastille, NONONO and The Head and the Heart.

   “I went for all the bands, and it was an amazing concert. Alex Turner from Arctic Monkeys was so cool and Bastille had one of the best voices I’ve ever heard. It was an amazing concert overall,” Seamon said.

   Apart from the Midland, other theaters like the Sprint Center showcased famous artists. Junior Emma Walker saw Taylor Swift’s concert at the Sprint Center with her family Aug. 3.

   “My family rented out a hotel room, and we stayed at the hotel that the band was at,” Walker said. “My sisters and I got ready together and it was lots of fun. We saw their tour buses outside, and it was so exciting knowing that she was there.”

   Swift’s sold out RED concert included a performance by British singer/songwriter Ed Sheeran in front of the 19,000-person crowd.

   “She had Ed Sheeran perform. That was really cool, but my favorite part was when she went over the crowd on the moving platform that took her over right above us,” Walker said.

   The Sprint Center also hosted many other performances, including Kanye West’s YEEZUS concert. Junior Savannah Smith, a big fan of West, attended his concert Dec. 3 with fellow Pacesetters junior Gillian O’Brien and senior Rachel Rosenstock.

   “The concert was so much fun - my favorite part was when this big mountain that they had as part of their set opened up and Kanye and all his dancers came out on the stage,” Smith said.

   Smith enjoyed the entire concert, but found the stage sets particularly incredible.

   “It was really cool and very visual. I was really blown away by how amazing all the sets were. It wasn’t just a concert - it was an amazing visual experience to go to,” Smith said.

   Whether it was a mix of bands or a single singer on stage, students all found the thrilling atmosphere to be a night to remember.

**SIDEBAR MINI-STORY**

   Many fantasized of the day they finally got to meet their music idols, but few ever had the chance to make that dream become a reality. For senior Hayleigh Chudik, that fantasy came true at the Hunter Hayes concert.

   “We went to the Midland at 11 a.m. and camped there all day until the doors opened in the 19 degree weather,” Chudik said.

   Chudik attended the concert with seniors Kelley O’Connor, Jenna Foiles and Olivia Feathers. The girls went to the concert without buying the meet and greet tickets, but purchased them after discovering they were only $40.

   “The meet and greet actually a lot more affordable than we thought it’d be,” Chudik said. “We hadn’t planned on meeting him, and that made it even more exciting.”

   After the concert, Chudik and her friends eagerly awaited in line to meet Hayes.

   “We got to take a picture with him, he got to sign stuff for us, and it was just really really exciting,” Chudik said. “He was so amazing live, and just sitting out there, knowing that we were going to see him, it was just the greatest experience ever.”