



# The Roar

Loveland High School, Loveland, Ohio

Page Editor: Laurel Gibbins

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Photo courtesy of tvworld.com

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Photo courtesy of perfectnorth.com

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Photo courtesy of Jessie Gibbins

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Photo courtesy of Loveland Athletics

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# Grey's Anatomy Returns

By Laurel Gibbins  
@lfgibbins9212 | Editor

On Thursday, November 12, *Grey's Anatomy* aired its seventeenth season, taking back its Thursday night spot on *ABC*. The show, which first aired back in March 2005, now has over three hundred episodes. This season has been long awaited by fans of the show after season sixteen aired its final episode in April. To viewers' dismay, the season was cut by four episodes - a big deal for a show like *Grey's Anatomy* where one episode can change everything. As customary with *Grey's Anatomy*, the season finale of season sixteen ended with a major cliff-hanger that left fans desperate for answers. Filming for season seventeen was underway back in March, however, the coronavirus pandemic forced production to be stopped. Filming began again in early September.

Throughout its fifteen year history, *Grey's Anatomy* and its cast members have won fifty awards, including Emmys and Golden Globes. With the airing of Season 15, episode 15 in February 2019, *Grey's Anatomy* broke the record for longest-running prime time medical drama, surpassing *ER*. *Grey's Anatomy* has also won the title of longest running show on *ABC*. As a testament to the shows' popularity, according to *variety.com*, *Grey's Anatomy* won the most views for any show

on November 12 with almost six million people watching the season seventeen season premiere which is quite impressive considering many people would rather watch *Netflix* or *Hulu* instead of cable.

Since filming started again in September, both the cast of the show and *ABC* have shared behind the scenes pictures and videos to get viewers excited for the new season. A favorite of many is a picture of the cast in masks while filming. The picture is a selfie of Kim Raver (Dr. Teddy Altman), Jesse Williams (Dr. Jackson Avery), James Pickens Jr. (Dr. Richard Weber), Chandra Wilson (Dr. Miranda Bailey), and Kevin McKidd (Dr. Owen Hunt) - all main characters of the show. Another picture of Dr. Bailey on a stretcher in what looks to be an Emergency Room has also caused a lot of stipulation. To no one's surprise, the season will follow a coronavirus plotline. How could you possibly have a medical drama without mentioning coronavirus? Some viewers have expressed their disappointment in this choice as they use t.v to escape from the pandemic that has taken over everyone's lives for nine months now.

*TikTok* has been exploding with *Grey's Anatomy* content for months now. Of course, there has been much speculation by fans on *TikTok* because the target demographic of *Grey's Anatomy* and the

target demographic of *TikTok* is the same (young people). The *Grey's Anatomy TikTok* community is a way for fans to connect with one another and to talk about the show together. Watching *Grey's Anatomy TikToks* enhances one's viewing experience. Even though season seventeen just came out, there has already been talk of an eighteenth season. The president of *ABC*, Karey Burke, has said that she is hopeful for an eighteenth season and that *ABC* will continue to air *Grey's Anatomy* as long as the producers want to keep making episodes. Only time will tell.

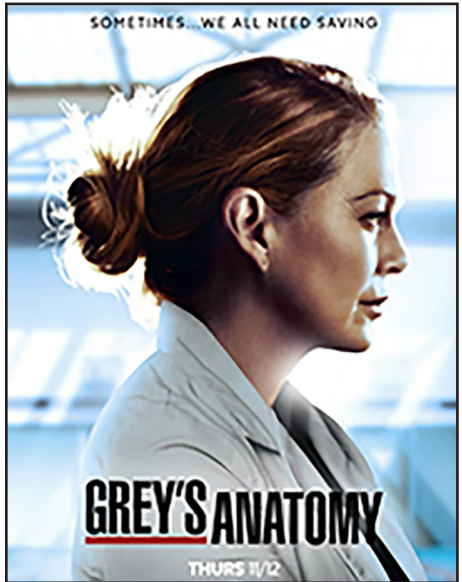


Photo Courtesy of seat42f.com

# Progress Towards a Covid-19 Vaccine

By Sean Behling  
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

It has been a long and tough year due to the threat of COVID-19 looming ominously all across the world. With the number of cases increasing daily, COVID-19 shows no sign of stopping on its own. So naturally, we turn to researchers and scientists, hoping they can secure a working vaccine to combat COVID-19. Numerous companies across the globe, both large and small, are racing, trying to get a vaccine made, approved, and ready to be shipped out worldwide. One company rushing to develop a treatment is Gilead Sciences, a long time drug-making company located in Foster City, California. Gilead Sciences is best known for developing the first major cure for hepatitis-C and has experience developing and marketing HIV drugs. According to MarketWatch, Gilead Sciences received an emergency use authorization (EUA) from the Food and Drug Administration in the U.S. on May 1st, based on results from two clinical trials they had performed on patients with COVID-19. Despite this, during two randomized and controlled clinical trials in China, the drug was said to not produce "statistically significant clinical benefits." Now, this company is working to appropriate the use of another drug called "Veklury," also known as "Remdesivir." Gilead hopes that this will be fully ready and approved to combat

COVID-19 in the near future. There are many other companies like Gilead Sciences that are working in full force to produce a vaccine to help those afflicted with COVID-19. However, there are more complications that come with a vaccine besides just producing it. Distributing a COVID vaccine once we actually have it, is also bound to be a difficult and strenuous endeavor. The first problem that arises is that many of these proposed vaccines have to be stored and transported in ultra-cold temperatures. After these specific vaccines are thawed out they must be used quickly or they will spoil. One example of this is Pfizer, a pharmaceutical company that hopes to finish its vaccine and get it approved. According to CNN, millions of their vaccine doses have already been made and are preparing to ship once this vaccine gains regulatory approval. However, it poses a major challenge for storage and transportation. This particular vaccine will have to be shipped in refrigerated, and even sub-freezing temperatures to avoid spoiling. The other problem that arises with the topic of distribution is how it will be distributed. One part of this problem is the question of who should be the first to get vaccinated, once possible. Some may answer that healthcare workers and the elderly should be the first, but then the question arises of how to spread a vaccine out to every single one of them across the globe. The other problem that comes

with distribution is how many people will actually jump at the proposal as soon as it comes up. Many Americans would probably be skeptical of a new vaccine for a disease as mysterious as COVID-19. Many would probably rather wait even longer before getting vaccinated, unsure of the new supposed vaccine. COVID-19 vaccines may not be ready for distribution yet, but they are still progressing at an unprecedented rate. It can normally take up to several years (even ten or more) to create a working vaccine. So we can all be hopeful for the future.



Photo Courtesy of antigaobservations.com



# Student Talent Spotlight

By Kate Carpenter

@kate\_carp|Editor

LHS is full of talented students in various concentrations. In this month's student talent spotlight, I sat down with **Claire Beseler(12)** to ask her some questions about photography.

**What initially got you interested in photography?**

Ever since I was born, my mom made photo albums for every year and every vacation. When I lived in England, we traveled all over and she took her camera everywhere. I would always ask her if I could use it and she got so annoyed at me asking, she finally bought me my own camera in 2016. From then on, I was obsessed.

**When did taking photos become more of a serious passion instead of just a fun extracurricular or hobby?**

Once I got to ninth grade and joined the Photography Club, I was immersed in the high school art scene. I met older students who considered it a passion and they immediately became my inspiration and mentors when I really understood that art could be a job and a community.

**Do you prefer film or digital photography? And why?**

Digital photography is definitely faster but you can do almost anything in film that you can do digitally. I find film so fascinating and beautiful but it can also be frustrating because you don't really have any "re-dos" without using more materials which can be very expensive.

**Have you entered your works into any art competitions? If so, which ones?**

My first ever competition was in 2017 at the Cincinnati Nature Center where I won third place in the youth category. From there, my photography has won two Honorable Mentions for my work in the Scholastics Art and Writing Awards in 2020.

My film has gone on to win first place in the 2019 Mt. St. Joseph New Media Film Festival in the short narrative category. It won the Mountain Lion Award in the 2019 Golden Lion Awards. And in 2020 won a Gold Key in the Regional Scholastics Art and Writing Awards and a Silver Medal in the National Scholastics Art and Writing

Awards.

This year I am planning on entering my work into the Overture Awards and the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.

**Where do you plan on going to college? And what would you like to study?**

I am not quite sure where I want to go yet but some of my top colleges are Carnegie Mellon University, Rhode Island School of Design, Brown University, and Cleveland Institute of Art. For my major, I want to do something involving media and design communications, film technology, or photojournalism.

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?**

I hope I will have a steady job and be doing what I love. A bonus would be a partner and a home that allows dogs.

**What advice would you give to other people who are interested in pursuing photography?**

Just keep an open mind! You can get inspiration from anywhere, and give yourself time to create. Experiment and don't let a "failed project" get in your way or get you discouraged.

**Any social media or websites you want to shout out?**

Follow me on Instagram and Twitter @clairebeseler !



Photo courtesy of @clairebeseler on Twitter



Photo courtesy of Loveland Magazine



Photo courtesy of New Break

Claire Beseler (Top Left) is also a part of FTC Robotics Team #10464: Bi-ionic Tigers. They made it to the World Championship last school year.

# Rona Holiday Predictions

By Skylar Lundeen

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Since the holidays are around the corner, it's noticed that state governments are taking extra precautions knowing that families could be traveling or coming into contact with more people than on a daily basis. Ohio's Governor Mike Dewine already issued a statewide curfew from 10pm-5am for the next few weeks. Supposedly, the curfew is in place so people won't be in large groups, at bars, or at parties. Closing schools during the holiday seasons is controversial. A lot of people assume schools will shut down while others think it will stay open. **Riley Lundeen (9)** states her prediction when she says, "I personally think our school will shut down after winter break because a lot of the schools around us have." Lundeen explained that she's heard a lot of parents complaining

about the spreading virus and assumes the school will take their concerns into consideration. Contrary to Lundeen's belief, **Charlie Meckey (10)** assumes, "No, I don't think the school will shut down, because I don't think the virus is serious enough for that, and online learning is really hard for some students." Meckey understands that for a lot of kids, school is an escape from challenging families. He knows that the school provides food to kids that won't necessarily get it at home. He believes that the school needs to take all factors into consideration before making a decision about shutting down or staying open. My opinion is that the school will shut down sometime during this winter season for at least 2 weeks, so the virus can be controlled. In conclusion, school going fully remote is a highly controversial topic that could have many potential outcomes.

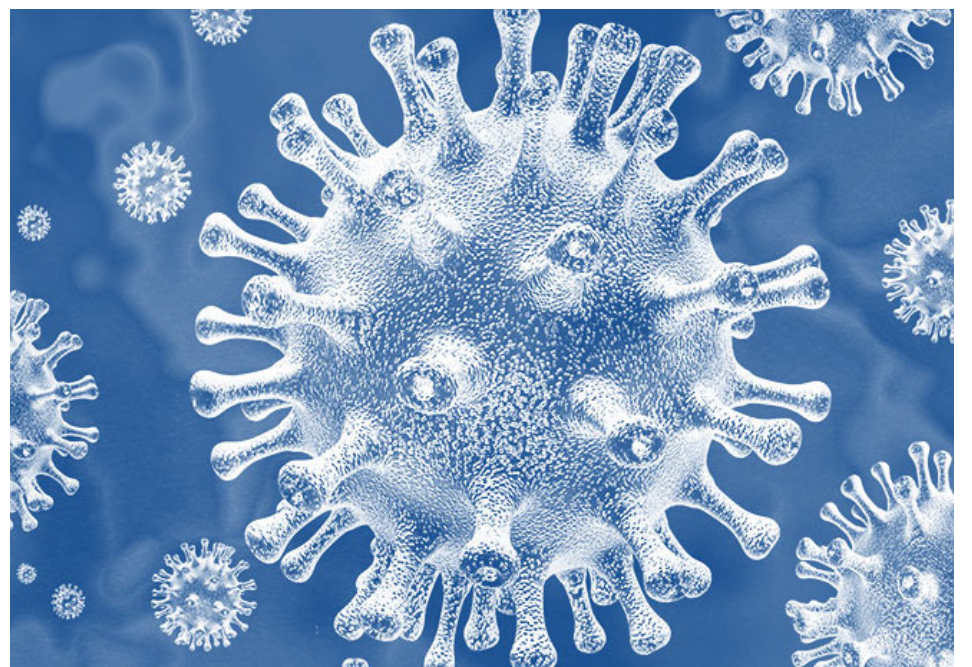


Photo courtesy of Child Aware Care of America



# Men’s Basketball Preview

By Aaron Morton  
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The Loveland Tigers men’s basketball team is preparing for an exciting 2020-2021 season. Heading into this season, with uncertainty looming, the men’s basketball team is taking advantage of every opportunity to play the game they love. Coming off of a quarantine early in the season, the team has returned to scheduled practices. While their hunger to begin league play grows, these players retain a great sense of hopefulness that their season will continue as scheduled. In separate interviews with members of the squad, I gained an exclusive look into the perspective of these Loveland players and their aspirations for this season.

**Drew Gleason (12 - PG/SG):**  
How do your responsibilities differ as a captain versus when you were an underclassmen?

“Being a Captain comes with a lot more responsibilities and doing all the little things right to set an example for the underclassmen just like previous captains did for me.”

How could you best articulate the feeling you get when being on the court?

“Hooping in general whether it’s for the school, with your friends, or by yourself is a mind reliever and really clears your mind of everything else going on. One of the best feelings there is.”

**Addison Hearn (11 - PG):**  
What has it been like to move up in the program throughout the years from freshman, to JV, to varsity?

“I think moving up through the program from being on the freshman team to now being on varsity has made me significantly better as a player. Each team has a more difficult level of competition and adapting to that over the years has helped me become the basketball player I am now and will continue to help me reach my potential moving forward.”

How has COVID-19 affected your outlook on your season this year?

“COVID has definitely ruined some of the best excitement and energy you get from varsity basketball games, where the stands are packed and the student section is filled. So that really sucks that we won’t get to be experiencing that.”

**Jack Bergman (11 - F):**  
How would you describe the relationship you have with your teammates?

“I think that my teammates and I have a great relationship. Off the court, we laugh and mess around, showing our



Photo courtesy of Loveland Tigers Athletics



Photo courtesy of Loveland Tigers Athletics

friendship. But on the court, we are all competitive and try to make each other better.”

What would you say is your best attribute or ability on the court?

“My best attribute on the court is definitely my understanding of the game. Whether it’s reading defenses, making the extra pass, or knowing when to play fast or slow down the offense, I find myself to be good at that.”

**Dmarqo Johnson (11 - SG):**  
How has being a part of the basketball team contributed to your Loveland High School experience?

“Being on the team has enhanced my high school experience for sure. Being a part of the team makes me feel like I’m living the dream high school experience that you see in the movies.”

Who/what is your primary source of motivation?

“My mom; she taught me to never care about what others have to say, because their criticism stems from jealousy of my position.”

The team stands together in the face of peculiar adversity, with plans to move forward together, whatever the outcome.



Photo courtesy of Loveland Magazine

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# Battle Against Covid In Rojava Rages On

By Zak Griffiths

@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

In Northeast Syria, in the Fertile Crescent where human civilization has thrived for thousands of years, lies Rojava, arguably the most important human and social experiment in recent history. Made official in 2013 after the revolution, the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) operates on the principles of democratic confederalism, a political system created by Rojava’s ideological founder, Kurdish Abdullah Ocalan, who was in turn inspired by the writings of the American anarchist Murray Bookchin. Rojava stands for grassroots, radical democracy organized through confederations of councils and committees, women’s liberation, and ecology. It has been referred to as Kurdistan since it was primarily created and led by the Syrian Kurds, but Rojava is explicitly pluralistic and inclusive of all religious and ethnic backgrounds. It has faced many challenges over the years, fighting on two fronts against facist Turkey and ISIS, but the newest threat isn’t from enemy firearms: it’s Covid-19. Since the revolution, Rojava has had to undergo many economic problems. Several embargoes have been placed

on the region by all the neighboring countries (Turkey, Iraq, Syria, and Iran). Turkey has also been repeatedly cutting off water on their southern border in a strategic attempt to weaken the civilians and militias alike. economic problems. Several embargoes have been placed on the region by all the neighboring countries (Turkey, Iraq, Syria, and Iran). Turkey has also been repeatedly cutting off water on their southern border in a strategic attempt to weaken the civilians and militias alike. In addition, because Rojava is stateless, the UN does not recognize the government as legitimate, and subsequently refuses to provide any aid. These factors combined have forced the people of Rojava to be almost entirely self-reliant, and the cooperative, ecological, libertarian socialist economic system they wish to implement has had to be compromised in a lot of areas in order to facilitate some trade with the rest of the world. Private property exists but functions on the basis of ownership by use, and oil extraction has to continue to be practiced despite the ecological values in order to provide electricity and other utilities. The scarcity has had a significant effect on how Rojava has been able to deal with Covid-19, and the problem seems to be getting worse. The overall Covid case count stands at 4164, with over half (2776) in

October alone. There were also 58 deaths in October out of the total 119. Many hospitals were lost when Turkey invaded and took over the canton of Afrin, and the resources available are alarmingly low. There are only 56 available beds for severe cases, and not all of them are equipped with ventilators, those being only a third of the international recommended minimum. There are acute shortages of testing kits, medical supplies, and protective equipment. With over four million people, the resources available are nowhere near enough. The IDP (Internally Displaced People) camps are even worse off, with the camps around Majib for IDPs from Sere Kaniye don’t have any isolation areas. The Areesha, Mahmoudli, Abu Khashab, Washokani, Newroz, and Roj camps do not have a sufficient amount of trained medical staff, capacity, or enough isolation wards. If the future of Rojava is to be secured as a beacon of hope and the example of a truly democratic society, aid must be provided. The UN must recognize it as legitimate, the US must go back on their betrayal of the SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces), the embargoes must be lifted, and the international community must pressure NATO Turkey to cease their horrific genocidal ethnic cleansing campaign upon the Kurds.



Photo Courtesy of Dissent Magazine



Photo Courtesy of openDemocracy

# Black Lives Matter Protests Spark In Brazil

By Zak Griffiths

@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

After the tragic murder of George Floyd, the Black Lives Matter movement has swept the globe. Systemic racism has been uncovered and challenged everywhere, the fight still raging on in the face of repeated acts of violence and killings at the hands of white supremacists and the police-state, but the fight is yet to be won. One of the countries where systemic racism is the worst is Brazil; it was the last of the Latin American countries to abolish slavery (1888), and, according to the Brazilian Forum of Public Safety, 79% of people killed by the police are black. And so it is not surprising that the most recent eruption of BLM protesting comes from Brazil, when, on Thursday, a black man was brutally beaten to death by two white security guards at a Carrefour store in Porto Alegre. The man’s name was Joao Alberto Silveira Freitas. He was a father of four and worked as a welder. A video of the attack has been circulating on the internet: it shows the guards escorting Joao out of the store

when he suddenly hits one of them; one of the security guards proceeds to restrain him while the other repeatedly punches Joao in the face; another clip shows the two kneeling on and choking him. The video immediately sparked outrage across the country, with protests occurring in Brazil’s capital, Brasilia, as well as elsewhere. In a Carrefour in Rio de Janeiro, protesters chanted “Carrefour killer!”, while a black man lay still as if dead on top of a checkout conveyor belt. In São Paulo, protesters smashed the windows of a Carrefour, and ransacked it, scattering goods everywhere, as well as starting a fire. Carrefour released a statement saying that they would end their contract with the security company, fire the store manager who was on duty, and close the Porto Alegre location out of respect for Joao. According to Nadine Anflor, the civil police chief of Rio Grande do Sul, the two security guards responsible for the murder have been detained and are currently being investigated for homicide due to Joao’s asphyxiation and inability to defend himself.

The incident occurred on the eve of “Black Consciousness Day,” a holiday observed in many parts of Brazil. It is a time for celebrating blackness and bringing awareness and understanding to racism; the coincidental nature of Joao’s death with Black Consciousness Day surely contributed to the widespread protests that arose all over Brazil, which unfortunately still have a long way to go in terms of effecting tangible change. Jair Bolsonaro, the president of Brazil, stated in a video speech that he denies racism is a problem in the country, and that the movement is trying to “divide” Brazilians. He also said that “As a man and as president, I see everyone in the same colors: (the Brazilian flag’s) green and yellow! There is no better skin color than the others. What exists are good men and bad men; and it is our choices and values that will determine which of the two we will be.” The reactionary stance that our governments take may mean that, unless we as the people take the issue into our own hands through direct action, systemic racism will continue to exist across the American continent.



Photo Courtesy of CNN



Photo Courtesy of The University of Miami



# Alex Trebek: Journey and Battle

By Aaron Krabacher  
@aaron\_krabacher | Staff Writer

Recently, on November 8th, news broke that Alex Trebek, the legendary game show host of Jeopardy had passed away due to pancreatic cancer. Trebek had battled for two and a half years against pancreatic cancer knowing that the survival rate was low, at only 2 percent. Celebrities including Aaron Rodgers, Ryan Seacrest, Ellen DeGeneres, and Ryan Reynolds took to Twitter and other platforms to show their condolences for his family but also to tell the world how great Trebek was. In order to understand why he was so well loved by so many, his journey to the top of television must be examined.

Trebek attended the University of Ottawa and graduated with a degree in philosophy, but also pursued an interest in broadcast news, which was sparked by his involvement in the English Debating Society. He received his first job from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, filling in for sick people and fitting in where he could. He worked his way up to the top and eventually began to commentate horse racing and curling. Trebek got his first host job on a high school quiz show called Reach For The Top. He held this game show job for several years, and then bounced around to a few different shows on CBC until he moved to the United States in 1973. For the next 11 years, Trebek hosted a multitude of game shows including, High Rollers, The Wizard of Odds, Double Dare, and The \$128,000 Question.

But, on September 10, 1984, the first episode of Jeopardy aired. The show was a trivia show in which players would

choose clues from categories and get questions correct in order to win money and ultimately win the game. The show was an instant hit, and Trebek would continue to host the show until his death 35 years later. Throughout his time on the show, Trebek experienced some of the great moments in Jeopardy history. On April Fools Day of 1997, Trebek and the other legendary game show host of Wheel of Fortune, Pat Sajak, switched shows for the day, with Sajak hosting Jeopardy and Trebek hosting Wheel of Fortune. Over the years, there were multiple dominant performances. Contestant Ken Jennings won 74 games in a row of Jeopardy before losing in 2004. Years later in 2018, Jeopardy hosted a champion’s match, with the three contestants being James Holzhauer, Ken Jennings, and Brad Rutter, three of the most successful contestants on Jeopardy ever. Jennings ended up winning the four day match, crowning him the king of Jeopardy.

On March 6th, 2019, Trebek announced that he had been diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. In May, Trebek said that his chemotherapy had gone extremely well, as his tumors were shrinking and his results were “better than most.” A little over a year after his diagnosis, Trebek published his memoir, titled The Answer Is... Reflections on My Life which was written about his time on television and the relationships that he had developed. Trebek taped his final episode of Jeopardy on October 29th, 2020, only about a week before he passed away as one of the smartest, kindest, and well-known game show hosts ever.



Photo courtesy of The New York Times



Photo courtesy of CNN



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FRIDAY, December 18th, 2020

Page Editor: Skylar Lundeen

# Delicious Christmas Day Delights

By Aaron Morton

@aaronmorton

*Staff Writer*

It's officially the holiday season! Unless you're the Grinch, Ebenezer Scrooge, or the comical duo of Marv & Harry, you are undoubtedly as excited as Buddy the Elf when Santa comes to Gimbels. Labeled the most wonderful time of the year, Christmas has held the crown for the favorite holiday of the masses for ages. While some Christmas enthusiasts begin their Christmas caroling early and display their luminescent lights during the Fall, others postpone their holiday festivities until after Thanksgiving is over. Though opinions on celebration methods may vary, everyone is more than happy to gather around the dining room table for Christmas dinner or consume other holiday sweets. While every family has their own holiday meal traditions, this article will focus on the more traditional Christmas foods. So without further ado, here is a ranking of the top five Christmas season favorites.

**1. Peppermint Bark** - Usually packaged handsomely for gift giving in a holiday tin, the cool flavor and crunch of candy canes mingle with rich dark chocolate, white chocolate, and sweet white confection in this classic

Christmas treat. The minty freshness of the peppermint mirrors the cold December weather, while the chocolate invites its consumer into an internal warmth in the midst of the frigid winter weather. The perfect mesh of peppermint and chocolate screams “Merry Christmas” and invites all to experience a cornerstone taste of this most wonderful time of the year.

**2. Mashed Potatoes** - Now onto a classic Christmas dish served at the table. Mashed potatoes are a staple side for many a holiday, but the conditions of a tedious day of opening presents make it an even more desirable dish on Christmas. Buttered and seasoned, this delicious conglomerate of carbohydrates is sure to ease its consumer into a food coma fit for Santa himself.

**3. Hot Cocoa** - While this technically isn't a food, it is a Christmas classic. In the colder regions of the United States especially, hot cocoa is a winter essential. This hot beverage offers a toasty contrast to the bitter cold weather. After a fun day of frolicking in the snow or taking on the arduous task of cutting down a tree, the hot chocolate serves as the perfect comfort for those looking to get cozy.

**4. Turkey and Gravy** - The centerpiece of the Christmas meal, the best Christmas turkeys and turkey crowns combine moist, flavorful meat, with a crisp golden skin. The gravy helps to alleviate the dry texture of the turkey, presenting hungry gift-givers with the satisfaction needed after a long day of time around relatives. A combo worthy of mention on this list, turkey and gravy will continue to be a Christmas dinner all-star for many a holiday dinner.

**5. Gingerbread Cookies** - Soft in the centers, crisp on the edges, perfectly spiced, molasses and brown sugar-sweetened holiday goodness. With their smiles and gumdrop buttons, Gingerbread cookies are irresistible and thus are the staple Christmas cookie. What other holiday treat comes with its very own house? Case made.

As you and your family move into the holiday season, it's easy to get caught up in the splendor of the lights, presents, and even food. But make sure to be grateful for what you have, and think of how you can bless others this year. For those who won't have a gift under the tree, or a seat at the table, some Christmas joy in the form of compassion and kindness can go a long way.



Photo courtesy of living well spending less



Photo courtesy of Backforseconds.com



Photo courtesy of Sugarspunrun.com

# The Season Of Christmas Music

By Grace Nunn

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@gracegunn

*Editor*

For most, the conclusion of the Halloween season is the immediate start of the Christmas season. There isn't "Thanksgiving music" that we listen to, so most of us get straight into the Christmas spirit. I don't think I'm speaking just for myself when I say, I started listening to Christmas music a week after Halloween. There is something about Christmas music that just makes you feel good like everything is going to be okay.

You may be wondering why Christmas music makes you feel good, is it actually scientific or is it that you just like Christmas music? Well, according to scrippsamg.com, “The nostalgia you feel listening to your favorite Harry Belafonte Christmas tune has a pleasant neurological effect in which the brain’s pleasure circuit is stimulated, releasing dopamine and serotonin (which are responsible for those happy feelings).” So basically, nostalgia is what causes these feelings. You remember past Christmases when you listened to the same songs. And for most, those

are good memories. Your brain associates Christmas music with the memories of past Christmases, the presents, the food, the weather, the lights, mostly happy things.

For some reason, there was a “revelation” this past year that Christmas music is actually bad for your mental health. But [narcity.com](http://narcity.com) says otherwise and so do I. “Several scientific studies have shown that uplifting music - like ‘Jingle Bell Rock’, ‘Frosty the Snowman’ and ‘A Holly Jolly Christmas’, to name a few - has been known to have a positive effect both physically and psychologically.”

Researchers say that playing it too early in stores can cause irritation and stresses people out because they are reminded that it is time to buy presents. However, I don't feel that way at all. In fact, I think buying presents is so much fun. It could be more stressful for parents, but even so, isn't the smile on your kid's face worth it? Christmas music brings joy!

The best part is that this music has been around for so long. People don't listen to new Christmas music. It is the

original songs that we know all the lyrics to.

I asked some students what they thought about Christmas music and if they believed it was good for their mental health. **Audrey O’Keefe (11)** told me, “I think it is- just because it reminds me of a time where I don’t have to worry.” **Claire Beseler (12)** agreed with this ideology saying, “Christmas music definitely makes me feel happier!” and that, “I’m not even Christian but it’s just the vibes they produce rather than their message of the religious holiday.” To which I can agree. **Meakah Little (11)** said, “I feel so much better when I listen to Christmas music.” and **Macy Klosterman (11)** said something along similar lines, “Yes! I think it’s mostly about nostalgia and the feeling of happiness!”

Although there are Grinch's out there who believe Christmas music is bad for your mental health, many students think it is quite the opposite, myself included. Christmas music is very uplifting and nostalgic and overall, gives you a good feeling, not a bad one.

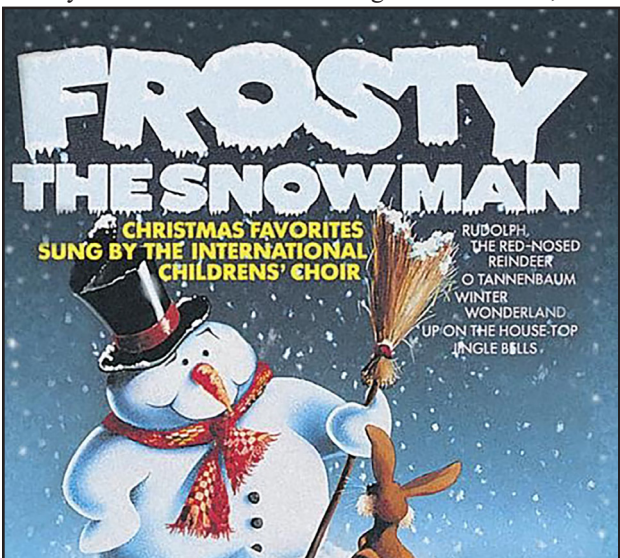


Photo courtesy of Amazon.com

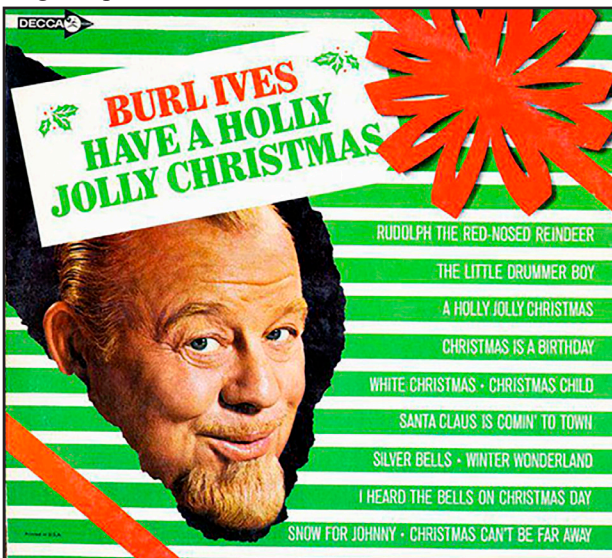


Photo courtesy of McAlister News

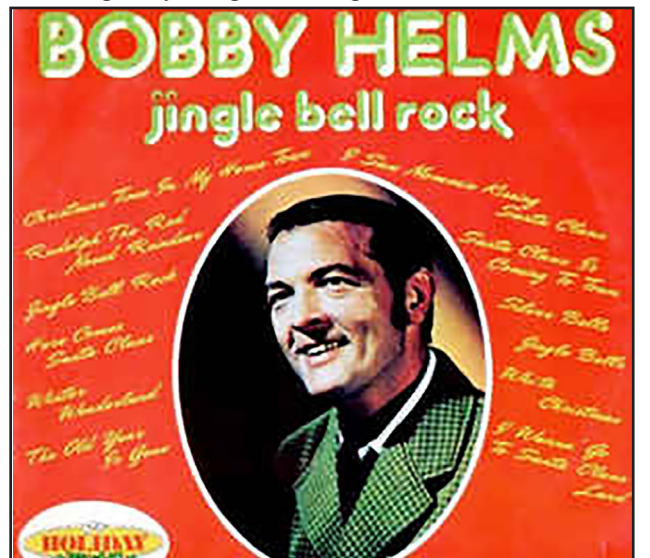


Photo courtesy of discogs



# HoliDate Ideas For Christmas

By Skylar Lundeen  
*@skylarlundeen | Staff Writer*

To start off the Christmas season, one could always come up with creative date ideas to make the holiday season more fun. There are many interesting ideas that someone could come up with if they wanted to spice up the holidays. eason with a little romance. On a cold day, a couple could drink hot chocolate together while watching a Christmas movie by a fire. If someone wants an idea that's less of a cliché, they could build a snowman, or even have a snowman building contest. Getting creative and coming up with fun activities to do is half of the fun!

Building a gingerbread house could also be a fun first date activity, because one would be forced to have a conversation and get to know each other, while watching a movie would just involve sitting in silence. There wouldn't be much conversation except for what's on the screen. Setting up someone's house with Christmas decorations

could also be a good bonding experience. Another idea is decorating a Christmas tree with colorful lights and decorations. A couple could also go Christmas shopping together for their friends or family members. The two could also get presents for each other and turn it into a date with dinner. If two people like the outdoors, they could go cut down firewood and make a fire together, which would help a couple see if they are compatible or not.

Some more outdoor activities could be ice skating, skiing, or tubing. Even if a couple does not know how to ice skate or ski, it could be a great learning experience and a fun way to create a connection with good memories (if everything goes well). Skiing would be enjoyable, but I would not make these plans for a first date. During a first date, a couple should be doing an activity where they would be communicating with each other and learning more about one another. The only time two people would get to talk while skiing would be on a ski lift, and that defeats the purpose of a date. Admiring Christmas decorations or even

visiting a light show could be a good way to spend one's night with his/her significant other. Something as simple as a trip to Starbucks could be entertaining and a great way to bond, and they have delicious holiday drinks.

Taking cute Christmas pictures is always a viable option. A couple could even dress up in matching outfits or ugly sweaters to make the pictures more festive, and even have stockings or mugs in hand. Santa hats are cute with matching coats or pajamas. These photos can be taken outside or inside; they both would turn out nice if one wanted to post them on a social media platform. Making a Christmas dessert is always an option, whether that is cookies, pie, or cupcakes. Baking is a good go to idea, because who doesn't like food?

Christmas is also a perfect time to meet one's family and get to know the entire family during the holiday season. Since Christmas is a time to spend with people one cares about, date ideas are needed.e ideas are needed.



Photo Courtesy of cincinnatifamilymagazine.com



Photo courtesy of citybeat.com

# Lesser Known Holidays to Learn About

By Laurel Gibbins  
*@lfgibbins9212 | Editor*

During the holiday season, Christmas always seems to get the most attention. Christmas movies are played on every TV channel, Christmas songs are played on the radio, and every store has a Christmas sale. However, there are so many diverse and beautiful holidays from around the world that deserve attention. Here's a list of some lesser-known holidays to familiarise yourself with this holiday season.

Hanukkah December 10-18: Hanukkah (also spelled Chanukah) is the Jewish "festival of lights" celebration. According to chabad.org, in the second century BC, the Holy Land was under attack by the Greeks. Although they were very outnumbered and poorly armed, the Jews were able to defeat the Greek army and reclaim the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. When they went to light the Temple's Menorah, the Jews only found a one day supply of oil left by the Greeks. However, the Menorah stayed lit for eight days, thus the celebration of Hanukkah is eight days long. One candle of the Menorah is lit every day of the celebration. Songs and prayers are

recited every day. Popular dishes include potato latkes and jelly-filled donuts (sufganya). The dreidel game is often played. Players spin a dreidel and depending on which side it lands on, players take something from the pot, give something to the pot, take everything from the pot, or do nothing.

Kwanzaa December 26-January 1: According to africa.upenn.edu, Kwanzaa is an African-American celebration of the first harvest. It is similar to Thanksgiving or the Yam Festival in Ghana and Nigeria. It was first introduced into the United States in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga. There are five values that are celebrated during the festival: ingathering, reverence, commemoration, recommitment, and celebration. There are seven principles: unity (umoya), self-determination (kujichagulia), responsibility (ujima), cooperative economics (ujamaa), purpose (nia), creativity (kuumba), and faith (imani). The candle holder (kinara) holds seven candles that represent the seven principles of Kwanzaa. Gifts are given on December 31 and a banquet of food from many different African countries often follows. Three Kings Day January 6: "El Dia De Los Reyes" is

celebrated in Spain and Latin America and marks the last day of Christmas known as the Feast of Epiphany. In the original Christmas story, there were Three Wisemen (kings) who traveled for twelve days to find baby Jesus, thus Three Kings Day is twelve days after Christmas. The Three Wisemen gave baby Jesus gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold represents the belief that Jesus was the King of the Jews, myrrh represents the death of Jesus, and frankincense represents the divine nature of Jesus. Children in Spain and Latin America leave their shoes by the door of their house so the Three Kings can leave them presents. A special cake filled with different fruits called "Roscones de Reyes" is often eaten. It symbolizes the twelve nights of Christmas.

The holidays listed above are just a small sampling of everything that the holiday season has to offer. There are so many other holidays that take place in November, December, and January all over the world that I encourage you to learn more about. Learning about different holidays that are celebrated is just one way to dive into the cultures of other countries. Happy Holidays!



Photo courtesy of snopes.com



Photo courtesy of daysoftheyear.com



Photo courtesy of sincerelyspain.com



# Traveling This Winter

By Adam Luneack  
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While the Coronavirus is still a very big problem today, we begin the time of year in which vacationing becomes more common. As the winter holidays approach, many people use this time to visit family, take trips down south on winter break, and spend time with friends. This year however, things have changed, as the United States has reported over 1 million covid cases over the past 7 days. Airports, bus stations, train stations, public transport, gas stations, and rest stops are all places travelers can be exposed to the virus in the air and on surfaces. The rampant coronavirus combined with the infamous flu season, will create a tornado of sickness and because of that, health officials recommend staying home for the holidays. Many states are now implementing travel restrictions and here in Ohio, the pandemic situation is continuing to get worse. Ohio Governor, Mike Dewine, stated Monday, “The high volume of these numbers is now overwhelming the system.”

More than 4,300 people are currently in the hospital from the virus and the state of Ohio has reported a record 11,885 total cases, and the numbers are climbing. One common winter vacationing spot for Ohioans is Florida. While the state of Florida does not currently have any travel restrictions, the state’s number of cases has tripled since they reopened on May 4. The total number of cases for Florida is a scary 945,000 and as temperatures drop in the midwest and elsewhere, that number is likely to increase with the influx of tourists and winter vacationers. The CDC knows the inevitability of families gathering for Thanksgiving and Christmas so they insist on some rules for these get-togethers: limit the number of attendees as much as possible, host outdoor rather than indoor, require guests to wear masks, ensure guests are washing their hands and not getting too close to others. While this does not seem like the ideal way to spend the holidays, we must be responsible and unified to finally take care of the

virus. If everyone wears their masks and practices social distancing, the pandemic can finally be eradicated and we can return to normal life. This responsibility is evident at LHS, even though it might mean a smaller Thanksgiving. **Ryan Sewell (12)** and his family are doing the right thing this winter, “Usually we go to Phoenix, Arizona, to visit my grandparents and gather as a whole family, but this year my parents are making all of the food at home and I am celebrating with only my immediate family.” Sewell added, “I enjoy going to Arizona in the winter because it is a lot warmer but I know that there is a better chance of getting corona if I go on a plane.” To conclude, because of the rising covid cases and the fact that many vacationing states in the south have a high number of them, this winter, I recommend staying home and enjoying the holidays with your immediate family. We can only defeat this virus if we come together (not literally), wear our masks, and dutifully practice social distancing. Happy Holidays!



Photo Courtesy of Dailymail.com



Photo Courtesy of radio.wsco.org

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# Staying Positive over Break

By Sean Behling  
*@lovelandroar | Staff Writer*

Winter break is right around the corner, and it’s going to look different from normal. With the threat of COVID-19 still at large, it might not be possible for a lot of families to get together over the holidays. Without the support from your friends and family during the winter days stuck at home with nothing to do, some people may feel really down. So I’m going to give you some tips to stay positive during winter break. The first tip is to stay in contact with your friends and family. This may sound obvious, but that may not always be the case. I remember at the beginning of the school year, I was bummed having to adjust to remote learning. One of the worst parts was that I couldn’t see my friends. I didn’t even try texting them, because I figured they were busy. But my mom suggested that I try it anyway, so

I did. What I found was that a lot of my friends were more than happy to chat with me via text message for a bit and tell me how they were doing when I asked them. This is a great thing to remember, even if you can’t hug your family members in person, it’s still good to hear from them and see how they’re doing, and it can definitely help you feel better. This next tip isn’t quite as long as the last one, but it deals with the topic of exercise. Now, I’m not an exercise freak. I’d be more than happy to spend my entire day sitting down with a bag of chips. But I still go on the treadmill every so often to help myself feel better. Whenever I am stressing about an upcoming assignment, even when I’m supposed to be taking a break, it helps me to exercise so I don’t feel like I am completely wasting my time while still taking a break from school work. Even just going on a walk around your neighborhood is a great way to stay

active and improve your mood. The final tip is to find a new hobby, or something else to fill your time. Attending school and working on homework takes up a good amount of my daily routine, as it probably does for a lot of us. Once this semester ends and we start winter break, many of us may not have anything extra to do with our new free time, so our days may feel empty. An easy way to fix this is to find a new hobby or activity that you enjoy. If you try learning a new skill or activity, it will keep the days from feeling empty and meaningless. Even just picking up a new book, or buying a new video game to keep things interesting will help you feel better and get over the holiday blues. I hope that these tips can help get you through winter break feeling positive and cheerful. Remember, 2020 will be over soon, and hopefully all of the chaos it’s brought will be, as well. So do your best to stay cheerful, stay safe, and stay awesome.



Photo Courtesy of datanerds.com



Photo Courtesy of fanpop.com



# Debate topic; when should we start playing Christmas music?

By Sam Neiger

@lovelandroar

Staff Writer

The COVID-19 pandemic means that the holidays are going to look a little different this year. There will be no large gatherings, and people will be using masks to keep their faces warm rather than scarves, but one thing is for sure, the tradition of Christmas music will never change.

No matter your holiday celebrations, your beliefs, or religion, Christmas music makes the holiday season unlike any other time of year. Winter break makes December all the sweeter, as we students get over two weeks dedicated to everything associated with holiday joy. The music is unlike any other time of year. Everything about the holidays captured in song leads to Christmas music putting everyone in a good mood.

Classic Christmas songs have been re-recorded over and over again, each artist putting a new spin on old favorites, leaving the people with a medley of holiday cheer. The month of December is Christmas music’s time to shine from “Jingle Bells” to “All I want for Christmas is You”, but for over a month, the yearly debate has been going on



Photo courtesy of The Today Show



Photo courtesy of Billboard

over how early is too early to play Christmas music.

The key to this argument lies in the different views of the holidays. There are, of course, the two extremes: those who start playing Christmas music in September out of love for the holidays and those who begin playing it the week of Christmas. With these two outliers excluded, the “holiday season” is pretty much limited to November and December.

Some make the argument that right after Halloween, this Christmas season begins. It’s certainly not uncommon to see lights and Christmas trees go up before Thanksgiving, and Christmas music begins its yearly upward trend of popularity.

On the other hand, there are those who don’t begin listening to Christmas music until after Thanksgiving. Some believe that getting in the Christmas spirit too early takes away from a great holiday like Thanksgiving. They enjoy their day of food and thanks in late November, and then turn around the next day and cram stores on Black Friday in the name of Merry Christmas to all.

Which of these is the way to go? **Jenna Reis (11)** would argue that it’s never too early to start blaring some “Jingle Bell Rock” saying, “I literally listen to Christmas music all year long.” On the other hand, some students at Loveland High School like **Johnathan Lauders (11)** are more traditional. He believes that Christmas music should start, “on Turkey Day.”

This debate seems to happen every year, and it gets heated. It’s easy to see why some people would find it annoying to hear the sounds of “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer” fresh off the heels of October, especially when it isn’t even that cold. It’s also not fun to hear people still complaining about “Here Comes Santa Claus” when we are weeks into the month of December. It seems like every year this argument is dominated by the two extremes and the casual Christmas music fan is forced to suffer because of it. Whatever your opinion of Christmas music’s early appearance every year, just be sure to enjoy it rather than complain. After all, Christmas time only comes around once a year.



Photo courtesy of People.com

## How do you celebrate the holiday season?

Over the holidays I like to spend time with my family, and eat all kinds of Christmas cookies.

- **Sam Neiger (11)**

Any other year, I would be traveling to visit family in Tennessee or Indiana this holiday season but because of Corona, I will be staying home and celebrating Christmas with only my parents and siblings. Along with the normal Christmas gift-giving, my family is also doing a "white elephant" gift exchange which I am looking forward to.

- **Adam Luneack (12)**

My family always celebrates on Christmas Eve because it is my grandma’s birthday. We go to a nice restaurant and then go back to her house to do gifts and cake. We order pizza later that night too!

- **Ella Clemons (10)**

My family has a Nerf gun battle on Christmas afternoon

- **Lauren Hentz (12)**

Over the Holidays, I spend time with people I care about like my family and my best friends. I cook and bake a lot too and like to do fun Christmas stuff with my friends.

- **Skylar Lundeen (10)**

I love watching horror movies and drinking peppermint mochas around the holiday season!

- **Grace Nunn (11)**

My family gets matching pajamas with my aunts and cousins. My aunt always bakes chocolate chip and shortbread cookies as well as Russian tea cakes. We also make peppermint bark and chocolate covered pretzles. Finally we watch a movie on Christmas eve.

- **Laurel Gibbins (11)**

Have a wonderful winter break.

Have some good clean fun!

- **The Roar staff 2020/21**

During the Winter Break, we celebrate Christmas by overindulging my 4 children with too many gifts, then we have a huge breakfast. We usually go skiing at least at Perfect North and we top things off with a party at a neighbor's house for New Year's Eve.

- **Larry Hutzel (staff)**

We always make cookies with my grandma the weekend before Christmas.

- **Katie Mummert (10)**

On Christmas Eve we open presents from siblings. We eat ham and mashed potatos for dinner. We go to church, come home, and then read the Nightmare Before Christmas before going to bed.

- **Aaron Krabacher (12)**

We always do gifts on Christmas morning and afterwards, my dad will make us breakfast. Later in the day, we go to my grandma’s house to see my family. We always make ham for dinner.

- **Kate Carpenter (11)**



LHS Juice Wrld Tribute

By Adam Luneack

@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

On December 8, 2019, the world was astonished to hear that hip-hop artist Jarad Higgins, also known as Juice Wrld, was hospitalized after landing at Midway Airport in Chicago. Soon after, medical examiners reported that Higgins had died from an apparent drug overdose, only 6 days after his 21st birthday. While at first people were confused whether it was an accident or if he had committed suicide, investigators connected the dots after they searched the contents of Juice Wrld’s private jet: over 70 pounds of marijuana, six bottles of liquid prescription codeine, and three firearms. This equates to 15-20 years in prison. Juice Wrld decided that he would rather have death than a prison sentence.

To call the young rapper a prodigy would be an understatement. Despite being a new face in the rap game, Higgin’s breakthrough song “Lucid Dreams” peaked at #2 on the Billboard Hot 100 in 2018. Later that year, he released his debut album Goodbye and Good Riddance which went certified platinum and peaked at #4 on Billboard 200. Since then, Juice Wrld released Death Race



Juice Wrld and Trippie Redd in the studio in 2018. They appeared on four songs together.



Photo courtesy of NME/ Andy Ford

for Love in 2019, and then earlier this year, his record label released his post-humous album Legends Never Die. While the sad truth of many rappers is that they tend to gain success after their death, Juice Wrld is the same. Legends Never Die sold more than one million units within the first five weeks that it was released, doing better than both of his previous works.

Not only was the world stunned by the passing of Higgins, the rap game was in a frenzy. Close friend of Juice and fellow rapper, Trippie Redd, tweeted that he was done doing drugs. Other artists such as Ski Mask the Slump God and Benny Blanco took to Instagram, posting pictures of Juice Wrld and themselves laughing and smiling together. Perhaps the biggest Juice Wrld fan at LHS, Eli Weiler (12), was heartbroken when he heard the news, “His death is still so sad to me because he was so young and had such a bright future. He really had a big impact on my life because his music spoke to me. Long live Juice Wrld.”

The untimely death resonates more profoundly with many fans because of the hauntingly predictive lyrics that Juice Wrld wrote. In his song, “Legends,” he sings the lyrics, “What’s the 27 club? We ain’t makin’ it past 21.” In his popular 2018 song, “Lean Wit Me,” he questions, “Will I die tonight? I don’t know, is it over?” Then later in the same song, “If I overdose, bae, are you gonna drop with me?” This shows that Juice Wrld was aware that he was playing with death by doing drugs, but he embraced it rather than being fearful of it.

As a face of our generation in music, this should be a sign of the dangers of drugs and the consequences that can happen. Juice Wrld was too young and his future was too bright to be taken from us. On the one year anniversary of his death, we remember Juice Wrld for being the face of the new generation of rap, and a life taken too soon. Rest In Peace Jarad Higgins.



Juice Wrld’s debut album Goodbye and Good Riddance. The album peaked at #4 in the US.

What’s New on Netflix

By Kate Carpenter

@kate\_carp | Editor

The holiday season is among us which means that it is the perfect time to start binge watching the shows that you had been unable to watch due to your busy schedules over the last few months.

Netflix has always been known for releasing some incredible shows, especially around the new year. Today, I am going to give you a quick rundown of the new shows coming to Netflix in the coming months, and the new seasons of pre-existing shows that will be added to the streaming service.

First on the list of new seasons is Atypical season 4. Although there is no official release date, producers announced that the final season of the show will be released sometime in 2021. The final season of the show is expected to follow Sam Gardner as he moves into his college dorm, and Casey Gardner as she signs up to join the UCLA track team. Fans are sad to see the show go, but are excited for a heartfelt tear-jerker of a final season.

Netflix recently announced that the third installment of the fan favorite movie The Kissing Booth will be coming to Netflix during summer 2021. Actor Joey King announced



The cast for Stranger Things returns for season four in 2021. 40.7 million people watched season three this past year.

this during her acceptance of the Comedy Movie Star award at the 2020 People’s Choice Awards. The movie will follow Elle Evans (King) as she decides where she will be attending college the following year.

The third season of the hit Netflix show Cobra Kai will be coming to the streaming service on January 8. The show is based on the hit series of movies starting in 1984; The Karate Kid. The TV show follows the story from Johnny Lawrence’s point of view. The show became an instant success on the platform quickly reaching the top ten list.

The third season of Gerard Way’s Umbrella Academy will be coming to Netflix sometime in late 2021. There will be 10 episodes in this season. Due to COVID-19, production was halted and no official release date could be given. The season will take place in the aftermath of the thwarted apocalypse, after the siblings have arrived back to the present day only to discover that something had gone horribly wrong.

Notable TV show titles coming to the streaming platform in 2021 include but are not limited to; Ragnarok season 2, Ratched season 2, You season 3, Locke and Key season 2, The Witcher season 2, Outer Banks season 2, Lucifer season 6 part 2, Emily in Paris season 2, and Stranger



Courtesy of Netflix.com

Things season 4. Other notable movie titles coming to Netflix in 2021 include; Athlete A, We Can Be Heroes, and Pieces of a Woman.

As you can see, there are many new movies and TV shows for you to go out and enjoy. There are movies and TV shows for everyone. The holiday season is the perfect time to find a comfortable place to snuggle up with a few blankets, pillows, and maybe even bring a few snacks to munch on while you enjoy a movie.



Season three of Umbrella Academy comes out on Netflix next year. Umbrella Academy was one of the most watched Netflix shows this year.



# Season of Dog Sweaters

By Grace Nunn  
[@gracegnumm](#) | Editor

It is finally that time of year, and although there isn't enough white on the ground for it to feel like Christmas, the vibe is here. The radios are already playing Christmas music, all your neighbors have their decorations up, coffee shops have their holiday drinks for sale, and dogs on the streets have sweaters.

Although the weather isn't exactly freezing, it is still cold for your pets, who don't have layers of coats that they can wear. This is where the sweaters come in. Assuming you have seen pets with Halloween costumes, it is the same thing but usually Christmas-themed, and much warmer. You can find them online, at Target, PetSmart, and plenty of other stores.

Of course, not every dog needs a coat. Some dogs have fur coats genetically designed for cold temperatures, like Huskies and Malamutes. However, if you aren't sure if your dog needs one, here are some rules of thumb. If

your dog is a small shorthair breed, like Chihuahuas, they will have a difficult time generating heat. Short dogs like Corgis, can constantly be brushing against snow and ice because their bellies are close to the ground. Dogs that get their hair clipped, like Poodles, may need a coat because their fur has been cut so much that it can alter their natural protection. Lean short-haired breeds like Greyhounds should also be protected. Finally, older dogs may be more prone to conditions requiring a coat since they are aging ([akc.org](#)).

If your dog doesn't fit into any of those categories though, they should be fine, but if you do want to give your dog a coat, you should make sure that it won't bother your dog. You don't want to scare them or make them uncomfortable. If your dog doesn't like wearing sweaters, you probably shouldn't let them roam outside for a while without one. Take them out to use the bathroom and then bring them in.

I asked some fellow students and friends what they

thought about their dogs wearing coats. **Kaitlyn Naylor (11)** told me, "My dog hates sweaters but she has worn the occasional football jersey," while **Jessie Gibbins (11)** told me that her dog Bo, "likes it since it keeps him warm and he gets to take it off." Some students are even going out to buy matching Christmas PJs for their dogs! **Alison Hartman (12)** tells me, "Every year I go to Target and get my dog and me matching Xmas PJs. He actually loves it!" I also had people that are not students of Loveland tell me that their dogs love their sweaters, and as long as they aren't distressed while wearing them, use them!

The overall consensus seems to be that people love dressing their dogs up, and know to keep them warm during the winter months, especially the brutal winters we can have in Ohio. Although looking ahead, we may have a warmer winter this year. Regardless, be prepared to keep your pets warm, even your cats, especially if you have outdoor cats! Have a good Christmas, and get your pets a little something nice, too.



Photo Courtesy of Alison Hartman



Photo Courtesy of Lauren Nunn



Photo Courtesy of Jessie Gibbins



Photo Courtesy of Alison Hartman



# The Race for NFL MVP Heats Up

By Sam Neiger

@lovelandroar|Staff Writer

After months of patiently waiting for the return of sports, we as fans were not disappointed. The NBA, NHL and MLS restarts went well beyond expectations of many naysayers in delivering quality competition in the fight for a championship. Major League Baseball shocked the world, powering through a complete 60 game season plus the playoffs despite outbreaks of COVID-19 within many clubhouses.

One league that perhaps has had the fewest hiccups in this 2020 season is the NFL. Commissioner Roger Goodell said over the initial quarantine period that he planned on starting the season on the previously scheduled date of September 10th. Since then, the NFL has not looked back. There are still yet to be any cancellations, as the league has only been forced to reschedule a handful of games, and they’ve done so with few hiccups. Sure, COVID continues to be a foreboding presence in every front office in the country, but it certainly hasn’t hurt the level of play coming from the league’s best, and the race for NFL MVP is as close as ever.

The coveted title of league MVP is considered to be the epitome of excellence in the NFL. Early in the season, Russell Wilson was the betting favorite. Through the first 5 games Wilson tossed 19 touchdowns and only threw 3 interceptions on the way to a 5-0 start for the Seahawks. Since then, Wilson has slipped a bit, throwing 3 interceptions against the Cardinals on October 25th, 2 against the Bills on November 8th, and no touchdowns against the Rams plus 2 interceptions on November 15th. Because of these recent mistakes, Wilson’s Seahawks find themselves in a three-way battle for first place in the NFC West and Wilson finds himself falling in many MVP polls.

The new betting favorite is no stranger to the MVP spotlight: Superbowl champion, Patrick Mahomes. Mahomes has led his Chiefs to an impressive season thus far. Kansas City has yet to score fewer than 20 points this season and Mahomes is an integral part of that, throwing for 25 touchdowns, 2687 yards, and just 1 interception through the first 9 weeks. Despite this dominant start, Mahomes largely flew under

the radar behind Wilson, but with Russell’s recent struggles, Mahomes has stepped into the spotlight, and is on his way to winning his second MVP award in 3 seasons.

One dark horse candidate who could shock the NFL world is a seasoned veteran, and hall of famer who has his team putting together the best season in franchise history is Ben Roethlisberger. This may not be welcome news to the loyal Bengals fans of Loveland, but it’s hard to argue with Big Ben’s success this season. The Steelers are the last unbeaten team in the NFL, and their offense which was originally supposed to be carried by the defense, has produced multiple impressive performances. Roethlisberger has 3 big targets in Juju Smith-Schuster, Diontae Johnson, and rookie Chase Claypool and has already tossed for 2,267 yards, and 22 touchdowns with only 4 interceptions. Whether or not Roethlisberger could actually sneak in over Wilson and Mahomes or even Bill’s QB Josh Allen is still a mystery, but with plenty of time left in the season the 2020 NFL MVP is still anyone’s guess.



Photo courtesy of USA Today

Star quarterback Patrick Mahomes lazed a pass to his speedy target Tyreek Hill. Mahomes is currently the MVP frontrunner.



Photo courtesy of ESPN Seattle

Seahawks’ Russell Wilson sits in the pocket searching for an open receiver. Wilson’s MVP status dwindled since the first 4 games of the season.

# Devastating Injury Raises Questions About Bengals

By Aaron Krabacher

@aaronkrabacher|Staff

In the third quarter of the Washington Football Team versus the Cincinnati Bengals, Joe Burrow dropped back to throw a deep pass to his receiver, Tyler Boyd. As Burrow released the ball, he was tackled by two Washington defenders, resulting in a gruesome lower leg injury that would later be confirmed as an ACL, MCL, and additional damage to Burrow’s knee. As Burrow was lifted onto the cart, players from both

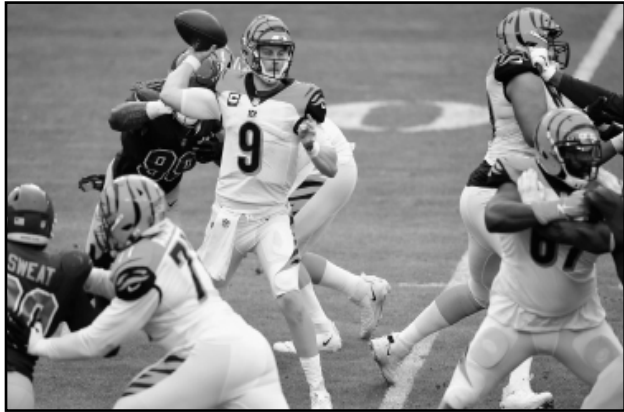


Photo courtesy of NFL Spin Zone

Burrow sets to throw before the gruesome injury. He finished the game 22-of-34 for 203 yards, with one touchdown.

Washington and Cincinnati came over to Burrow, giving a pat on the back and a few words of encouragement.

Former teammates of Burrow’s on Washington including Chase Young and Terry McLaurin spoke with Burrow momentarily before he was taken away. Players around the league including star quarterbacks Russell Wilson and Patrick Mahomes showed their support for Burrow through Twitter, tweeting at him their best wishes. After the injury Burrow broke his silence by tweeting, “Thanks for all the love. Can’t get rid of me that easy. See ya next year.”

While some around the league sympathized with Burrow, others became increasingly frustrated with the Cincinnati Bengals organization. Joe Burrow was taken with the number one draft choice in the 2020 draft, and going into the season it was very well known that the Bengals offensive line was subpar to say the least. Many had questions on how Burrow would be protected by this offensive line and feared of Burrow sustaining an injury because of it. After taking Burrow with the number one overall pick in the draft, many thought the Bengals would begin to draft offensive lineman, first to protect their franchise quarterback and second to keep him happy. Instead, the Bengals waited four more rounds before drafting an offensive lineman in the sixth round, much too late in the opinion of many.

Some place the blame on the actual players on the offensive line, but others think that the blame is attributed to the ownership and management of the Cincinnati Bengals. Mike Brown is a name that comes up very often when people talk about the failure of the Cincinnati Bengals. Many have accused Brown of simply being a guy who owns a football team for the fun of it.

Instead of making smart football decisions, Brown simply holds onto the franchise for himself without consideration of what other teams are doing or how his team is doing.



Photo courtesy of Redsreporter.com

Burrow shares a tender moment with former Ohio State teammate Chase Young. The pair of former Heisman candidate rookies were stellar this season.

When the Bengals drafted Burrow in the NFL Draft, critics thought that this was his worst case scenario. The Bengals franchise was known for poor management under Brown which could waste the talented quarterback’s career playing on bad teams that never made the playoffs.

Joe Burrow’s leg injury was devastating for the entire league. For some, it was simply a trend on Twitter or a glance at a phone. It was the worst fear for many Bengals fans, with one of the best players to ever enter the organization out for an indefinite amount of time. Nevertheless, both sides agree on one thing. They both