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Page Editor: Patrick Seroogy

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Photo courtesy of Suzanne Plunkett

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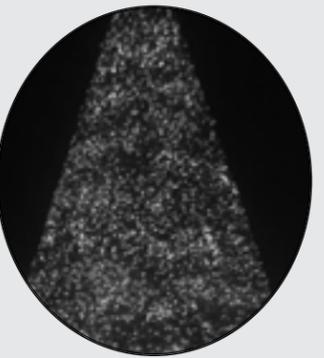


Photo by Kendall Ewert

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Photo courtesy of Grand Sands

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Auditioning for *America's Got Talent*

Two students try out for NBC reality television talent show in Cincinnati

By Sam Greenberg

@samhgreenberg | Staff Writer

On November 14, NBC's hit show *America's Got Talent* (AGT) held auditions in Cincinnati for their thirteenth season. Thousands of contestants lined the streets waiting for a chance to showcase their talents in front of AGT producers. An impressive performance could lead to an audition in front of the show's panel of celebrity judges.

Among the swarm of contestants was **Adam Paddock (12)**. Paddock, a singer, hoped to wow producers with his rendition of Frank Sinatra's "Fly Me To The Moon."

Auditioning separately from Paddock was his friend and classmate **Alex Scharfenberger (12)**. Scharfenberger, also a singer, played guitar and sang Ed Sheeran's "I See Fire."

According to Paddock, Simply standing in front of producers required a great deal of patience. "We had to wait nine hours to actually audition: two hours in the registration line, five hours in the main waiting room, an hour in the holding room, and then 45 minutes in the actual audition room," Paddock said. "Once we got in the auditioning room, the producer asked us to say our name, age, occupation, and talent."

Paddock said he was a bit nervous, but remained calm because he knew he did

not have anything to lose. "I just put it all out there in hopes of an awesome outcome," he said. According to Paddock, only 10 out of the 2500 people at the Cincinnati audition would be chosen by producers. Knowing that the odds were stacked against him, he focused on making the best out of his opportunity.

"When I am singing, I try to emulate Frank Sinatra and Michael Buble," Paddock said. "I really appreciate the soul and joy they put behind their voices." Along with Sinatra and Buble, Paddock enjoys listening to music by For King and Country, Lecrae, and Twenty One Pilots.

Paddock's sister **Bella Paddock (11)**, step-father, and girlfriend **Nina Ricci (10)** came to support him at his audition at the Duke Energy Convention Center.

Aside from singing on his own, Paddock is a part of Loveland "By Request." He also participates in sports, playing for both the men's varsity soccer and baseball teams. Paddock is a member of National Honor Society and is active in Northstar Church Student Ministries.

Should the AGT producers deem Paddock or Scharfenberger fit for a TV audition in front of the celebrity judges, they will receive a call-back in January. In the coming weeks, be on the lookout for updates regarding the status of Paddock and Scharfenberger's AGT journey.



Photo by Adam Paddock

Seniors **Alex Scharfenberger** (left) and **Adam Paddock** (right) wait with their numbers to audition for AGT. Their auditions took place at the Duke Energy Convention Center.

Amazon to construct second HQ in North America



Photo courtesy of Amazon

By Claire Wallace

@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

Amazon is a powerhouse when it comes to online sales. According to the technology news website Recode, this year alone the company is expected to have almost half of all online sales. Starting out as a virtual bookseller, Amazon has built itself into an e-commerce giant. The company, based in Seattle, rang up \$136 billion in revenue in 2016, according to the *Seattle Times*, and has crumpled many online and brick-and-mortar stores in the process. Due to this growth, Amazon says it is seeking to spend \$5 billion on a second headquarters somewhere in North America. The new establishment is expected to bring 50,000 jobs to the city that is chosen.

It has been a tough competition for the HQ2 (Headquarters 2) project, different cities across North America have submitted applications to be considered as the home for Amazon's HQ2. According to Amazon,

the deadline for submissions was October 19. The front runners for the headquarters are rumored to be: Charlotte or Raleigh, North Carolina; Atlanta, Georgia; and Washington, D.C. According to Amazon, 238 proposals were received from 54 states, provinces, and territories across the continent. The company is evaluating the proposals based on a number of factors, including access to transportation, business environment, labor force, and tax incentives.

Cincinnati developed a proposal and submitted it to Amazon for consideration. Mayor John Cranley believes that the greater Cincinnati area is definitely on Amazon's radar. With a distribution hub located in Hebron, Ky, Amazon already has a strong presence in the Cincinnati area.

According to WLWT, Cranley believes that Cincinnati offers a strong proposal that fits all of the criteria that Amazon is looking for. Cincinnati is already home to nine Fortune 500 companies, including P&G, Kroger, and Macy's. This ensures that Amazon would have a qualified labor force and access to amenities that appeal to other big businesses.

A site selector hired by Amazon, John Boyd, said to The News & Observer, "I expect [North Carolina sites] to be looked at very closely" because "of the state's positive business climate (i.e. low taxes and new incentives), its premier labor market, and access to world-renown colleges and universities... and because Amazon is already a sizable employer in the Tar Heel State, with a solid working relationship with the state's economic development leaders."

Amazon employs people across the state in Raleigh, Charlotte, and Concord.

Cities in other states, such as Arkansas, have turned in applications with the stated reason that they do not want to be considered for HQ2. The city of Little Rock, Arkansas, created a campaign called "Love, Little Rock," which, according to the campaign's website, lovelittlerock.com, created a video to send to Amazon that highlighted the many reasons it is against the company building there.

One of the reasons listed is the presence the retail and grocery store giant Walmart, which has its home in Arkansas. Another is that the city's traffic - which is considerably low - might gridlock during the building process.

Some students at Loveland like the prospect of Amazon's new headquarters being built in Cincinnati. "Cincinnati is an up-and-coming city," **Monroe Kimmel (11)** said, "so it would be a great opportunity for Amazon because we have many skilled people in our community to assist Amazon in becoming even more innovative."

Others, in contrast, consider the possibility of construction in Cincinnati to be lower than in other locations. **Emily Zirkelbach (10)** said she thinks "a city such as Charlotte" would be a more likely candidate "because of the metro area and advances that have been made in the city (international airport, low living costs)."

Amazon's decision date has not yet been announced. Its choice will have a noticeable impact on whichever city it chooses, creating opportunities for business and growth.

Another royal wedding to take place



Photo Courtesy of Suzanne Plunkett

British Prince Harry proposes to American actor Meghan Markle. The engagement was announced on Monday, November 27; the newest royal couple plans to marry in May of 2018;



Photo Courtesy of Genevieve

By Kayla Gibbins

@lovelandroar | Staff writer

On Monday, November 27, the British royal family announced via Twitter that Prince Harry is engaged to marry his girlfriend of 18 months, Meghan Markle - an American actress known for her role in the TV drama *Suits*. The wedding will take place in May of 2018 at Windsor Castle's St. George's Chapel, according to the couple's wedding spokesperson. More wedding details are being released following the news. In the meantime, the couple will continue to live in the Nottingham cottage at Kensington Palace.

The tweet announcing the engagement was released by the Clarence House account, which is the residence of Prince Charles, meaning the announcement was made on the behalf of Harry's father. The couple has received support from

numerous public figures, including the Prime Minister and the Queen.

According to the couple, the proposal took place earlier this month at the Nottingham cottage during a "typical night in" while they were roasting a chicken.

"[The proposal was] just an amazing surprise, it was so sweet and natural and very romantic," Markle said, according to *The Telegraph*. "He got on one knee... I could barely let [him] finish proposing. I said, 'can I say yes now?'" *The Telegraph* reports that Prince Harry has designed the engagement ring himself, using a stone sourced in Botswana, where the couple went camping in the first weeks of their relationship. He also included two smaller stones from the jewelry collection of his mother, Princess Diana, "to make sure that she's with us on this crazy journey together," Prince Harry said in a television interview.

There has been some controversy surrounding the engagement. Not only is Markle American, she is also divorced. Due to recent movements in British lawmaking, strict standards on divorce in the royal family have been relaxed.

There is also controversy surrounding her family. Her father is Thomas Markle, an award-winning TV lighting designer, and her mother is Doria Ragland, a yoga instructor who is from Los Angeles. Her mother is also African-American, making Markle the first biracial member of the royal family in modern times. Early in their relationship Prince Harry reportedly reprimanded the British press for including racial undertones in reporting their relationship. The pair has been praised as a "modern royal couple" by the Prime Minister.

After the release of the engagement, a number of British people took to Twitter to

inquire as to whether or not the wedding day would be a bank holiday. The Prime Minister, Theresa May, was quick to dispel the idea that there would be a wedding bank holiday to "cheer people up" as she left for a trip to the Middle East, according to *Sky News*.

"You talk about cheering people up. I think seeing two young people in love (does that)," May said in response to the demands for a holiday.

According to the wedding spokesperson, the couple has said they would like the public to be involved with the wedding in some way, though they have not yet made it known how. It is unknown if the ceremony will be televised (as the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton was in 2011). More details about the event will surface in the coming months, so until then the engagement photos of the couple posing together will have to tide over the public.

Board of Education honors civil rights leader

By Loveland Schools

@lovelandroar | Staff writer

The Loveland Board of Education with Interim Superintendent Dr. Amy Crouse honored lifelong civil rights leader and Loveland Class of 1948 graduate Reverend A.J. Hamilton with the Superintendent's Award at the November 28 Board Business Meeting. The award was given in response to Rev. Hamilton's community forum "Love Always Finds a Way" which served to bring community leaders together to discuss building empathy through conversation around diversity. Rev. Hamilton could not be in attendance for the presentation, so his nephew, Larry Hamilton - also a Loveland graduate, received the award on Rev. Hamilton's behalf.

"Rev. Hamilton is a teacher at heart, and during his community forum - I was his student," Crouse said. "The lessons I learned from him started me on a path to bring the essence of his mission - building empathy - to the forefront of our district

work for our students through our Tiger Care goal."

Crouse has worked alongside Loveland High School (LHS) student-leaders in the "My Voice, My Choice" district-wide anti-bullying program to help develop a student-designed story sharing initiative. The program, which will allow students to record video messages to a younger version of themselves, will be funded through a \$5,000 donation from Mosaic Church. During the November 28 Business Meeting LHS student-leader Sawyer Jones presented the team's plan to the Board of Education.

"We plan to launch the program with two videos," Jones explained. "The first video will be titled Dear High School Me and will consist of Loveland High School alumni spreading messages through short video clips to current high school students. The messages will be motivational and include advice and personal stories. The next video will consist of the same content, but it will be called Dear Middle School

Me. Instead of Loveland alumni, the current senior class will participate in the video and will spread their knowledge to their younger peers."

Additionally students plan to bring speakers promoting bullying awareness to the district and organize activities for students that will promote unity.

"We wanted Rev. Hamilton to know that his work will continue beyond his forum," Crouse said. "Our intention of setting up this story sharing campaign is that Rev. Hamilton's message will positively impact our students for years to come. I personally want to thank him for including me, and our entire Tiger Family, as a part of his amazing journey."

Rev. A.J. Hamilton's nephew Larry Hamilton received the Superintendent's Award from Loveland Interim Superintendent Dr. Amy Crouse on behalf of his uncle. The award was presented to honor Rev. Hamilton for his lifelong dedication to civil rights at the November 28 Board of Education Business Meeting.

News Briefs

By Alyssa James

@lovelandroar | Editor

The Show Choirs Preview Night will take place on Saturday, January 6 at 5 and 7 PM in the LHS auditorium. This is the first opportunity for the public to see the Show Choirs competition program.

Semester one exams will begin on Tuesday, January 9 and end with the semester on Thursday, January 11. Tuesday there will be no early release; Wednesday and Thursday will follow an adjusted schedule.

There will be no school on Friday, January 12 due to a teacher in-service day, as well as no school the following Monday on January, 15 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Second semester will begin on Tuesday, January 16.

LifeTouch club and group photograph day will be Wednesday, January 17 during school. Every club and group at LHS will be photographed.

The 20th annual LAB Tiger Ball will take place on Saturday, January 20 at the Oasis Conference Center. There will be dinner, dancing, auctions, games, raffles and more.

There will be a 2 hour early release on Wednesday, January 24 for the purpose of staff professional development

Loss of net neutrality, loss of freedom

By Patrick Seroogy

^{@lovelandroar} ^{Editor-in-chief}
The principle of a publicly free and open internet is hardly unappealing, and the regulations set by the Obama-era Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in support of the concept known as net neutrality, help to ensure that principle is and stays implemented.

The decision of the present appointed Chairman of the FCC, Ajit Varadaraj Pai, to dismantle these regulations, however, gives Internet Service Providers (ISPs) the opportunity to bypass that principle. As a whole, Pai's plan to "restore internet freedom" carries with it more consequences than successes.

Net neutrality, as defined by Public Knowledge (a non-profit, Washington D.C.-based public interest group), is the catch-all precept that ISPs should not discriminate against data on the internet - they treat all data equally, and not discriminate or charge differently based on user, website, service, or content. In other words, it is "the principle that the company that connects you to the internet does not get to control what you do on the internet."

This foundation is what the FCC aimed to establish and protect in its adoption of net neutrality regulations in February of 2015 in its "Open Internet Order," according to the *New York Times*. ISPs were classified as common carriers under Title II of the Telecommunication Act (1934), rendering Internet a public utility. Prior to then, there were no explicit laws barring ISPs from blocking or slowing digital traffic to specific websites or services, or from creating so-called Internet fast lanes.

Chairman Pai's plan to rescind these rules implemented by the FCC in 2015 is faulty on several accounts, from the reasoning - both his and the plan's - to its execution. One of Pai's primary claims in opposition to net neutrality, according to *Politico*, is the suffering of ISPs and the Internet under onerous regulation, stifling growth and innovation. He cited as evidence, in an op-ed for the *Wall*

Street Journal, a loss of 5.6 percent in "broadband network investment" since the application of the FCC's legislation.

However, conversely, Free Press, a media advocacy group and major supporter of net neutrality, reported Pai's justification to be "utterly false" and otherwise misleading because capital investment in ISPs under Open Internet rules "accelerated," rising "by more than 5 percent during the two-year period since the FCC's February 2015 vote."

The proposal of the FCC, under the direction of Pai, is



Photo courtesy of DonkeyHotey

detailed in a discursive report titled "Restoring Internet Freedom." Pai's aim, as per the document, is to "restore the Internet to a light-touch regulatory framework" by reclassifying ISPs as information services under Title I of the Telecommunications Act as they were before their classification under the aforementioned Open Internet Order. Similarly, Pai, according to *Politico*, intends to return to the "free market consensus" that prevailed for the years of the Internet before the 2015 decision, especially and specifically the 1990s.

The argument of freedom in this instance, however, is

ironically flawed. The upholding of net neutrality ensures that any individual can navigate the Internet freely without obstacle by an ISP. Under Open Internet rules, ISPs are explicitly barred from imposing restrictions on specific sites, services or platforms granting privileges to a limited number of consumers.

The repeal of net neutrality ceases to prevent ISPs from being able to perform such activities. One could say that arguing the hypothetical is a moot point - as Pai does, according to *The Washington Post* - were there not already examples of ISPs throttling, or slowing, and policing online data and content, which the Open Internet Order was put in place to prevent.

According to MSNBC, a widely cited example of violation of net neutrality principles was the throttling of peer-to-peer file sharing applications, such as BitTorrent, by the ISP Comcast. Comcast subscribers using the service were deprived of high-speed Internet service, and the FCC even sanctioned Comcast for deliberately preventing some subscribers from using it to download large files.

That is only one example of incident with Comcast, and one of many showcasing but one form of digital discrimination (whether by protocol, IP address, etc.). Without regulation, these scenarios become entirely possible, and their perpetrators may go without punishment, depending on what is deemed as anti-competitive behavior by the FCC, according to Pai.

ISPs are restricted in their outreaches under Open Internet, but out from under it there is nothing limiting them from throttling or imposing unfair conditions on specific websites or platforms. In the same vein that telephone carriers - classified as being under Title II - cannot and should not determine what is said in phone calls, when calls are made, or who is called, ISPs should not be able to determine an individual's business on the Internet. The political and personal freedoms American citizens have are to be reserved to the people, not the corporations who provide the means of communication.

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Starbucks' holiday cups offer positivity

By Madeline Crowley

@madzcrowley | Staff Writer

Lights aglow, the chance of snow, and overly-commercialized Starbucks cups from years ago all characterize the holiday season. The notorious Starbucks cup has reared its ugly head yet again this Christmas - except, well, this time, they are not so ugly.

The designs this year are definitely an upgrade from years past, with colorful and innovative drawings and a designated space to put the name of a loved one. Appealing to its customers' soft-spot for everything holiday-themed, it is clear that this year Starbucks listened to customer feedback and as a result, their cups are on top.

If anything is known about Starbucks concerning the holidays, it would be the infamous cup controversy tradition. Throughout the years, customers have been nothing short of shy about their feelings towards the featured holiday designs. This year is no different. The first cup this year introduced to the public debuted in a *YouTube* video titled "Giving good starts with you," displaying said cup and the text, "The holidays mean something different to everyone." A decorated Christmas tree, presents, and many other festive designs were included. However, customers were more focused on the company's effort to promote acceptance of homosexuality.

The video by the company featured two cartoon women leaning in for a kiss. Some viewers perceived this as a nod toward the inclusion of gay and transgender customers. Since then, news outlets have expressed their opinions toward the segment - *Buzzfeed* said the cup was "totally gay."

According to *The New York Times*, Starbucks said "it would let the customers decide for themselves what the cup was about." According to Leanne Fremar, executive creative director for Starbucks, "this year's cup is intentionally designed to encourage our customers to add their own color and illustration." Although, this year, tensions seemed to be rather suppressed, with more sarcasm than conflict.

As of November 28, Starbucks also released a second holiday cup for the first time during the same season. The cup is a revamped version of the 2015 red cups. An article from *The Washington Post* stated that these plain red cups sparked tensions amongst some, particularly Christians, who asserted that the company removed Christ and Christmas from their cups because they wanted to be politically correct.

Donald Trump even commented on Twitter about the design - or lack thereof - saying that "[he] wouldn't buy [from them]." The feud even caused some conflict on social media between passionate customers, with opposing sides connotated by the use of their hashtags - "#MerryChristmasStarbucks" and "#ItsJustACup."

Although the red cups in years past lacked much artistic flair, the new ones offered this year are significantly more festive and pleasing to the heart. The new cup features a white heart and two hands that outline the heart, promoting Starbucks' "#GiveGood" campaign. The cup is designed so that customers can write the name of their loved one in the center of the heart, encouraging them to spread the holiday spirit. Both designs from this season were created by Jordan Kay, a Starbucks Creative Studio Illustrator.

"The red cup is a clean design, with the heart as a space where people can highlight someone in their lives who makes the season special," Kay said. "The design symbolizes the love and warmth felt during the holiday season, when we connect with friends and family." This year's version of the red cups is certainly an upgrade. These cups are offered for a limited time until the company switches back to using the color-in cups for the remainder of the season.

No matter how the holiday season is celebrated, be sure to take the time to appreciate the elaborate and beautiful artwork featured on the festive Starbucks cups this year. Maybe even share a coffee with a friend as well, continuing the "Give Good" message this year.



Photo by Madeline Crowley

Starbucks' holiday-themed cups this winter feature festive drawings around the outside of the cup with a sleeve featuring the phrase "Give Good." This was included to raise awareness for Starbucks' #GiveGood campaign.

Best hot chocolate found in unexpected places

By Claire Wallace

@ccwallace4 | Staff Writer

The temperature dips below freezing, and you dig out your favorite pair of fuzzy socks. Pajamas? Yes, please! There is only one thing missing: the perfect cup of hot chocolate to warm you up from the inside out. But, with so many beverage options, it can be hard to decide which cup of cocoa to enjoy.

Hot chocolates are not created equally - they all have different aspects that make them unique. Cocoa has different types of chocolate, assorted toppings, varying price points, and cups of all sizes.

Starbucks has multiple versions of their hot chocolate, but I stuck with the "original." For a tall cup, it cost \$2.75. It came with whipped cream and chocolate sauce drizzled on top. Served in a festive holiday cup (which I enjoyed), the drink stayed warm for quite some time. Overall, Starbucks hot chocolate is a classic, with the right amount of chocolate blended into steamed milk with whipped cream on top.

Dunkin Donuts is known for its donuts and coffee, but I was surprised to find that

it has quite the variety of hot chocolate as well. In addition to traditional hot chocolate, I was offered flavors such as Oreo cookie and salted caramel and even one with almond milk. Once again, I stuck with the original. When I was handed the cocoa, I was warned that it was very hot. It was served in a plastic cup, and I could feel the heat through the container. When I took my first sip of the chocolate drink, it was unbelievably thin, and I did not enjoy the watered down taste.

Loveland Sweets is located in the heart of historic downtown Loveland, next to Paxton's Grill and across from Bob Roncker's. I am a big fan of their candy options and knew they also sold ice cream and beverages, but I did not know they had hot chocolate. At \$3.25 for a small, this hot chocolate was one of the pricier options. The drink had a strong chocolate aroma, which lent itself to the taste. After taking my first sip, I knew that this cocoa was frothy, as it tasted like a latte with foam, which I

enjoyed. This hot chocolate was very rich, and I think it most likely contained a darker chocolate. It was served in a strong white paper cup, similar to Starbucks, with a cardboard holder wrapped around it.

McDonald's recently overhauled their McCafe options, so all of their cafe drinks are now considered "premium." I ordered a small hot chocolate with whole milk, which set me back \$2. Based on past experiences with McDonald's, my expectations were pretty low. However, I was pleasantly surprised with how delicious this was. The drink was creamy and had a nice chocolate flavor. The chocolate-y-ness of the cocoa was smooth and mild, and I could definitely taste other spices in my cup besides cocoa.

This drink didn't come with any extras though, which was a little disappointing. Nonetheless, if you are nearby a McDonald's and are craving a cup of cocoa, it's definitely worth a stop. It came in a thick plastic cup, which was

warm to the touch when I got it.

Last but certainly not least, I headed home to try some good old store-bought Swiss Miss hot cocoa. Definitely the cheapest option in the long run, a canister of the milk chocolate variety costs about \$7 for 43 servings. I crafted the hot chocolate according to the instructions on the can. It tasted like all of my winter childhood memories. The chocolate flavor was rich, and it is up to you to make it with milk or water and to make it strong or weak, depending on your preferences.

I added a large sprinkling of marshmallows to my cocoa, but the sky's the limit with extras when you are at home! The best part about Swiss Miss is that it can be served in your favorite mug. As a bonus, I did not need to leave my house to get this hot chocolate, making it an ideal choice for a cold and snowy day.

Overall, the title of "Best Hot Chocolate" goes to Loveland Sweets, thanks to the deep chocolate flavor and creamy foam topping. The bottom line is that any hot chocolate is better than no hot chocolate at all, and I am just hoping for a few snow days this year to enjoy it!



Photo by Claire Wallace

Christmas celebrated too early by retailers

By Caroline Ginder

@carolineginder7 | Staff Writer

Two weeks before Halloween, I walked through Macy's to get to my car, and as I was on the escalator, I paused. There was definitely something different in the store. I looked around to see twinkling lights on Christmas trees, various holiday decor scattered around the staged area. I chuckled as I thought about the date: October 14. Christmas was in, what, two months? That was a long time away - Halloween had not even happened yet. I found myself thinking - no matter how outnumbered I may be in this sentiment - that as a society, Christmas is celebrated much too early.

Don't get me wrong, I love Christmas. However, there is a time (and place) for it - after Thanksgiving. In recent years, according to USA Today, stores like Target and Walmart have been selling holiday decorations as soon as September. In fact, I went into Michaels on October 28, and they were already selling fake Christmas trees.

Stores seem to put out holiday merchandise early to trick customers. A common retailer's mentality is that prolonging the season of spending accrues more revenue. Customers may think they are efficient by buying gifts

earlier, but as the holidays get closer, they then remember that last-second Christmas gift that needs to be bought, or that broken string of lights that needs to be replaced. According to an online business blog, The Balance, the lengthy holiday season also saves stores money: fewer crowds in late December means stores need fewer employees on the sales floor.

It's understandable why stores lengthen the holiday season, and I even get why the radio stations start so early - but October? It kind of diminishes the meaning of Christmas. Do we forget the "reason for the season," that of love and generosity? Maybe. I like gifts as much as the next person, but I think it is hardly an exaggeration that the economic aspect of the holiday is too glorified. It seems like people focus on the presents and forget what Christmas is about.

I am a firm believer that Christmas should not occur as soon as it does, in the manner that it does in stores. I cringe at people watching Hallmark movies and listening to Christmas music before Thanksgiving. At the end of the day, Christmas is something to be celebrated, for sure, but not too early- not before Thanksgiving, and certainly not before Halloween.



Photo courtesy of Michael Pardo

Businesses and retailers commonly display Christmas-themed items and decorations "before the season" of Christmas. Stores aimed to accrue more revenue and save money simultaneously by prolonging the season, beginning as early as in the year as September.

Belief in Santa uncondusive to children's trust

By Sam Aldrich

@samaldrich7 | Staff Writer

With his rosy cheeks, twinkling eyes, and a belly like a bowl full of jelly, Santa Claus is a figure that has caused generations of parents to lie to their children on the pretense of "holiday magic." While some argue that this act of blatant dishonesty is acceptable because of the imaginative inspirations it holds for kids, the case for Claus is simply supporting an act of dishonesty between adults and the children who trust them.

For the children celebrating the holiday, this lie is often told to them from their first Christmas. This continues throughout the years of their childhood, ending only when the child is crushed to discover that the man up North never existed. Over time, kids can also come to realize that on top of this magical fantasy being destroyed, their parents and other adults who they trust have been lying to them for their entire lives with ease. One may go on to think about the other lies, such as a fairy who steals teeth, an egged rabbit, or that their dog never actually went to a farm. This has the potential to place an inherent sense of distrust in a child's mind where there so desperately needs to be unconditional faith for the people who care for them.

Outcries from Santa supporters shriek, "It helps their growing imaginations!" However, there are issues with

saying that a healthy way to encourage children's creativity is to lie to them for years on end. Instead, a fun suggestion may include telling a story about a kind, generous man living in a cold climate that *does not exist* because Santa Claus is not real.

While the act of storytelling can enthrall children and teach them to be loving and giving people, convincing them that this man is a living, breathing human is a cruel way to take advantage of their trusting nature. If that does not suit their fancy, a coloring book is another great suggestion to cultivate creativity in a child without also encouraging chronic distrust and lying.

As magical as flying reindeer are, the real magic of the holiday season should be found in the love and support that comes from family. Gift giving is a wonderful way to thoughtfully show appreciation for loved ones, and a strange man bringing them doesn't foster a sense of generosity and appreciation. The children become focused on getting the gifts from a man whose job it is to produce toys and clothes and other goods, giving them no reason to express thankfulness for their presents.

If families are up-front with the identities of the givers of gifts, the children have a genuine source to express gratitude for, inspiring them to go on to do the same elsewhere.

Perhaps this minor moral dilemma is outweighed by

the benefits of teaching kids to be good in order to avoid the dreaded "Naughty List." While the intentions are somewhat admirable, it might more beneficial overall if parents taught their kids to be good, or "nice," simply because it is the right thing to do - not because they will get a present for it. Goodness should derive from the desire to be a good person, not from greed. If the lie of Santa Claus truly beneficial for a child's moral compass, it likely would not involve an intricate lie tricking them into good behavior.

Even if a parent decides that it is worth lying to their children, the lie of Santa is rather disturbing to think about it at all. The prospect of a corpulent old man breaking into the house in the middle of the night through a hopefully unused part of the house to eat food and leave things only to sneak back out and do this to every other house in the neighborhood - and the world - is kind of unnerving without the jolly exterior.

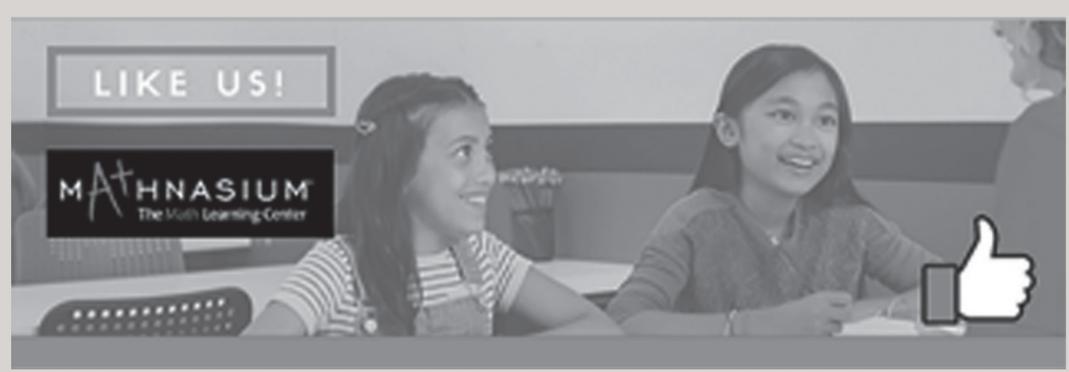
In the end, convincing children that Santa is real is a "ho-ho"-horrible way to encourage a generous and rusting relationship between them and their parents. It teaches kids that the people around them are capable of lying to them, and that their good actions are to be rewarded with gifts. Instead, parents can inspire love and creativity in their kids through storytelling and honesty and encourage them to be better people through these virtues.



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Disney announces lineup for 2018 cinematic season

By Anna Svitkovich

@asvity | Staff Writer

Look no further for a New Year's resolution! The year of 2018 will be packed with fun and fantastic films to take up all of your spare time. Some of the most popular classics are getting remakes or sequels, along with some completely new ideas. Disney has always been an important factor in the movie business, but based on the amount of films they have premiering in 2018, their movies will be predominantly popular in box offices around the world.

In some of the most exciting news, the rumors of *The Incredibles 2* that have been swirling for years were finally confirmed on November 18 by Disney. A teaser trailer was released on YouTube as well as on all of Disney's social media accounts which featured a baby Jack-Jack waddling around, as well as a Mr. Incredible (Craig T. Nelson), happy as can be in reaction to his son's newfound powers (or at least until his hair was burnt by Jack-Jack's laser eyes).

"I am so excited!" **Zoe DeWitt (10)** said. "I cannot wait to see it with my younger

brother!" The release date of that Pixar film is June 15, 2018.

Pixar Animation Studios has been an extension of Disney since 2006, creating classics like *Monsters, Inc.* and *Toy Story*. Its most recent production was *Coco*, a movie about the Mexican holiday the Day of the Dead. The film gained a score of 93% on Rotten Tomatoes and critics raved about the quality animation and musical score of the film. However, its box office income was not nearly as high as several other Disney-Pixar creations, such as *Wall-E*. The only mentioned future projects from Pixar are *The Incredibles 2* and *Toy Story 4*.

Though Disney does produce films through its many extensions into other studios, it still makes many through its original Walt Disney Pictures studio. That is the company that Walt Disney started from the bottom which grew to make such classics as *Snow White*, *Dumbo*, and *Cinderella*. Today, the company is working on projects such as *Wreck-It-Ralph 2*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, and a new version of the timeless movie-musical *Mary Poppins*.

Set to star in place of Julie Andrews' iconic role is Emily Blunt, accompanied by other recognizable stars -e Meryl Streep, Dick Van Dyke, Colin Firth, Julie Walters,

and Lin-Manuel Miranda. Not all actors and actresses have been assigned a specific part yet, and no official trailer has been released. A premiere date for one has been set, though, on Christmas of 2018.

On a somewhat less whimsical note, since Disney is involved in many ongoing cinematic projects right now, due to their recent purchases of Lucasfilm (the *Star Wars* Saga) and Marvel Studios, it also releases movies of the sci-fi and superhero genre. Perhaps the most popular recent premiere is the new *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*. This is episode VIII of the legendary saga, and is set to focus on Rey's training with Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill).

Ever since Disney bought Lucasfilm in 2012, the company has released confirmations for episodes VII, VIII, and IX of the series, as well as three solo films, which will be released in the years between the saga films. After *The Last Jedi*, the next *Star Wars* movie to hit the big screen will be an independent film about the young Han Solo, one of the protagonists of the original trilogy. The cast includes stars such as Emilia Clarke, Donald Glover, and Woody Harrelson. Its release date is May 25 of 2018.

Another Disney-owned series that is

expecting more sequels is the Marvel Comics series (since the purchase of the franchise by Disney). The cinematic renditions of the franchise boomed with *Iron Man* in 2008, and only grew from there. Upcoming films include *Black Panther*, *The New Mutants*, *Deadpool 2*, and *Ant-Man and the Wasp*.

Black Panther has the closest release date on February 6, 2018. This movie carries an all-star cast, including talents such as Lupita Nyong'o, Chadwick Boseman, Michael B. Jordan, Andy Serkis, and Martin Freeman.

There is also excitement for the inevitable *Avengers: Infinity War*, which is set to be released on May 4, 2018. This movie will feature the superhero teams, the Avengers, Guardians of the Galaxy, and other relevant superheroes and villains.

"I am super excited and cannot wait to see the union of the Avengers and the Guardians of the Galaxy!" **Nami Cannon (10)** said. The second part of the "war" - a sequel - will not be in theaters until 2020.

From new animations, to gory superheroes, to rich comedy, Disney has the world covered. Based on their lineup of what can only be amazing films, the world should be patient, ready, and excited.

Movie Wonder is worth theatre ticket

By Caroline Ginder

@carolineginder7 | Staff Writer

Wonder is a movie I would recommend. Based on the novel written by Raquel J. Palacio, the film of the same name delicately demonstrates the ups and downs of a family dealing with health obstacles and bounces between different characters' perspectives while still artfully maintaining a comprehensive plot.

August Pullman, played by Jacob Tremblay, known as Auggie, is born with a severe facial deformity, known as Treacher Collins Syndrome. He had countless surgeries to try to fix his hearing, breathing and cosmetic problems associated with the syndrome. Aside from the medical side of the condition, the social aspect of Auggie's life presents struggles for him. From trouble eating normally to scaring small children when they see him, these challenges - and other embarrassing parts of Auggie's daily life - require him to mature faster than other kids his age. We see this maturity through the quick wit and reasonable thinking he expresses to his family.

The movie's storytelling style is unique, as it presents a dynamic plot from the vantage points of Auggie's mother, sister, and friends. Especially noteworthy is the view of his sister, Via, played by Izabela Vidovic. It is easy to focus solely

on Auggie, but as the movie progresses, it also tells of the struggles of being the sibling of a child with health problems. The story of Via gracefully explains her issues with loneliness, feeling overlooked and dutifully complying with her brother's needs. She navigates lost friendships as well as a love interest. Her perspective is a sure tearjerker.

The plot develops around a new chapter in Auggie's life: middle school.

Middle school is a struggle on its own, but living with a facial deformity adds more weight to it. Having always been home-schooled, transition is not easy for him. Auggie deals with bullying with the help of his family and some new friends. Though there are some setbacks he has to deal with, it is interesting to see the milestones that he reaches, like having a friend over to hang out.

The acting in this movie is

exceptional. Tremblay finely executes Auggie's emotions, verbally and nonverbally. Julia Roberts, playing Auggie's mother, accentuates the hardships and worry that a parent goes through with a child who has significant health problems. On the other hand, Owen Wilson, who plays Auggie's father, brings comic relief to most scenes he is in, but also notably displays his frustration and sadness during delicate scenes.

My primary critique for *Wonder* is the lack of background for one of Auggie's bullies, Julian. Julian bullies Auggie, but nothing about his view is explored, except for a short scene when the parents are introduced. In this scene, it appears that Julian's parents care more about climbing the social ladder than Julian. It strikes curiosity and presents more questions than it answers. There is, however, a short book called "Julian," also written by Palacio, which presumably expands upon Julian's character.

If *Wonder* sounds like a kid's movie, I can assure that would be a misconception. The film demonstrates the effects of bullying, and artfully outlines the compassion and humor of the characters. The clever plot and characters made me want the hour and fifty-three minute movie to last another hour.



Photo by Caroline Ginder

Wonder is based off of the 2012 novel of the same name by R. J. Palacio. The 2017 movie stars Jacob Tremblay as Auggie Pullman, a child with severe facial deformity caused by Treacher Collins Syndrome.

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Students' favorite Christmas movies ranked

By: Sam Greenburg

@samhgreenburg | Staff Writer

As Christmas is approaching, it becomes popular to debate which holiday movies are the best. In full holiday spirit, The Roar asked students the question: "What is your favorite Christmas movie?" We got many responses, ranging from *Die Hard* to *Charlie Brown*. With that being said, here is our list of LHS's top five favorite Christmas movies:

1. *Elf* (2003)

Rotten Tomatoes Score: **84%**

Of the students surveyed, Jon Favreau's *Elf* was the most popular answer. Starring Will Ferrell, *Elf* tells the story of Buddy, a regular-sized man raised as an elf in the North Pole. When told he is not a real elf, he decides to go to his place of birth, New York City, to find his biological family. "It's the funniest movie ever; I like the part where Buddy drinks the soda and has a long burp!" **Kaitlyn Kramer (10)** said.

2. *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* (1989)

Rotten Tomatoes Score: **64%**

Coming in second on this list is *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*. Written by John Hughes, who is also known for classics such as *The Breakfast Club* and *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, this holiday comedy is sure to cause laughs. "It's hilarious," **Steve Kenyon (math)** said. *Christmas Vacation* is the third installment of the series, the "Griswold Family," headed by the hilarious Chevy Chase, who plays the role of Clark Griswold.

3. *Home Alone* (1990)

Rotten Tomatoes Score: **62%**

Another John Hughes movie finds its

way onto the list. *Home Alone* is about a young boy named Kevin who is accidentally left behind when his family travels to France for Christmas. Kevin finds himself having to fend off two burglars who seek to rob his house as his family is away.

"It's very funny and brings back memories," **Allison Roundtree (10)** said. It is easy to agree that *Home Alone* is

a classic, and very deserving of the No. 3 spot on this list.

4. *The Polar Express* (2004)

Rotten Tomatoes Score: **55%**

A popular response to the question: "What's your favorite Christmas movie?" was *Polar Express*. There is a reason ABC family shows it every year during their "25 Days of Christmas" movie marathon: it is very good. The film tells the story of a boy who is awakened by the noise of a mysterious train on Christmas Eve. He and a group of children ride it to the North Pole to visit Santa Claus. Pulitzer Prize-winning movie critic Roger Ebert described *The Polar Express* as "a movie for more than one season; it will become a perennial, shared by the generations."

5. *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (1965)

Rotten Tomatoes Score: **92%**

For all that this short film is, it is timeless. Despite being only 30 minutes long, it has managed to capture the hearts of movie-watchers for decades.

Critics describe *A Charlie Brown Christmas* as "poignant and provides an appealing lesson about the true meaning of Christmas." Watching this movie just makes you feel happy and cheerful. "It's worth watching on VHS," **Eric Lynn (10)** said. "VHS is the new vinyl." No matter how you watch it, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* remains an everlasting classic deserving of a yearly viewing.

Some honorable mentions include: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Die Hard*, *The Santa Clause*, and *It's a Wonderful Life*.

That rounds out this list of LHS' top five (relatively) favorite Christmas movies. Happy Holidays!



Images Courtesy of IMDb, The Romania Insider, Fanart.tv, and Vancouver Presents

When to watch: Freeform's 25 Days of Christmas

By: Anna Svitkovich

@asvitty | Staff Writer

Every year, ABC's Freeform puts on a showing of all of the most popular Christmas movies ever made. Once December 2 hits, it's movies all day, every day, until the day after Christmas. "I love the 25 days of Christmas. It gets me ready for the holidays!" **Riley Bullock (10)** said. Unfortunately, while most of December has passed, some awesome movies can still be caught on the week of Christmas.

Thursday

Loveland High School's first official day of winter break is Thursday, December 21. The first full movie on Thursday is *Four Christmases*, which starts at midnight of that day. There will be a small break between that and the next movie, *Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer*, which will premiere at 7 AM.

Following the animal theme, *Nestor The Long-Eared Donkey* premieres at 8 AM. The following include the animated *Jack Frost*, *Eloise at Christmastime*, *Holiday in Handcuffs*, and *Christmas With The Kranks*, until *Four Christmases* is shown again at 4:35 PM. Freeform's evening lineup starts at 6:40 PM with Jon Favreau's *Elf*. It is followed by the classics, *Polar Express* and *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town*, which last until midnight.

Friday

Friday kicks off with *Home Alone: The Holiday Heist* at midnight, followed by *Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer* and *Christmas With The Kranks*. At 10:05 AM, Freeform takes a break from its movie marathon to show *Decorating Disney: Holiday Magic* for everyone's last minute decorating needs. Immediately after, the marathon picks back up with *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*. At 2:20 PM, Freeform throws all of the Santa Claus-themed movies at their audience including *Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town*, *The Year Without a Santa Claus*, *Arthur Christmas*, *The Polar Express*, *The Santa Clause*, *The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause*, and *Elf*. *Elf* continues into Saturday - a late night watch! "I am looking forward to this day! I love the Christmas Movies they are going to play!" **Noelle Cotter (10)** said.

Saturday

Since Saturday is not a workday, you can expect some of the most popular Christmas movies to make at least one appearance, if not two. The day starts off with *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, and continues with *Four Christmases*. Around lunchtime, one could catch *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, which precedes *Elf* and *The Santa Clause*. *The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause* plays before Freeform repeats *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*. The finale of the day is *Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas*, which starts at 9:20 PM.

Sunday: Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve, the day starts off with the Disney's *A Christmas Carol* at midnight. *A Dennis the Menace Christmas* and *Richie Rich's Christmas Wish* take over the early morning crowd, followed by *Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town*. Disney's *A Christmas Carol* repeats around noon, before another animated classic, *The Polar Express*. At 4:25 PM, *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* shows, followed by *Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas* and *Elf*. *The Santa Clause* finishes out the night.

Monday: Christmas

For Freeform (and its presumable audience), Christmas starts at 1:30 AM with *'Twas The Night Before Christmas*, followed by *Frosty's Winter Wonderland*. Disney's *Prep and Landing* with an encore of *Disney's Prep and Landing: Naughty vs. Nice* come after. *Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town* and *The Nightmare Before Christmas* are then shown, and then at 12:35 PM everyone can enjoy *The Polar Express*. *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, *The Santa Clause*, and *Elf* (in order) last until the evening when the show *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* concludes Christmas day.

The Freeform Christmas spirit will continue into the 26th with a showing of *Four Christmases*, but will not carry on after that. After the 25 days come to a close, Freeform will go back to normal scheduling until next year's Christmas season, so enjoy the Christmas movie marathoning now!

MONDAY, December 18, 2017

Page Editor: Madeline Crowley

WinterFest returns after more than ten years

By Madeline Crowley

@madzcrowley | Staff Writer

WinterFest in Cincinnati has made a comeback after twelve years, creating feelings of nostalgia for all who remember the iconic festival from years past. The park has been transformed into nine winter wonderlands including ice skating on the Royal Fountain, the Eiffel Tower-turned-Christmas tree, and over five million lights throughout the park with up to seventeen rides and Christmas-themed dining areas. Over 180 acres of the park were activated, more than ever before.

The festival began on November 24 with many eager to experience the magic after a long hiatus and expand their Kings Island experience. The festival runs until December 30. Former Cincinnati Bengal and Pro Football Hall of Famer, Anthony Munoz, and his family assisted in flipping the switch to light the Eiffel Tower and all of International Street.

"The No. 1 question our guests have asked us over the last decade is, 'When are you bringing WinterFest back?'" Chad Showalter, park spokesman, said, according to *Cleveland.com*. "After multiple years of careful consideration and planning, we were happy to be able to bring it back in 2017. We wanted to make sure that we were able to deliver those holiday traditions that our guests and pass-holders expected, like ice skating on the Royal Fountain and the Eiffel Tower being transformed into a Christmas

tree, but also deliver them a grander experience - making it bigger and better than it's ever been."

The original WinterFest ran from 1982-1992, returning for a single appearance in 2005, according to WCPO. Since the festival was discontinued, it has been at the top of many visitors' wishlists. One of the main differences between now and past years is that the current festival is on a much greater scale than before. Many more areas are open to the public, some of which didn't exist during the last WinterFest.

"There's lots of live shows for everyone to enjoy and lots of live characters going around the park and spreading merriment everywhere they go," Showalter said. "It's a great place to create that tradition with your family and create those memories."

According to *WCPO*, some of the rides in the festival open to the public are Boo Blasters on Boo Hill, Zephyr, and Mystic Timbers, the newest ride at the park and also the longest wooden rollercoaster in the world. There is also a new lineup of entertainment options such as the Holiday Sing-Along, Charlie Brown's Christmas Spectacular, The Mistletones, and more.

According to the Kings Island website, new names for food locations have popped up around the park: Pipers Piping Pizza, previously Rivertown Pizza; Dasher's Diner, previously Chicken Shack; and Blitzen's Hot Beverage Bar, previously Graeter's, to name a few.

"WinterFest is all about family memories, family fun,"

Greg Scheid said, the vice president and general manager of Kings Island in Mason. Here's to starting new holiday traditions!



Photo by Kendall Ewert

This is one of the many Christmas trees on display at the festival. WinterFest runs from November 24 until December 30.

Rapper Cardi B increases sales for Louboutins

By Mihaela Manova

@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

Rapper Cardi B has introduced the demand for "red bottom, bloody shoes" to her followers. As the rapper topped the charts with her record breaking song "Bodak Yellow," searches for Christian Louboutin's (a famous French high-end shoe designer) shoes rose by 217%, according to *The Business of Fashion*. Not only did Cardi B increase more interest in Louboutins, an estimated \$4.5 million revenue was added to the company's profit. Her lyrics explicitly state the desire for these high end shoes, starting a frenzy of consumer interest. This report was concluded November 21, only six months after the release of "Bodak Yellow."

Billboard talked to Kollin Carter, the stylist behind Cardi B's looks. "She has to have over 90 pairs," continuing to talk about Cardi's phenomenon. "She usually buys a pair or two every couple of weeks. Where she's from, when girls are ready to get dressed up, that's what you wear. And in real life, before 'Bodak' blew up, she wore red bottoms because that's what it means to make it in the Bronx."

According to *Google Trends*, the search engine mapped out the spike for the phrase "red bottoms" throughout June until the present day. The results concluded that Cardi's lyrics were most searched in the month of September. Car-

di is not the first to talk about this high fashion brand; rappers and singers like Kanye West, Iggy Azalea, and Jennifer Lopez have also made a reference to these iconic shoes.

"I think she's very inspirational, considering where she came from, and she has some really good music," **Courtney Kunysz (10)** said. As Cardi B has found success in



Photo courtesy of Arroser

Cardi B continues to influence the sale of Louboutin shoes, a brand that is known for their heels with red bottoms. The company was created in 1963 by designer Christian Louboutin.

the music industry, her songs have been heard from many students of Loveland High School.

Forbes Staff writer Claire O'Connor recounts a story about her going to a department store only to be left with a surprise. When she came down to the shoe level of the store, a party was happening in the Louboutin section. "[There were] lots of young women, and a more diverse crowd than the rest of the store — it seemed to me, at least. A Saks security guard was doing double duty as bouncer." When a salesperson saw her reaction, he told her, "Yeah. It's the Cardi B effect."

When asked by *The New York Times* about Cardi B, Louboutin said that, "he was not a big rap person," but he insisted that he would be open to meeting the global star someday. According to *Black Enterprise*, Cardi B has started from the bottom in Bronx to the stages of MoMa, with followers who include Kevin Hart, Taraji P. Henson, and Idris Elba. In October, Cardi received five BET awards and earned the title "First Solo Female Rapper to the Top Billboard Hot 100," since Lauryn Hill in 1998.

As a successful rapper and influencer, Cardi B will continue to make more music for her excited following. Fans will be expecting more of Cardi's future accomplishments, as she has increased the sales of one of the most recognizable fashion companies.

Intermediate school teachers use paint for positive reinforcement



Photo by Loveland Schools

By Loveland Schools

@lovelandroar | Guest feature

A few cans of paint and a holiday weekend spent working was all a group of Loveland Intermediate School (LIS) fifth grade teachers needed to create some unexpected messages for the female students they teach.

When their students returned from Veteran's Day Weekend, they were greeted with inspirational quotes painted across all of the walls in the bathroom.

"We saw a post online about a middle school that did this exact thing, and we loved the idea because so often girls are bombarded with society's views about what they *should* look like and what society believes about girls," said LIS Teacher Jennifer Burkhardt. "We wanted to surround them with words to remind them that they are beautiful, strong, smart, and loved just the way they are and that being kind and doing their best is the most important thing."

It was an act of kindness by a Loveland nonprofit that funded the plan. "JUST BECAUSE GRANTS" were awarded to the teachers to purchase the supplies.

"It is fantastic, and the message is so important for our students to hear," said LIS Principal Garth Carlier. "This initiative speaks to the care our teachers have for our students, which is also one of the strategic goals for our district — Tiger Care. These students deserve to know how special they are; this is the perfect daily reminder."


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Grand Sands serves up new volleyball courts

Claire Krabacher

@c_krabacher | Staff writer

Grand Sands, the year-round sand volleyball facility located on Loveland-Madeira Road, is adding new indoor courts to its venue. Owned and operated by **Kevin and Debbie Westerkamm**, it has 20,000 square feet of indoor space, which allows it to stay open during winter. The addition of two new courts to five indoor and seven outdoor courts will allow Grand Sands to offer more court space for their junior programs, adult leagues, and for the many benefits they host. Construction began at the end of October and is scheduled to be done towards the end of January.

Grand Sands is the first indoor/outdoor sand volleyball facility in Cincinnati and the fifth in the United States. It is also the second largest year-round sand volleyball facility in the United States, according to the Westerkamms. The benefit of having both indoor and outdoor courts is, in the event of rain or poor weather, games can move inside instead of having to be rescheduled. It is relatively new, offering leagues beginning in April 2011, and since then has seen an exponential increase in business. This increase in business sparked

the need to expand.

“We have had to turn a lot of people away due to the fact that we only had five courts. Two new courts would allow us to provide more court time and seating to accommodate more people,” Kevin

Westerkamm said. “The new courts will also allow more space for the junior program that is run through Grand Sands: *Ohio Valley Beach*.”

Not only does Grand Sands host a competitive juniors program, they offer

doubles, quads, and sixes leagues for people of all skill levels. According to the owners, the new courts should be ready for the spring session that begins in early May.

Grand Sands is community-focused: they hold events for various schools and benefits for nonprofit organizations like the American Heart Association. “Our largest fundraiser is the ‘Toys for Tots’ doubles coed tournament,” Kevin Westerkamm said. This year, the Toys for Tots fundraiser occurred on Sunday, December 10. They collected unwrapped toys or \$20 as an entry fee for the tournament; the toys and money are donated to ‘Toys for Tots’.

Grand Sands also offers a full menu and bar, corn hole, and seating to watch. Its diverse range of activities provides a place for people of all ages and level of volleyball skill to watch, play, and socialize.

In addition to sand volleyball leagues, tournaments, and fundraisers, Grand Sands rents courts out by the hour. “The new courts will also give more space for people to rent courts and come out and play,” Kevin Westerkamm said. Grand Sands has much to offer to the community, and the additional courts will only expand the opportunities to play this growing sport.

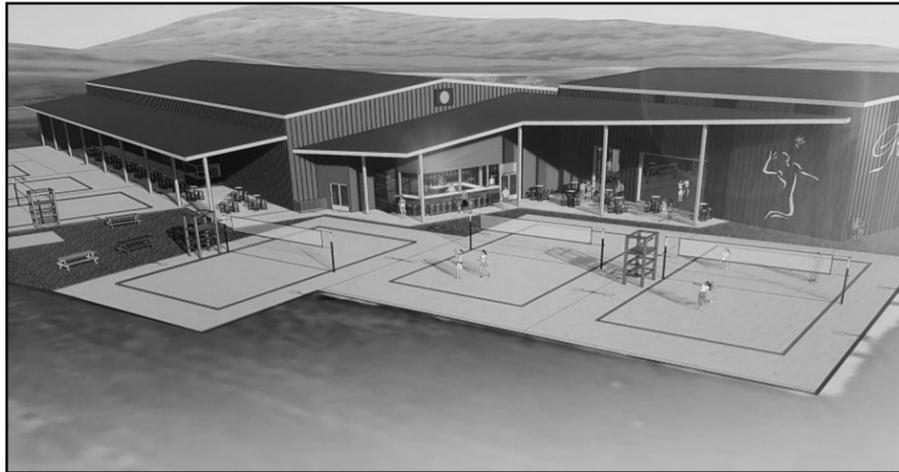


Photo courtesy of Grand Sands

Grand Sands plans to add two new indoor courts to its facility. These new courts are intended to allow for greater capacity of playing volleyball indoors during the winter and for the programs hosted there.

“Meet the Team” signals start of winter sports season



Photo courtesy of Loveland schools

Courtney Kirby

@court_kirby | Staff writer

Meet the Team is a phenomenon Loveland High School has hosted for years to showcase student athletes through all three seasons of athletics. Viewed as an opportunity to make the Loveland Community, parents and other students aware of all the opportunities available at the High School, all the varying winter sports teams come to showcase their teams, captains, seniors and seasons to the crowd of spectators.

“It’s tradition - putting our student athletes in front of community

members and parents that really shows that there’s a variety of things that go on around here,” **Mrs. Renner (athletic director)** said. Athletes from the diving team, to the basketball program, to the academic team take to the gym floor, displaying their Loveland garb and asking the audience to come out and support their teams throughout the upcoming season.

As numbers continue to grow in the athletic program, according to Renner, more and more students come out to experience new things, meet new people, and be part of the

competitive side of Tiger Nation.

The spirit of it is “being part of something, contributing to the school environment - our community environment,” Renner said. As the winter sports season is also the longest one, many students are involved in programs that compete both on campus, such as basketball, cheer and basketball band, and typically off campus, like swimming, bowling and wrestling.

As the season starts, student athletes get ready for the season and all the new things this winter will bring. “We want to incorporate

everyone involved in a basketball game, from Tiger Nation, to the team, to the pep band and the cheerleaders,” Renner said. “It will all be spotlighted.”

Whether taking part in a program or supporting one, the Athletic Department hopes to incorporate aspects of the competition into the game to make it memorable for both the players and the spectators. For students searching for a place in Tiger Nation, look no further than supporting one of Loveland High School’s many winter sports teams at their upcoming matches.

Robotics teams advance to state



Photo courtesy of Loveland schools



Photo courtesy of Loveland schools

LHS Robotics Team 5040 at the end of a successful competition in Dayton on December 9. The team secured its advancement to state by serving as the captain as the winning alliance in the competition.

LHS Robotics Team 10464 ready to advance to state from a December 9 competition in Newark. The team secured advancement to state with victory of the First Place Inspire Award in the competition.

By Loveland schools

@lovelandroar | Guest feature

Loveland High School (LHS) congratulates both First Tech Challenge (FTC) Robotics teams for exceptional performances Saturday, December 9, at two separate competitions; both will advance to the FTC Robotics

State Tournament in February.

“I’m thrilled for our students,” said LHS Project Lead the Way Teacher and Robotics Advisor **Amy Stewart**. “Loveland’s two FTC Robotics teams started the Ohio season strong. Both 5040 and 10464 won multiple awards they deserve to advance to the state tournament, and we are all proud

of what they have achieved.”

LHS Robotics Team 5040 competed in Dayton, serving as the captain of the Winning Alliance, which secured the team’s advancement to the state tournament. They also won the First Place Design Award and Second Place Control Award.

LHS Robotics Team 10464 competed

in Newark, winning the Second Place Promote Award, Second Place Control Award, Third Place Innovate Award, Second Place Connect Award, and Second Place Think Award. Team 10464 also won the coveted First Place Inspire Award which earned them advancement to the state tournament.

LaVar Ball, Trump clash over players’ imprisonment in China

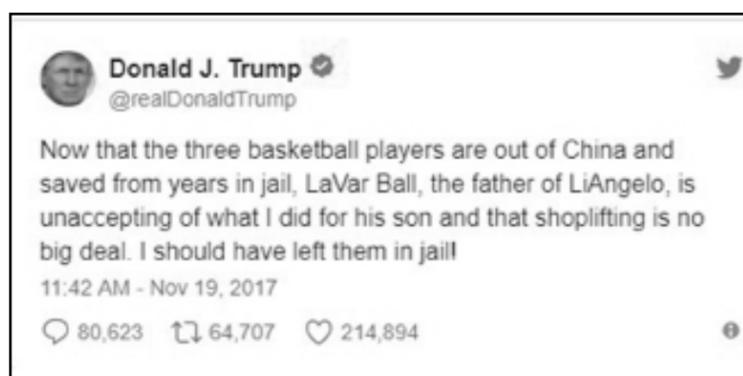


Photo courtesy of @realdonaldtrump



President Donald Trump tweets about the three UCLA basketball players on November 15. Trump played a role in releasing them from custody in China.

By: Sam Greenberg

@samgreenberg | Staff writer

A shoplifting scandal in China has caused two outspoken men to clash. Arguably the most controversial figure in the sports world, LaVar Ball, exchanged words with President Donald Trump. LaVar Ball downplayed Trump’s role in releasing his son from Chinese custody, which led to Trump firing back on Twitter.

On November 7, Ball’s middle son LiAngelo, a freshman on the UCLA basketball team, was arrested with two other teammates for shoplifting during a team trip in Hangzhou, China. The trio allegedly stole sunglasses from a Louis Vuitton store. LiAngelo Ball and his two teammates faced up to ten years in jail.

President Trump was in China at the same time as the UCLA basketball team,

meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping to discuss US-China relations. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, President Trump said he was working with President Xi on having the players returned to America.

All three basketball players returned home the following week. On November 15, President Trump wrote on Twitter: “Do you think the three UCLA basketball players will say thank you President Trump? They were headed for 10 years in jail!”

The three basketball players, including LiAngelo Ball, held a press conference where they thanked President Trump. Later, the three were suspended indefinitely from their team.

In an *ESPN* interview, LaVar Ball questioned Trump’s role in bringing back his son, saying, “What was he (Trump) over there for? Don’t tell me nothing.

Everybody wants to make it seem like he helped me out.”

“I think LaVar should have thanked Trump,” **Collin Hedgepeth (10)** said. The president responded to Ball’s comments, tweeting, “LaVar Ball, the father of LiAngelo, is unaccepting of what I did for his son and that shoplifting is no big deal. I should have left them in jail!”

Trump’s comment about leaving the players in jail received backlash, leading to a statement from White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, calling the remark a mere “rhetorical response to a criticism.”

On November 20, in an interview with *CNN*’s Chris Cuomo, Ball said, “Did he help the boys get out? I don’t know.... If I was going to thank somebody I’d probably thank President Xi.” The self-proclaimed “Big Baller” ended the interview by saying

to Cuomo, “Tell Donald Trump to have a great Thanksgiving.”

The quarrel with President Trump is not surprising from Ball—he is known to make outlandish statements. In February, LaVar Ball claimed his son Lonzo, a rookie on the Los Angeles Lakers, was already better than two-time MVP Stephen Curry.

When asked about his thoughts on LaVar Ball, **Cooper Johnson (11)** said. “He is like a young boy in a grown man’s body, but I think he is a genius.” Some sports analysts think all of Ball’s comments are marketing attempts to promote his sons and their own clothing company “Big Baller Brand.”

“The whole thing was just childish,” **Jack Laudick (10)** said, “but at the same time hilarious.” Whether an attempt to promote his sons or a genuine rift with President Trump, LaVar Ball continues to find himself in the news.

Cassini finishes life with “Grand Finale”

By: Patrick Seroogy

@lovelandroar | Editor-in-chief

The *Cassini-Huygens* mission - commonly referred to as *Cassini* - was a joint endeavor between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), European Space Agency (ESA), and Italian Space Agency (ASI). The objective was to send a probe to investigate Saturn and its moons, a task which the spacecraft went above and beyond in accomplishing. Launched in 1997 and active for nearly twenty years, this mission is seen as having been successful beyond expectation and helped to revolutionize understanding of the Saturn system.

The purpose of *Cassini*, according to the ESA, was to study the planet Saturn and its system, including its rings and natural satellites. Comprising the mission was the NASA-ASI-developed orbiter-probe *Cassini*, named after Italian astronomer Giovanni Cassini; along with that was the ESA-developed *Huygens* lander.

Cassini itself was the probe which orbited Saturn and the bodies of its system. *Huygens*, the lander, on the other hand, landed on Saturn's largest moon, Titan, after detaching from *Cassini* in December of 2004, according to NASA.

Huygens landed by parachute and proceeded to transmit data back to Earth for about ninety minutes, using *Cassini* as a relay, before ceasing to function. It was nonetheless, according to *The Hill*, the first landing of a man-made craft in the outer Solar System and on a moon other than that of Earth.

The mission launched as a part of NASA's Flagship Program, which is a

series of space expeditions to explore the Solar System. It is the largest and most costly of NASA's Solar System Programs; according to NASA, these missions serve the objective of reaching and exploring high-profile celestial bodies, particularly ones with the possibility of planetary habitability and extant organic life beyond Earth.

The *Cassini* orbiter, upon its eventual demise, was held to this standard. According to *Business Insider*, the craft was to specifically dissolve in the atmosphere of Saturn rather than any of its moons, so as to ensure protection and prevent biological contamination to any of the celestial objects in Saturn's system thought to offer potential habitability.

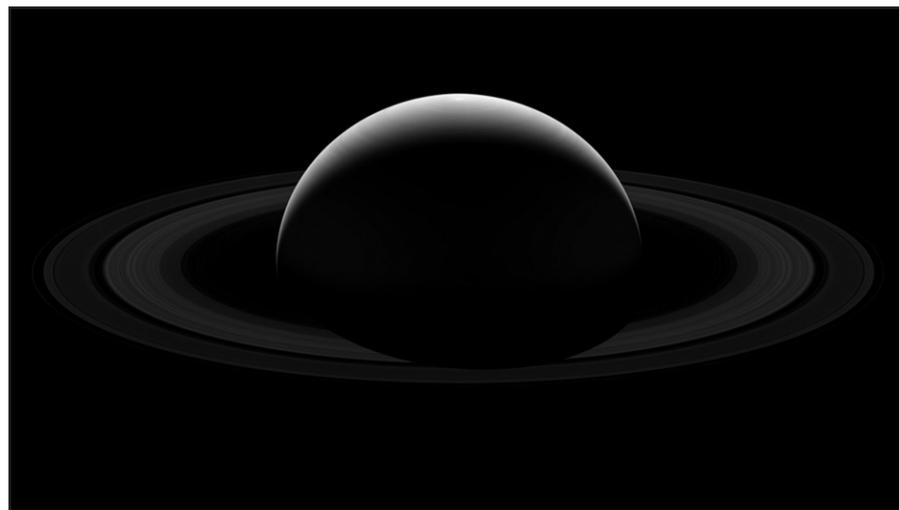


Photo courtesy of NASA

Cassini captures a final mosaic of Saturn two days before plunging into the planet's atmosphere. The probe was in space for a total of almost twenty years, orbiting the Saturn system for thirteen of them.

Preceding the end of its mission, *Cassini* executed a number of complex and perilous maneuvers in the gaps between Saturn and its inner rings. According to BBC News, the goal of this was to maximize the scientific outcome of the craft before its disposal, in an execution of a described mission “Grand Finale.”

After a month short of twenty years in space, “going out in a blaze of glory seem[ed] fitting,” according to *Science News* magazine. Launched in October 15, 1997, and dissipating upon atmospheric entry into Saturn on September 15, 2017, the *Cassini-Huygens* mission - orbiting Saturn for thirteen years - was termed by NASA's Planetary Science Division Director as “a mission of firsts” for

discovery and understanding of science and life outside of Earth.

As it was, the mission itself was extended twice by NASA, once to 2010 in 2008, and again to 2017 in 2010. According to *Space.com*, the primary objective for *Cassini* was completed in July, 2008; the extensions came with additional funding, provided for by the space agencies - the NASA, ESA, and ASI - involved in the mission.

Cassini performed hundreds of revolutions around Saturn and hundreds of flybys of its moons, particularly Titan, according to the *New York Times*. The scientific equipment on the probe returned heaps of variegated types of data about Saturn and its system back to Earth that reshaped understanding of the composition and formation of the Saturn system and its bodies.

Interestingly, the original plans of *Cassini-Huygens* in the 1980s also served as a diplomatic tool, helping to improve a previously strained relationship between the NASA and ESA, according to *The Washington Post*. This was a result of European perceptions that NASA had not treated the European space program as an “equal” in previous collaborations; a renewed spirit of cooperation between the two agencies spurred improved relations.

The *Cassini-Huygens* mission is a celebrated effort between the space agencies of multiple countries. Its scientific contribution was a revolutionization of comprehension of the Saturn system and the possibility of planetary habitability and extant organic life in space. The “Grand Finale” of the *Cassini*'s mission was its end, but the returned scientific data will continue to be analyzed for several years to come.

Titanic celebrates twentieth anniversary



Photo courtesy of Popsugar

By: Olivia Piziali

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After twenty years since its initial release, *Titanic* is being celebrated by returning to theaters. According to *E News*, “For one week only starting December 1, *Titanic* can be seen across the United States in all Dolby Cinema at AMC theater locations.” In addition, twenty of those locations will feature a special 3-D viewing option.

“The image leaps off the screen as bright and vibrant as life itself. This is the way all movies should be seen and without a doubt, *Titanic* has never looked better,” said James Cameron, the director of the film, in a statement released on November 15. The film is continuing to prove to be a cult classic, and people are still not “letting go.”

Titanic was first released as a major motion picture on

December 19, 1997. It was one of the most successful films of the 1990s, starring Leonardo DiCaprio (playing Jack Dawson) and Kate Winslet (playing Rose DeWitt Bukater). The film displayed the development of their characters' love story aboard a fictional version of the real *Titanic*, a ship which famously sunk after hitting an iceberg in the north Atlantic Ocean, according to *History.com*.

During the film's prime, the film went on to win many awards and received many accolades. At the 70th Academy Awards, the film received 11 out of the 14 awards they were nominated for which were: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Art Direction, Best Cinematography, Best Costume Design, Best Film Editing, Best Original Dramatic Score, Best Original Song, Best Sound, Best Sound Effects Editing, and Best Visual Effects.

They hold the record of winning the most Academy

Awards alongside *Ben-Hur* and *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*. According to *IMDb*, the film also won many other awards including four Golden Globes, a Screen Actors Guild Award, and four Grammy Awards.

The movie also displayed a recognizable musical score. “My Heart Will Go On” by Céline Dion will continue to be represented as a beautiful representation of the movie, perfectly encapsulating the tone and plot of the film as a whole. *The Washington Post* said the song is “iconic even if you hate it.” The song broke records - initially, the song sold 1.7 million records and won a number of Grammys for the film.

Titanic continues to prove a part of pop culture after two decades since its release. Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet will be known for their portrayals of their characters. The film will go on in the hearts of many as a classic historical but romantic story.

Inexpensive gifts sure to wow

By Alyssa James

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The Holidays are a time for giving, but that can be difficult when there are so many gifts to give and so little money to spend; but don't be too quick to give up. The options are endless when it comes to spreading joy and cheer without draining your bank account.

First things first, gifts are not the only way to show your appreciation for a loved one. Giving praise, helping with a difficult task or even just reminding someone of their importance in your life can fill them with happiness; however, giving physical gifts at this time of year can really add to the Christmas spirit.

While searching for the perfect money-saving gift, keep in mind the age of whoever will be receiving this gift. Most children are given so many toys at Christmas time that they only play with each one for a limited amount of time, then move on. This common problem can be avoided by thinking outside of the box and buying a child something other than a toy for Christmas. For example, art supplies, tickets to an event, dress-up clothes, or even just a fun experience will light up their Christmas.

On the other hand, adults enjoy the more meaningful aspects of gifts. This could be anything from a magazine subscription, to a useful set of tools.

In order to give an inexpensive gift while preserving the

meaningful aspect, you have to be sure of what will make the recipient happy. This means thoroughly thinking about what they like and dislike, rather than simply buying a gift because it is cheap enough.

Getting creative and crafty is a go-to for inexpensive and meaningful gifts. Handmade presents often have a different effect than store bought items because of the time and effort seemingly put into them. Framing a letter or picture is a great start that doesn't require excess work; but if crafts are your thing, take it even farther. Personalize the frame, or whatever is being framed, with paints, glitter, designs and more. Pinterest is the key to success in this aspect of gift giving!

For the less crafty gift givers, Amazon is your friend. If you can think of it, it most likely exists on Amazon. From coffee mugs specific to TV shows, to a puppy selfie stick, this quick and easy online shopping site is sure to have it. A puppy selfie stick is a tennis ball that snaps onto the top of your phone, in theory, this causes a dog to look at the camera while a picture is snapped. It can be found on Amazon for just \$8.00.

If online shopping isn't your thing, the dollar section at Target has proven itself through always having simple little gift options. Candles, Christmas socks, and knick knacks for people of all ages can be found in this small but mighty section.

Even though socks are often seen as the stereotypical

bad gift that no one wants, crazy and fuzzy socks seem to be much more appreciated than they are given credit for. Cabin Socks" are the perfect mix of the two, they provide the look of a regular sock on the outside, but the inside is fuzzy. These cozy socks are on sale at Dicks Sporting Goods all holiday season!

Rather than buying a gift for each member of your family or every one of your friends, consider a gift exchange. This provides all of your loved ones with a gift while saving a large amount of money. Gift exchanges can be in the form of a game, like a White Elephant exchange, in which each person participating brings a gift. Everyone will then draw a number and go in order to pick up a gift and unwrap it; the catch is that gifts can be stolen once they are opened. This can be used with gag gifts as well to add some comic relief to the often stressful concept of finding the perfect gift.

If the White Elephant exchange isn't for you, drawing names may be perfect! Each person draws a name for who they will buy their gift for, being sure to keep it a secret. When the gifts are exchanged, the receiver will typically attempt to guess who drew their name, based on the gift they have received.

Finding inexpensive gifts is not as hard as it seems when the options are virtually endless. Get creative with your holiday fun and you just might be surprised at the amount of money that can be saved.



Photo courtesy of Lux2night

"Cabin socks" provide a regular-looking outside, but a fuzzy inside. They are sold at Dicks Sporting Goods during the holiday season.



Photo courtesy of John Morgan

A handmade popsicle stick-tree is hung on a (real) Christmas tree. This ornament was made by six-year-old Aidan Morgan in December of 2011.

Ski club hits slopes

By Grisha Tackett

@TheRealGrishaT8 | Staff Writer

Ski Club is a club that meets every Thursday in Mrs. Niemeyer's class. The club gets together and rides a bus down to Perfect North and spend a few hours shredding down the slopes. In the club, members can either ski or snowboard. The sign up deadline has already passed for the 2017-2018 season, but that doesn't mean one cannot get out and practice for next season oneself.

New comers are welcome to the club as well. While any sort of experience is preferred, it's definitely not required. Perfect North offers club lessons at the slopes which can be taken in a group or as an individual. Skiing is a rigorous activity that requires dedication of large amounts of time, but with a variance and thrill that students seem to enjoy, as a unique extracurricular.

"I enjoy ski club because it allows me to take a break from all the stress", Jase Thole (11) said. "It allows me to just do something I love to do."



Photo by Ryan Schuetter

The new ski club president, Ryan Schuetter (11), is in his third year of Ski Club at the high school, and he is replacing alumnus Jonathan Geist as the president.

"My favorite part of Ski Club is all the fun memories I've made with all the people in the club," Schuetter said. He hopes that the weather will permit for a great season and is glad to see all the new faces coming in.

For any questions or further information, you could contact Schuetter or Niemeyer. You could also contact the other Ski Club officers who are Thole, Kamryn Lawless (11), Brayden Wall (10), Max Panyko (10), Jack Wallis (11), Jay Adams (10), and Ben Westley (10). Ski Club actively sends out announcements on their Twitter, @LovelandSkiClub.

Ski Club provides a home for all of ski and snowboarding fanatics here in Loveland. It is available for grades 9 through 12 and welcomes everyone. Although sign ups have already passed for the 2017-2018 season, ski club is willing to receive everybody to get involved for next year.

Ski club president Ryan Schuetter (11) is pictured snowboarding with his family. He has been a part of ski club since 8th grade and has been an avid skier since an even younger age.

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