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Loveland High School, Loveland, Ohio

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Photo courtesy of Paula Berryman

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Director departs from athletic department

By Sam Greenberg

@samhgreenberg | Staff Writer



Photo courtesy of Anne Parker

Lauren Parker (12) poses with **Julie Renner (athletics)** during College Signing Day on February 13, with Parker as one of the signing student-athletes. Renner, after almost five years as Athletic Director at LHS, has set her last day to be March 2.

On February 6, **Julie Renner (Athletic Director)** formally announced that she would be stepping down from her position as District Director of Student Athletics. Renner's husband, Joe, took a new position at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. Mrs. Renner announced in an email that she has accepted a new position at FinalForms, which allows her to be with her husband in West Virginia.

FinalForms is a platform that simplifies the management aspect of high school sports by providing "fully customized, user-friendly forms." Aside from Loveland, the system provides services to numerous other schools across Ohio and other states. At FinalForms, Renner will provide her expertise in education and athletics.

Joe Renner, who was a pitching coach at Marshall from 2010 to 2013, is returning to the program after a four year stint coaching at Mount St. Joseph University.

Mr. Renner told *The HerdZone*: "My wife Julie and I are really excited to rejoin Marshall Baseball and to be coaching once again in Conference USA, one of the nation's best baseball leagues."

"I would not be telling the truth if I said this was an easy decision," Mrs. Renner said. "The last four and a half years I have spent at Loveland have been a blessing."

Mrs. Renner has spent almost five years heading the district's athletic department. During her tenure at Loveland, Renner

enjoyed a 2013 Division II state football championship and a recent Division I girls' soccer state title in 2017, as well as many other athletic achievements.

During Renner's time as athletic director, she has been influential in the addition of many new LHS facilities including a state-of-the-art weight room and tennis courts.

Many Loveland students and faculty members have expressed their appreciation for Renner. Student Athletic Innovator **Lauren Parker (12)** said in a tweet that Renner is the "best athletic director in the world! [I'm] going to miss her! Thank you for everything, you are truly amazing."

Darnell Parker, who is in his first season as the girls' basketball head coach, tweeted that after one conversation with Renner, he "fell in love with Loveland and her vision" for students and the athletic department.

"We - the administration, the staff and the students - will certainly miss the spirit she has brought to this role," **Peggy Johnson (principal)** said, "but we are also so excited for this unique opportunity for her."

There has been no word as to who will permanently replace Renner, however, according to *Cincinnati.com*. **Brian Conatser (former director of student athletics)** has been appointed to serve as interim athletic director for the remainder of the school year.

Renner has set her last day to be March 2 in order to help the athletic department transition. She leaves with the support of Loveland students and faculty as she departs for a position outside education.

SpaceX launches car, "Heavy" rocket into space

By Patrick Seroogy

@lovelandroar | Editor-in-Chief

On a day in early February, the aerospace manufacturer Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, doing business as SpaceX, sent its CEO Elon Musk's car into space. The vehicle, a Tesla Roadster, was attached to the successful maiden voyage of the new Falcon Heavy.

The most powerful rocket in current operation since NASA's shuttle system, according to SpaceX, the Heavy is a milestone in the company's goal to "revolutionize" spacecraft technology.

The Heavy blasted off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. About two minutes after liftoff, according to the *Los Angeles Times (LA Times)*, its two side boosters broke off - "as expected" - and started to return to the ground, "later sticking the landing in a simultaneous touchdown" on SpaceX's Landing Zones 1 and 2.

In the rocket's second stage, the core booster separated from its payload, which continued outward into space. The core, after returning to Earth, attempted to land on a platform in the Atlantic Ocean but failed.

The rocket launched from Launch Complex 39A (LC-39A) at the Kennedy Space Center. According to NASA, LC-39 and its collection of facilities were originally built for the Apollo program, which carried humans to the moon; they were later modified for the Space Shuttle program.

According to *Space News* magazine, SpaceX has been leasing 39A from NASA

to dispatch its Dragon and Falcon family spacecraft, the most recent being the Heavy. The rocket, a reusable super heavy-lift launch vehicle (SHLLV), had been devised to "carry humans into space," according to the *Wall Street Journal*, but as of now there are no arrangements for crewed missions, instead being dedicated to large cargo.

The principal (dummy) payload of the maiden flight of this rocket was Musk's own Tesla Roadster. According to the *LA Times*, in the driver's seat is strapped a



Photo courtesy of SpaceX

spacesuit-wearing manikin - nicknamed "Starman" - and the radio was set to loop David Bowie's classic "Space Oddity." The vehicle was flung into an elliptical orbit around the sun with a trajectory intended to reach out as far as the planet Mars.

Although, some have some reservations about the matter. "I feel like it was a waste of a car," **Zach Reichman (12)** said. "Why spend so much effort just to launch a car into space?"

The Falcon Heavy, though just out of its first flight, is slated to launch a Saudi Arabian telecom satellite sometime "during the first half of 2018," according to CNN, and another payload for the US Air Force later. To paraphrase Musk, the Heavy opens up a new class of payload that can be taken into space, more than double the amount of its SpaceX's Falcon 9. However, according to Musk, SpaceX has even grander intentions - namely, at the moment, a larger rocket.

At a conference in Australia in 2017, Musk uncovered his plan for a "way bigger" launch vehicle than the Falcon Heavy: the Big Falcon Rocket, or BFR. According to CNN, the BFR would give off more than twice the thrust at liftoff as the Heavy, which is already doubly as powerful as the next strongest rocket.

Musk's ultimate plan with his company, however, revolve around his vision to change the world and humanity. Among other things: "We want a new space race," he said following the launch of the Heavy. "Races are exciting."

According to Musk, the BFR and other spacecraft developed by SpaceX are made with a primary objective in mind: the colonization of Mars.

Otherwise, Musk has expressly undertaken such ventures as super-infrastructure and friendly artificial intelligence, with the partial purpose of increasing interest in science by the general public. Musk, the CEO of Tesla, SpaceX, and a number of other enterprises, will, though not without controversy, continue to look forward in his endeavors.

Robotics teams succeed in state, advance to regionals

By Sam Greenberg

@samhgreenberg Staff writer

On February 17, both Loveland Robotics teams competed in the First Tech Challenge (FTC) Ohio State Robotics Championship. Team 5040 beat the seventh-ranked team in the world in their qualifier matches and the finals, punching their ticket to the North Super Regionals (NSR) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Teams 5040 and 10464 qualified for state at the Cincinnati Qualifying Tournament at Walnut Hills High School, where 5040 scored the third highest score in the world.

FTC robotics teams score points by doing many different tasks with their robots. These include having their robots retrieve cubes and arranging them in a pattern, moving objects to certain areas of the 12x12 foot playing field, and balancing their robots on platforms.

The game consists of an autonomous period and a driver-controlled period. The autonomous period the teams' robots operating using only pre-programmed instructions, while the latter involves a team member handling a robot with a controller.

Team 5040, "The Loveland Nuts and Bolts," has managed to remain undefeated in Ohio through 26 matches.

"We kind of expected [going undefeated], but there is still a risk of another team to pull us down," Team 5040 member **Benjamin Kavouras (10)** said.

The accomplishments of the LHS Robotics teams are of little surprise to those involved with the program. "These accolades are a result of the hard work and

dedication of the student team members and mentors," **Amy Stewart (LHS Teacher and Robotics Coordinator)** said.

Team 5040 is in its seventh year at Loveland High School. As a result of the large number of applicants for the robotics program, Team 10464, "The Bionic

Tigers," was formed in 2015 to keep up with the demand. The Bionic Tigers have qualified for state every year since its establishment, but have yet to be able to move on to the NSR.

The chart-topping score of 511 by Team 5040 at the Cincinnati Qualifying Tournament was accompanied by a number of other distinctions. For one, 5040 received the Inspire Award, which according to the FTC, is given to the team that is "an inspiration to other Teams, acting with Gracious Professionalism both on and off the Playing Field." An Inspire Award winner "shares their experiences, enthusiasm and knowledge with other teams, sponsors, their community, and the Judges."

Team 5040 is one of 73 teams that will be competing at the NSR on March 15. This competition pulls robotics teams that have qualified through thirteen states.

In 2017, 5040 advanced past state into the NSR, where they were the Tournament Winning Alliance Captain. This earned them a spot into the World Championship for the first time in their seven years as a program, where they made it to the division semi-finals. As 5040 heads into the final phase of their season, they aim for a successful NSR so they can punch their ticket to the World Championship in Detroit, Michigan on April 25.



Photo by Paula Berryman

Team 5040 celebrates their win after the Cincinnati Qualifying Tournament. The team received a chance to compete in regionals after success at state; in 2017, they made it all the way to the World Championship.

Amazon's Alexa changing future technology of cars



Photo courtesy of Crosa

By Mihaela Manova

@lovelandroar Staff writer

As Amazon's voice assistant gains popularity in many homes in America, car companies are now working with Amazon to provide their cars with Alexa. This year, customers of Toyota and BMW will see new models integrate Alexa to provide a smoother experience for the driver. Tasks that involve receiving and changing directions, switching music, and looking up questions on one's phone, would be made easier with Alexa.

According to *Forbes* in terms of the interest involving these companies, "Amazon's Alexa has better voice recognition than most car companies have been able to develop on their own." Toyota voiced their partnership with Amazon in early January.

According to *USA Today*, "Amazon's technology will be offered in certain Toyota and Lexus vehicles equipped with special infotainment software beginning

in 2018 and expanding into more models in 2019." Not only is Toyota interested in Amazon's Alexa, but other vehicles manufacturers like Fiat, Chrysler, Ford, Hyundai, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, and Nissan are also rumored to "merge."

Nissan and Amazon's partnership is integrated in their NissanConnect app. According to *The New York Times*, Denise Barfuss, senior manager for connected services at Nissan, said that the owner can just tell Alexa to start up their car from inside the home. The "assistant," when commanded, can also do simple tasks like flash the lights or honk the horn. Other, more drastic instructions include locking the vehicle and starting the engine, both of which require a spoken PIN code.

While Alexa in vehicles offers manners of convenience for consumers, the integration also opens up the possibility of endangerment to security. According to *The New York Times*, "just as Alexa promises hands-free convenience for drivers, researchers and engineers warn that it also opens new avenues for hacking, tracking and sonic attacks." Last year, reports from *The Inquirer* talked about a virus called "Blue-Borne" which exposed many devices to being hacked, including bluetooth features in devices and Amazon's Echo.

When asked about the possibility of bringing the Alexa feature into cars, "You might have to worry about being hacked," **Megan Atkins (10)** said about the possibility of Alexa's vehicle integration. "But I think it would be a handy thing to have so you could easily ask for directions, or to send a text message, and it might reduce car-related injuries." The future of cars will start in 2018, as the customers will witness a big change in how they use technology to their benefit or misfortune.

News Briefs

By Alyssa James

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The March Strings Concert will take place on Thursday, March 1 at 7 PM in the High School Auditorium.

There will be a two-hour early release on Friday, March 2. Students will follow the early release schedule with dismissal at 12:25 PM.

The 2018-2019 course request forms are due on Friday, March 2 to the High School Guidance Office.

There will be an Athletic Boosters meeting on Monday, March 5 in the high school cafeteria. The meeting will begin at 7 PM.

The High School Vocal Concert will take place on Wednesday, March 7, starting at 7 PM in the auditorium.

The deadline to register for the April 14 ACT test is Friday, March 9. This can be done on the ACT website.

The deadline to submit college applications that need to be sent before Spring Break

are due no later than Friday, March 9 to the Guidance Office.

There will be a Show Choir competition on Friday, March 9 to Saturday, March 10 at Solon High School.

The High School Spring Sports Meet the Team, as well as Spring Sports Pictures, will take place on Monday, March 12. Meet the Team will begin at 7 PM.

The Student Council /Hoxworth Annual Blood Drive will take place on Tuesday, March 13 from 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Students must be at least 17 years of age and meet the height and weight requirements in order to participate,; with the exception of 16 year olds who turn in a parent permission slip signed by a parent.

The Winter Sports Awards will take place on Wednesday, March 14 at 7 PM.

The ACT Test for all juniors will be on Tuesday, March 20.

There will be a two-hour early release on Friday, March 23 for the purpose of the end of the third quarter. Students will follow the typical early release schedule and be dismissed at 12:25 PM.



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Should Valentine's Day be celebrated?

Pro: Valentine's Day encourages healthy relationships

By Kayla Gibbins

@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

As soon as the holiday season ends each December, stores rush to fill their shelves with pink heart shaped paraphernalia of all shapes and sizes. Flower companies and jewelry buy up ads to promote merchandise to celebrate the "special woman in your life." While the holiday is over commercialized and there is too strict of a focus on romantic relationships, the premise of Valentine's Day is worth celebrating in today's society, in which people are so desensitized to their relationships with others.

Valentine's Day can have benefits as early as elementary school. Schools often have small Valentine's parties with their classes, and students are asked to bring in cute Valentine's cards for every student. By including every student this fosters a sense of community and instills a sense of belonging among the students, which is crucial to early childhood development.

According to *Kids Matter*, a sense of belonging has been shown to help protect children from developing mental health problems and improves learning, and these children are happier, more relaxed, and have fewer behavioral problems. A holiday like Valentine's Day provides an occasion to bring out and celebrate inclusion.

The tradition of Valentine's Day has also inspired the creation of an unofficial holiday, Galentine's Day. This holiday is based off of an episode of the sitcom *Parks and*

Recreation. The show designates February 13 as a day to celebrate platonic female friendships with brunch and gifts. According to *Newsweek*, fans of the show took the idea and ran with it, and Galentine's Day is now celebrated as an unofficial holiday across the US.

Many cities have local Galentine's Day events for women, and, in light of the recent developments in women's political issues, several women's rights organizations including the Women's Rights and Empowerment Network



Image courtesy of Flickr

and Sexual Trauma Services have hosted happy hours in honor of Galentine's Day, according to the *Huffington Post*. Valentine's Day has inspired this movement of platonic appreciation, so the holiday itself has inherently good societal benefits, we just go about celebrating it

wrong.

Those who criticize Valentine's Day argue that it is an expensive, unnecessary holiday invented by candy and greeting card companies to sell merchandise. I do agree that the holiday is overly commercialized, but in this day and age all holidays are.

Last year holiday spending in the holiday season of December exceeded \$1 trillion, according to *Forbes*. The fact that holiday merchandise is available should not distract from the holiday itself, which is intended to celebrate those you love - romantically or not.

Additionally, overpriced and overdone Valentine's Day gifts are often unnecessary. Small and creative gifts - such as a homemade dinner, playlist, or simply quality time together - can have the same or even better effects. Homemade gifts provide more chances for personalization, so you can get your loved one a gift that has meaning behind it. The traditional Valentine's gifts of flowers and jewelry are nice, but a homemade present truly shows how much you care for that person, because you are willing to put thought and time into their gift.

Valentine's Day is simply a day to celebrate loved ones. It provides an opportunity to connect with friends and a chance to stop and appreciate those around you. While a single day of celebration should not make up for a lack of appreciation throughout the year, it is good to have a day dedicated to celebrating those you care about. Plus, the candy sales that start on February 15 are pretty sweet too.



Con: Valentine's Day glorifies cultural romanticization

By Sam Aldrich

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Love is fantastic: romantic love, platonic love, love for a favorite food, and love for the sake of loving. What is not fantastic, however, is the capitalistic glorification of a single type of love that inherently diminishes the others. Valentine's Day worships romantic love beyond all others, and this is where the issues with the modern version of the holiday lie.

While the Internet is full of articles deeming Valentine's Day to be a capitalistic scheme, there is not anything inherently wrong with wanting to spoil someone you love and make them feel special. Appreciating the people you care about is fantastic, but when commercials and companies make it seem like the only way to express that love is through expensive gifts, it makes it seem like that's the only way to care about someone.

Even those people who know that physical objects do not matter can feel a little disappointed if they do not get a gift from their loved ones. This mindset is not fair to those unable to afford extravagant dinners and elaborate gifts, or even those who would rather spend their money on more things that are more meaningful for them personally.

There are undeniable pressures on couples from people who are not interested in celebrating the holiday. These

individuals might be called cynical and pessimistic, as though there is something intrinsically misguided about trying to have a low-key day. Instead, they may simply recognize that Valentine's Day does not have to be a definitive factor of their relationship.

On the other hand, if a couple just loves Valentine's Day, there should not be anything stopping them from living their lives as they see fit every February 14. However, for those who are not in a long-term relationship, the public displays of affection can become more than overwhelming. Suddenly couples' supposedly private interactions are not only out on display, but as about subtle as a flying cherub shooting magical arrows from the sky.

Anyone who wants to celebrate with a significant other should feel welcome to- privately. Everyone walking down the hallway should not have to feel like a participant in their loving declarations or experience the intimate interactions being plastered on their social media feed. If Valentine's Day is truly a celebration of romantic love, it need not be another way to just embrace PDA.

Regardless of opinions on traditional ways to celebrate Valentine's Day, the simple fact that the holiday is specifically designed for romance is a problem in and of itself. As a collective culture, we magnify the significance

of romantic relationships while frequently forgetting to appreciate the beauty of friendships and families.

Not only does this make single people feel left out, but it leads us to forget about the importance of these other types of love that exist outside of romance. There is not a widely recognized day that celebrates the amazing - but entirely platonic - interactions that (hopefully) fill the other 364 days of the year.

Now, some may argue that no one will stop you from celebrating Valentine's Day with your friends. However, by that logic, no one will stop you from celebrating bushes on Arbor Day. The point does not lie in the ability to defy convention, but in changing the implications of the norm. The celebration of friendship should lie in the rule, not the exception.

Until there is a holiday that appreciates the beauty that comes with friends, Valentine's Day will continue to be a not-so-symbolic representation of the excessive societal importance we place on romance.

In the meantime, to those who are in relationships: appreciate each other, but try not to forget your other loved ones around you. And to those who remain single this month: do not get roped into the idea that your worth revolves around a romantic partner. Appreciate your friends, and most importantly, remember that candy went on sale February 15 in stores everywhere.



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Gun control best method to reduce gun violence

By Patrick Seroogy

@lovelandroar | Editor-in-Chief

In light of tragedy, action is the course that needs to be taken. When there are so many tragedies of a similar nature that it is all but clear they are not isolated incidences, action is taken (if not after only a single instance) to prevent their reiteration. Gun control is an area in which this has famously - infamously - failed to occur.

The mass shooting that occurred at Stoneman Douglas High School (SDHS) on February 14 was the calamitous result of a number of shortcomings involving law enforcement and gun safety. However, as has been the case with essentially all mass shootings in the US in the past decade, nothing has come out of debate but talk. Any attempt to bring up popular gun legislation that would in any way restrict gun ownership rights is, not unironically, shot down.

Ideology or party lines in this matter are irrelevant. All possible resources must be devoted into reducing gun violence like this. Regardless of its controversy, one of the most effective and efficient ways to counter this kind of disaster is gun control, not least of which would be significant limitation on the sale of semi-automatic weapons.

Leaving aside the partisan rhetoric, it is not too soon to discuss this issue of gun violence - not when it has already impacted thousands and will yet impact thousands more. To paraphrase Florida Representative Ted Deutch, it is already too late for the 17 students and two adults who lost their lives in Parkland, Florida.

Nikolas Cruz, a 19-year-old former DSHS student, arrived at the school a few minutes before classes were let out in an Uber, according to CBS News. With him was an AR-15 style semi-automatic assault rifle he had purchased legally from a nearby gun store a year before the shooting.

This will be said now: there is no need for an assault rifle in civilian life, whether for camping, hunting, or other sport. There is nothing in civilian life a militarized weapon designed for killing can accomplish that a handgun or other less deadly firearm cannot, and it is unfortunate how easy both are to acquire.

Ironically, it was legal by Florida law - and still is - for people like him to obtain a semi-automatic firearm before they can legally consume alcohol. In fact, it is a less arduous process to obtain an AR-15 than a handgun in some states, including Florida.

Under federal law, a person has to be 21 to buy a handgun from a gun dealer, and Florida has a three-day

waiting period for a handgun purchase. However, there are no requirements governing the obtainment of AR-15 style rifles beyond a clean criminal record and a lack of a commitment to a mental institution (even for legal minors).

The NRA and its allies' positions in opposition to any form of restrictive gun legislation, including the recently hotly debated proposal of a ban on assault rifles, is unreasonable and, frankly, dangerous. Gun control is introduced with the purpose of reducing gun violence and slandering it is unproductive toward safety.

For goodness' sake, the NRA even lobbied (successfully) to prevent the Center for Disease Control (CDC) from researching gun-related violence and statistics in America by removing funding for it, according to *The Washington Post*. What is the aim of this if not the purposeful suppression of the issue?

The rhetoric that there is little evidence that gun control measures would work are partly correct because there is so little data and research to work with. (Perhaps the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* is onto something when it says the NRA represents gun makers more than it does gun owners).

Regardless, there were obviously other factors, other safeguards that failed in preventing Cruz from shooting and killing 17 students. Tips about his behavior - two to the FBI and almost two dozen to the Broward County Sheriff's Office (BSO) - were investigated but not acted upon, according to USA Today. His online profiles, described as "very, very disturbing" by Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel, involved threats, racist and extremist views, and pictures of a number of weapons and other guns including a shotgun and a pistol.

These shortcomings by law enforcement are problems that need to be addressed, matters that need to be investigated and improved upon in conjunction with the implementation of measures of gun safety in the form of gun control. The solutions that has been peddled involving the arming of teachers and other school staffers, however, are not encouraging.

Of the better ideas agreed upon by Trump and his administration, such as banning bump stocks and toughening background checks, having a significant percentage of school faculty armed is not one of them. To make a simple comparison, when the accuracy of the average hit rate in a gunfight by a trained police force such as the New York Police Department is only 18%, according to *Time* magazine, the prospects of teachers gunning down only a school shooter such a scenario do not look good.

At the moment, the forefront of the debate of gun control

is a ban on semi-automatic weapons, and not without reason. Louis Klarevas of the University of Massachusetts, according to *The Washington Post*, "collected data on every gun massacre - which he defines as six or more people shot and killed - for the 50 years before 2016," in which was the federal ban on assault weapons passed in 1994 and expired 10 years later.

He found the amount of gun massacres during the ban to decrease by 37% and the number of massacre deaths by 43%. Following the ban's expiration, these numbers jumped upwards again by 183% and 239%, respectively.

A limitation on the sale of, or even a ban on, semi-automatic weapons would just be scratching the surface of the barrel on the matter of publicly popular gun control. The majority of gun-owners and even NRA members, according to the *New England Journal of Medicine*, support even the most face-value gun legislation: limiting access by the mentally ill to firearms, universal background checks for all gun sales, restricting gun ownership for a time based on a criminal record, etc.

Look, the worry of infraction upon the Constitution is not unfathomable. The Second Amendment protects gun ownership rights, however their constraint is not necessarily infringement on those rights.

You need a license to operate a vehicle (which is not the case for firearms in some states). Speech is free with the exception of incendiary and some hateful speech, libel, and slander, as has been decided by federal courts over decades. The point is, unlimited freedom is not a best-case scenario.

In a government that derives its power from the people, an interdependent relationship exists between the two entities. Absolute freedom is anarchy, so to be protected while still enjoying the liberties guaranteed, some limitation must be accepted under government.

The current measures in place to prevent gun violence are insufficient, and that is partly why mass shootings occur, and at their frequency. The proposals that have reappeared in the aftermath of the SDHS shooting - banning of bump stocks and assault weapons and universal background checks - are the right steps, but efforts need to be increased significantly, legislatively and scientifically, in this regard.

Whether it is putting some limit on the civilian purchase of semi-automatic weapons, instituting greater background checks, or even just enabling the CDC to research American gun-related statistics, there must be *some* action taken toward actively reducing the epidemic of gun violence and mass shootings so prevalent in the US that is not sitting on one's hands and letting the problem continue.

New class teaches students to be positive

By Alyssa James

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With the list of academic requirements for graduation and pressure to take honors and advanced placement classes, a course with one main focus - to improve a student's outlook on life - would be an impeccable addition to high school and college curriculum.

Imagine a class that provides information that everyone can benefit from - a class that teaches students the deeper meaning of happiness and how to achieve it. One that is not focused only on a future career or formulas and memorization, rather it is focused on the most important aspect of life: happiness. A 382 year old Ivy League school has recently been the first to offer a course like this.

Positive Psychology 1504, a new and popular addition to Harvard's curriculum is not just any average psychology class. Taught by Professor Tal Ben-Shahar, this class has broken records as being Harvard's most popular course in history.

Ben-Shahar is teaching his students how to be as happy as possible with their lives, which, at times, can be difficult, especially for college students. He focuses on topics that happiness depends on, such as: empathy, love, friendship, achievement, and even humor.

Yale has recently offered a class similar to *Positive Psychology 1504* called *Psychology and the Good Life*. This course has broken records for Yale as well as being their most popular class ever.

If universities as highly respected as Harvard and Yale are offering these happiness courses, it leads the way for other schools to join in and follow the trend. Students at

every college face excruciating stress, whether it is figuring out their future or simply trying to make it through a tough class. A class that teaches students how to be happy and how to cope with this stress could be extremely beneficial and even increase graduation rates for the university.

Students can easily get caught up in their studies and forget to spend some extra time improving their mental health. On top of that, most don't even know where to begin when it comes to becoming happier individuals. Classes on the psychology behind happiness teach students exactly how to do so, while simultaneously teaching about the science that goes on behind it.

College students are not the only ones who often struggle to find their inner happiness. High school students are faced with the stress of deciding what they want to do with their lives by the time they are 18 and arguably even more stress in their personal lives, due to the increasing bullying in high schools. While high school students don't have as much freedom with classes as college students do, there are still many opportunities for electives, especially senior year.

"I think that if Loveland offered a class on how to be happier it would be the most popular and the most beneficial class that we could take," **Olivia Anderson (12)** said. "Being as happy as possible is something that pretty much everyone would want to learn about." Anderson agreed that high school students would benefit from a class on happiness as well as college students.

While this type of course could potentially help turn someone's life around, it isn't exclusively for those who struggle to find happiness. First of all, even students

who would consider themselves happy overall could still benefit from learning tricks to take that level of happiness even farther. On top of that, psychology majors can gain new insight that they can put to use for future therapy sessions in their work.

The lessons taught on happiness are lessons no matter the person who learns them or what their future holds. Happiness will always play a part in how one's life turns out.



Courtesy of: Harvard University

Harvard is one of the universities that offers the class Positive Psychology. This class broke the record for Harvard's most popular course.

Ranking of top Super Bowl LII commercials

By Anna Svitkovich

@asvitty | Staff Writer

While the Super Bowl is mostly for fans of football, joy can still be found if one sticks around for the commercials during timeouts and in between quarters. Advertisements during the Super Bowl are notorious for their humor and (occasional) complexity, due to the massive cost for a spot of just thirty seconds. According to superbowlcommercials.co, the most expensive Super Bowl advertisement was a two minute ad for Chrysler that featured rap star Eminem and cost the company \$12.6 million!

Though none of the commercials this year reached such a price point, neither football nor commercial fans were disappointed. With celebrity cameos and touching messages, Super Bowl LII's commercials were touching, funny, and entertaining. So, without further ado...

OBJ and Eli Manning's reenactment of *Dirty Dancing*

Even though the New York Giants failed to make the playoffs this year, Eli Manning and Odell Beckham Junior still made it to the Super Bowl - just not through football. The pair was more focused on their dance routine, which included the infamous soar and leap seen in the popular '80s movie, *Dirty Dancing*. As the iconic music played, the quarterback and his receiver (with a little backup from the frontlines men) were able to pull off fantastic moves for the National Football League. Let's just hope the Giants can use this touchdown dance a little more often next season!

Series of Tide Ads with David Harbour

Last year's Super Bowl brought us a new *Stranger Things* trailer; this year fans were hoping for another one. Their anticipation was betrayed somewhat, but a glimmer of

the show was still able to be seen through one of the lead actors, David Harbour. On the show he plays a rude and stubborn cop, but in this commercial, he was nothing but lovable. His sarcastic personality combined with his Emmy-winning acting allowed for a great series of ads for Tide throughout the game. Each fifteen-second clip led the audience to believe it was watching an advertisement for soda, cars, shampoo, and/or even food, whereas later in the ad it was revealed that the audience should



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

This is a Tide ad. The Tide company created a series of Super Bowl ads that steal common themes from other companies, such as these Clydesdale horses, typically used in Budweiser ads.

have been focusing on the cleanliness of the outfit of Harbour and his co-actors. This concept was great because it kept the audience on their toes and laughing for most of the game (and hopefully kept them away from the Tide Pods).

Solo: A Star Wars Story, trailer premiere

This trailer had everyone on the edge of their seats. Now, this was not technically an advertisement, but it did carry the same excitement that came along with many of the other great ads during the Super Bowl. Ever since the franchise's eighth movie came out in December, *Star Wars* fans have been waiting for a trailer for the prequel centered around the character Han Solo, which is set to release on May 25. The movie follows the young Han Solo as he gets into the trading business, meets Chewbacca and Lando Calrissian; it is also finally revealed how he won the Millennium Falcon. This trailer used its spot in the Super Bowl very well, continuing a feeling of excitement for the *Star Wars* saga.

Morgan Freeman and Peter Dinklage *Fire & Ice*

Mountain Dew and Doritos used their celebrities well in this one. *Game of Thrones* star Peter Dinklage kicked off the commercial lip syncing to Busta Rhymes' verse in Chris Brown's song "Look at me now" as he walked through a room filled with fire. Doritos then encouraged audiences to "spit fire" after tasting their Blaze flavour. Just when you thought the commercial was over, Mountain Dew steps in with their product, Mountain Dew Ice. As soon as actor Morgan Freeman takes a sip, he starts lip syncing to Missy Elliott's "Get Ur Freak On" as everything on his side of the room ices over. Dinklage and Freeman meet in the middle of the room; Freeman puts out the fire on Dinklage's shoulder, but Dinklage daringly relights it. Elliott and Busta Rhymes both make appearances as moving, life-like portraits. Overall, the commercial was hilarious and encouraging, showing sometimes that more really is

merrier.



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

An open bag of Doritos lays on a table, ready to be eaten. Doritos have been advertised in the last 10 Super Bowls, according to *The Washington Post*.

Alexa Loses Her Voice

The Super Bowl is no stranger to advertisements for technology, yet this one definitely stood out. In this commercial, Amazon's Alexa loses her voice, so some A-list celebrities step in: specifically, Gordon Ramsay, Rebel Wilson, Cardi B and Sir Anthony Hopkins. All these celebs tried (and failed) to answer some of the most simple requests by Alexa owners, creating some humorous and awkward moments. However, audiences were assured at the end of the commercial that Alexa is up and running, and we will never be faced with this moment. Though, to be honest, it would probably be enjoyable!

Honorable Mentions include: **Jurassic Park Jeep, Keanu Reeves Riding a Motorcycle, Diet Coke Mango Dancing, Pepsi for Generations feat. Cindy Crawford, and Budweiser.**

Super Bowl snacks spice up viewing experience

By Claire Wallace

@cwallace4 | Staff Writer

It does not matter if you are the biggest football fan ever or if you do not have the slightest idea what a touchdown is, everyone watches the Super Bowl. And during the big game - which typically takes up to 3 hours and has run up to 4 hours in past years - it is a guarantee that you will need something to munch on.

According to *Forbes*, the Super Bowl is the 2nd largest day for eating in America, second only to Thanksgiving. When you think Super Bowl food, what do you think of? Many people think of finger food. If it is greasy and easy to grab in between plays or commercials (whichever you like least), it will most likely be at a local watch party. Food fare typically ranges from chicken wings and nuggets to platters of nachos and trays of chip and dip.

According to CincinnatiUSA.com, Americans eat 2 million pounds of Cincinnati Chili each year, marking Skyline Dip an easy Cincinnati favorite. "I am in love with Skyline Dip!" **Natalie Drury (10)** said. "But buffalo chicken is tasty too." Skyline Dip involves softened cream cheese, onions, a can of Skyline chili, and cheddar cheese layered and heated into a scrumptious dip.

Chicken wings are another easy option for a football party. They can be buffalo, garlic parmesan, hot or honey mustard, and customized thousands of ways to the

groups liking. "My family always makes a huge batch of buffalo wings, and we sit around the table watching the game," **Kaitlyn Kramer (10)** said. "We always make a huge mess. I look forward to it every year." According to *Forbes*, Americans are set to eat a total of 1.33 billion chicken wings on Superbowl Sunday. This number is 30 million more than last year's total.



Photo courtesy of Flickr.

Chicken wings are a favorite snack for sporting events like the Super Bowl. According to *Forbes*, Americans were set to eat a total of 1.33 billion chicken wings on Superbowl Sunday.

However, hot wings are not always for everyone. "I prefer chicken tenders or nuggets. They're fun because of all the sauces you can dip them in," **Hannah Powers (10)** said, "and I'm not a fan of spicy hot wings." Chicken nuggets aren't nearly as popular as chicken wings but are definitely a must for a party with a large

group of people.

Nuggets are also a great option for younger kids at a watch party, as they typically prefer food items that are easier to eat and not quite as spicy. Nuggets are a welcome surprise, as they come in many fun shapes. It's easier for the hosts of the party, too, as it allows them to spend more money on bone-in wings rather than splurging on the more costly frozen boneless wings.

According to *RetailMeNot*, U.S. citizens ordered approximately 12.5 million pizzas for the Super Bowl. We already know that there is a commercial for Pizza Hut starring Terrell Owens, a former Dallas Cowboys wide receiver. Papa John's has also been a huge part of the Super Bowl for as long as people can remember, with their sponsorships of football games and teams starting in 2010, according to the *Washington Post*.

To **Kirstin Thomas (10)**, Super Bowl Sunday means making multiple trays of nachos. "You really can't get the cheesy goodness to taste the same on any other day of the year," she said. Nachos are typically made-to-order and commonly served with everything from guacamole to jalapenos.

However, you can also have more unusual toppings like pulled pork. (Thomas said that if you haven't tried pulled pork on nachos, "definitely go for it. They're delicious.") With guacamole being a staple, especially on the cheesy-chip concoction,

it is easy to believe that Americans will be consuming a lot of avocados. According to *The Hass Avocado Board*, we ate about 104.9 million pounds of avocados.



Photo courtesy of Flickr

Nachos are a customizable snack many Super Bowl fans enjoy. According to The Hass Avocado Board, we ate about 104.9 million pounds of avocados.

Since eating seems to be a national pastime of America and finding a football game to watch can be done at almost any time of year, the Super Bowl offers the perfect opportunity to combine two favorite American hobbies. Nachos, chicken wings, and pizza are only some of the great options for the Super Bowl (or any other watch party). So for every Super Bowl, be sure to eat your fill and cheer loudly for your favorite team.

One decade later: flashing back to 2008

By Olivia Piziali

@loveolivia18 | Staff Writer

It is nostalgic to imagine what life was like ten years ago. People were sporting Juicy Couture tracksuits, jamming out to the “old” Taylor Swift, and anticipating the premiere of the *Twilight* saga. In relative remembrance of the past, let us take a trip down memory lane and reminisce on 2008, a decade later.

Many films that were released in 2008 are still beloved today. One that was released in 2008 was *The Dark Knight*. It was the seventh installment in the series and the second movie for Christian Bale as the lead character Batman. According to *Entertainment Weekly*, the movie made \$158.4 million opening weekend. The movie became the highest grossing of 2008.

The movie follows Batman as he attempts to destroy crime in Gotham City for good. With the assistance from Lt. Jim Gordon (Gary Oldman) and District Attorney Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart), the trio prove to be a good team. Quickly, the three find themselves as prey to the Joker who forces anarchy on Gotham. The conflict leaves Batman to decide whether he wants to be the hero or a nemesis.

While the movie brought much success, it also experienced some tragedy. Six months prior to the release of the film, Heath Ledger, who played the Joker, lost his life to cardiac arrest from prescription drugs on January 22. (Some other notable films that were released in 2008 were *Iron Man*, *Wall-E*, and *Twilight*).

In the television world, a lot of now-nostalgic shows premiered then. A notable TV show beloved by many kids was *The Suite Life On Deck*. Just 25 days after the series finale of *The*

Suite Life of Zack and Cody aired, the twin brothers packed up their bags and set sail for school life on a cruise ship.

When they arrived on the ship, they met some friends. Woody Fink was Cody’s roommate. He was the exact opposite of Cody. He was disorganized, played video games 24/7, and received bad grades in school. They also met Bailey Pickett who was London’s roommate. She became a love interest for Cody. She was a small town girl from Kansas. She was very down-to-earth and genuine.

The show premiered on September 26 and became a hit instantly. According to *USA Today*, the show premiered with 5.7 million viewers. According to Yahoo, it was also became the most watched series premiere in Canada on the Family Channel. Dylan and Cole Sprouse reprised their roles as Zack, the troublemaker video

game-loving twin, and Cody, the high-achieving intelligent twin. Phil Lewis and Brenda Song also both reprised their roles as Mr. Moseby and London Tipton.

Breaking Bad debuted in January of that year, starring Bryan Cranston as Walter White and Aaron Paul as Jesse Pinkman. “The show was not a ratings hit for several years,” according to *Esquire*. However, “the show had a rapid and passionate fanbase, a growing mass of support from the critics, and a network that believed in the story.”

Another show that premiered in 2008 was a remake of the ‘90s classic, *90210*. The show starred newcomers AnnaLynne McCord as popular, rich girl Naomi and Shenae Grimes as midwesterner-turned-Los Angeles girl Annie. The show had many actors from the original show make some guest appearances. According to *Tvbythenumbers.com*, the show premiered

with 4.65 million viewers. The show brought massive popularity and made some newcomers stars in the entertainment scene.

90210 showed many famous sights in California including Santa Monica Pier, Rodeo Drive, and the famous Hollywood sign. The show followed a group of high schoolers as they navigate school life, fame, and dating. Besides the show having appearances from the original adaptation, the show had several appearances from some big celebrities including: Kim Kardashian, Joe Jonas, and Snoop Dogg.

Vampires were also recurring theme back in 2008. *True Blood* premiered in September of 2008 to 1.4 million viewers. It took a while to gain the recognition, but HBO had another hit.

Lastly, some iconic songs came out a decade ago. Perhaps the most iconic song of 2008, still played at weddings and dances, is “Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)” by Beyoncé.

“Pocketful of Sunshine” by Natasha Bedingfield was also released. The cheerful, upbeat tune still brings a smile to people’s faces. “Love Story” by Taylor Swift was the love song of the time. With its references to Romeo and Juliet, the song proved to be one that tugged at the heartstrings.

Additionally, “Viva La Vida” by Coldplay will forever be a hit. According to *Officialcharts.com*, this is Coldplay’s biggest hit to date selling over 828,000 copies as of June 2016.

2008 proves to be a year that had many hits, ranging from the big screen to the stuff playing in our ears. We still remember those songs like it was yesterday, knowing every word. We still watch these shows because they bring back the nostalgic quality. These shows and movies play on our TVs and we cannot help but watch them.



Photo courtesy of Toglenn

Kim Kardashian poses at a red carpet event. Her first reality show debuted in 2008.



Photo courtesy of Ronald Woon

Taylor Swift performs her “Fearless” album on tour. The album was No. 1 for 11 weeks.

Bruno Mars comes out on top at Grammys 2018

By Olivia Piziali

@loveolivia18 | Staff Writer

January 28 it was music’s biggest night this year: the Grammy awards. All the biggest stars in the music industry stepped out onto the red carpet at Madison Square Garden in New York City to celebrate the accolades and performances for the last year of music’s hottest stars. According to *Billboard*, Jay Z led the pack with eight nominations, followed closely by Kendrick Lamar with seven; however, the stars delivered stunning, thematic performances all around.

The three-hour show was jam-packed with many performances. Bruno Mars and Cardi B had the debut performance of their collaboration, “Finesse.” The energy the song conveyed resembled the mood and ambiance of the ‘90s.

This was newcomer Cardi B’s first Grammy awards being nominated for 2 awards including Best Rap Song and Best Rap Performance for her hit song “Bodak Yellow.” According to *Entertainment Tonight*, “if she would have won, it would be the first time that a female rapper has won in either category.” This past year, she has continued to break records like being the first female rapper to land the number one spot on the *Billboard* Hot 100 which has happened since Lauryn Hill in 1998.

One of the most remarkable performances of the night was when Kesha performed her hit song “Praying”

alongside some other female singers. Camila Cabello, Cyndi Lauper, and Andra Day helped Kesha display the message of her song. The performance was influenced by the “#MeToo” movement, all of the female performers wore white to commemorate and show their support for. The performance was very inspiring and touching.

Another powerful performance during the show was the performance dedicated to the victims of the Las Vegas and Manchester shootings in 2017. Country musicians Maren Morris, Eric Church, and Brothers Osborne performed a rendition of Eric Clapton’s classic, “Tears In Heaven.”

Almost four months after the shooting in Vegas, the country musicians paid tribute to the victims of the Las Vegas shooting at the Route 91 Harvest Festival. According to *Billboard*, “all of the artists that paid tribute were performing that weekend.” The artists collectively wanted to bring some happiness and peace in light of the tragedy.

“All of country music was reminded in the most tragic way then connection we share with fans and the loving power that music will always provide,” Eric Church said after the performance, according to *CBS News*. Echoing the sentiment, Maren Morris said, “the painful truth is that in this year, those two events, 81 music lovers went out to enjoy a night of music and didn’t return home.”

A predominant symbol on the red carpet was that of a white rose. Many of the musicians who attended were asked to participate by carrying or pinning white roses to their

outfits in support of the “Times Up” movement. According to the *New York Times*, “in contrast to the wearing of black at the Golden Globes, [people] chose a white rose as the accessory of the night due to white meaning hope, peace, sympathy, and resistance.” The white rose stood as a symbol of solidarity and gives the artists a chance, in a subtle way, to symbolize injustice in this country.

After the release of the nominations, there was controversy about the equal representation amongst nominees. According to *Rolling Stone Magazine*, “only 22.4 percent of the performers on the top 600 songs from 2012 to 2017 on *Billboard*’s year-end Hot 100 chart were women.” There were only two female artists to be nominated for the top categories in this year’s Grammys: Lorde and Julia Michaels.

Bruno Mars swept the awards by winning every award he was nominated for (including the three biggest categories: Record, Song, and Album of the Year. According to *Time Magazine*, Tina Turner, Neil Diamond, and Queen received Lifetime Achievement Awards. Canadian artist Alessia Cara won Best New Artist.

In light of the tragedies that came in 2017, the 2018 Grammys proved again to be music’s largest night. Memorable performances, a simple gesture that represents a huge idea, and male-led categories, the Grammys were better than ever. It will remain as the night to celebrate the biggest music of the past year.



Photo courtesy of Themeplus

Bruno Mars performs with Cardi B. in their musical collaboration. He won six awards, including record of the year.



Photo courtesy of Townsquare Media

Eric Church performs “Tears in Heaven” during the Grammy’s. He discussed the Las Vegas shooting and its effects on country music.

Stars of new thriller film in locations around areas of Greater Cincinnati

By: Courtney Kirby

@court_kirby | Staff Writer

The new film, *Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile*, follows the notorious Ted Bundy through the eyes of his long-time girlfriend, Elizabeth Kloepfer. Bundy was a serial killer, rapist, kidnapper, and burglar throughout the '70s and '80s. Following his confession to thirty homicides in seven different states between 1974 and 1989, he was executed by the electric chair in the Florida State Prison on January 24, 1989. His true victim count, however, remains unknown.

The all-star cast - Zac Efron, Lily Collins, Kaya Scodelario, Jim Parsons, and John Malkovich - made waves in Cincinnati the week of January 21 as they began filming in locations across the area including Newport, Latonia, Fort Thomas, and the Clermont County Jail. Cast and crew members have been spotted throughout these locations, one being Pepper Pond, a restaurant in Newport, on January 25.

Efron took to Instagram to promote the movie, posting shots of recent filming, including a shot of his and Collins' characters on what appears to be a date. Efron, who plays Bundy, also posted a picture of himself in a 1968 Volkswagen Beetle, the car Bundy used to kidnap

and kill his victims.

Collins posed on her Instagram with an ArtWorks mural in Over-the-Rhine, as well as posting an image of the Roebling Bridge in downtown Cincinnati. Collins plays Bundy's girlfriend, Elizabeth Kloepfer, who was largely unaware of Bundy's true nature despite living with him for



Photo courtesy Of Joblo.com

several years.

She, like many, largely believed Bundy was a charismatic charmer. Eventually, Kloepfer became suspicious of her boyfriend, alerting authorities to his abnormal behavior several times, while still making plans to marry him. Her calls contributed to his initial arrest in 1975, although he

was not permanently incarcerated until 1978.

Local Butler County Sheriff Richard Jones landed two small speaking parts in the movie. He shot scenes in the Kenton County Detention Center. While filming, he met Zac Efron and took a picture with him, saying that he was a "very nice guy." Though unable to release the picture or talk much about the film without the producer's approval, he did reveal to reporters that he was asked to come to set in cowboy boots, a cowboy hat, and '70s attire.

Although refusing to be paid for his work, his role will earn him a Screen Actors Guild (SAG) card, according to Fox 19. Jones expressed his appreciation for movies coming to the area, saying that it was "part of the economy." Since cast and crew members eat at local restaurants, reside in local hotels, and buy from local gas stations, Josh Smith, the city manager for Hamilton, encourages them to come.

Filming is expected to continue through February, although no end date has been set. The movie release date is also yet to be determined, but is expected to be sometime in late 2018, early 2019 - nearly three decades after the execution of Ted Bundy. While Hollywood favorites may be across both the local area and the big screen, the movie will portray the gruesome details of Ted Bundy's life and methods in his murders.

The Greatest Showman delivers great showing of thematic story

By: Caroline Ginder

@carolineginder7 | Staff Writer

The Greatest Showman is based on the true life of P.T. Barnum - a man with the dream of making a circus. Barnum navigates the precarious economy while trying to create a better life for him and his family. In a last "Hail Mary" attempt to make money, Barnum buys a museum and turns it into a circus. Along with the elaborate plot line, this movie is a musical with an above-average score.

Barnum is introduced as a poor boy working with his father to make ends meet. His love interest, Charity Hallett, is one of Barnum's customers. Distanced by social class, he is not allowed to marry Charity. However, she left her family to be with Barnum. After starting his own



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

family, Barnum struggled in the workforce and purchased a museum with a last attempt at success.

He wanted to create something people had never seen, and he found himself with about two dozen people creating a new form of entertainment: the circus. The circus was built around the concept of watching "odd" people perform odd tricks, from flame throwers, to trapeze artists, to bearded women.

The show gained traction and brought about a sense of family and unity within the circus entertainers. But, the hype of the circus died down and Barnum had to look for new resources. Barnum sought the advice of a socialite, Phillip Carlyle, and the musical talents of a European artist, Jenny Lind. With these additions, the show thrived. Throughout the movie, Barnum grows closer with the members of the circus.

In the end, Barnum realizes that life is more than social classes. He learns that living a life fueled by money is not a happy one. He makes amends with his family and bequests his circus to Carlyle. He is content with his successful new form of entertainment - the circus.

The format of this film is what differentiates it from others. The soundtrack is chilling and unifies the storyline with varying tempos and emotional lyrics. In many movies, the music is not sung by the actors, however, in *The Greatest Showman*, Zac Efron, Zendaya and Hugh Jackman sing. If nothing else, their great voices are impressive.

This movie is based on true events and the life of P.T. Barnum. The Barnum and Bailey Circus started in the late 1800s with Barnum and continued until recently. The performance was deemed the Greatest Show on Earth, according to the Barnum and Bailey Circus. The movie also creatively illustrated how tents were incorporated into the circus and why the circus had weird acts.

The fact that Hugh Jackman did not win Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy for his role of P.T. Barnum is shocking. Jackman did a magnificent job at portraying the emotion of his character.

I recommend watching this movie. I have watched it twice in the theatres and will likely watch it again. It has a great cast and the plot touches on the major historical aspects while keeping the viewer's interest. The music soundtrack is catchy and the compelling plotline made a great film.

Look among hallways, not stars

By: Anna Svitkovich

@asvity | Staff Writer

FRESHMEN:

As you traverse through your second semester of high school, remember to stay humble. Know that you will not be defined by this year of school (or any *single* one, really). Do not dwell on past chances or mistakes. Look to the future, never in the past. Your lucky number is 19.

Quote: "We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." - Walt Disney

SOPHOMORES:

If you work on your faults to a point of contentedness, the world will grant you peace in that aspect of your life. Keep working and fighting during the hardships and easier times will come sooner with less effort needed to be put forth. Your lucky number is 5.

Quote: "Work hard, play hard." - Wiz Khalifa

JUNIORS:

Remember, you only have one year of high school left. Use this time to really get to know your peers - and yourself - before you need to say goodbye. Take the time to care and appreciate those who appreciate and care for you. Your lucky number is 22.

Quote: "You just remember what your old pal said: boy, you've got a friend in me." -Randy Newman

SENIORS:

As you get ready to move onto the next phase of your life, do not forget to lean on those who have been there for you since the beginning. Ask for help and have no fear towards the unexplored. Be adventurous, but remember your roots. Your lucky number is 18.

Quote: "Be courageous. Be independent. Only remember where true independence and courage comes from." - Unknown

ALL:

Overall, try to be a good student and person looking toward to the future, not dwelling on the past. Learn from past mistakes, but do not worry about it so much.

Riley Bullock in running for All-American Diver

By Caroline Ginder

@carolineginder7 | Staff writer

As the dive team's season winds down, it comes time to look back and reflect on the highlights. Diving is a team sport and requires effort from all divers in order to have a successful program. However, one diver in particular has made a name for herself in the Loveland dive program. **Riley Bullock (10)** made the podium at every meet this season and is in the running for an All-American diving title.

The All-American award is no small feat. According to National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association, (NISCA), only 100 high school students - fifty girls, fifty boys - in the United States are chosen every year. The chosen group are the best of the best. In order to meet the specifications for All-American, Bullock was required to compete in an eleven dive meet and meet a specific score.

"I put together a video of three of my eleven dive meets from there it is submitted to USA diving," Bullock said. She said that the video will be evaluated by a judging panel over the summer.

There are seven people, including Bullock, on the dive team: **Erin Albert (11)**, **Colleen Swift (12)**, **Marisa Kenyon (11)**, **Allison Reynolds (10)**, **Morgan**



Photo courtesy of Darnell Parker

Riley Bullock (left) with her teammate **Erin Albert (right)**. Bullock qualified to go to the ECC meet, where she finished in third place.

Eversole (9) and **Elise Reynolds (9)**. "This year there are a lot more people," Bullock said.

The team is coached by **Lisa Werwinski**, a former Miami University diver and FINA judge (FINA is an international water sports competition). According to Bullock Werwinski is a knowledgeable coach and contributed a great deal to the team's success.

Due in part to the small size of the team, Loveland and West Clermont have a combined dive team. "West Clermont has always been a part of the Loveland dive program," Bullock said. "Amelia and Glen Este combined schools to make West Clermont. It is so nice to have a combined team because you get different perspectives from your teammates."

Bullock went to the Eastern Cincinnati Conference (ECC) meet where she finished third, missing second place by one point. "For the ECC meet, I did a front two-and-a-half, back one-and-a-half twister, reverse 1.5 and an inward 1.5 on the one meter," Bullock said. Among these dives, she said that her favorites are the front 2.5 and inward 1.5.

"Some of my other dives include 430B (an inward 1.5 pike), 104B (a front double pike) and a 105C (a front 2.5 pike)," Bullock said. "The hardest part about diving is that it's a head game. Being ready physically is the easiest part, the hardest part is knowing and trusting yourself to do the dive right. "Meets can either be a six dive or eleven dive meet, with different dive categories including backs, fronts, reverse, inwards

and twisters. Bullock holds multiple records for the six and eleven dive meets for Loveland High School.

Many athletes have backgrounds in multiple sports, which is the case for Bullock. "I've played basketball since third grade, and I used to play softball and soccer before coming to Loveland," she said. "I was also a gymnast for four years. Gymnastics taught me awareness in the air and the ability to try new things, which transferred to diving." She has been diving for 2.5 years now.

In addition to Loveland diving, Bullock competes in club diving, where she spends hours training. When she is competing in both club and high school, she practices seven days a week, at upwards of fourteen hours per week.

"I would love to dive in college. I am training very hard during both high school and the club season hoping to go to college for dive," Bullock said. She said she has not singled out any colleges yet, but does like Ohio University and Florida State University.

A goal for Bullock was diving at the state competition. In the recent Southwest Ohio District meet, she and Albert qualified to dive at state. That meet was on February 22, 2018. In the coming years, her name may yet appear on more broken records and possibly an All-American title.

Newly formed Ultimate Frisbee club soars into extracurricular activities



Photo Courtesy of Adam Ginsburg

A new ultimate frisbee club was formed this year at LHS. Ultimate frisbee has grown in popularity over the past five years.

By Grisha Tackett

@TheRealGrishaT8 | Staff writer

The Ultimate Frisbee Club is one of the newest clubs here at the high school. The club is about friends, fun, and, most poignantly, frisbee. Its founders - **Kyle Faessler (11)**, **Greg Ballman (11)**, and **Zach Garner (12)** - all plan on playing in the grass fields behind the student parking lot in late March, weather permitting.

"This club is similar to how we did flag football in middle school, but it's the students who run the program" **Kyle Faessler (11)** said.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join. "Hopefully we can get guys and gals with any level of experience from every grade," Faessler said.

Ultimate frisbee is a non-stop, non-contact game where the goal is to catch the frisbee in your team's endzone on a field. According USA Ultimate, the game was created in 1968 by students at Columbia High School. The game takes several aspects from other sports like soccer and football and combines them. An integral part of ultimate frisbee is that it is officiated by the players themselves, and not referees. This aspect is what the Ultimate Board of

Directors expressly believes sets it apart from other sports.

The LHS ultimate frisbee club is set up so that everyone in it gets equal playing time and no one feels left out. Seven to eight teams, each with different captains and team names, will play against each other every Tuesday and Thursday. Players will be placed on a team and will get to play the entire time. While the games will be fast-paced, it won't be hard for a novice to learn the ropes and catch up.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join. "Hopefully we can get guys and gals with any level of experience from every grade," Faessler said.

There are several people able to be contacted with possible questions or to express interest, such as **Mr. Boisvert**, as well as Garner, Ballman, and Faessler. The club also provides updates on their Twitter account, @LHSUltimateClub.

The Ultimate Frisbee Club is open to all and its members hope it continues for years to come. There will be an informational meeting for all those interested sometime in late February. The club is a great way for those without a spring sport to get active while having fun.

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XFL to attempt comeback in 2020

By Grisha Tackett

@TheRealGrishaT8 | Staff Writer

On January 25, 2018 Vince McMahon, president of the WWE, announced that the XFL will make a comeback in 2020. The league first launched in 2001, but flopped and has remained dormant ever since. The league was initially a joint venture between the WWE and NBC sports and hoped to add pizzazz to the game of football

The XFL is one of the few leagues to have directly competed against the dominant NFL. After its creation, there were several key differences between the two. For example, games for the XFL were played in the offseason of the NFL, and there were eight teams instead of the NFL's 32.

Those teams include the Birmingham Bolts, Chicago Enforcers, and New York Hitmen. All of the XFL teams operated under McMahon himself instead of the NFL franchise model where each team has its separate owner.

The league proved to be successful after its first few games. The first televised game had 15.7 million viewers and a TV rating of 10.3. After several weeks, however ratings sunk and only about one million people were tuning in compared to the 20-30 million who watched the NFL. Fans found the mix between football and the WWE awkward and soon grew uninterested. NBC soon pulled the plug on the project and

McMahon was forced to cut the endeavor short after just one season.

After 17 years, McMahon seems to think he has another shot at making the XFL successful. "It's an opportunity to really reimagine football - not reinvent it, but reimagine football," he said at a press conference. "It's that reimagination that's really enticing in terms of creating

something that the marketplace would want these days." With NFL ratings falling 17 percent over the past 2 years, McMahon thinks that the league will flourish.

McMahon revealed several key changes to the league with the announcement of his plan. The largest difference in the XFL is that it will be solely focused on the football and won't involve the WWE.

Another difference is that the league will not allow any players with criminal records to play. McMahon stressed the importance of integrity to the league and wanted players be strong role models for the youth.

McMahon also said that the XFL will not tolerate political statements before, during, or after the games. The NFL has sparked controversy over its players kneeling during the National Anthem, causing some to boycott the league and even President Donald Trump to express frustrations. To appeal to broader audiences, McMahon stressed that he wanted "football to remain football."

Football analysts have expressed their doubts regarding the success of the league, and if the budget will be enough. The spring and summer times are cluttered with March Madness, the NBA, and baseball, making it hard for a new sport to shine.

With players like Johnny Manziel and Pat McAfee expressing interest in the league, though some think it could be successful. "The XFL will do pretty well for being a startup sport, but it won't be as successful as other major sports," Sam Krimins (11) said. "It should attract the attention of those NFL fans who are frustrated with how the league is operating right now."

The only way to truly tell how the XFL will turn out is to wait two years until its debut. Until then, its fate will remain unknown.



Photo courtesy of elisfkc

The Chicago Enforcers play against the Las Vegas Outlaws back in 2001. They finished their only season with a record of 5 wins and 6 losses.

Nassar victims speak out

By Madeline Crowley

@madzcrowley | Staff Writer

Larry Nassar, a former osteopathic physician for USA Gymnastics and Michigan State University, has been convicted of using his position as a doctor to sexually abuse young girls. He has pleaded guilty to ten counts of sexual conduct and has been sentenced to 175 years in prison for decades of sexual abuse, an additional 60 years being added for federal child pornography charges.

Over 150 young women said in court that he sexually abused them over numerous decades; two dozen more submitted written statements that were not read aloud in the trial. The victims all shared the same story: they were forced to believe the lie that the sexual assault was "medical treatment."

Many of the women asserted that when they tried to speak up about the issue, USA Gymnastics, Michigan State University, and the US Olympic Committee ignored it.

These women, though sexually assaulted and abused stood up to Nassar. According to CNN, court officials initially expected 88 victims to speak in court, but that number nearly doubled over the course of the sentencing hearing as more and more women came forward, inspired to speak out.

One of the women who presented statements included Aly Raisman, Olympic Gold Medalist. "We, this group of women you so heartlessly abused over such a long period of time, are now a force, and you are nothing," she said "The tables have turned, Larry. We are here. We have our voices, and we are not going anywhere."

"There are many reasons why I have been reluctant to share my story, but I know now that it is not my fault," Simone Biles, Olympic gymnast, said in mid-January the day before Nassar's sentencing.

The judge overseeing the proceedings, Rosemarie Aquilina, echoed the sentiment

of the women who came forth. "It is my honor and privilege to sentence you," she said to Nassar during the trial. "You do not deserve to walk outside a prison ever again. You have done nothing to control those urges and anywhere you walk, destruction will occur to those most vulnerable. I just signed your death warrant."

The sentencing marks the end of Nassar's appearance in the public, however, he is not the only one being accused of perpetrating acts of sexual abuse and misconduct. CNN reports that organizations such as USA Gymnastics, Michigan State University, and the US Olympic Committee have all come under fire due to their neglectful ignorance of the situation. Many of the women who presented statements not only focused their statements on Nassar, but also at these organizations, claiming that they turned a blind eye to the terrible acts happening with their knowledge.

Following the uncovering of Nassar's actions, there were emotional and violent responses in the courtroom. Randall Margraves, a father of three of Nassar's victims, had unexpected response when his daughters' read their statements aloud in Eaton County Circuit Court, Charlotte Michigan. Margraves was expressly unaware of the extent of his daughters' abuse beforehand because the girls would not reveal the details until they read them.

Following the statements being read aloud, Margraves asked the judge if he could have five minutes alone in a room with Nassar. When the judge denied, he asked if he could have but one minute. After another rejection, Margraves, later expressing that he was angered and emotional, ran across the room and lunged at Nassar before being stopped by law enforcement. This is a visual representation of the pain that Nassar's abuse has caused, not only for the victims but for their family members as well.

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So many schedules

Student counselors perform extensive prep work for each year

By Claire Wallace

@ccwallace4 Staff writer

With schedules due on March 2nd, it can seem overwhelming. Why do the course request forms for next year need to be completed so far in advance? Second semester has barely started and students are already thinking about classes we need to take in the future.

Over 1,000 students attend Loveland High School. Thanks to this large student body population, the LHS guidance counselors must begin the massive scheduling project early in second semester in order to ensure that each and every LHS student is set up for academic success.

The counseling staff at Loveland High School consists of **Mrs. Gordon, Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. Hamilton, and Mrs. Mason.** Together, they have many years of expert-level experience working with both students and staff, both to create class offering schedules and to ensure students are enrolling in the correct classes for on-time graduation. The counselors agree that the most useful tool in creating schedules is Naviance.

“Naviance and some of the administrative programs we use are helpful as well- we can look at lists and number of students interested in a class based on what they sign up for,” Hamilton said. “We drive the schedule based on student need and interest.” This results in classes being offered at different times and with different frequency each school year.

At the very beginning of the student scheduling process, each class meets with all of the counselors in the auditorium - something which not everyone takes seriously. “I don’t like the meetings

because they take time out of my current class. I would rather be in class than at a meeting,” **Noelle Coetter (10)** said. However, these meetings are the easiest and most efficient way for students to hear about new opportunities coming to LHS.

“We do our best to make information available to students and families in multiple ways (such as presentations, the course selection book)... to make sure everyone is equipped with the information they need, such as course descriptions,” Mason said. “After attending the class meetings, students should have most of the information they need to make educated course selections for the coming year.”

However, “if anything is ever confusing, the guidance office is always available,” Hamilton said. “Allowing students to come for a visit and get the one-on-one questions they need answered is one of the most beneficial ways to figure out a student’s personal schedule.”

While creating schedules, it is important for students to talk to their current teachers. Classroom teachers know students best and are usually accurate in suggesting which classes might suit a particular student’s needs. For example, if a student is ever unsure about taking an honors or AP level class, talking to a current teacher is crucial.

“The counselors greatly value the teacher recommendations. These tend to be the best indicators of future success,” Mitchell said. “We also encourage students in grades 10 and 11 to use the AP Potential report that is a part of the PSAT results. This information is a solid predictor of a particular student’s success in AP level courses..”

Taking an AP class is a time commitment, and having good study skills and time management skills will help with success in the class. “Students need to consider

their workload, including activities outside of school, as well as their willingness to complete homework and ability to manage stress and time,” Mason said. “Personally, I would like to see students take Honors and AP classes that meet their learning interests more so than their GPA interests.” Teachers who recommend students for these more challenging classes have a solid understanding of what the class entails, and are able to make a proper recommendation based on a student’s current classroom performance.

But what if a student is considering a different path, such as attending the Oaks or taking a College Credit Plus class? The LHS counselors are happy to work with these students to make sure they are on the right path for success at their unique learning opportunities. Counselors can also advise students on likely courses and make sure students are aware of deadlines at these other institutions.

While some schedules might seem pretty straightforward when a student is completing the paperwork, there are some common errors that the counselors typically see. Remember at the class meetings when they discussed the importance of filling out the alternate course selections? This is an often overlooked section of the submission form, and many students simply ignore it or “forget” to fill it out completely.

“The biggest mistake is not filling in three alternative courses. Not following prerequisite and corequisite statements is a close second,” Mitchell said. “We encourage students to please double (and even triple!) check to ensure that these considerations are made.” If a class that a student wants to take is full, and he or she did not complete the alternate course selections, the counselors need to track that student down and figure out which course

the student wants to take instead.

There is an unbelievable amount of prep work that goes into making sure everything is ready for the upcoming school year. The counselors deal with a wide variety of tasks, and some of the work definitely takes longer than other things. “For me, accounting for EOC points and credit checks for all students while developing the master schedule takes a great deal of time,” Mitchell said.

Mrs. Hamilton’s most time-consuming work in scheduling for the next school year is “looking at what students have signed up for and making sure they are on track with graduation and also challenging themselves,” she said “I double check classes, course codes and make sure students have the required classes to take other classes.” The time and effort that the counselors put in is significant, and with never ending questions from students, making time for all students with concerns can be a challenge.

“It can be a balancing act,” Hamilton said. “When students are here I make that time for the students, and when students are not here is when I do paperwork and follow up parent phone calls - but it can be difficult.” All of the work that they put, however, is worth it in the end for some students. “Mrs. Gordon has given me a lot of advice toward what classes to take and what career would be best for me,” **Hayley Combs (12)** said “I can’t thank her enough!”. Any questions a student has will be happily answered by the counselors.

The counselors are here to ensure success for each and every student. They agreed that their number one goal during the scheduling process is for students to properly challenge themselves and to investigate their interests for postsecondary school success.

Loveland’s TPA program continues to thrive



Photo courtesy of @Loveland_TPA

By Courtney Kirby

@court_kirby

staff writer

This past school year, Loveland High School joined the multitude of Greater Cincinnati schools, including Anderson, Mason, Turpin, and Milford, to offer courses through the Teaching Professions Academy, a program that helps students learn critical skills needed in professions related to children and adolescents. Residing in room 259A at the high school, **Bre Sambuchino** now runs the two-year program consisting of five courses related to teaching and child care. Open to juniors and seniors, the program is only expected to exhibit growth in upcoming years.

Although courses are designed to be taken in student’s junior and senior years, students are able to take all five

courses their senior year. The first three courses are introductory and give students a chance to learn about the culture, history, issues, philosophies, and methods of education.

While in the classroom, students participate in multiple cooperative and individual projects, with assistance from the extensive use of materials ranging from technology to craft supplies. During these courses, students also take field trips to local colleges such as University of Cincinnati and Miami University to further explore the field of education.

Education Principles, one of the five courses, is a 90-minute year round course for seniors where they head out to schools in the Loveland Schools district to complete field work. Students receive different placements each quarter, totaling between 72 and 120 hours. Throughout their time in the classes, seniors assemble a portfolio of their fieldwork.

According to Sambuchino, TPA students have the advantage with this class of figuring out what age group they’d like to work with as teachers before spending money on the potentially wrong major in college. “What a great gift that is,” she said. TPA students are able to try multiple types of classrooms until they find the place in which they are comfortable and would like to continue working.

TPA is also a chance for those who are unsure if they would like to teach or have no interest in teaching to learn. Students in the program work on writing skills, public speaking, organization, and working with others. Through TPA, students also have the opportunity to earn three college credit hours. The courses also increase college-level vocabulary, improve writing and time management, help with college applications, essays, and scholarships, provide students with networking opportunities and develop critical and creative thinking skills.

“Hopefully as we continue to grow, so will interest,” Mrs. Sambuchino notes with optimism. After only one year, students are already taking advantage of the program in large numbers, enjoying every part of it. “I liked that it presented so many new opportunities and experiences I wouldn’t have gotten to be a part of, such as numerous in-class presentations, college visits, and working with the special needs classes,” says **Sydney Miller (11)**, when asked about her time with TPA. For those on the fence about joining TPA, Mrs. Sambuchino has one simple answer, “do it.” She also notes that it is important to talk to students currently in TPA to get the full understanding of the program. Many will tell you that TPA is a fun learning environment for all students, regardless of profession, to grow and encounter new experiences.

Fiona charms people at Cincinnati Zoo

By: Claire Krabacher

@c_krabacher | Staff Writer

Fiona the hippo has been the star of the Cincinnati Zoo and has captured the hearts of animal-lovers everywhere. Born prematurely on January 24, 2017, Fiona weighed only twenty-nine pounds, half the weight of a normal hippo, according to the Cincinnati ZoWo. Zoo staff feared she would not survive. After extensive care and support from the Cincinnati Zoo staff, Fiona is now a healthy 655 pounds at the age of one. After a tumultuous 2017, some are calling this premature hippo the best thing to happen in 2017.

On January 9, 2017, the zoo confirmed by an ultrasound that seventeen year old hippo Bibi was pregnant. This hippo would be the first Nile hippo to be born at the zoo in 75 years. Just fifteen short days later and six weeks before her due, the baby hippo, who would later become a social media star, was born.

The baby hippo received constant care from the vet staff at the zoo and was fed her mom's milk and nutrients to help her gain strength. Zoo staff also introduced her to the pool to gain muscle the underweight hippo desperately needed. By the end of the month, she was drinking out of a bottle, making progress towards walking, and gaining weight steadily.

The premature baby hippo was named Fiona by her caretakers, a name meaning "fair." Only a few weeks after her birth, support from social media came pouring in, such as #TeamFiona trending on Twitter. However, Fiona was not yet in the clear. She still required around-the-clock care and help to breathe normally. Caregivers continued to work to help her gain weight and get through the teething process.

As Fiona progressed, so did the community's support.

T-shirts starring Fiona were created and the zoo's social media platforms were bursting with photos of her and her accomplishments, like learning to walk.

In terms of popularity, "Team Fiona" expanded from Cincinnati to the entire nation in a matter of weeks. In fact, according to ABC News, a single video posted by the zoo of Fiona attempting to walk up a ramp out of her pool reached 21 million views and doubled the Cincinnati Zoo's following on Facebook. Not only that, but the zoo said that attendance went up seventeen percent in 2017 from the previous year and donations had poured in. According to the zoo, Fiona became the face of resilience and strength for people everywhere, in the midst of a tough year laced with disaster.

In July, Fiona and her parents, Bibi and Henry, were reunited after being separated for Fiona's safety. Visitors poured in to see the famous hippo and her family, although during limited hours to get the family used to being together. A loving relationship between Fiona and her mom, Bibi, developed over time, content that drew more and more people to the adorable hippo family of the Cincinnati Zoo.

Fiona celebrated her first birthday on January 24, 2018, something many thought she would never survive long enough to experience. The Cincinnati Zoo reports she is now at a healthy 655 pounds and is thriving in her habitat at the zoo.

However, the community's, and the country's, preoccupation with Fiona has not ended. The zoo has since started to sell all kinds of Fiona merchandise, including, stuffed animals, cups, Christmas ornaments, sweatshirts, and pins. Fiona even has her own ice cream flavor called Chunky Chunky Hippo carried by Graeter's and a portion of the proceeds from its sales go toward the



Photo Courtesy of the Cincinnati Zoo

Fiona happily celebrates her first birthday at the Zoo. After a year, she weighed in at a healthy 650 pounds.

benefit of the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens.

Visitors at the Cincinnati Zoo can see Fiona in her habitat, she loves interacting with visitors, however the weather must be 50 degrees or above with sunny skies for her to be in her outdoor pool. Through her recovery and growth, Fiona has become a Cincinnati Zoo attraction and the epitome of strength.

Groundhog Day buried in deep tradition

By: Kayla Gibbins

@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

Since 1887, America has had a unique tradition in which a groundhog predicts the weather. As winter draws to a close, some people look to the celebration of Groundhog Day to provide any clue as to when the harsh winter will end. The belief is that if the groundhog sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter; no shadow means winter weather will come to an early end. But how did this tradition begin, and how accurate are these predictions?

The story of Groundhog's Day begins with an early Christian holiday known as Candlemas. According to *History.com*, Candlemas was a day on which clergy members would distribute candles necessary to get through the winter. The length of the candle was said to represent how long the winter would last, and the Christians who celebrated it believed that a sunny Candlemas meant another 40 days of cold and snow.

Germans however, were the first to incorporate animals into end-of-winter predictions. *History.com* reports that they used hedgehogs to predict the weather. In a similar manner as the Christians, Germans also believed that a sunny day meant a longer winter, but they only considered the day sunny if a small animal could see its shadow - hence the hedgehog.

When German settlers came to Pennsylvania, they continued the tradition, but switched to groundhogs, which were plentiful in the area. Groundhogs go into hibernation in the fall, but emerge in February to mate, before going back into hibernation until March, making them a practical choice for a winter-predicting animal.

The rise of the famous Punxsutawney Phil came about in 1887 when a newspaper editor, who belonged to a

group of groundhog hunters called the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, declared that there was one true weather predicting groundhog, named Punxsutawney Phil, according to *History.com*.

This led to a three-day celebration full of entertainment and activities presided over by the club, which consists of fifteen members who wear top hats and speak in a Pennsylvania Dutch dialect. The actual ceremony takes place at Gobblers Knob, where Phil uses the special language of Groundhogese to communicate his shadow findings to the president of the Inner Circle.

Groundhogs have a lifespan of around 10 years, so there have obviously been multiple Punxsutawney Phils since 1887. The "Inner Circle" resolves this problem at their annual Groundhog picnic, which takes place during the summer. Every year, Phil is given a drink of a magic punch that is said to extend his life by seven years, so even if he misses six doses in a row, he would still live on. This leads the Inner Circle to claim that there is one true Phil. They believe he is always right despite his 40% success rate, but the President occasionally misinterprets the groundhog's verdict, according to the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club website.

Though Phil is the most famous, there are a number of other weather-predicting groundhogs, such as Staten Island Chuck and Sir Walter Wally of Raleigh, North Carolina. Staten Island Chuck seems to be one of Phil's biggest competitors with a 70% accuracy rate, according to *Time*.

As for this year's predictions - as the varying success rates would suggest - there was a discrepancy between results this year. Punxsutawney Phil did see his shadow this year, which would imply that there will be six more weeks of winter.

However, Staten Island Chuck predicted an early end to the harsh cold; only time will tell who turns out to be correct.



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Artistic Expertise: Sing a song of Show Choir

By Sam Aldrich

@samalrich7 | Staff writer

Loveland's music program provides students with many opportunities to engage in the musical field, including a thriving choir program throughout both LMS and LHS. This includes classes for seventh through twelfth grade, as well as three award-winning show choirs.

There are four choir classes at LHS: Chorale, Vocal Ensemble, Allure Women's Ensemble, and By Request Show Choir. Chorale and Vocal Ensemble are both choir classes focusing on technique and interactions with the music. Each group participates at Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) competitions, with Vocal Ensemble performing at a higher level of difficulty than the others.

Students, both current and aspiring members, audition at the end of their school year in order to determine their placement for the following year. Auditions include performing and sight-reading. In order to participate in the LHS show choirs, students must participate in these auditions and an accompanying choir class.

Chorale and Vocal Ensemble teach sight-reading, ear-training, basic music theory, and other various vocal techniques in order to help students develop their vocal abilities. Allure and By Request are both part of their respective show choirs and provide additional time during the school day for the groups to develop their performances for their competition season. This preparation includes vocals and visuals, as the show choirs have an elaborate show that combines singing and dancing.

The choir program at LHS, as well as all three show

choirs, is run by **Mr. Shawn Miller**. Miller works with other staff members to design and teach the show the daily choir classes at the high school. Additionally, Miller holds auditions for the upcoming year in order to place choir students in the groups that best suit their abilities.

Allure is the all-female show choir at the high school. Allure and By Request participate in the same competitions,



Photo courtesy of @MrsJackson_LMS

Members of By Request pose for a photo after awards. The group had won Grand Champions, as well as best choreography, best band and best show design.

with Allure in the unisex division. "We all work so hard all year to get our show as ready as possible," **Anna Geiger (9)**, one of the soloists in Allure's competition show, said. "[It] brings us all together doing one thing we love." This rigorous practice schedule begins with camps in the summer, allowing the choirs to present a completed show by the time regular performances begin in January.

By Request is LHS' mixed show choir that features students through their competition show. Students work at a similar schedule to Allure, with a seemingly constant work schedule in order to be fully prepared by the time they start competing. According to **Sophia Muir (11)**, "more than anything, we work hard no matter what," showing the drive present in the students that helps them achieve the title of "Grand Champion" at many of their competitions.

Despite their high scores, "it's less about the talent and the class and the competitions and more about how we can make our show better and ourselves better as performers," Muir said. The students strive to become better.

The three show choirs compete throughout the winter and help host Loveland Showfest, the show choir competition hosted at LHS. This serves as a fundraiser for the groups and was held February 9 - 10 this year. In addition to their local competitions, in previous years the Loveland show choirs have participated in the National Show Choir Competition held in Nashville, Tennessee. All three groups have placed among the top groups in recent years and, in the past, By Request has been awarded the national winning title under Miller's direction.

The district's choir program provides students with many valuable opportunities that will help participants expand their abilities and allow them to pursue new experiences within the choirs. Those interested may want to pursue the classes for the upcoming school year as the Loveland Show Choirs continue pursuing excellence.

Celebrating Valentine's Day in "Sweetheart City"

By Madeline Crowley

@madzcrowley | Staff writer

Valentine's Day in the Sweetheart City certainly lives up to its name. In Loveland, Ohio, there is never a shortage of love and if the name of your town is Loveland, you have to be somewhat festive for Valentine's Day, right? I know that many have always wondered what happens in the land of love during that special day.

People from around the world take part in the celebration of Valentine's Day. Loveland, in particular, celebrates with its well-known activities including the international remailing program, Poetry contest, Valentine's Lady, and much more.

The mailing program, which started in 1972, is composed of many volunteers who donate their time during the holiday to sit down and add a special touch to letters sent across the globe to people in Loveland. According to

WLWT 5, the volunteers process over 160,000 Valentines that arrive at the post office destined for loved ones in the city. The letters that go through this program and receive a romance-themed postmark and a heart-shaped stamp. According to WCPO, some people even make the drive to Loveland from their own towns for the special touch.

More on terms of the overall festivities of the city, there is an annual Valentine's Poetry Contest to which anyone from ages preschool to over 18 can submit their work. The types of poems range from haikus to sonnets, and there are no requirements or restrictions - only to thematically reflect love and Valentine's Day. The winner is selected from thousands of submissions and honored at a special Valentine's Day Breakfast at the Oasis Conference Center. The winning poet reads their piece in front of the attendees and receives a cash prize.

The winner of the Valentine's Day card design is also revealed at the breakfast. That contest is to see who can

design the most creative Valentine's card. The winner last year was Bonnie McNett, who took inspiration from the festive stamps from the post office in her design. The card read, "There is nothing in this world so sweet as love."

The Valentine's Lady is also a significant part of Valentine's Day festivities in Loveland. The Valentine's Lady is an ambassador for the Loveland Chamber's Valentine Program and visits area businesses, nursing homes, and schools, among other duties as the Lady. Nominations for the position opened as early as October; The Lady is someone who is distinguished in her community, school, or family endeavors. For the person who wins the card contest, their design is sold to the public.

It is no doubt that the city of Loveland will celebrate Valentine's the same way it always does: with love. Whether it is the annual internationally renowned remailing system, poetry contest, or many other festivities, there are many Valentine's activities to be involved in each year.

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