



THE ROAR

Loveland High School, Loveland, Ohio

Page Editor: Kate Carpenter

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Look Inside:

Amy Coney Barrett becomes Newest US Supreme Court Justice

By Laurel Gibbins
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On September 26, just over a week after the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, President Donald Trump nominated Judge Amy Coney Barrett to fill the vacant seat in the Supreme Court. Here's what we know about Judge Barrett:

According to law.nd.edu Judge Barrett graduated from Notre Dame Law School in 1997, where she has been a faculty member since 2002. According to Whitehouse.gov Judge Barrett is currently serving on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago after being nominated by President Trump in May of 2017. According to newsweek.org Judge Barrett has followed conservative views throughout her time on the Court of Appeals in regards to issues such as gun rights, abortion, LGBTQ+ rights, and immigration. Although Judge Barrett has not publicly disclosed her views on Row v Wade and abortion it was recently revealed that in 2006, she and her husband, Jesse Barrett, signed a newspaper advertisement calling for the end of Roe v Wade. The advertisement was published by an Indiana-based anti-abortion Organization St. Joseph County Right to Life Group. Judge Barrett has said that abortion is "always immoral." While on the Court of Appeals, Judge Barrett voted to uphold an Indiana law that requires doctors to contact parents of

minors who want to get abortions. The law was ultimately thrown out by the court, but Judge Barrett criticized the decision. Critics of Judge Barrett's religious faith are concerned about how Judge Barrett's faith influences her views on LGBTQ+ rights. Again, Judge Barrett has not publicly stated her views on LGBTQ+ rights, but she has stated that she follows the Church's teaching of marriage, which is one man and one woman.

Confirmation hearings for Judge Barrett started on Monday, October 12 and ended on Thursday, October 15. Confirmation hearings give Senators the opportunity to ask Supreme Court nominees questions that

they feel are constructive to find out more information about the nominees and their political beliefs. According to Apnews, on Sunday, October 24, Senate voted 51-48 to move Judge Barrett forward to final confirmation. All Democrats that were in attendance voted against moving forward with the confirmation of Judge Barrett and all Republicans except for two, Lisa Murkowski (Alaska) and Susan Collins (Maine), voted in favor of moving Judge Barrett's confirmation forward. With the majority of Republicans in support of Judge Barrett's confirmation, it was no surprise when Judge Barrett was officially confirmed on Monday, October 26, a little over a week before election day.

Judge Barrett's confirmation to the Supreme Court marks the third Supreme Court Justice that President Trump has appointed during his presidency, the most since Ronald Reagan was president. Along with Judge Barrett, President Trump appointed Neil Gorsuch in 2017 and Brett Kavanaugh in 2018. Justice Gorsuch filled Justice Antonin Scalia's seat and Justice Kavanaugh filled Justice Anthony Kennedy's seat. Justice Barrett's confirmation turned the Supreme Court majority Republican for years to come. Judge Barrett's first court as a Supreme Court Justice will most likely be about the Affordable Care Act and will take place very soon.



Photo courtesy of Georgia Bulletin

News



Photo courtesy of Human Rights Watch

Learn more about the ongoing police brutality and violence in Nigeria on page 2.

Editorials



Photo courtesy of Pinterest

Interested in Loveland,Ohio's very own cryptid? Learn more on page 5.

Entertainment



Photo courtesy of Research Matters

Want something to laugh at? Go to page 7 to read about funny things surrounding the election.

Sports



Photo courtesy of the NFL

Love football? Love Thanksgiving? Then head to page 12 to read about both.

New and "Improved" Alphabet Song

By Laurel Gibbins
[@lfgibbins9212](#) | Editor

The alphabet is one of the first things kids learn in school. It is the foundation of learning language. Kids start with letters, use the letters to make words, and use the words to make sentences that they can read and write. The alphabet song is even used to teach kids the appropriate amount of time to wash their hands. Without learning the alphabet, it is impossible to move forward in one's education. Needless to say, the alphabet is extremely important.

When they are first learning the alphabet, kids learn a song to help them remember it. If you are reading this article, chances are you know the alphabet song. The song we know and love ends with the classic "now I know my ABC's next time won't you sing with me" and goes through each letter slowly, except for L, M, N, O, P which get jumbled up into LMNOP because the five letters are given the same amount of time that every other single letter gets. This has the tendency to cause confusion in the young audience of the song. Therefore, the alphabet song got a makeover. The new song slows down the L ,M ,N ,O ,P part of the song and adds small pauses to clarify those letters. This seemingly small change alters the whole melody of the song and makes it end with "now I will never forgot how to say the alphabet."

According to Huffpost, this new version of the alphabet song was originally created by the YouTube channel "Dream

ALPHABET SOUND CHART			
Aa	Bb	Cc	Dd
Ee	Ff	Gg	Hh
Ii	Jj	Kk	Ll
Mm	Nn	Oo	Pp
Qq	Rr	Ss	Tt
Uu	Vv	Ww	Xx
Yy	Zz		

Photo courtesy of Kindercraze.com

English" in 2012. Although it was created eight years ago, the song gained popularity recently when it was shared on a variety of social media platforms. A TikTok made by Arielle Fodor, a kindergarten teacher in Los Angeles, was the first to bring attention to the new song. The reaction to the song has been mixed. Some people, especially parents and teachers, commend the song for making learning the alphabet easier, while others don't understand why the change was necessary and don't like how the song changed what they grew up with. Some students support the original song. "I understand why it's necessary to clarify L ,M ,N ,O ,P but I don't like the ending," **Jessie Gibbins (11)**. "I don't

have a problem with the new version, but I like the original because it's what I grew up learning" **Sarah Ownes (11)**. Others support the new song. "I think the new version of the song is better because it will make learning the alphabet easier," **Grace Jones (11)**.

The original version of the alphabet song was changed to meet the needs of kids who are learning the alphabet for the first time. Kids often have trouble learning L ,M ,N ,O ,P because of the speed of the song. The new song makes it easier to decipher between those five letters. With the new song, kids are able to learn the alphabet faster, which allows them to grow and learn more. Learning the alphabet sets kids up for lifelong academic success.



Photo courtesy of Publicdomainimages.com

Student Talent Spotlight

By Kate Carpenter
@kate_carp|Editor

There are many talented students at Loveland, today I sat down with senior Bea Aldrich to ask her some questions about her experiences with music throughout her many years at LHS.

How long have you been practicing music and playing instruments?

I started band in 5th grade on clarinet, and then switched to bass clarinet in 8th, but I really started dedicating my time starting freshman year when I joined marching band and wind ensemble.

What made you want to learn music when you were younger?

What first got me into music was honestly just the requirement that Loveland had for 5th graders

How many instruments can you play?

Including mine and those borrowed. I own a clarinet, an alto saxophone, a ukulele, a keyboard, a harmonica, a flute, a guitar, a bass clarinet, an alto clarinet, a contrabass clarinet, a tenor saxophone, a tuba, an upright bass, a bass guitar, and a french horn. But the short answer is 15+ish

Favorite instrument? Least favorite instrument?

My favorite instrument to play is by far the bass clarinet. My least favorite instrument to play is either flute or trumpet.

What is your proudest accomplishment in music?

I feel very proud of the clarinet solo I performed for solo and ensemble last year; I am also proud of what I've been able to do for the marching band as drum major.

What types of musical activities are

you involved in?

Marching band as drum major for previous 2 seasons, clarinet and student leader in basketball band, Clarinet in wind ensemble, french horn in symphonic, tuba in concert band, tenor sax in jazz band, bass in jazz lab, french horn in pit orchestra. I also have done clarinet quartets, 2 bass clarinet solos, and a clarinet solo. I am also in the Cincinnati Youth Wind Ensemble, and the Honor Band.

What is your favorite memory involving music?

I have too many things to choose from, but what's coming to mind right now is when the marching band went to Grand Nationals. Our performance was especially emotional for everyone. Watching other bands and staying for awards at the end of the night was one of my favorite things I've gotten to do.

Where do you plan on going to college, and what do you plan on studying?

If I had to give my first choice, I'd choose the University of Cincinnati. My current plans are to double major in clarinet performance and music education.

Do you have any advice for other young musicians?

One is to know that music is a skill, it's something that you have to spend time on and you're not going to improve if you don't. My second piece of advice is to always keep music with you. Even if you try an instrument or choir and decide it's not for you, music is really the universal language between humans. It's able to express what words can't in many cases, and it'll always be there for you emotionally.



Photo courtesy of Loveland Magazine

Drum majors and colorguard captains stand at parade rest waiting for the announcement of Grand Champion. The LHSMB won in every category and was declared Grand Champion of the competition.



Photo courtesy of Loveland Magazine

Drum major **Bea Aldrich (12)** and band director **Geoffrey Miller** conduct the 2020 LHS Marching Band's half time show. The half time show has been an LHSMB tradition.



Photo courtesy of Loveland Magazine

Drum majors **Bea Aldrich (12)**, and alumni **Dahlia Kressler** and **Kylie Bachman** perform their salute at a competition. The drum majors performed this salute at the beginning of each performance.

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Men's Soccer: Journey To State

By Adam Luneack
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

The LHS Men's Varsity Soccer team had an impressive season this year, finishing 11-2-3, winning the ECC, ranking 29th in the state, and making it to the OHSAA District Final- falling short to a very talented Centerville team. The team made it halfway to the state championship as they had to win six playoff games before the big one. The Tigers won their first 3 playoff games, defeating Withrow, Mt. Healthy, and Elder, scoring a whopping 18 combined goals, while only giving up two. One important reason for the team's success was because of the effort from the eight returning seniors. Striker **Helge Harris (12)** commented on this, "I think the seniors help the team come together because all of us have been playing with each other for such a long time." Led by **Coach Mike Dunlap**, these playoff runs are nothing new to the seniors, as Loveland has reached the district finals the last 3 years.

There is however, one obstacle that the guys had to overcome that experience couldn't help with: Covid-19. The pandemic greatly affected the soccer season, not

only because of the mask requirement, but it also raised the question: Will our season be cancelled? After early summer workouts were delayed, the concern if the soccer season would happen was very serious. "Corona has always been something we've worried about. We thought that our season would be cancelled if someone got it but thankfully only our Sycamore game got cancelled," explained winger **Ethan Smith (12)**. Another issue brought by Covid was the limiting amount of fans allowed at Tiger Stadium. In previous seasons, students and parents would fill the stands to watch the team play but this year, things have changed. While these pandemic restrictions have made the Tiger Turf a lot quieter during games, this didn't curb Loveland's intensity. "Covid hasn't allowed for many fans to come to the games so a lot of the energy had to come from us rather than the crowd," said center back **Addison Hearn (11)**.

The threat of having no season and fewer fans did not dishearten the team however, but encouraged them to work harder under the given circumstances. This hard work was proven worth it as second-year varsity player

Kees Ciric (12) finished off a tremendous regular season, scoring ten goals and adding two more in the playoffs. This was just one example of a player stepping up this season to get the job done. After asking some players what they think makes this team special compared to those in the past, many had the same answer: grit. **Ethan Smith (12)** expressed this, "What made us such a memorable team was the hard work and tenacity everyone on the team put in every day whether it was in practice or games." Outside back **Alex Paumier (12)** added, "I think this team was great because we never gave up and our record showed that." This determination proved to be the deciding factor that gave Loveland Men's Soccer the advantage in the annihilation of the first three teams faced in the playoffs. Through the obstacles that the team had to overcome this season, the experience that the eight seniors brought to the table, and the overall confidence that the players had in each other, the 2020 Loveland Men's Soccer Team displayed a great season and most importantly, made all of us at LHS proud to be tigers.



Photo courtesy of lovelandtigers.org



Photo courtesy of lovelandtigers.org

Boys Cross Country Team Fights To Get State

By Sam Neiger
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

Your Loveland Boys Cross Country Team hasn't qualified for the State Meet in this century. In fact, they have only done it once in program history, all the way back in the 1970s. Since then, the program has had its ups and downs in competition in the District and Regional championships. But this year could be different for the Tigers.

After qualifying for the Southwest Ohio Regional Championship, the runners were ecstatic. They had just come off of a second place finish at the Conference Championship meet where they were edged by Lebanon by a difference of four points on October 17. The team bounced back well capturing a District Championship runner-up trophy the next Saturday (something that none of the runners on the current team had ever done).

Senior Colin Beran was especially excited upon capturing the title saying, "In all my four years of running cross country I've never gotten to hold a trophy," but that

changed in an instant at the District Championship. Being the second best team in the district is not the only goal that this Tigers team has. One of the goals they set for themselves at the beginning of the season was to be state qualifiers for the first time since the '70s. Most of the runners on the varsity team including: Ryan Chevalier (11), Ajay Stutz (12), Brady Steiner (10), and Sam Neiger (11) have qualified for the Regional Championships every year of their high school careers. Now their focus turns to performing at the Regional Meet in Troy. Over the past 3 years, when the team has qualified for the Regional meet together, they have not yet put on a performance to make it to the next level, but many athletes on the team think that this will be the year to get it done. When asked about what makes this team different from those in years past, Steiner said that, "This team is good because they are willing to push the limit to achieve greatness." This team has certainly pushed its limits this year, breaking and re-breaking its own school record for best average finish. Not to mention, Chevalier broke the

school record for individual time during a meet against Sycamore on October 3rd. This team looks to at least match the Girls Cross Country Team who qualified for the State Meet last season and look to do it again this year. Much of the success on both teams can be attributed to a fantastic coaching staff headed up by Steve Nester, who hopes to take the boys to State in just his second year as head coach and will try to put the girls' team on the podium in just his third year. All of this being said, the Southwest Ohio Regional Meet is by far the hardest to qualify for state in Ohio and is considered to be the 2nd most competitive Region in the whole country with only Southern California being more competitive. Nonetheless, with the times that the Tigers are putting up this season, a State Qualification is not out of the question. And, should the team make it to the state meet, it remains to be seen what kind of performance the Tigers will give on a brand new course. Only their times will tell.



Photo courtesy of lovelandtigers.org

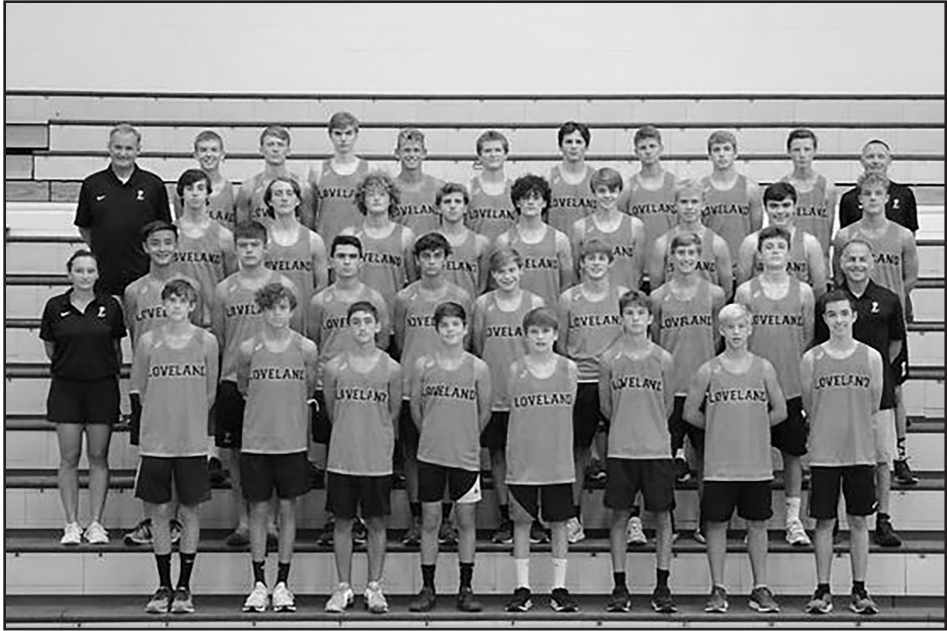


Photo courtesy of lovelandtigers.org

2020 NCAA College Football

By Aaron Morton
@aaronmorton | Staff Writer

This year, the college football landscape has been filled with both uncertainty and hope. Coaches, fans, and players alike have been, in the words of Bon Jovi, “living on a prayer.” With so much uncertainty surrounding this season, a number of teams have taken advantage of the peculiar circumstances as an opportunity to make major strides in the college football rankings. Teams such as the Marshall Thundering Herd (ranked 19), the Coastal Carolina Chanticleers (ranked 20), and the SMU Mustangs (ranked 22) have taken advantage of the early absence of Power 5 contenders to attain a spot for themselves in the AP Top 25 Poll. But with the return of Big Ten play this past Saturday, the top 25



Photo courtesy of Sportsnaut

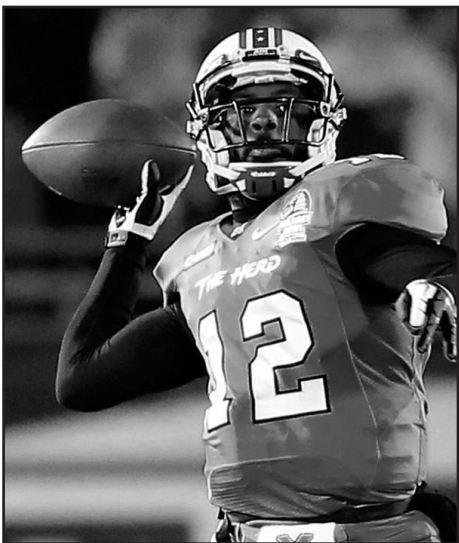


Photo courtesy of Hustle Belt is seemingly returning to its normal state. Ohio State quickly jumped to the number three spot in the AP Poll after a 52-17 routing against Nebraska on Saturday. Ohio State's QB1, Justin Fields, had a very impressive start to his season. The junior went 20/21 on pass attempts, a 95.2% completion percentage. Fields' 20 completions went for 276 yards and 2 touchdowns. Fields paired his air attack with 54 rushing yards and 1 rushing touchdown, for an all around impressive season debut performance. With the commencement of Big Ten play, all eyes are on the Pac-12 Conference. The Pac 12 is the only Power 5 conference that has not begun official play. Originally, the conference officials stated that teams in the conference would not compete in any fashion until the 2021 season. In late September, that statement was retracted, and the conference is set to begin play on November 6, 2020.

As more teams return to college football play, the College Football Playoff predictions have begun. Many analysts predict that Ohio State, Clemson, and Alabama are sure bets to attain the top three spots in the playoffs. With the fourth spot up for grabs, it will be extremely interesting to see who emerges to take it. Early front runners include the Notre Dame Fighting Irish, the Georgia Bulldogs, and the Oregon Ducks. Notre Dame and Georgia both have a very tough latter half of their seasons. The Fight-



Photo courtesy of Toledo Blade

ing Irish are scheduled to face off against the #1 ranked Clemson Tigers, led by Heisman candidate quarterback Trevor Lawrence, week seven. This matchup will be the game that will make or break the Irish's

playoff plans. The Bulldogs currently have one loss to a very high-powered Alabama football team in week four. They are scheduled to play a talented Florida team week 6, along with a tough SEC schedule. While Oregon has not played a game yet, they are currently favored to earn the #4 spot in the playoff bracket. Unless this Pac-12 powerhouse were to unexpectedly drop one of the fairly facile games on their schedule to a mediocre conference opponent, the Ducks should get the bid for the #4 spot. While these predictions are based off of expert opinions, nothing is set in stone. In the world of college football, anything is possible. One thing is for sure, this season is shaping up to be a wild and exciting journey.

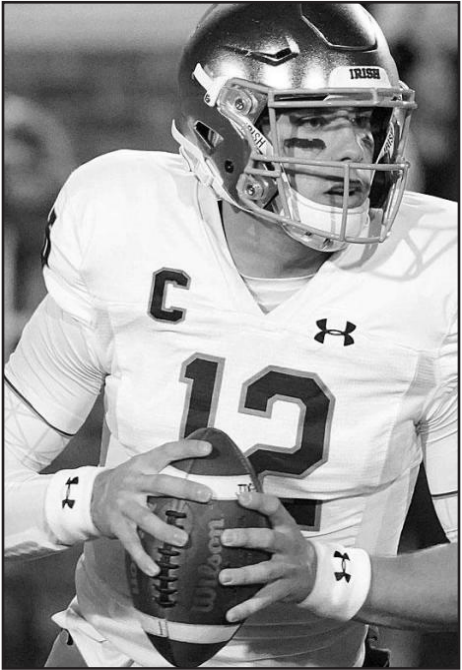


Photo courtesy of CBS Sports

NFL Football: Thanksgiving Tradition

By Sam Neiger
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Every year on a Thursday in late fall, battles rage on the gridiron. America's teams duel across the country as America's people sit down to enjoy one of the most coveted holidays of the year. Thanksgiving and NFL football are synonymous. The history of professional football itself can be found in its Thanksgiving tradition, as even the first season of the NFL in 1920 saw a game played between the Chicago Tigers and the Decatur Staleys. Legends have been made on Thanksgiving Day, and some of the most memorable games in history have played out in living rooms across the nation. The first Thanksgiving Day Game, played in 1920, is more of an urban legend than anything. The Chicago Tigers and Decatur Staleys challenged each other to a matchup like no other. A lot was on the



Photo courtesy of CBS Sports



Photo courtesy of The Lakeside Collection

line, as it was declared that the loser of the game would not be welcomed back into the league the following season. Although there is no confirmation of this, Chicago lost the game and proceeded to fold operations just two weeks later. The following season, the Staleys took the place of the Tigers as the football team of Chicago and renamed themselves the Bears. Since then, football on Thanksgiving-and the NFL as a whole-has evolved to become the spectacle we see today. One of the earliest memories of many seasoned football fans is the 1962 “Thanksgiving Day Massacre” that saw the Detroit Lions shut out the Green Bay Packers 10-0, sacking quarterback Bart Starr 11 times. In 1976, the Lions defeated the Buffalo Bills 27-14 in the worst offensive performance in Thanksgiving football history. While Bills running back OJ

Simpson set an NFL record with 273 rush yards in a single game, Bills quarterback Gary Marangi completed just 4 of 21 passes, finishing with a QBR of 19.7.

As far as games in more recent years, the 2012 battle between the New York Jets and the New England Patriots takes the



Photo courtesy of Fansided

cake. Many young fans will remember the infamous “Butt Fumble” committed by Jets QB Mark Sanchez who ran his head into the butt of Right Guard Brandon Moore and fumbled the ball. The fumble was then scooped up by Pats Safety Steve Gregory, who returned it for a touchdown en route to a 49-19 victory over New York. The “Butt Fumble” has become one of the most famous, and hilarious plays in football in recent years.

As for games this year, there are three. As it has been for decades, the Detroit Lions and Dallas Cowboys will each host a game, playing the Houston Texans, and the

Washington Football Team, respectively. Other than tradition, these games won't attract a lot of attention from fans looking for a good matchup, but the nightcap will be a different story. The Baltimore Ravens march into Pittsburgh to face off against the Steelers in an AFC North rivalry as old as the teams themselves. This year, the Ravens and Steelers have proven themselves two of the best teams in the AFC, and two reasonable Super Bowl contenders, making this game all the sweeter. So, after you've finished your pumpkin pie, make sure to take a load off your feet, sit on the couch, and enjoy one of the best games on tap for Thanksgiving



Photo courtesy of OddsChecker

Nasa Sends Wifi to the Moon

By Adam Luneack
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

NASA has granted Nokia’s Bell Labs \$14.1 million to build the first-ever 4G mobile network on the moon. Named “The Artemis program,” NASA has planned to (by 2028), build a lunar base on the moon and eventually be able to sustain a human presence there, aiming to return astronauts to the moon by 2024. To accomplish this, the space administration has given \$370 million to a handful of tech companies to deploy technology on the surface of the moon. Of these tech companies, many inventions and innovations were created such as cryogenic freezing, robotics, remote power generation and, of course 4G.

The purpose of the Nokia cell tower is to allow astronauts to get wireless connectivity for data transmission, operating lunar rovers, accurate navigation of the moon’s geography, and for streaming high-definition video. “Reliable, resilient and high-capacity communications networks will be key to supporting sustainable human presence on the lunar surface,” a representative from Nokia asserted at a press conference for the unveiling of the cell tower project. The cell tower will be specially designed to withstand the harsh conditions of outer space and the rocky launch and

landing of the spacecraft itself. The revolutionary outer space structure is expected to be up and running by 2022. While the 4G network systems on Earth are supported by large cell towers, the Nokia tower was created using



Photo Courtesy of Gregory H. Rivera
small cell technology. This computer engineering causes a more limited range than that of the ones on Earth, however it uses far less power and is easier to store in a rocket ship. After Nokia bought Bell Labs in 2016, LTE and other wireless data research began. Although this cell tower will be operating in 4G, Bell Labs is a leader

in 5G network development, as well. 5G cell towers are telecommunications sites that could boost wireless signals by ten times the current speed of 4G.

Like much of the modern networking on Earth, 5G will become available for the lunar tower once the project is completed. On Earth, many network connectivity issues are caused by interference from trees, large buildings, and other man-made structures. Since the Nokia tower will be built on the moon’s relatively flat surface, there will be no obstructions which will allow for clearer communication between the Earth and moon.

Now you might be wondering: what does this mean for me? While this project does not have any direct affect on the general population, furthering lunar research allows us to prepare for the future and test our boundaries in uncharted territory. Not to mention the tools, spacecraft, and other machinery being used for this research is the most advanced technology on the planet. If NASA is able to send astronauts to the moon, this would be the first time since the Apollo 17 Mission in 1972 that the moon would have direct human contact. Not only would the cell tower on the moon pioneer a new wave of astrological technology, but it would also exemplify that the bar of space exploration is being raised.

A 3D digital rendering of the Artemis lunar lander on the moon's surface. Two astronauts in full space suits are standing near the lander. The lander has a large circular antenna on top. The background shows the dark, cratered surface of the moon and a sliver of the Earth in the distance.

Photo Courtesy of Nasa.gov
Nasa creates a 3D portrayal of the Artemis Program and astronauts on the moon. They named Artemis after Apollo, her brother and the original mission to the moon.

A black and white photograph of a large rocket, likely a Space Shuttle, being launched from a launch pad. The rocket is ascending vertically, with a large plume of smoke and fire at its base. A service structure is visible to the right of the rocket.

Photo Courtesy of Nasa.gov

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The Artemis program logo, featuring a stylized white 'A' with a grey swoosh underneath, set against a background of the moon's surface. Below the logo, the word 'ARTEMIS' is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Photo Courtesy of Nasa.gov

By Sean Behling
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

It's the second quarter now, and I think that ,overall, we're adjusting pretty well. As the year continues, however, we are probably starting to feel more relaxed about the threat of COVID-19. There hasn't been a huge incident with COVID recently. Sure some people were quarantined, but that isn't a big deal; it's pretty harmless

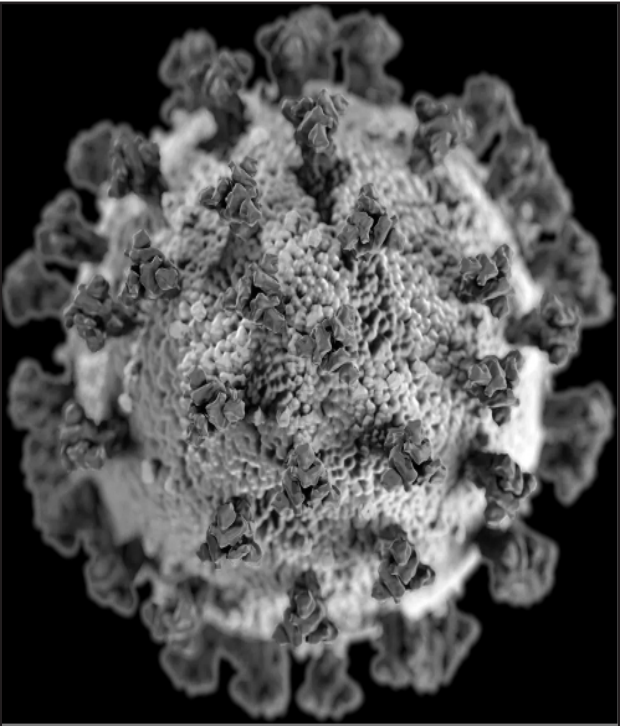


Photo Courtesy: theconversation.com

now. Unfortunately, that isn't the case. COVID-19 is still a big threat that we need to be aware of. It's important in these last months of the year to keep going strong

and finish this crazed extravaganza of a year off right. Therefore, here are some tips to help you stay safe and avoid COVID, whether you're at school or at home.

First, of course, is making sure that you're wearing your mask properly. Your mask should be covering both your mouth and nose. I understand that it may be a bit harder to breathe, but you still shouldn't just wear it underneath your nose. COVID-19 is passed through respiratory actions, such as talking and breathing. You breathe through your nose as well as your mouth, so you need to cover both in order to effectively prevent COVID from spreading. If you have to readjust your mask because it is hurting your ears,



Photo Courtesy: microsoft.com

you should do it quickly and make sure that there isn't anybody close by when you are doing so. You should try and keep your mask on as often as possible. Only take off your mask when eating or drinking.

Another obvious tip is to avoid touching surfaces and/ or your face. According to *CDC.gov*, COVID-19 is more likely to be transmitted through respiratory droplets (caused by talking, sneezing, breathing, etc.) than through objects and surfaces. This doesn't mean you're free to touch whatever you want without a care in the world. You

should still make sure to avoid sliding your hands around your desk. Also, while you can still lean your head on your hand when you get bored, you should try to do it in a way that avoids putting your hands on your face.

If you attend school, another tip is that you should try to bring the supplies you need for class on your own. Try



Photo Courtesy: articles.mercola.com

and have whatever materials you might need for class beforehand. Every pen, pencil, or piece of paper that you borrow from a friend is a potential risk. Of course, I don't mean that you should carry a five ton backpack of school supplies everywhere so that you will never possibly run out. I just mean that, if you think you might need colored pencils in class today, bring a pack to class yourself instead of taking some from the teacher's big bin of colored pencils that everyone else is putting their hands into as well.

I hope that these few tips will help you to stay safe during these tough times that are weighing down on all of us. The only way we can all get through this is by doing our part. So do your best to keep learning, stay safe, and stay awesome.

Taking a Look at 2020

By Sean Behling
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Any way you look at it, 2020 has been a disaster of a year. Between the scary possibility of catching COVID-19 and the abnormal number of natural events (wildfires, hurricanes, etc.) that have occurred within just a couple of months. Looking at it now, 2020 isn't giving us much time to think. Add on the passing of many beloved celebrities, the presidential election taking place this year, the terrible effect COVID is having on local businesses, as well as the mass BLM protests and riots that have been happening throughout this country despite the pandemic, and you can really see how bizarre 2020 has been. I remember back around the end of last school year, some people were saying that it was like a decade's worth of disasters squeezed into one year. With all that has occurred since then, 2020 almost doesn't even feel real.

While I count myself lucky that I have not had to deal



Photo Courtesy: futurity.org



Photo Courtesy: The New York Post

with such hardships myself, I still can't believe some of the horrible things that have happened this year. One night, my parents and I were having a fire on our deck, when my mom said something sad had happened. When my family and I went on vacation one year, we went to Rocky Mountain National Park. We had gone on a hike in Adams Falls, which is in the area of the town of Grand Lake. Recently, Grand Lake has burned down. This wonderful place, where we hiked, sat down, ate waffles, and laughed, is gone. The wildfires had torn through the park itself, and the park officials have had to close the park.

At the beginning of this article, I mentioned the deaths of beloved celebrities, but I failed to mention the very real prospect of our close family members dying. According to *Advisory.com*, patients who catch COVID-19 above the age of 80 are at least 20 times more likely to die from COVID-19 than patients in their 50s, and hundreds of times more likely to die from it than patients under the age of 40. With numbers like these, it is a terrifying possibility that it could happen to someone you know. Many people may not be scared of catching COVID themselves, because they aren't likely to die. But instead, they are scared of

catching COVID and transmitting it to their relatives who may be more likely to suffer from it.

The next thing to mention is the presidential election taking place this year. I am not going to go into detail about politics or anything of the like. I am just going to say, I think it is actually a blessing in disguise that during this train wreck of a year, we have something we can all focus on and talk about. During a year when everywhere you look is chaos, the presidential election gives us a chance to come together and debate. It gives us all a chance to feel as though our voices matter, are heard, and that we can do something, when a global pandemic can make us think otherwise.

Well yeah, 2020 is sort of a mess. But remember, 2020 is over in fewer than two months! So stay positive, try to enjoy the small victories, and, most importantly, stay safe.



Photo Courtesy: afro.com

Memorable Music of 2020

By Kate Carpenter

@kate_carp | Editor

2020 has brought us a number of memorable things; among those things include, an onslaught of memes ranging from an escaped Anabelle, a stolen Arby’s sign, and the strange occurrence of never seeing two pretty best friends, as well as so much more, but, most notably, 2020 has brought the world an innumerable amount of music from artists all over the world. A several month quarantine was the perfect time for the singers to create some incredible music for us to enjoy. Below, I have compiled a list of some of my most notable picks and my personal rating of each album or single.

The first notable release is Remote by Wallows, an album released on October 23, 2020. The album consists of 6 songs. Despite this being a relatively short list of tracks, it’s one of my favorites from this year. Remote features a wide range of genre and can be pretty versatile depending on your mood. My favorite song is Dig What You Dug. I would recommend this album to pretty much everyone. Overall, 8/10.

Next on my most notable list is Making a Door Less Open by Car Seat Headrest. The album features 11 songs ranging from upbeat and danceable to slower and something you could just relax and listen to. Each song on

this album is an absolute banger, but if I had to pick my favorite, it would have to be Deadlines (Hostile). Car Seat Headrest’s music is sometimes pretty odd, but I would recommend this album to anyone interested in some more



Photo Courtesy: Rollingstone.com

experimental music. Overall rating 10/10.

My next pick is the album I Love This Dream by

Vanillaroma. The album features 8 songs; each better than the last. My top pick off of this album is a split choice, both Norman Bates and Check Your Optimism are incredible songs. The entire album is catchy and fun to listen to. I would recommend this album to anyone looking for a new and different style of music to listen to. Overall rating 7/10.

I Love Us is a single by The Regrets. This song is upbeat and fun and can always bring the mood up. Released on July 13, 2020, the single has received around a half million streams on Spotify as of the end of October. I would recommend this song to anyone who wants a fun song to dance around to. Overall rating 7/10.

My final pick is Kid Krow by Conan Gray. The album contains 12 songs ranging from upbeat to rather emotional. My top pick from this album would have to be Fight or Flight. I would recommend this album to everyone. Overall rating 9/10.

Notable mentions include Folklore by Taylor Swift, RAZZMATAZZ by I DON’T KNOW HOW BUT THEY FOUND ME, DOWNDOWNDOWN by Will Joseph Cook, the single All Together Now by OK Go, The Joy of Music, The Job of Real Estate by Vulfpeck, and finally TPC DLX by Tokyo Police Club.

Quarantine is the perfect time to explore and find some new incredible music; it can be so much fun to find your new favorite song!

Loveland Frogman: Real or Fake?

By Aaron Krabacher

@aaron_krabacher | Staff Writer

Throughout the city of Loveland, rumors and stories circulate quite often about the Loveland Frogman. There are triathlons within Loveland named after him, segments on the news questioning his existence, and overall conspiracy discussing the question everyone wants to know the answer to: Is he real? In order to understand the Loveland Frogman, we have to look at the history of the legend, which began in 1972, when a Loveland police officer radioed in with a strange call. Officer Ray Shockey said that he was driving alongside the Little Miami River around 1:00 AM when he saw a weird animal run across the road. He described it as three to four feet tall, and anywhere from 50 to 75 pounds. The creature allegedly stood up on the guardrail in a frog-like position before scurrying back into the Little Miami River.

Many years later in 2016, two teenagers spotted a giant frog near Lake Isabella that was able to walk on its hind legs. No further developments were made. Although these two stories are separated by many years, both provide evidence that the Loveland Frogman does exist. The description given by Shockey matches no other animal

that inhabits the Loveland area. Unless Shockey was not seeing correctly, the creature that he saw did in fact exist. It is possible that the Loveland Frogman has been able



Photo Courtesy: fox19.com

to control reproduction, in order to keep his profile low. With too many offspring, the likelihood of being spotted by another person and someone confirming his existence would be too high. There are multiple reasons that the Loveland Frogman may have for keeping a low profile. First, he may enjoy the gossip and uncertainty of his existence. This may draw attention to him, which further

increases his popularity. Second, the Loveland Frogman may have a more shy and reclusive behavior. Too much attention may overwhelm him to a point where he must reveal himself.

Many also question what the diet of the Loveland Frogman consists of. While some think it is a more crude diet, including humans or large animals, I think that his diet is more refined. The reason that the Loveland Frogman remains in the city of Loveland is because it is where he finds his food. During the late evening and early morning hours, the Loveland Frogman travels into Old Loveland in order to dine at delicious restaurants including The Works, Ramsey’s Trailside, and Paxton’s. In fact, when he was spotted by Ray Shockey in 1972, he was probably either on his way to or back from downtown Loveland, where he would normally eat his meal for the day.

Overall, I believe in the existence of the Loveland Frogman, but I do not agree with the image that has been given to him. Almost everyone that has pictured the Loveland Frogman as a large, mutant frog with scary characteristics. However, I believe that the Loveland Frogman is more amicable, not showing himself around town because of his introverted personality and odd eating habits and times.



Photo Courtesy: Artifactsgallery.com



Photo Courtesy: Wikipedia.org

Many speculate over the existence of the Loveland Frogman. The beast was supposedly first spotted back in 1972.

Thanksgiving Interviews

By Skylar Lundeen

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As Thanksgiving comes around, one could start to think about what they’re grateful for. It could be anything from a small item to a spouse. Showing thanks and gratitude around Thanksgiving is a prominent part of the holiday. Showing recognition to the things one appreciates exemplifies compassion, especially around Thanksgiving.

A lot of people are thankful for their families. Zach Dewitt (12) explains, “I am thankful for my family and friends for being the most loving, supportive, and helpful people I know!” Dewitt shows his gratitude towards the people in his life who support and love him. Jack Bergman (11) shows a deep appreciation for his mother when he shares, “I’m thankful for my mom because my dad has never been around and she’s always kept a smile on her face even when things get difficult.” Along with Bergman’s quote, Kaci Grader (10) expresses, “I’m thankful for my mom being my best friend.” Grader and Bergman share their love for their mothers and want them to know that they are cared for. Kevin McCarty shows his compassion for his wife when he says, “I am thankful for a certain Spanish Teacher that works in room 125,” while Beth McCarty, his spouse, says, “I’m grateful for laughing with my 5th bell



Photo courtesy of Phillyeats.com

class...and for my husband in room 318.” The McCartys both express their anticipation for the Thanksgiving holiday. Seth Ellis (9) shares his feelings when he states, “I am thankful for my hard working parents who care and buy me everything.” Ellis appreciates how fortunate he is with the family he got. Family is a celebrated part of Thanksgiving, according to some students.

According to other students, friends are also an essential

part of Thanksgiving. Alexia Vallee (11) shares, “I’m thankful for my friends, my dog, my family, food and I guess my teachers. They help me learn and I kinda need knowledge.” Vallee can say that there’s a lot of things in her life that are important to her, including her education. Like Vallee’s gratitude, Maggie Nance (12) also shows her thankfulness towards similar things such as, “[her] dogs, friends, and

[her] lacrosse team because they are like family.” Nance explained that she is looking forward to her lacrosse season, and always enjoys spending time with her friends. Meghan Smith (10) genuinely says, “I am very thankful for my friends; I definitely look forward to seeing them every day and on weekends. They keep me laughing and smiling.” During this holiday season, Smith claims she wants to spend a lot of quality time with her friends because she feels her happiest with them. Shane Parrish (10) explains his gratefulness for himself and for love. He says, “I’m thankful for me. Without me, I wouldn’t have gotten the strength to keep going and keep my head up. I’m thankful for love, and my peers around me.” Over the holidays, Parrish will be celebrating his self love and his love for his peers. In conclusion, it is expressed by students that Thanksgiving is a time to be with loving people and to realize the things others do for them.

Six Best Thanksgiving Foods

By Aaron Morton

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Thanksgiving is a beautiful time for family, friends, and too much food. Everyone at the table looks at something different and thinks, “I’m getting some of that.” It could be pie, it could be turkey, it could be the ribbed cylinder of cranberry sauce. Everyone has strong feelings about their favorite Thanksgiving food. So, in order to sort out any confusion, here is an official Thanksgiving (top 6) food ranking.

1. Pumpkin Pie - Pumpkin pie is king at Thanksgiving. This divine concoction of perfect fall flavors is the embodiment of the season and is practically synonymous with Thanksgiving and even Christmas. Pumpkin pie is the favorite Thanksgiving food amongst the majority of the Loveland community, as well. When asked why he loves pumpkin pie, Calvin Cloud (12) had this to say, “I just love the rich, creamy taste of it. It really gets me going. You throw a little bit of whipped cream on there and you better believe I’m gonna hammer it.”

2. Stuffing - Stuffing is a malleable mass that can be anything from crumbly to moist. It’s greatest strength is that it can be anything the chef wants it to be. It is a dish ingrained in tradition and numerous personal touches.

3. Turkey - When you think of Thanksgiving, you most likely think of turkey immediately. A properly cooked turkey is the protein that brings the whole Thanksgiving meal together. Turkey was introduced at the first Thanksgiving in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1621. With its delicious flavor, there’s no wonder turkey has endured as a Thanksgiving classic.

4. Mashed Potatoes - Mashed potatoes are the staple Thanksgiving side. According to a Gallup poll and a poll done by the Pioneer Woman (an American blogger, author, food writer, photographer and television personality), mashed potatoes were the favorite side dish amongst the majority of Americans polled. The creamy starch serves quite literally as the glue of the Thanksgiving dinner.

5. Rolls - Even with a gorgeous roasted turkey, stuffing, and sides on the table, a Thanksgiving feast hardly feels

complete without a warm basket of rolls to go with it. Whether you prefer buttery rolls or flaky biscuits, a bountiful bread basket is a Thanksgiving dinner essential.

6. Gravy - Although gravy isn’t strictly speaking what most people would classify as “food,” it’s essentially on the same rung as butter in terms of “support team” on the dinner table. that flavorful, velvety sauce — smothers the turkey and potatoes in a blanket of deliciousness before it gently pools on the plate, waiting to be soaked up by the nearest roll.

There may be a few foods near and dear to your heart that you’re thinking deserve to be on this list. But this list was comprised of the Thanksgiving classics in the hearts and minds of people nationwide that celebrate the holiday. While the vast assortment of dinner table choices is crucial to Thanksgiving, it pales in comparison to the importance of the loved ones you celebrate with. This Thanksgiving Day, if you are fortunate enough to have a loving family to go home to, be sure to appreciate your time with them, and the food they prepare for you.



Photo courtesy of Countryliving.com

Many common Thanksgiving foods are shown here. The first Thanksgiving was held in 1621 with the Plymouth pilgrims and the Wampanoag Native Americans.



Photo courtesy of smithsonianmag.com

2020 Election Debate Catastrophes

By Grace Nunn
@gracegnumn | Editor

As you may have heard, the 2020 presidential debates were a complete mess. In fact, that is an understatement, they were more like disasters. The countless memes and jokes that spurred because of them are immeasurable and entertaining.

The first debate set in our very own Ohio occurred in person with Biden and Trump, the monitor being Chris Wallace, who unfortunately for him, had to warn both to be quiet multiple times saying, “I hate to raise my voice, but why shouldn’t I be different than the two of you?” Wallace almost had to debate the two himself, especially Trump who would not stop interrupting Joe Biden.

The highlight of the night being when Biden finally got fed up with Trump’s constant nagging and told him to, “Shut up, man.” This single phrase then trended on *Twitter*, and Biden’s campaign team immediately began to make merchandise showcasing the quote. Thousands of

Twitter users were cheering Biden after what he said. In fact, if you search, “will you shut up man” in the search bar, hundreds of users with that exact phrase in their display name pop up.

Of course, that wasn’t all that occurred during the first debate. Trump didn’t denounce white supremacist group, Proud Boys, made fun of Biden for wearing a mask constantly (in the middle of a pandemic), and a large array of unforgettable (in a bad way) remarks (*cnn.com*).

The second debate was canceled amidst Trump catching COVID-19, and so the next debate was the Vice President debate between Kamala Harris and Mike Pence in Utah. Although this debate was much more civil than the first presidential debate, it still had its moments. Most talked about was the fly that sat atop Mike Pence’s head for several minutes. The Biden campaign took a leap at this opportunity and began selling fly swatters that said, “Truth over Flies” which ended up selling out immediately (*cnn.com*). A bunch of joke t-shirts, *Snapchat* filters, and memes also came along with the fly. Some even said that

the fly was sent by Ruth Bader Ginsburg. There were also many posts on *Twitter* connecting dots, saying that flies tend to be attracted to “trash.” Overall, it was a moment to be remembered.

The final debate was surprisingly, better than the first. Moderator Kristen Welker was able to keep the two candidates on track. It also helped that they were given mics that could be muted through a button. It seemed that the star of the show wasn’t the two candidates but Kirsten Welker, who during the debate was getting lots of positive feedback on social media. Even President Trump praised her saying, “By the way, so far I respect very much the way you’re handling this” (*bbc.com*).

These debates were entertaining, to say the least, although, that isn’t necessarily a good thing. These are the 2 possible Presidents of the United States that we are watching bicker like children. They have the rights and lives of many in their hands. Although these things are funny at first, they become very concerning. May the best candidate win.

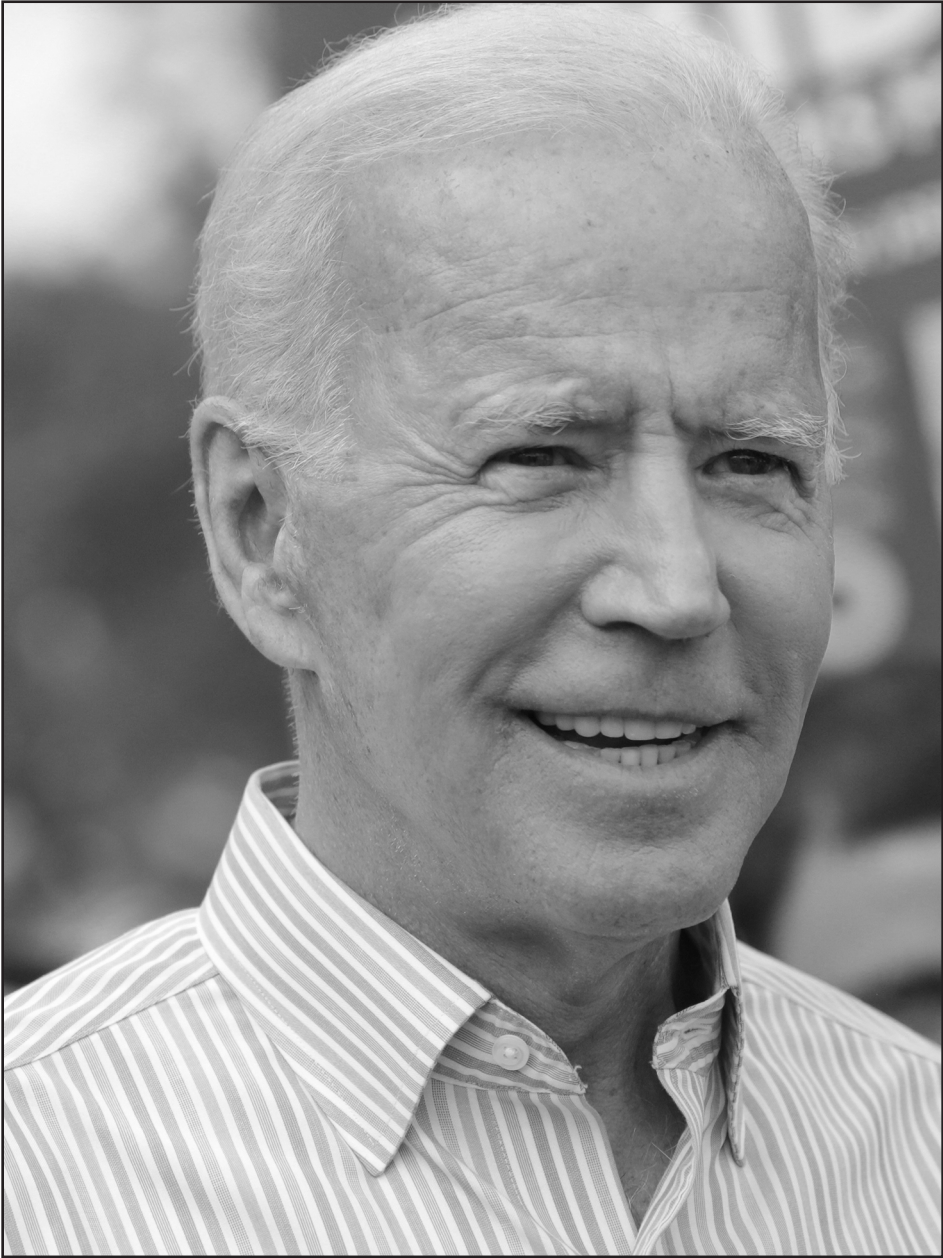


Photo Courtesy of Gage Skidmore



Photo Courtesy of Michael Vadon



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Fall Fashion Trends

By Skylar Lundeen
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

Every season is the start of different fashion trends to match the changing weather. Fall of 2020 already has multiple trendy styles including flannels over hoodies, different styles of shoes, makeup, jewelry looks, and monochromatic outfits. Maybe if someone’s feeling extra, they can dye their hair darker for the new season.

Flannels over hoodies are a widespread trend, especially for guys. On Fridays, there are multiple people who wear flannel shirts for “Flannel Friday” at Loveland. There are different ways that people can pull off flannels and different colors that go with different articles of clothing. If you take notice of students’ shoes, you’ll see that there are multiple people wearing UGG slippers. The number of students wearing UGG slippers does not compare to the number of students wearing Air Forces, but Forces have been popular for over a year. Nike Air Maxes are in vogue right now, giving Nike another stellar shoe that’s wanted.

Currently, it’s trendy to cut your old UGGs to make them slippers, so you don’t have to pay FCV for the slippers UGG sells.

Recently, Kim Kardashian and Paris Hilton were spotted wearing monochromatic outfits. Monochromatic means using only one color. This is a well supported trend among the Kardashian/Jenner family. Hailey Bieber was pulling off this style and so have many students at LHS. This specific style could work with sweatshirts and sweatpants or it could be pulled off with high brand articles. The limitation is vast for this fashionable trend.

In this day and age, most people don’t leave the house without a mask. For nice occasions, it could be useful to have a clean mask to match your outfit, especially if you’re trying to impress someone. There are many different styles of face coverings ranging from bandanna styles to full on face shields.

Going into fall, a lot of people are dying their hair darker for the season change, even celebrities like Tana Mongeau. Curtain bangs are also trending right now,

changing ones look completely. Beanies and different kinds of hats are being worn due to the cooler weather, and are very convenient and stylish to wear.

Euphoria makeup is a consuming Tik Tok trend. It involves a lot of makeup, jewels, and time. Normally, this makeup look is extremely flashy and catches someone’s eye easily. The trend is based off of the new tv show Euphoria, and has been very widespread since the show’s premier. Along with creative makeup looks, new ways to style jewelry is becoming popular, as well. Styling gold and silver jewelry together is becoming extremely trendy from “well known” celebrities to people one would see every day.

If one is looking for ways to improve his or her fall style, brands and stores such as Nike, Brandy Melville, New Balance, Plato’s Closet, Urban Outfitters, Goodwill, and Lululemon will have the right clothes and options to do so. There are many trends that are being created that give more options for one to be creative with his or her closet and style.



Photo Coursty of newyork.com.
Billie Eilish wears a mask that is in vogue right now. She wore it to the 2020 Grammys.



photo courtesy of instyle



photo courtesy of daily soap dish



photo courtesy of pinterest



Photo courtesy of styledbyrjm



photo courtesy of glamour.
Hailey Bieber walks in Beverly Hills with a black monochromatic outfit on. She wore UGG slippers with it.

Teacher Spotlight: Griffin Williams

By Aaron Krabacher
@aaron_kra- | Staff Writer

Recently, I interviewed **Griffin Williams (Substitute Teacher)** about his journey back to Loveland High School. Williams graduated from Loveland High School in 2008, and has since returned both as a teacher and a coach in basketball and baseball.

What was your most memorable experience in your high school career?

Probably senior baseball season. Playing with my good friends and winning a league championship was something special.

After Williams graduated from Loveland High School, he attended the University of Cincinnati where he was a manager for the men’s basketball team.

What was being a manager like, especially for a top basketball program in the nation?

It consisted of a wide range of things. Some days, I would be doing laundry for the team or folding jerseys. Other days, I would be practicing with the team. I remember one practice before the NCAA tournament, Cronin (the head coach of Cincinnati at the time) said that he did

not want to have his players tired for the upcoming game. So I had to guard the starting point guard for UC, Deonta Vaughn, the day before his biggest game of the year.

Who is your favorite Cincinnati basketball player of all time?

That’s a tough question. I loved Melvin Levett. He was for the people. He would wink at the camera and do those kinds of things that made him likable. Me being a left-hander, I also loved Nick Van Exel. I met him a few times and he was a nice guy with a good sense of humor.

After his years with Cincinnati, Williams moved around to a few different places until he eventually found his way back to Loveland both coaching and teaching.

What is your favorite part about coaching high school sports?

I like the relationships it builds and I like to see my players have success. Year to year, individual and team growth is fun to watch. This is my sixth year with the basketball program, and I think from when we took over, we have some big strides in the right direction.



Photo courtesy of twitter.com
Griffin Williams (Substitute Teacher) encourages his team coming out of a timeout. Williams had great success on plays coming out of timeouts in the 2019 season.

Mask Review: The Reusable Cloth Mask

By Grace Nunn
@gracegnunn | Editor

Last month, we explored the world of disposable masks with lots of negative feedback. However, this month, we are going over the opposite of disposable masks, reusable ones! Typically, they are made out of cloth or fabric, you can even sew some yourselves or you can find them at most stores, Target for example, separately or in packs. Some of these masks even have fun little characters or designs on them. Although most commonly worn are the plain black or white masks.

In order to ensure you are wearing these properly it is smart (more like necessary) to wash them after every use. Some people, because there are always THOSE people, believe that the masks do not work. Prompting a test to circulate on Tiktok where users try to blow out a match/lighter with their mask on. Some people blow the fires out right away because they put them right in front of their faces. Others explained how, of course, you’ll put out the flame when it is right in your face. That is the point of the masks. You wouldn’t be in someone’s face like that



Photo courtesy of Henry Ford Health System

during this pandemic. If you try blowing out the flame from a reasonable distance, it isn’t happening. The masks are preventative, not the cure. We wear them to prevent others and ourselves from getting COVID-19, but it isn’t a guarantee.

Some students had similar opinions when it came to reusable cloth masks. **Kaitlyn Naylor (11)** told me, “They’re a lot more customizable and more cost effective.” To which I agree wholeheartedly. **Nicole Dierling (11)** also agreed saying, “They’re more practical and in my opinion more comfortable. Plus they’re better for the environment.”

The best thing about these masks is that you do not have to keep purchasing new packs after one use. Consider buying 1 for each day of the week and constantly clean them. You can be creative with your masks too, for example, matching them with your outfits!

Overall, these masks rate a 9/10. It will most likely be the highest rating I give out besides the more expensive masks given to medical faculties during this pandemic. Stay safe out there people!

Arguments for a cloth mask

- Reduces the amount of waste created by disposable masks
- In the long run, they can save a significant amount of money since you won’t have to buy new disposable masks all the time.
- Cloth masks can come in a wide range of styles, designs, and sizes to fit every person and occasion



Photo courtesy of Freepik.com

The Fight Against SARS and Police Brutality in Nigeria

By Zakari Griffiths
@lovelamdroar | Staff Writer

On October 20, 2020, in Lagos, Nigeria, twelve peaceful protesters were murdered at the Lekki Tollgate. After switching off the power to the CCTV cameras nearby in an effort to conceal the act, the Nigerian military had, without warning, started firing indiscriminately into the crowd. Thirty-eight people were killed by the Nigerian police and military on that day alone; the other killings occurring in Alausa, adding up to fifty-six deaths at the hands of the Nigerian Government since this wave of protests began on October 8. These protests are part of the “#EndSARS Movement”, demanding an end to police brutality and SARS, an oppressive and particularly violent branch of the police.

SARS (Special Anti-Robbery Squad) was founded in 1992, with the claim to put an end to robbery, motor vehicle theft, and civilian firearms; the reality is that SARS is really just a tool of the state for political repression. Since its inception, it has had a notorious record of

being extremely violent, random, and extortionist. The group has been known to violate many human rights laws, kidnapping and torturing people, with these recent massacres being another horrific act on their behalf. SARS is completely unaccountable, and its members regularly abuse their power and authority: they raid bars and buses, arresting innocent people for such things as having nice cars and phones, going on to demand large amounts of money as bail. One man, Chijioke Iloanya, was one of those unfortunate victims, and his story is indicative of the suffering the people of Nigeria go through at the hands of SARS. According to the New York Times, “He had committed no crime. His family tried to pay to have him released but were asked to bring more money than they had. So they sold their property to raise money and went back to the SARS office but Mr. Iloanya was no longer there. They have not seen him since.”

The October movement is not a new one. People have been protesting SARS for years, and the government has

repeatedly promised to abolish it in 2014, 2015, and 2017; but it never happened. Again, on October 11, the government promised to abolish SARS, but this time the plan was to replace it with another institution, SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics). The protests only got larger after this announcement, the activists knowing that this “reform” was nothing but a change in the name of the police oppressing them, not a step forward to police reform. Following the announcement, another trend appeared online, “#EndSWAT”, almost immediately. The movement has also developed into more than just opposition to SARS but a call for change in a much larger sense, like human rights violations, rampant corruption, and underdevelopment issues. Nigerians have been fed empty words and promises for years, and want to see real action from the government. They’re demanding real reform, to implement real, tangible change to the police system. The fear of being massacred, armless and peaceful, should not have to exist for anyone.



Photo Courtesy of Skynews.com



Photo Courtesy of Pageone.net

Colombian Government Continues to Fail Peace Accords

By Zakari Griffiths
@lovelamdroar | Staff Writer

For fifty-two years, since 1964, the civil war in Colombia has devastated the country. Fought between the Colombian government, far-right paramilitary groups, and the leftist guerilla group FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) it has claimed the lives of over 220,000 people, and has displaced over 5 million more, ranking the refugee crisis second behind Syria. The FARC is a Marxist group, and was ultimately working towards revolution; but as the conflict raged on, the aim became more about immediate reforms that would aid the impoverished rural people, most of whom are indigenous. In 2016, a peace agreement was enacted to halt the decades long war; it was a historical moment, and people were hopeful that the fighting might end. The FARC surrendered their arms to UN inspectors, and were allowed to be registered as a legal political party. The agreement was supposed to implement huge land reforms, grant greater political autonomy to the rural regions along with investing in education and infrastructure, as well as provide protection from far-right and drug-trafficking groups engaged in territorial disputes

in the regions most affected by the war. But, four years since the peace accord, the government has failed to meet the settled agreements, and the fighting has continued.

Duque, the conservative president, continues to ignore the peace accords, as well as using the military against indigenous communities in serving the interests of multinational corporations. This has even led to former FARC guerillas taking up arms and returning to the jungles in anticipation of further encroachments upon the agreement. As a result, thousands of indigenous protesters have travelled to the capital, Bogota, to demand the government take action and fulfill their duties.

The people arriving in Bogota, often in colorful, parade-like caravans called “chivas” from hundreds of miles away, call their movement the “minga Indígena.” “Minga” is an indigenous word that means communal work, or cooperation. In this context, it’s being used to mean a collective protest, the community coming together to aid each other and reclaim what they have lost. The protesters are camping in public spaces and sports arenas, sharing food and planning their next steps in gatherings

and assemblies. These are the people who have been most vulnerable; back at their homes, mass-killings have become commonplace, with hundreds of them taking place every other day. This demonstration is not just a set of demands to the government, but a movement to let people know that they’re there; they’re teachers, community organizers, fathers and mothers, and they’re raising their voices against the war and the loss, letting the world know that they exist and they will not stand for injustice.

The oppression the indigenous people of Colombia are facing is part of a long trend of exploitation at the hands of the ruling classes. Andrés Mais, the leader of Sin Techos, puts it this way: “You look at these problems and you see the same thing happening now as when the Spaniards arrived. [The government] only cares about our land when it has mineral wealth or something they desire. Not only are the tactics identical, [but] in some cases it is descendants from the very same families who enslaved my ancestors that benefit from these policies.” For these Colombians, the scars of history have not yet healed, and the fight is sure to be long and hard.



Photo Courtesy of thesun.com



Photo Courtesy of latamnews.eu.com