



THE ROAR

Friday
February 1,
2019
Volume 10
Issue 5

Loveland High School, Loveland, Ohio

Page Editors: Madeline Crowley and Courtney Kirby

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Photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

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Loveland Robotics take competition by storm

By Allison Kiehl
@Kiehla02 | Staff Writer

Loveland's Robotics teams have a long history of excellence, and this year is no exception. Teams have already been competing for months and now, as the end of the season grows closer and closer, Loveland teams 5040 and 10464 compete and continue to qualify and win regional and national tournaments.

Loveland is home to two FTC Robotics teams, 5040 and 10464: each widely recognized for their success and gracious professionalism. Teams work hard to earn their titles, spending countless hours programming and building their robots and getting them ready for the competition season. Along their journey, the robotics students have found passion, dedication, and appreciation for their experiences on the FTC teams. "It's great to see how all the hours we put in pay off," says Joanna Reese (10). "It is amazing to see how much teamwork and imagination can allow our team to grow and prosper." Senior, Nick Rasmussen (12), when asked about his time on the FTC team 10464 said that, "FTC has been the best experience of high school. The competitions have challenged me to be my best self." Nathan Stewart (11) provides a similar statement; "In FTC, I've learned that if you want to learn how to fix stuff, you have to break stuff." Programs like 10464 and 5040 have a lasting impact on the students; their passion for the sport is what gives them the drive to compete so fiercely in their matches.

The way that the robotics teams compete is different every year, as their "game" or theme changes to challenge teams in a new way each season. This year, the

game is called Rover Ruckus. The idea behind this theme is that the robots have just landed on a different planet which is full of valuable minerals. In the two and a half minute time frame, teams must work collaboratively with their alliance partners, another randomly selected robotics team, to relocate the gems, navigate the terrain, and clip on and off the rocket which brought the robots to this new planet. Points are scored with every mineral moved to that team's claimed their corners of the field and successfully completing difficult maneuvers. Extra points are offered to teams who score points in the autonomous period, the first thirty seconds of the game that are preprogrammed into the robot, and the end game, the last thirty seconds when robots are encouraged to return to their starting positions.

Teams have been very successful with the game this season. At the West Virginia State Championship tournament Team 5040 was the captain of the winning alliance and won third place in the category of design. 10464 placed first in the Connect Award and was in second place for both the Think and Motivate Awards. At the Dayton Qualifying Tournament, team 5040 placed in four award categories; Think Inspire, Design and Promote. The West Central Pennsylvania Qualifier also saw the success of team 10464, where they were awarded in the areas of Think, Connect, Inspire and Motivate. On top of all these awards, 10464 has qualified for Pennsylvania State Competition and team 5040 has qualified for a state tournament in West Virginia. Also, they will be heading to an international tournament held in Detroit in April.

The Ohio State Championship will be held at Loveland High School this year, and both teams will be competing at the event, held on February 23, 2019. Including 5040 and 10464, thirty-six teams will be in attendance who have qualified in seven different regional competitions. The event should last all day, so please come out and support the Loveland teams, as well as other schools from across the state. However, a free live stream will be available at ispacstem.org for the convenience of anyone who has an interest in the activity or simply wants to watch an exciting day full of Ohio's top robotics teams. In addition, Loveland team 5040 has already advanced to the FIRST World Championship, held in Michigan in late April, where the same live stream link will be applicable.

Please come out and support the life-changing robotics programs at Loveland on February 23 and wish them the best of luck in the rest of their competition season!



Photo courtesy of Christine Rasmussen

Student accused of cheating on SAT, hires big-time lawyer

By Mihaela Manova
@lovelandroar | News Editor

On January 3, 2019, Kamilah Campbell, a senior at Michael M. Krop Senior High School, was accused of cheating on her SATs. Now, she may miss the deadline to go to her college of choice: Florida State University. According to *CNN*, currently Campbell has a 3.1 GPA and a lifetime of dance experience. She is planning on majoring in dance and wants to enroll at Florida State's dance program.

CNN began by retelling her story about the first time she took the SAT. During her junior year, Campbell was left unsatisfied when she received a 900. She spent seven months learning the SAT strategy and content by using *The Princeton Review Prep* book, taking online classes, and even hiring a tutor. Florida State's SAT requirement for acceptance into the college is between 1180-1340 out of the maximum score 1600.

Now, The College Board sent her a letter questioning her point increase that Campbell successfully accomplished, a score of 1230. The letter read, "We

are writing to you because based on a preliminary review, there appears to be substantial evidence that your scores... are invalid," It continues, "Our preliminary concerns are based in substantial agreement between your answer on one or more scored sections of the test and those of other test takers. The anomalies noted above raise concerns about the validity of your scores."

Campbell claims that she didn't cheat. "I studied and focused to achieve my dream. I worked so hard and did everything I could do." Zach Goldberg, a spokesman from The College Board, told *The New York Post* that scores aren't flagged because of sudden score increases, he mentions that instead an increase is often "celebrated."

On Campbell's side, Ben Crump, a prominent civil rights attorney and Florida State graduate, was asked to help the teen in this case. "Instead of celebrating her and her achievement, they are trying to assassinate her character, and we won't stand for that," says Crump. His goal is for The College Board to validate her score in time for the admissions into the dance academy. According to *CNN*, he demands The College Board to respond in two weeks. Usually, the reviews take from four to six weeks. In a summary of Goldberg's statement, The College Board will cancel scores if there is substantial evidence to do so.

Olivia Trombley (11), sides with Campbell by saying, "I think her score jump goes against the typical increase, but she clearly worked very hard academically which should have her enrolled in her college of choice." Currently, many juniors at Loveland are preparing for the SAT/ACT tests while juggling homework, honors classes, and are even occupied with sports and afterschool clubs.

Returning to Campbell's situation, it may result in two ways. On one side, Campbell and Crump could win the case and she could apply to her dream college, or her scores would have to be cancelled, leaving her with her initial score of 900. In the next few weeks, all eyes will be on The College Board's decision and evidence in preparation for any legal action that may result.

Food for thought: superb superbowl snacks

By: Kayla Gibbons
@gibbons_kayla | Page Layout Editor

With February quickly approaching, a prime event in American entertainment is upon us: Super Bowl Sunday. Although it is mostly about football, this event has something for everyone: a game for the sports fan, a star-filled halftime show for the music lover, and hilarious commercials that cost companies around \$4 billion. However, there is one thing that is crucial to the success of this unique event, and that would be the Super Bowl snacks. Whether you throw a rowdy party or simply enjoy the game with family, a good supply of snacks will ensure that you get the most out of your viewing experience. No one wants to watch a game while hangry! I have compiled a list of top Super Bowl foods to make your game day selection process easier. So sit back, grab a soda, and let the game begin. May your team of choice win, and may Maroon 5 break a leg.

When watching sports, I find that it is always best to have things to graze on throughout, especially if more substantial food will be served later in the evening. Chips and dip are a great solution to this problem. With such a variety of both chips and dip available, there are endless

possibilities to satisfy your demands. While I always support a classic combination, such as a french onion dip with potato chips, the Super Bowl provides an opportunity to



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

go above and beyond and try something a bit more complex, such as 7 layer or buffalo chicken dip. 7 layer dip is a great party snack because it looks complicated and high end but just requires opening a few cans. The 7 layers are refried beans mixed with taco seasoning, sour cream, guacamole, salsa, Mexican cheese, sliced olives, and tomatoes. Paired with tortilla chips, this dip provides a different set of flavors for your game day celebration.

Buffalo chicken dip, made with chicken, buffalo wing sauce, and cheese among other ingredients, is a savory dip that goes great with celebration. This dip can

be served a number of ways, including on French bread, celery, or tortilla chips, and I even have a friend who simply eats it with a spoon!

If you prefer an appetizer with more substance, potato skins are another classic Super Bowl pick. The skins of potatoes are covered in cheese and bacon, and often served with sour cream, and these tasty snacks provide a different way to enjoy the beloved spud. If you are looking for something a bit out of the ordinary, soft pretzels make a great appetizer. There are plenty of simple recipes online that show you how to make them by hand, or there are store-bought options that are just as tasty. Paired with honey mustard or a cheese sauce, they are sure to be a crowd favorite.

You may also wish to have an entre during your Super Bowl celebration. Pulled pork sandwiches and sliders are great options. Both are served on a bun, which makes them fairly easy to eat in front of the tv, as there is no cutlery required! These American sandwiches also fit the mood of the Super Bowl and are quite tasty. For a different option, pigs in a blanket are a fun party food that are incredibly simple to make. Simply roll a hotdog in the canned crescent roll dough found at the grocery store, and bake in the oven! These finger foods can be served with a variety of condiments. Chicken wings are also a popular Super Bowl treat, and come in a variety of flavors and options.

Whatever culinary choices you make, don't forget to get out of the kitchen and enjoy the game. Have a great Super Bowl Sunday, and tune in next month for another discussion of Food for Thought.

Technology department overview

By: Sam Aldrich
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At LHS, the school's STEM programs are highly celebrated and are the recipients of constant advances. Among these are the classes within the Tech department. Whether you want to pursue robotics or virtual reality, Loveland's classes provide students with more than ample opportunities to achieve these goals.

According to **Jonathon Mangan (12)**, "The technology classes are amazing." Having been involved with many of the courses, as well as the robotics program, Mangan experienced the "widespread enjoyment" that can be found by looking into the computer based courses at Loveland. For those who are just dipping their toes into the worlds beyond the screen, there are classes such as Fundamentals of Web Design and Computer Programming that will provide students with a basis to build their knowledge and be able to continue exploring the subjects in later classes.

For those who have a basic grasp on the foundations of computer science, there are more advanced and specialized courses available to them. While there is the option to go into more detail about programming

and design, students are also able to go into specific courses that will highlight certain areas of their interest. These include Robotics, Virtual Reality, and various financial/business related classes that give students the chance to see different applications of computer science in their daily lives.

In addition to the many available classes, the Tech department gives an opportunity for student leadership and initiative to be taken through the Leader In Technology (LIT) help desk. This select group of students is available as a resource for those around the school in need of technology related assistance.

For those who are skeptical or convinced that computers simply don't like them, **Patricia Lennon (12)** states that, "Even if it's not your thing, comp sci teaches you how to look at problems from a new perspective." While the technical skills and knowledge are obviously a huge part of the courses, the elements of problem solving that run through each class are invaluable to students regardless of their paths in life. Whether you plan to be a computer hacker or a starving artist, the ability to think through problems and find a usable solution is bound to be useful.

Talking with Coach T

By: Sam Greenberg
@samhgreenberg | Sports Editor

1. How has your school year been so far?

1st Semester has been outstanding. Very large proportion of young men and young women willing to work and use their time effectively. The sophomore fitness courses are all to be commended for their accountability and effort.

2. What are your thoughts on the Bengals' coaching situation?

I have met Marvin a couple times and he has given us items to raffle off for the "My GI Foundation". Marvin did what he could, but when the team owner has his adult children and their spouses involved in front office decisions, how productive can you be? Mr. Brown is also cheap. Typically, he carried less scouts than many NFL teams and because he makes hundreds of millions of dollars, I don't think wins are his priority. Cincinnati needs a young head coach, clean house in the front office and stay current with the times. I believe the Bengals are the only team north of Nashville that does not have an indoor practice facility. They are just low budget. If you want to put a good product on the field you have to spend some money. It all rolls downhill, so Mr. Brown is the man to see. I would take that gig, but I would also be the general manager and get my players. Bill Parcells has a Super Bowl ring and he said "Winning in the NFL is about the acquisition of talent." He won a lot and he should know.

3. What are your goals this year for your charity?

I am merely the Executive Director and my son Connor who kicked this off at age 14, is usually a daily consult and does what he can, considering he owes Uncle Sam 16-17 hours per day. We just appointed a West Point grad to Associate Director and we have a Director of Female Veteran Care now, as well. This past fiscal year we fund-raised and awarded \$25,000 to active military, veterans, and purchased 18 headstones for veterans from the Revolutionary War - Civil War.

#1 Goal for any philanthropy is always

money. Anyone motivated can donate at www.mygivets.com.

#2 We have to integrate two new programs we added for retired vets and children of military personnel that are deployed.

#3 Continue to grow our corporate infrastructure with more sponsors and donors.

#4 Continue to add more volunteers, so our vets can receive more aid or just more camaraderie.

#5 - #100, I am sure my son is prioritizing while you are reading.

4. Do you have any life advice for LHS students? Words of wisdom?

Sure, be accountable for everything you are tasked or become a part of willingly. Learn to place others needs before your own and you'll see selflessness come back to you. Don't take the easy way out, just because it is 2019, and there are more opportunities. If you made a commitment, then honor it. Make academics and lifelong learning your friend. The Internet makes your academic commitments 90% easier than those instructors here who did not have access to this tool. I can't fathom how easy high school or college would have been with the Internet.

5. Is there anything else you want to say to the student body?

Yes, "We all came here on different boats, but we are in the same ship." MLK II Quote - We'll be honoring him soon and if you understand the quote you'll see it happen daily, if you keep your eyes open. I recommend reading the *Art of War* by Sun Tsu and *Days of Knight* by Kirk Haston. Empower yourselves with your passions and surround yourself with those who do the same. You really can do anything you want, but you have to decide if the price you have to pay is too expensive. Don't put off days, weeks, or semesters waiting for what you want to fall from the sky. Either "find a way or make a way." - Hannibal. Finally, be a giver, not a taker. Your life will be enriched daily and this is probably the most important statement for me personally.

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Make some “Room” for this paperback

By Maddi Saunders
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

This month, there was a struggle to find a book that was interesting and attention grabbing. Then, I remembered that a little over a year ago, I watched a critically acclaimed movie that was as amazing as it was tragic. That movie just so happened to be based off of the book, *Room*, by Emma Donoghue. Before reading this book, it is important to note that while this book is amazing, it also has mature content and could potentially be a sensitive topic for some readers.

Room takes place from the point of view of five year old Jack, so at times the book may appear simple, but there are strong undercurrents of the mature content I was talking about. There are no graphic or gory descriptions, and everything is written in the way a five year old would think and talk.

Jack has spent his entire life in one place, a place he calls “Room.” Along with Room, there is Rug, Chair, Door, Skylight, Old Nick (one of our antagonists) and, of course, Ma. In the book, these words are capitalized, and it is up to the reader’s interpretation to decide why that is. Part of the reason, which is explained, is that Jack was raised to believe that there was nothing outside of Room. His life revolved around Room, Ma, and Old Nick until

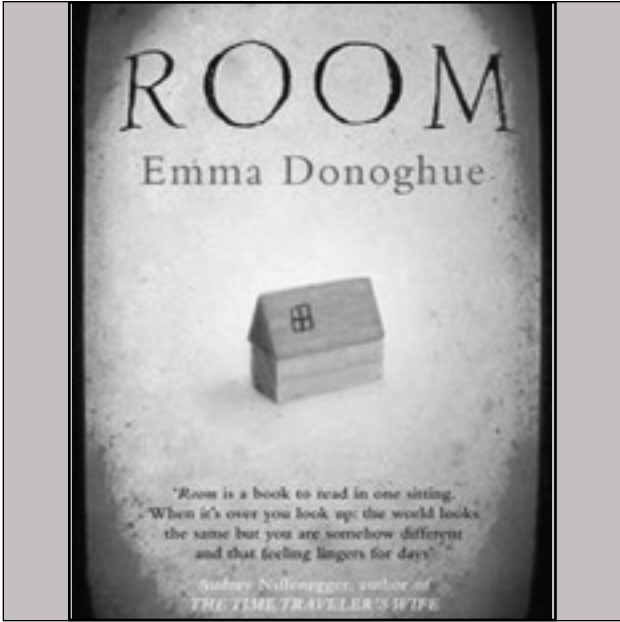


Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

one faithful night.

One night, Ma, scared that something bad is going to happen and that they will die as a result, reveals the truth to Jack: that there is more out there than Room, and they are going to get out of Room and see it. The plan: Jack will

pretend to be dead. After, Old Nick will wrap him up in Rug and take him outside of Room. From there, Jack will get out of the blanket and get help for him and Ma.

By this point, I’m sure there’s some confusion, so I will take the liberty of explaining (this is not a spoiler). Seven years ago, two before Jack was born, Ma was kidnapped by a man Jack calls Old Nick. Before *Room*, she was a teenager with a life, family, and friends. Now she is a prisoner. At least, until she decides to escape.

Another non-spoiler: Ma and Jack are rescued, and Old Nick is arrested. This is only a small section of the book, but I won’t spoil the rest for anyone interested. All I can say is that Jack and Ma are unprepared to deal with exactly what it means to be free from Room. They have to try and adapt to a world where they do not seem to fit in, and where, to Jack, everything is strange and different. And for Ma, nothing is simple, except for her relationship with her child.

As I said before, it is a mature read. I do not recommend this book to anyone who is sensitive to certain topics (I wouldn’t blame you if you were), or uncomfortable with certain content. Despite how amazing the book was, I believe that it was a once in a lifetime read just like *The Book Thief* was. This book will stick with you forever, and teach you the true meaning of strength.



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Ask Gretchen!

By Staff Writer
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

Dear Gretchen,
It’s only a few weeks into second semester, but I feel like graduating is so close! I’m having trouble focusing on school and it’s getting harder and harder to stay motivated. I realize it’s important to keep my grades up, but the new opportunities that lay ahead of me won’t get out of my brain. How do I find the drive to finish the year? Where do I get the motivation to even do tonight’s homework? It’s always been hard to keep up with school during the last few months, but this seems like a whole new level! Send help!
Sincerely, Stressed Sam

Dear Stressed Sam,
First of all, I’m right there with you. I think I speak for the entire senior class when I say that college (or other post-high school plans) are closer than ever! But you’re right to say that while high school seems like the last place any of us want to be, it’s still important to finish the year strong. For those of us going to college, it is especially important, considering colleges can still take away your acceptance if you do poorly during your last semester. However, it is possible to fight the dread of doing the mixture of busy-work and hard tests we have to complete this year. Try these few tips:

1. Get as much done as you can during school hours. While it may be intended for home, we all seem to be left with those 5-20 minutes at the end of each class without something we’re required to do. If you make the most out of that time, you can take away some serious work time at home.
 2. Don’t get behind. While working ahead may be a stretch, making sure you are at least turning in assignments by their due dates will keep you from feeling backed up. When you have past and present assignments due it feels like a lot more work and often becomes harder to get done than just staying on track.
 3. After four years of doing homework in the same place, whether that be your dining room table or your bedroom, the environment can get a little too comfortable. Try finding a new spot to go that will get you in the mood to do your work. This could be another spot at your house, a friend’s place, or a local restaurant/ coffee shop.
 4. Lastly, use knowing that we’re almost there as a positive. Take it one day at a time and try your best each day. We’ve got a lot of fun stuff coming up, so each day is one day closer! Just try your best to be sure you get that diploma!
- Have a great last semester! Everyone struggles with high school’s work load at some point, but you got this. I hope this makes you a little less stressed!
- From, Gretchen

January meme review: level 35 boss

By Erik Dullaert
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

Welcome back to the first Meme Review of 2019! I hope your winter break was enjoyable and you had some time to relax. In this issue, I’ll be taking a look at the Level 35 Boss meme. This meme comes after the Big Chungus meme (fat Bugs Bunny), which I won’t be talking about.

The memes started out as advertisements for the mobile game *Mafia City*, in which you and other people battle for control of a city, according to *Know Your Meme*. Most of the ads consist of poorly animated CGI and don’t make sense. For example,

one of the ads shows someone in prison, trying to break out of handcuffs. A man with a vest saying “BFI” on it walks into the cell. The prisoner breaks out of the handcuffs and punches the “BFI” guy, with the text, “you’re free!!” appearing. As I said, it makes little to no sense.

With these memes, there isn’t much creativity when it comes to spreading them. The most I’ve seen is people acting out one of the ads in real life. Usually, though, it mainly involves an image with someone the creator of the meme sees as worse having the text “level 1 crook” above the person’s head with a person the

creator likes more having “level 35 boss” above that same person’s head. Overall, it’s another one of those comparison memes. The only reason that I think the meme did not die sooner (or become a meme in the first place) is because the ads are bad and not well thought out. I’d give the meme a C, because while the ads are bad to a point of humor, they offer very little creativity and just a variation of another format.

Thanks for taking the time to read this months meme review. Hopefully, the memes coming up this year aren’t as bad as this one. I hope your 2019 is great and filled with good memes!



Photo courtesy of imgflip.com

TIGER NATION



BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL
Brenton Faust (12)



SWIMMING
Lauren Williams (12)



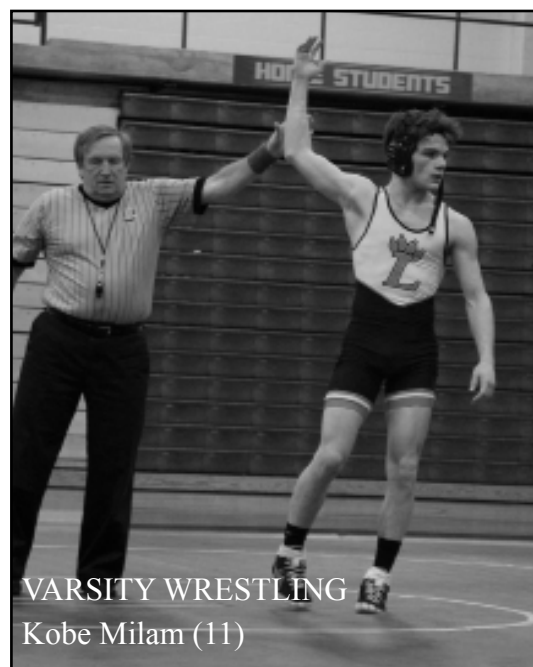
BOYS BOWLING
Jeffrey Scott (11)



VARSITY ACADEMIC TEAM



GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL
Marie Plitt (12)



VARSITY WRESTLING
Kobe Milam (11)



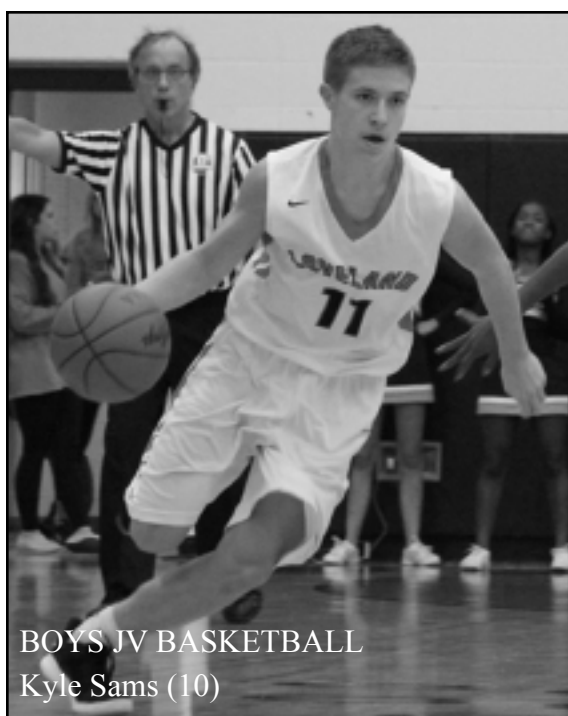
BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL
Ian Cox (11)



SWIMMING
Meghan Lolli (12),
Sarah Lolli (10), & Sarah Klenke



VARSITY WRESTLING
Jacob Cotsonas (11)



BOYS JV BASKETBALL
Kyle Sams (10)



GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL
Jillian Hayes (11)

All photos are courtesy of
yearbook staffers : Jojo B.,
Alex M., Babs D., Julian H.,
Lexi S., Sarah M., and Sydney
C.

“Where did our government go?”

By Marisa Kelley
@peachymarisa | Staff Writer

Since December 22, 2018, the President of the United States has initiated a partial government shutdown. It started due to the lack of funding towards multiple government agencies, but it has continued mainly because Donald Trump is attempting to get \$5 billion for a wall to be built along the border between the U.S. and Mexico.

While redirecting the governmental funds from the workers to the wall is an arguably effective way to get the money, it also is ignoring the fact that many federal employees all across the U.S.—roughly 800,000 in total, according to The Washington Post--had been on unpaid leave during the shutdown. These employees, however, do not include the president. According to Article II, Section I, Clause VII of the Constitution, the president’s pay cannot be raised or lowered as an act of compensation. Also, Congress has the ability to overpower the president here with enough votes against this idea for a wall to be built, so there is still potential—even after the shutdown ends—for it to never be built.

If these people don’t get paid, how was the government shutdown affecting

America? What even is a government shutdown? These are the types of questions that are common amongst many who hear about these shutdowns. The government receives certain funding from an annual



Courtesy of: Amazon.com

budget appropriated by Congress. This budget helps to keep certain federal offices running, such as the FDA or the CDC. However, the funding for most of these federal offices was covered only by a series of temporary extensions, and the last one ended on December 21st, 2018 at midnight.

These agencies and employees, despite not having funding, were placed into

two categories: “excepted” and “non-excepted”. “Excepted” places and workers (roughly 420,000 workers) “...involve the safety of human life, the protection of property, or certain other types of work

380,000) are put on something called “unpaid furlough”--basically, they do not have to come into work and still are unpaid. They can’t take paid leave during these shutdowns and this whole ordeal has caused a lot of disarray amongst federal workers.

This disruption caused amongst the workers has, in fact, started a lawsuit. According to CNN, the American Federation of Government Employees has decided to sue the government for underpaying its workers. They claim that their unpaid leaves violate the Fair Labor Standards Act by forcing so-called “essential” work upon unpaid workers. Some have decided to write letters to congressman asking to prevent the wall from happening, regardless of their pay. The union’s president, J. David Cox, even called this entire situation “inhumane.” Overall, roughly 25% of the entire government was affected by this shutdown including border patrol agents, correctional officers, transportation officers, and more. With chaos looming over Washington, D.C., many Americans have been wondering what the government shutdown is and how it has been affecting the United States as a whole, and it hasn’t been positive for the unpaid workers.

Brief News Stories for January 2019

By Erik Dullaert
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

U.K. politician in verbally harassed during interview

During an interview with the media on January 7th, British M.P (Member of Parliament) Anna Soubry, a pro-E.U. conservative was verbally harassed by a small group of protesters. She wasn’t the only one; according to *Reuters.com*, multiple U.K. lawmakers have complained that the public area where the harassment took place has become more hostile recently, and have asked law enforcement to do something about it. The whole issue stems from Brexit, the event in which the U.K., voted 2 ½ years ago by a slim 52%-48% margin, to leave the E.U., according to *Reuters*. Despite all this, a new poll out shows that if a second referendum were held, 46 percent would vote to stay in the E.U. and 39 percent would still vote to leave, as stated by *CNBC*. This could cause troubles for the process in the future.

German politician beaten by 3 masked men

Far-right German politician Frank Magnitz was attacked by three masked men on a Monday in early January. According to *CNN*, the masked men knocked him out with a piece of wood and proceeded to kick him further. Shortly after the attack, other German lawmakers came out against the attack on Twitter. The chief spokesman for Angela Merkel said that he hopes the police, “apprehend the perpetrators” quickly, according to *CNN*. “There is no justification for violence even against the AfD... if you fight hate with hate, you allow hate to prevail,” said Cem Ozdemir, a Green Party Lawmaker. The AfD is a far-

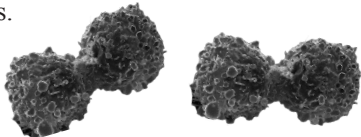
right party in Germany and is the first to have seats in the German legislature since 1961.

Saudi woman fled family, is now under the protection of UNHCR

Rahaf Mohammed al-Qunun, a Saudi woman who has fled the country is now in Thailand and under the protection of Thai authorities and the UNHCR, as reported by *CNN*. She fled her home due to her renunciation of Islam, which is punishable by death in Saudi Arabia. She had also been beaten by her brother for her beliefs. More recently she was granted refugee status by the United Nations and could get asylum in Australia, stated NPR in an article about the matter. After she was referred to Australia by the UNHCR, a Department of Home Affairs official said that they will, “consider this referral in the usual way, as it does with all UNHCR referrals.” There is a great chance her request will be accepted and if it is, Australian Health Minister Greg Hunt told the Australian Broadcasting Network that “we will give very, very, very serious consideration to a humanitarian visa,” as stated in *NPR*.

Cancer death rate down 27% over past 25 years

A new study by the American Cancer Society states that the cancer death rate has been steadily declining by 27% over the past 25 years from 1991 to 2016. That means 2.6 million people didn’t die due to the changing rates, according to *CNN*. It’s also noted that the gap between poor and rich cancer death rates is climbing. In the study, it’s noted that the death rate is 20% higher in the poorest counties than in the wealthiest counties. According to *CNN*, that gap has widened over the past 25 years.



Courtesy of: Cancer.gov

Cancer cells, like the ones to the right, were responsible for 2.6 million fewer deaths over the past 25 years.

Trump fulfilling campaign promises: The Syrian War

By Allison Kiehl
@Kiehl02 | Staff Writer

The Syrian War has been a major US conflict, spanning from 2011 to the present day: a war which now, could be in its concluding stages. Early on Wednesday, December 19, President Donald Trump issued a statement via Twitter saying that, “We have defeated ISIS in Syria, my only reason for being there during the Trump Presidency.” Many believe that this is an indication of the end of a long war.

The Syrian war began back in 2011, as nothing more than a peaceful protest. Syrians were nonviolently demonstrating their support of releasing fifteen Syrian school children from the custody of the Syrian government, where they were being tortured, according to *History.com*. The government responded to these protests by shooting and arresting demonstrators, making the escalating situation more violent.

Only a short time later, the Free Syrian Army (FSA) was formed in July of 2011, when the idea of a civil war was an ominous yet very real possibility. Since 2014, The United States has fought alongside the FSA in Syria to try to create a democracy and gain the Syrian people more freedoms, as well as fight the terrorism that erupted in 2014, according to *History.com*.

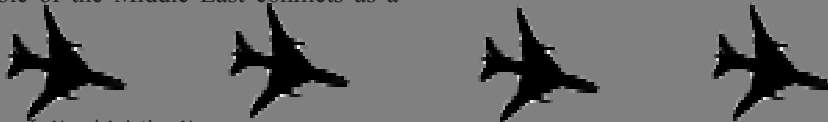
According to a *BBC* news article, the US is fighting alongside the FSA to bring change to a conflicted government. Where the situation gets even more complicated is the with the rising of extremist organizations, all looking for power to obtain in the area, including groups like Isis and Al Qaeda. In order to fight these groups, the US began to work with the Syrian government to stop these terrorist organizations. This, amplified with conflict with the Kurds, has grown into a very murky situation, and a complicated variable of the Middle East conflicts as a

whole.

As with any issue, there is criticism towards the President and his decision to withdraw some American troops from the war. Democrat, Jonathan Schanzer, tweeted this in opposition to Trump’s decision: “Obama’s red line debacle was a dark day for American leadership in the Middle East. This is far worse.” Many political figures in the US share views with Schanzer, including Senator Marco Rubio, a Republican, who says this, according to an *Axios* article, “This is a terrible mistake. It will have grave consequences for the U.S. and Israel and great benefit for ISIS, Iran, and Hezbollah.”

Although there are those who disagree with the decision to pull troops out of the war, there is also a great deal of support for the president and his tweet. Pentagon spokesperson Dana White said this, affirming the President: “We have started the process of returning U.S. troops home from Syria as we transition to the next phase of the campaign. We will continue working with our partners and allies to defeat ISIS wherever it operates.” The arbitrary tweet from Donald Trump on the 19th of December launched Capitol Hill into a state of confusion, which will hopefully be cleared up when the government reopens.

In a video on Twitter, also posted on December 19th, Trump declared that “We have won against ISIS. Our boys, our young women, our men - they’re all coming back, they’re coming back now.” Although there is criticism to Trump’s hopefulness of concluding the war, his Twitter posts indicate the end of a long campaign in Syria. When the government opens again, the issue will be on the table of debate, however, until then, the nation nervously anticipates clarity. It is too early to tell if troops will actually be pulled from the ongoing war in Syria, and if so, what the next stage of the war will look like for America.



Courtesy of: Naval Aviation News

Has Hollywood lost its creativity?

By Kayla Gibbins

@kayla_gibbins | Page Layout Editor

What do *Avengers: Infinity War*, *The Grinch*, and *Mary Poppins Returns* all have in common? They are all movies released in 2018, but are either sequels, remakes, or part of a franchise. I have noticed a trend in recent major motion pictures, and I’m not alone. Fewer and fewer movies seem to be new, creative ideas, and we are instead supplied with a steady stream of sequels and remakes of already existing movies. According to research done by Stephen Follows, an award-winning writer and producer, only “39% of top movies released 2005-2014 were truly original, i.e. not an adaptation, sequel, spin-off, remake, or other such derivative work,” and this trend continues in today’s cinematic world (*thetylt.com*). I was astounded that in 8 years only 39% of movies were original. Don’t get me wrong, I don’t despise sequels, but it also seems like a waste to not create new stories along with them.

Movies provide a unique stage to showcase stories in a way that no other platform can. Compelling acting can move us to tears, and the incredible advancements in animation technology allow us to create worlds and creatures that are scarcely imaginable. As we continue to develop technology that gives us the power to communicate experiences on such an impactful level, it seems absurd to not include a wider range of stories, rather than tweaking, reinventing and rehashing old stories. This particularly rings true in the case of remaking classics. Though I loved the live action version of *Beauty and the Beast* created by Disney in recent years, I don’t feel that it is necessary for the company to recreate all of their old hits, as they seem determined to do. A few shiny new versions of princess tales for a new generation are a great thing, especially when they make use of the incredible visual effects technology of today, but it also seems more crucial to continue creating new stories. While they are brilliant movies and retain cultural importance, the classic Disney princesses can send some messages to girls that we have moved passed as a society. More recent stories, like *Princess and the Frog*, *Moana*, and *Frozen* speak to a new generation of girl, and show positive examples of diversity as well as strong female leadership that isn’t dependent on their relationship with a

man. My distaste for the prolific remakes reached its peak when I heard about the live-action version of *Dumbo*. While it was kind of a cute, animated story, it doesn’t seem to have that large of a following compared to other Disney stories, and it seems unnecessary to go to the lengths of taking a cute animated elephant and turning him into a realistic, full sized African creature. The classic stories will always be there, and while I don’t think they should ever be forgotten, I feel the focus of production should strive to create new content that speaks to modern society.

However, I can sympathize with the logic behind this practice of rampant sequels. In the wild, wacky, and somewhat corrupt Hollywood world, I can understand how it would make more financial sense to back sequels and remakes instead of new content. If you invest in a sequel, you already know that there is an audience who will come see your product based on their previous affiliations and pleasure associated with the first movie. Their love for the characters makes them want to hear the rest. And I completely understand this notion, and I feel it myself sometimes, and I’ll tell you I was overjoyed when I read about the second *Wreck it Ralph* movie. But when 61% of movies are sequels or stories that have already been told in one form or another, it gets a bit taxing. Especially because there is a vast and varied spectrum of sequel quality, as some sequels exceed their predecessor, but other franchises have so many sequels that I begin to resent the original story when the 4th installment is introduced. Eventually stories do dry up, and sometimes I feel it is better to leave the audience with questions, rather than give them answers to things they don’t want to know. So many great movies are stand-alone films, and I can’t help but feel that great original content is being pushed aside for this continuing deluge of sequels.

All in all, I don’t hate movie sequels, and some of my favorite movies are sequels themselves. I can even appreciate a good remake every once in a while, but 39% original content just seems way too low. I’d even settle for a 50/50 split. By constantly backing reproduction after reproduction, I feel that we as a society are missing opportunities to reflect on new experiences and define a new age of culture, and we are wasting opportunities to continue expanding diversity in our big screen stories by



Photo courtesy of Google Images



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No need for new year for “new me”

By Sam Aldrich

@SamAldrich7 | Editorials / Columns Editor

With each passing year, millions of people strive to create the newest ideal version of themselves. Whether it’s physical health, better habits, or simply new ways to try living life to the fullest, these “spur of the moment” plans are full of high hopes with results that often fall hopelessly short.

While self-improvement is certainly a worthy goal, the manner in which we approach it ought to be changed in order for us to get the results we truly want. If all we desire is a list to put in an Instagram caption, then the current cycle of New Year’s resolutions is perfect! However, if you seek true results, realistic expectations and the drive to hold yourself accountable are crucial. Without this, we only set up an elaborate scheme for failure and a lack of future resolve to impact our actions.

In order to achieve our goals, regardless of what they are and how we hope to change, we have to first recognize that change doesn’t come all at once. Just because we have gone from ‘18 to ‘19 doesn’t mean our adjustments to our lifestyles is just as instantaneous. Recognizing that small steps towards a goal that accumulate over time is

more achievable than an instant makeover helps to keep resolutions from becoming overwhelming and discouraging. Creating a series of small steps that build upon one another allows us to still reach our lofty goals, but remembers that change is a process, not a snap of the fingers.

Furthermore, ensuring that we have a system in place to hold ourselves accountable is the best way to not only reach goals, but maintain them. Anyone can drink enough water for a single day, but when December rolls around will you still be getting your 8 glasses a day? Keeping up with habits and staying on top of our behaviors is critical, as without them we’re far more likely to slip into our old habits. Whether it’s an app, a journal, or a naggy Mom Friend, finding a way to keep track of habits will be a huge help in changing them.

Ultimately, New Year’s resolutions can’t be too bad as they give people the chance at a fresh start. However, the idea that January 1 is the only day you can work to improve yourself is stupid. If July rolls around and you aren’t living life the way you want to, change it. The time of year is no excuse to hold yourself back, and self-love and constantly striving to improve should become a year-round activity.



Photo courtesy of Flickr



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Photo courtesy of Google Images

No rest for winter: Loveland shortens break

By Anna Svtkovich
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As a student at LHS, it’s not a mystery that people are upset about their winter break not reaching a full two weeks of recess. Many of my friends and fellow students have recently stated their disappointment about the lack of snow days, the shorter winter break, and final exams taking place after a week of no school. As a student taking AP, honors, and other difficult classes, I can agree that Loveland students deserve a few more days of relaxation that Mother Nature and the school have failed to provide. However, I can assure you that there is a reason for the changes the administration has made.

For starters, having no snow days is definitely different from what Loveland students view as an average winter. Normally, Loveland averages about two or three snow days a year, which doesn’t even come close to the time a few years ago when the district had a whole extra week of winter break thanks to an extreme snow storm with way below freezing temperatures. Unfortunately, during this recess, Loveland was greeted with days of clouds and rain, rather than ice and snow. This year, seemingly thanks to El Nino, there are no snow days on the horizon for Loveland, which is unfortunate, because normally the school district plans for at least two snow days. Instead of getting days off, students are almost going to school for extra days, and subconsciously, they know that.

As for the shorter winter break, it’s just a result of how the holiday falls. Since Christmas fell on a Tuesday this year, it made sense for students to come back on the Thursday and Friday of the following week. Though most

students saw these days as “pointless,” **Erin Hasenoerhl (12)**, as well as other AP Biology students, saw the days as productive.

“I think those days really helped me prepare for my midterm. If I wasn’t at school I probably wouldn’t have been as successful on my test,” said Hasenoerhl.

The school board was mindful in choosing to end the break two days early, knowing that it would give kids a two day head start on preparing for their first semester finals or midterms.

“The break is set two years in advance through a process from the district to teachers. Often the shorter break occurs because of how the holiday falls date wise,” said Principal **Peggy Johnson**. Principal Johnson also continued to state why the school administration decided to push back finals after break.

“Finals were re-adjusted back to after break based on two things: End of Course Exams (state tests) as dates are set by the state. And, teacher input/feedback. Over the years, I’ve been places that have exams before and after break and personally I found that the best time for exams is at the very end of the semester. So, if the semester were to end before break, so would finals.”

Students tend to like their finals before break, as it allows them to be able to relax and enjoy their holidays without stressing over studying, or “forgetting” about their tests and winging them with little to no preparation or review.

“I liked taking my final before winter break, like we did my freshman year,” said **Zoe DeWitt (11)**. “The material is fresh in my brain and I feel more prepared to take my exam, rather than having to review or cram the information I forgot over my break in order to be ready.”

Though the winter may seem long, we can only remember to look towards summer, which will come fast this year, due to no threat of extra days. The last day of school is May 30th, only four short months away.

“For every dark night, there’s a brighter day.”
-Tupac

No more snow: is lack of snow related to global warming?

By Marisa Kelley
@peachymarisa | Staff Writer

In recent years, there has been an increasing number of questions regarding snow days. Winter (in the northern hemisphere) is associated with the cold and snow. The song “White Christmas” reflects most people’s wishes to have that peaceful, white blanket fall upon the ground. Local residents can confirm that, in recent years, there has been a steady decline in snowfall during the winter. According to an Indiana weather station, *Fox59*, “this is the least snowy season in 12 years...” The question is: why is this happening? Is it by chance, or is the planet heating up enough to make snow less frequent?

There are many explanations as to why this may be happening. Some companies aren’t acknowledging this change in weather, whilst others are blaming it entirely on global warming. Some places think that this is just a normal year (and, yeah, maybe it is in the north) and others believe that this is the weirdest weather we’ve ever had. *IFLScience!*, an educational website about scientific articles, says that “the environment in which all storms form is now different than it was just 30 or 40 years ago because of global warming. Changes in atmospheric composition from human activities have increased carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping greenhouse gases, with carbon dioxide levels increasing by over 40% since about 1900 mainly from burning fossil fuels.” Basically, yes,

the world *is* heating up and, yes, it *is* affecting weather patterns.

Even the government seems to be aware of this. The website *globalchange.gov* states six key features to global warming and how the earth is currently going through all of them—with actual evidence. Things like heavy downpours, overall extreme weathers, hurricane changes, storm changes, rising sea levels, and melting ice are all key factors as to how this could be honestly true. The government states that, “Overall snow cover has decreased in the Northern Hemisphere, due in part to higher temperatures that shorten the time snow spends on the ground.” They also admit that certain other regions of the Northern Hemisphere, such as New England, have been experiencing a spike in snow storms. Even certain areas near the Great Lakes have been affected by this. Other regions in the United States, however, have been experiencing a *regular* amount of snow, though. So, why is the amount of snow drastically changing in some places? Can we fix this change in snow or is it permanent? Some scientists say that this isn’t permanent yet and that we could possibly fix this—but everybody would need to make a huge effort towards an even bigger change. With the lack of snow lately, there are questions as to whether this correlates to global warming, and it most likely does. Hopefully, snow days will return and places like Loveland City Schools will be able to have the thrill of a week off of school once more.



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

A snowman sits alone in a snowy field surrounded by trees. Many wonder if snowman making will become nothing more than the past due to global warming.



Photo courtesy of Pixabay

A not-so-frozen pond surrounded by melting snow, barren trees, and mud. Scientists believe that the messed-up, wintery weather as of late is a sign of global warming.

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Show choir season kicks off to a success

By Claire Wallace
@ccwallace4 | Features Editor

Singing, sparkles, and sold out preview night shows. This is just the beginning of the 2019 Loveland Show Choir competition season. Loveland High School’s three groups have been busy getting ready for the upcoming competitions. Preview night for the Show Choirs was held on January 4th. This annual event allows the community to catch a glimpse of the groups’ competition shows locally before the official start of the season. Two performances were held, one at 5 pm and another at 7:30 pm. Tickets for both shows were sold out.

Loveland’s middle school group, Revolution, kicked off a packed night of performances. Their enthusiastic show kicked off with “Make It Shine” made popular by the TV show *Victorious*. Revolution girls brought tons of sparkle to the stage, sporting shimmering orange and red sleeveless dresses while the boys in the group kept things classic in black tuxes. Throughout the performance they sang songs relating to dancing, and even featured an amusing number about cooties. After the quick costume change, the girls took the stage in silver sequin tops with silver shoes and the guys went a bit more casual pairing jeans with their suit jackets. Revolution capped off their dynamic show with “Can’t Stop Dancin’” by Captain & Tennille.

Allure, Loveland High School’s all-girl group, was the second performance of the night. They took the stage by storm with “Edge of Seventeen” by Stevie Nicks, showcasing plenty of sparkle in both gold and emerald green one-shoulder dresses. “I love the opener because we get to wow the judges right off the bat,” says **Carson Sarver (11)**. “We also get to show everyone what we are made of.” Allure continued the show with songs including “Something To Live For” by Felix Cartal and Nikki Yanofsky, “Move A Little Faster” by Dionne Bromfield and a flawless costume change into blue and purple sequined tops. Soloists in the show include **Lexi Walton (11)** and **Ava Swearingen (10)**. Allure closed their upbeat and lively show with the 2018 FIFA World Cup song called “Live It Up.”

The final performance of the evening was By Request, Loveland’s award-winning high school mixed group. By Request’s show this season features 5 songs including: “Are You Gonna Go My Way” by Lenny Kravitz and “I’m Just Sayin’” by Shelly Fairchild. They kicked off their high energy show wearing red dresses and tan suits, and seamlessly changed into gold rainbow sequined dresses and red jackets for the second half of the show. Soloists include **Amanda Hains (12)** and **Lillian Demellia (12)**. They wrapped up their high-spirited performance with “World On

Fire,” by Slash, Myles Kennedy And The Conspirators.

In previous seasons, all 3 groups have found great success, from winning Grand Champion at competitions throughout the Midwest to hosting their own highly-successful competition called “Loveland Showfest.” During the previous 2017-2018 season, Allure won Grand Champions at competitions in both Chicago and Indiana. By Request completed their 2017-2018 season winning Grand Champion or placing 2nd at every competition they attended. The show band consistently took home the prize of “best band” throughout the season.

This year, Allure and By Request plan to compete in a total of 8 competitions in addition to hosting the popular Loveland Showfest competition over the weekend of February 8th. They are looking forward to this year’s season. “I’m super excited for the upcoming season! I feel we are more prepared than we have been in years past and I can’t wait for this competition season,” says **Alaina Bender (12)** of the By Request group. If you would like to go out and support the groups, local competitions include the Fairfield Crystal Classic on March 16th along with an exhibition performance at Loveland Showfest on February 8th and 9th. The last chance to catch all 3 groups in action is May 4th as they present a Disney-themed show.



Photo courtesy of Kailee Richey

Amanda Hains (12) and **Calloway Hefner (11)** perform a number in By Request’s show. This was Hains’ last preview night , and she was a part of the group all four years.



Photo courtesy of Kailee Richey

Ava Swearingen (10) performs her solo in Allure’s show. This was her second year being a part of the group.

Diving into dieting in the New Year

By Madeline Crowley
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With the New Year, people often resolve to better themselves by setting forth resolutions. It can be easy to have high hopes for change, however some resolutions are extremely unrealistic. A few of the most common resolutions are getting organized, learning a new skill, and of course, and the notorious exercising more and/or losing weight. Why do people wait until the new year to get in shape? Well, it is viewed as a fresh start, framed with the mentality, “new year new me.” However, when considering exercise and losing weight, nutrition is also something that is considered. It’s no secret that in order to lose weight, one must have a balance between proper exercise and nutrition. Although new years resolutioners strive to attain the “best diet” to achieve their goals, many are highly uneducated about these diets and what they truly entail.

Dieting, especially in the new year, has been falsely recognized as a fast track to extreme weight loss or weight gain and this is one of the reasons why people wrongly rely on crash diets to “instantly” see results. Depending on one’s goals, one’s diet can be manipulated to produce certain results. For example, if someone wants to lose weight one should be in a caloric deficit (consuming fewer calories than burned) or if one wants to gain muscle they should be in a caloric surplus (consuming more calories than burned). This knowledge is the baseline for any diet and, when used effectively, can generate desired results over time.

A common question that arises when discussing dieting is, what is the best diet to see maximum results? There is no one diet that will streamline the most success with body

transformation, however there are diets that manipulate the body into achieving desired goals.”Diets can appeal to people simply because there are headlines everywhere that claim they can lead to extreme weight loss.” According to *WebMD*, it is not healthy to “overhaul your diet in one day,” but rather take small steps to change your way of eating in order to promote healthy habits over time. Eating a balanced diet and taking it slowly is the best approach but there are specific diets as well, tailored to one’s goals that can help. In an article titled, “Nine most popular diets rated by experts 2017 “ from *Medical News Today*, the experts named nine of the most popular diets in the past year. Some of the diets included are the Atkins Diet which controls insulin levels through a lower carbohydrate intake, the Ketogenic or Keto diet which also lowers carbohydrate intake and manipulates the body to burn fat as a fuel instead of carbs.

Although these diets are great for getting started on a health journey, sometimes the best long-term plan is to stick with the basics. Meaning, setting goals such as having five servings of fruits and vegetables every day, drinking enough water, and not missing any meals. Sticking with the New Year’s Resolution to eat healthy isn’t always easy and most people have unrealistic expectations for themselves. It is difficult to make extreme dietary changes and stick to them. This is why it’s important to incorporate healthy habits gradually into a diet instead of jumping straight into a new diet. You will be more likely to eat healthy on a regular basis and avoid binge-eating as a result of restricting too much. Starting small is one of the most promising options to start with when beginning your health journey. One small step leads to greater changes along the way which will improve your overall health for the long term.



Photo courtesy of Joint Base San Antonio

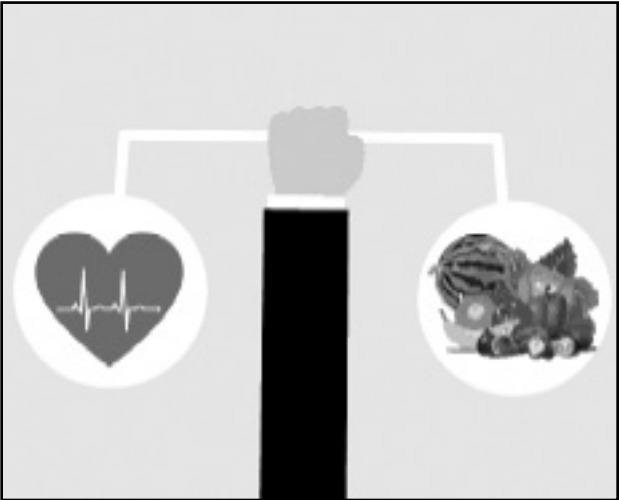


Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

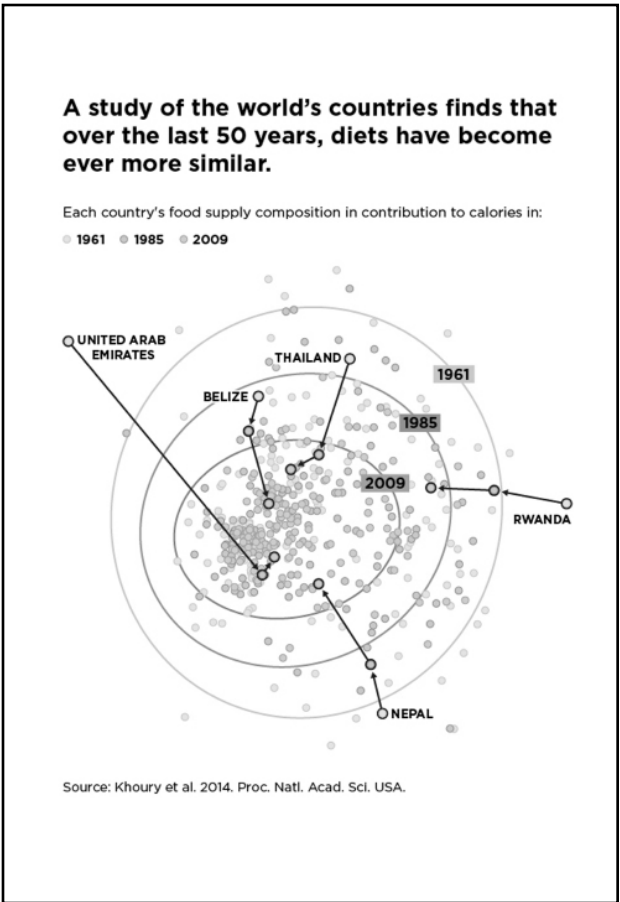


Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Bird Box: worth lots of hype?

By Claire Wallace

@ccwallace4 | Features Editor

Bird Box, the Netflix original movie, based upon the novel by Josh Malerman taking the internet by storm, features a little bit of everything you might expect from a Sandra Bullock movie. The film includes scenes with suspense, explosions, and life on the run. The tagline of this movie is “Never Lose Sight of Survival,” ominous and foreshadowing the main point of the plot, the need to survive without your sense of sight.

Bird Box follows the journey of Malorie, played by Sandra Bullock, as she navigates a world that is turning post-apocalyptic. She takes refuge in houses with strangers, gives birth, and later leaves, attempting to find a safe haven for her and two children, named Boy and Girl. Malorie and the children do all of this while trying to avoid an invisible monster that when looked at, makes people commit suicide. To complicate matters, they must also steer clear of people who are immune to the monster as they create a whole other set of problems. The only way to avoid the monster is to not look at it, so in order to travel in the film all of the characters must wear blindfolds.

According to IMDb, this movie is categorized as a drama, sci-fi and horror movie. Many agree with the drama and thriller categorizations, but question why *Bird*

Box is labeled a horror movie. Critics of the movie, myself included, found themselves disappointed by the lack of scares in the film.

Based on the hype and the previews that I saw on social media, I was expecting *Bird Box* to be terrifying, something more along the lines of other hit horror movies released in 2018 such as *A Quiet Place*. With no big jump scares, there was almost an air of predictability throughout the film, as you knew from the start that either the characters would quickly die or survive, that there was no in between. While some scenes in the movie showcased the characters in extreme peril, the main monster only caused the wind to move and wasn’t visible to the viewer or the characters. Left up to the viewer’s imagination, the monster was disappointing at best.

The movie did require the viewer to pay attention, as the storyline switches back and forth between multiple time periods. Most people these days only partially pay attention while watching movies, unless they are watching in a theater. With movies that are streamed at home, viewers typically scroll through social media, text friends or head to grab more snacks. Outside distractions during the movie will create more confusion for the viewer, so be sure to pay attention.

In my opinion, the scariest part of this movie is the 3rd storyline, which happens in the present, while Malorie tries to escape the unseen evil forces with Boy and Girl in a rowboat on the river. They paddle for hours and hours

to traverse waterfalls and rapids in order to reach the safe haven. Over the course of the journey Malorie, Boy, and Girl face many obstacles, including running into people who are immune to the monster, falling out of the boat, and flipping the boat over.

If none of the plot information made you feel like you should watch *Bird Box*, perhaps you should schedule a viewing simply to feel like you are part of 2019’s newest internet sensation. You cannot scroll very long on social media before stumbling across a *Bird Box* meme or a video of someone doing the “*Bird Box* Challenge.” This is where people perform tasks blindfolded. The challenge has even prompted a cautionary warning from Netflix, who said that they do not condone these activities. Celebrities are even getting in on the action with Kim Kardashian tweeting that she’s “watching birdbox” and asking her followers “who has seen it?” Many other users responded to Kardashian saying that “literally everyone” has seen the movie.

Overall, *Bird Box* was an intriguing movie with parts that were both good and bad. The movie had its faults, and it was pretty easy to predict what would happen next. I went into this movie thinking it was horror, so it did not live up to my expectations. The “hype” that surrounds this movie is over the top, which, in my opinion, makes it even worse. Watch this movie if you are in the mood for a very mild thriller or just want to be up with the current pop culture, but choose a different movie if you want a true horror film.

Netflix takes show in good direction with Atypical

By Courtney Kirby

@coortneykirby | Co-Editor-in-Chief

I finally caved and binge-watched the Netflix original show *Atypical*. If the fact that it only took me a day to finish its two seasons tells you anything, I really enjoyed the show. With only eighteen episodes total, it didn’t take me long to get through, and was totally worth ignoring the outside world for a weekend. I would go as far as to say that this is one of the best originals Netflix has put out in a while, skyrocketing past other let-downs like *Insatiable* and *Sierra Burgess is a Loser*.

The show follows a family of four as they try to navigate the twenty-first century. There is Doug, the dad played by Michael Rapport, Elsa, the mom played by Jennifer Jason Leigh, Casey, the younger sister played by Bridgette Lundy-Paine, and Sam, the older brother played by Keir Gilchrist. Sam has autism, which is a sizeable factor in the show. While each family member has individual screen time with their own subplot lines, the main story revolves around the struggles of Sam’s everyday life and how it affects him and his family. Doug, Elsa, and Casey all respond and interact with Sam in their own way and it helps to display the multitude of ways outsiders view those on the spectrum.

While Sam’s autism does play a considerable part in the show, the writers did a good job of not erasing the fact that he was still a teenager, going through the same aspects of growing up as his peers. He deals with family issues, girlfriend drama, work, and friends. Sam’s mom, Elsa, begins to have an affair during the first episode, which continues throughout the first season. As Elsa’s unfaithfulness reveals itself, the entire family has to face the challenges that come with that.

Sam also has quite a few love interests, including his now ex-therapist Julia, now ex-girlfriend Paige, and senior-year fling Bailey Bennett. Paige was his first girlfriend, and like many, he struggled with the challenges of being in a relationship and how often it seemed he had to interact with Paige. But, the show also depicted why it was especially hard for him, with the ways many of her actions upset him extra. It gave the audience a perspective they likely don’t often think about every day, from which many could definitely benefit.

In addition to school, part of Sam’s routine also consists of working at the local tech store, alongside his best friend, Zahid. While Sam is a model employee, Zahid is surely not. However, the two get along very well. Throughout the show, Zahid helps Sam through many situations, mostly involving girls. Zahid considers himself to be quite the ladies man, although he is a twenty-something high school

dropout still living with his parents, which is quite ironic, and contributes to the humor of the show. Zahid does help Sam reach outside of his comfort zone and experience new things, though not always those that Sam really enjoys.

By watching the show, you also get to see the interactions between Sam and his sister Casey. While on some levels they embody a very typical sibling relationship, true to the name of the show, it is also somewhat “atypical.” True to the nature of siblings, they argue and bicker about many things, sometimes playing practical jokes on one another, although that is just more Casey’s MO. Even though she picks on him and is the younger sibling, she also is very protective of him against pretty much everything else. A track star herself, she is hesitant to leave when offered a once-in-a-lifetime scholarship because of how it will affect her brother. While nice to see siblings looking out for one another, what’s just as fulfilling is her journey towards recognizing that just because Sam has autism doesn’t mean that he can’t hold his own in some situations.

While very underrated, the show has picked up more and more good reviews as Netflix continues to promote it. With a growing fanbase and some devoted supporters, *Atypical* has been renewed for another season, although a premiere date has not been set. It will be much anticipated, as I, as well as many others, look forward to finding answers to the questions left during Season Two’s cliffhanger.

Infamous AirPods have taken tech world by storm

By Madeline Crowley

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Taking a walk through the school hallway after winter break, it’s not hard to notice a commonality among the student body. What are those white things in everyone’s ears? They’re AirPods. You probably see them just about everywhere now. So what is it about airpods that everyone is attracted to? Is it because they are small and easy to use? Their affiliation with Apple? The superb sound quality? What exactly is the hype around AirPods?

There’s no doubt that airpods are redefining the future of technology. Even though other companies have produced wireless headphones in the past (Bose, Beats, etc.) AirPods take a new and refreshing approach to the traditional wireless headphones.

In early September, when Apple introduced AirPods to the public, the reactions were mixed. Many took to Twitter, expressing that the headphones’ design was basic and the headphones themselves were easy to lose. About a month after AirPods became available to the public, AirPods’ reputetook a surprising turn for the better, and Apple accounted for 26 percent of wireless headphone ecommerce revenue since the product’s release, according

to *Slice Intelligence*. For many, the concern of the headphones being too simple of an approach to the wireless headphone market may have been a genius move after all, considering Apple has outsold all of their competitors. When looking at the limits of technology today, Apple has redefined the face of wireless headphones.

Moreover, the product is lightweight, comfortable, and accessible. In reaction to the design, critics have expressed that the price is too steep and they are easy to lose. However, other companies have been producing wireless headphones with exceptional quality for years, so in hindsight, Apple is a little late to the game. Although AirPods are different from its competitors in the respect that they’re unconventional and a new approach to the design, they’re the same when it comes to sound quality. It’s not the best considering one can hold a conversation while keeping them in the entire time. However, consumers have been able to compromise the sound quality due to the fair price point. Although, AirPods trump other brands with their extremely simple and functional design. In addition to AirPods’ ability to be used with Apple devices, they can also be used with non-Apple products just as easily.

Although sound quality is sacrificed, one appealing

quality is the battery life. To charge the AirPods, you will need to first put the headphones into their tiny box and then plug a charger into the box and then into the wall. Each charge gives the user about five hours of listening time, which may not seem like much, but charging the airpods for merely 15 minutes gives 3 hours of battery life. The box itself that the AirPods come in give 24 hours of battery life so it doesn’t need to be plugged into the wall with each charge.

Overall, the public initially scoffed at the price and size of the AirPods at first glance, but they have quickly become a favorite. Many users have been pleased with the quality and ease of the headphones. In contrast, others claim that AirPods look ridiculous and teachers especially have complained at how easy they are to conceal. However one chooses to view their appearance, many still appreciate their other qualities.

When looking at the big picture and the AirPods’ place in modern technology, many claim that Apple is ahead of the game. Right now, Apple is paving the way for further progression of wireless headphone technology and changing the face of not just the wireless headphone market, but the tech market as a whole.

Cardi B versus Offset - What happens now?

By Anna Svtkovich
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Rap sensation Cardi B and her husband Offset, one of the three members of Migos, have climbed to the top of the charts together, gathering success after success, award after award. Last July, the pair welcomed a beautiful baby girl, who they named Kulture. Recently however, Cardi released a video on Instagram, stating that she and her beloved hubby were no longer together, after a cheating scandal involving Offset came to light, not so privately, and was confirmed. In the announcement, Cardi claimed that she and her husband had tried to make it work for their child, but they were not able to work out their problems to the point of maintaining a healthy and happy relationship. However, since the split was publicly announced, a lonely Offset has been making a huge effort to try and win his wife back, including an elaborate display of flowers that made up the words “Take me back Cardi” that were wheeled onto Cardi’s stage in the middle of a performance. Cardi, along with her gigantic fanbase, were disgusted by his audacity to ruin her set with such a profound statement. The star lowered her microphone and appeared to have a very heated discussion with her ex, which led to Offset



being ushered off the stage and Cardi resuming her performance. Some fans thought the whole thing was staged, as a way to gain press for them both, because Cardi B’s manager was seen guiding Offset onto the stage. What makes the situation even more suspicious is the two were pictured vacationing together just a few short weeks after the entire stunt; however, Cardi has still not been seen wearing her huge wedding ring, and they have not been seen together since. In fact, Cardi has released a second Instagram video declaring that she and her estranged spouse had not made up, but were just spending time together because she missed him. She also raged at the person who released the picture, a worker at a boat rental shop. She said that he claimed he was taking the picture for the two, so they would have family pictures, and that his behavior was completely “unprofessional” and “rude.” In contrast with her love life, Cardi has actually had a lot of recent success, including a new single called “Money,” along with an accompanying music video. Her most recent album, *Invasion of Privacy*, has reached platinum levels, while her collaborations with Maroon 5, Chance the Rapper, JLo, Selena Gomez, G-Eazy, Bruno Mars, and more have all earned a spot on the US top 50 chart, at one point or another. While some members of the Bardi gang are extremely opposed to the two reuniting, some people believe that the couple brings out the best in each other. A reconciliation could be fantastic not only for their family but for the music industry as well, since the two have been known to produce crazy popular collaborations, but could shake Cardi’s fanbase to the core. Only time will tell, but in the

2018 has come to an end, what’s next?

By Olivia Piziali
@loveolivia18 | Staff Writer

Now that 2018 has come to a close, it is now a time to reflect on the past year. From *Black Panther* having mega success, to Drake’s song “In My Feelings” creating a dance craze, to the infamous Laurel vs. Yanny debate, 2018 proved to be a very entertaining year in movies, television, music, and on the internet. Throughout 2018, there were many trends in which people participated. One of the most popular challenges was the “In My Feelings” challenge. After Drake’s album *Scorpion* was released, social media star Shiggy started the craze posting to his Instagram a video of him jumping out of his moving car and performing the dance routine. According to *Billboard*, “Shiggy posted the video the day Drake dropped his album. He called the dance “#DoTheShiggy” and it took off.” The song reached number one on the American charts even though it wasn’t a single off his album.



Photo curtesy of Wikimedia Commons

The internet also went into a frenzy about the “Laurel vs. Yanny” debate. An audio clip of a man saying one word was spread around like crazy, because no one could decide whether he was saying “Yanny” or “Laurel.” According to *Time*, “the Yanny/Laurel sound is meant to be ambiguous because each sound has a similar timing and energy content - so in principle, it’s confusable.” Although “Laurel vs. Yanny” debate has concluded, people will still remember when it was a thing. One of the largest successes of 2018 was the movie *Black Panther*. According to *Vox*, “*Black Panther* made \$1.3 billion worldwide which is more than *Avengers: Infinity War*, two of Marvel’s biggest films of the past year.” Additionally, the soundtrack featuring Kendrick Lamar had major success, as well. According to *Wired*, the soundtrack received eight Grammy nominations and a Golden Globe nomination for Best Original Song for a Motion Picture for “All The Stars.” Not only did the film create success for Marvel but it also gave a chance for more representation in the future. Another movie that had success in 2018 was *A Star Is Born*. According to *Billboard*, “*A Star Is Born* debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 chart on October 20th. The soundtrack earned 44.3 million on-demand audio streams in its opening week. “Shallow,” the biggest hit from the movie, peaked at number five on the Billboard Hot 100.” The soundtrack and film have received many nominations including Grammy, SAG, Critic’s Choice, and Golden Globe. Not only did the box office have big success, but two young stars named the Selfie Kid of Super Bowl 52 and Mason Ramsey made their debut as well. During Justin Timberlake’s halftime show set, Timberlake made his way into the crowd during “Can’t Stop The Feeling!” and 13-year-old Ryan McKenna was able to snap a selfie with the singer. Ryan McKenna was shocked to hear people talking about him. “It was already crazy to be at the Super Bowl in the first place. Then all of a sudden, I’m up on the jumbotron and everyone is talking about me. I can’t believe it,” said McKenna. Another young star of 2018 was yodeling Walmart kid also known as Mason Ramsey. According to *Aol*, an 11-year-old boy dressed in jeans, a white button-down, cowboy boots, and a red bowtie stopped and sang Hank Williams’ “Lovesick Blues” in an Illinois Walmart. He quickly went viral in April, receiving over sixty million views. Ramsey became such a hit that he performed at Coachella and signed a record deal. Even though 2018 has come to a close, it will always be remembered as a year of great entertainment. Here’s to 2018 and more great music, movies, memes, and even more viral moments in 2019.

The Golden Globes celebrates acting excellence

By Olivia Piziali
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After a year of great work in movies and television, the 76th annual Golden Globes honored the actors/actresses, directors, writers, producers, etc. who excelled in their fields. This year, Sandra Oh and Andy Samberg hosted the show providing some humor. *Bohemian Rhapsody* and *Green Book* accepted the top awards for the movie categories which are Best Motion Picture: Drama and Best Motion Picture: Musical or Comedy while *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* and *The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story* accepted the top awards for the television categories. The award show took place on January 6 at the Beverly Hills Hotel in Beverly Hills, California. The A-listers put on their best suits and gowns and walked the red carpet stopping for countless interviews. This year, the Golden Globes ambassador was Idris Elba’s 17-year-old daughter, Isan. Her job is to hand out the awards throughout the night and guide the presenters and winners off the stage. A highlight of the red carpet was a girl walking around with a tray of Fiji water bottles. According to *Time*, “Fiji has been the official water brand of the Golden Globe Awards since 2015. At the 75th Golden Globes, the company teamed up with Matrix Model Staffing to present the bottles on the red carpet in an effort to have Fiji bottles photographed more prominently at the event.” A brunette girl who wore a blue dress and was carrying the water was spotted in the back of many pictures photobombing many celebrities and the internet is in a frenzy resulting in many memes of her. There were many history making moments this year regarding the nominees. Not only did Sandra Oh co-host the show, she also accepted the award for Best Actress in a Drama Tv Series for her role in *Killing Eve*. According to *NBC News*, Sandra was the first ever Asian host of the show and she also became the first Asian woman to receive multiple Golden Globes. In addition, two films that have been making history since their release are *Crazy Rich Asians* and *Black Panther*. Both films have casts that make up minorities and both were represented at the show. *Crazy Rich Asians* was nominated Best Motion Picture: Musical or Comedy as well as Constance Wu for her role in the film. *Black Panther* was nominated for Best Motion Picture: Drama which gave recognition to African Americans. The big winners of the night were Christian Bale (*Vice*) and Rami Malek (*Bohemian Rhapsody*). As for actresses, Olivia Colman and Glenn Close won for *The Favourite* and *The Wife*. According to the *Washington Post*, “Glenn

Close received a standing ovation and cheers as she walked to the stage. She spoke with tears in her eyes.” For the Best Picture categories, *Green Book* and *Bohemian Rhapsody* took home the awards. Fan-favorite *A Star Is Born* only received one award out of the five for which they were nominated. They took home the award for Best Original Song for a Motion Picture for the song “Shallow.” This was Gaga’s second Golden Globe having received one in 2016 for her guest-starring role on *American Horror Story*. According to *Entertainment Weekly*, Gaga said this during her speech for Best Original Song in a Motion Picture alongside Mark Ronson, Andrew Wyatt, and Anthony Rossomando, “As a woman in music, it is really hard to be taken seriously as a musician and a songwriter and these... incredible men, they lifted me up and they supported me.” As for television, Rachel Brosnahan and Michael



Photo curtesy of Flickr

Douglas won for their lead roles in *The Marvelous Ms. Maisel* and *The Kominsky Method*. Darren Criss and Patricia Arquette won for their roles in the Miniseries acting categories. Two tremendous honors of the night are the Cecil B. DeMille Award and the Carol Burnett Award which was new to the award show this year. The Cecil B. DeMille Award honors an actor/actress who has contributed their to the film world. This year’s honoree was Jeff Bridges. According to the *Washington Post*, he thanked his family, his representatives, and his assistant. Everyone applauded as he concluded his speech by saying, “We’re alive! We can make a difference! We can turn this ship in the way we go, man! For it’s love creating a healthy planet for all of us!” For the Carol Burnett Award, Carol Burnett was the inaugural recipient honoring her achievements in television. When she was handed the award, she asked “Does this mean I get to accept it every year?” It will be interesting to see who comes out on top as award season continues. The SAG Awards were held on January 27th and the Oscars will be held on February 24th. This year’s award season will continue to honor the people who excelled in their fields.

Tiger Athlete Spotlight: Kate Garry and Jillian Hayes



Photos courtesy of Kate Garry and Jillian Hayes

Junior Kate Garry shoots a three pointer in a home game against ECC opponent Anderson. Garry is committed to play basketball at Akron.

By Sam Greenberg

@samhgreenberg | Sports Editor

This season, Loveland Girls’ Basketball has been headed by two talented juniors, **Jillian Hayes (11)** and **Kate Garry (11)**. The duo has managed to lead their team to become a dominant force in the ECC. Currently, the Tigers have a 5-4 record in conference play, with a record of 11-5 overall.

Hayes boasts impressive stats – 17 points per game, 9 rebounds per game, 2 assists per game, 3 steals per game, and 1.5 blocks per game. Those numbers make her first in the league in scoring, second in rebounds and steals, and third in blocks. Hayes is considered to be among the top ten girls’ basketball players in Cincinnati.

On January 5, Hayes received her first SEC basketball offer from the University of Kentucky. Along with that, she has picked up offers from the University of Cincinnati, Miami University, Xavier University, and several other schools.

Hayes has not decided on a school yet, and she will likely rack in more interest and offers, especially with her AAU season around the corner. Hayes plays for Kentucky Premier in the prestigious Nike Girls’ Elite Youth Basketball League.

As for Garry, she has cemented herself as possibly the greatest shooter in Loveland girls’ basketball history. In just her third season, she broke the career three point record with her 98th three in a home game against conference opponent Anderson.

Garry, who is committed to play basketball at the University of Akron, said, “Breaking the career three point record was very exciting and I am happy to have all three of the three point records, and to do it in my junior year was exciting.” Kate is currently sixth in scoring in the conference and shoots an impressive 40% from behind the arc. To add to that, Garry holds the records for most three pointers in a single game (7) and most three pointers



Junior Jillian Hayes rises up in the paint to shoot against Little Miami. Hayes was voted one of the top ten girls’ basketball players in the city.

in a season (46).

“Jill and Kate have been tremendous representatives of the program the past three years,” said head varsity basketball coach **Darnell Parker**. “I have witnessed them grow from freshman who were just trying to figure it out to juniors who have assumed leadership roles on and off the court.”

With just four seniors, Hayes and Garry have had to step up and become leaders on a very young team. “We lost six seniors last year so we had to get our younger girls comfortable playing,” Garry said. **Jenna Batsch (10)**, **Tess Broermann (9)**, and **Rachel Yeager (9)** are some of the underclassmen who have had to step up this season.

“[The] best thing about Jill and Kate as leaders is that each one of their teammates respects,” Parker said. “Both of these young ladies are very competitive and use that to help push each other.” That

competitiveness has brought the team to new heights and has built a city-wide respect for the program.

Garry and Hayes both said that at first it was difficult to get the team to come together. “One challenge we had was getting everyone to believe in the rehearsal and reaching that next level of aggression as a whole,” Hayes said. It appears as though the Tigers have reached that level of aggression. The team is currently fourth in the ECC, after close losses to Walnut Hills and Kings.

“As a coach, it has been very rewarding to coach both of these two student-athletes. They have truly opened the door for Loveland Lady Tigers basketball for years to come,” Parker said proudly. As the Tigers reach the halfway point of their season, junior standouts Hayes and Garry continue to be a dominant force on the basketball court, and look to lead their young team to more success.

UCF’s 25 game win streak snapped in Fiesta Bowl loss to LSU

By Grisha Tackett

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On January 1st, the Louisiana State University Tigers defeated the University of Central Florida Knights in the Fiesta Bowl. The 40-32 win for the Tigers ended a 25 game win streak for UCF. LSU quarterback Joe Burrow threw for 394 yards and 4 touchdowns, leading the Tigers to their victory.

The Tiger defense had an impressive performance, holding quarterback Darriel Mack Jr. to just 97 total passing yards on the day. In the first quarter, UCF defensive back Brandon Moore intercepted Burrow for a 93-yard touchdown giving the Knights momentum heading into the second quarter. The Tigers, however, led 24-21 at the half and scored another touchdown early in the third quarter. UCF struggled to put points on the board throughout the third quarter and most of the fourth. After several LSU field goals, the Knights scored another touchdown with 2 minutes left in the game.

The Knights garnered national attention last year when the team went a perfect 13-0. After going undefeated in the regular season, many criticized the team’s record, claiming their schedule was too easy for an elite team. UCF faced their toughest opponent in the Peach Bowl, the Auburn Tigers who previously upset the Alabama Crimson Tide. The underdog Knights



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

upset the Tigers 34-27. UCF quarterback McKenzie Milton threw for over 240 yards and 2 touchdowns. Auburn quarterback Jarrett Stidham threw for 331 yards and 1 touchdown but gave up a crucial pick-six at the end of the fourth, solidifying their fate.

After the 2017 season, head coach Scott Frost left UCF to coach at Nebraska, a team in a power 5 conference. The Knights hired Josh Heupel as their official head coach to lead the Knights in the 2018 season.

Heupel won a national championship as quarterback at Oklahoma in 2000 and recently coached at Missouri. Coach Heupel led the Knights to another perfect regular season.

For the 2018 season, the Knight’s largest win came against the UC Bearcats. Heading into the game, many college football fans across the country felt that the Bearcats could stop the UCF momentum and upset the Knights. UCF prevailed 38-13 with Milton throwing 3 touchdowns and

over 250 yards.

UCF also displayed their talent against a ranked University of South Florida Bulls in week 11. The Knights won 38-10 but lost their star quarterback Milton to a gruesome leg injury. During the second half, Milton ran the ball and was tackled short of the first down. While being tackled, he blew out his knee, ending his season. With Milton out, backup Mack finished the game and led the Knights to beat Memphis the following week.

Kyle Becker (12) said, “It’s too bad Milton got hurt. With him as the quarterback, UCF could have beat LSU.”

After their perfect season, UCF fans and players felt that the Knights should have a slot in the four-team playoffs. Last season, UCF was excluded from the playoffs, leaving many fans upset after their perfect record. Many fans were upset when the College Football Playoff Committee left UCF out of the playoffs this year.

Brady Ingal (12) said, “I’m glad UCF was excluded from the playoffs this year. If you play high school teams all year, you deserve to be left out.”

With many of their players leaving this year, including Milton, the Knights’ outlook for next season doesn’t look promising according to many analysts. UCF will be looking to move past this momentous loss and focus on continuing their success heading into next season.

Pulisic clearing pathway for future Americans

By Kyle Faessler
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Just days after the New Year began, American soccer-star Christian Pulisic broke some records. Pulisic, just 20 years-old, became the highest-valued American soccer player of all-time going for a transfer fee in the ballpark of \$73 million dollars. Pulisic will make a switch at the club level this coming summer going from the German side, Borussia Dortmund, to the English club Chelsea FC. Pulisic has been excellent this season for the first-placed German club, scoring five goals in all competitions through the half-way point of this year. The American winger will finish the season at Dortmund on loan before moving permanently to Chelsea this summer.

This move comes on the back of current Chelsea star-winger Eden Hazard reporting that he would be interested in leaving the club this coming summer in favor of playing his club soccer in Spain. Hazard is rumoured to be the target of Real Madrid. Pulisic essentially comes in as an expensive insurance policy for the club in case they fail to keep the Belgian winger. Chelsea sits inside of the top-five of the English Premier League, and is in the hunt for the league title this season. Hazard has scored in half of the league games he’s played in, and is having a fantastic season for the Blues.

Pulisic, a native of Hershey, Pennsylvania, has been a part of Borussia Dortmund since 2015. Widely regarded as having the potential to be the greatest American soccer player of all-time, Pulisic has been a notable talent for a while. Choosing to go a different route than playing for a university as a student-athlete, Christian and his family made the decision while he was in high



Courtesy of Wikipedia

Pulisic currently plays at Borussia Dortmund, a top team in Germany. He completed a transfer to Chelsea this January, but won’t move permanently to London until July.

school to take a more conventional European approach to his development as a soccer player. By joining the Borussia Dortmund soccer youth academy, Pulisic had the opportunity to develop in a pipeline to one of the best youth-developed teams in the world. The biggest thing for Pulisic has been the responsibility that came with living in his own apartment and learning to do the little things, much like a typical American college student. For most of us though, college won’t require us to take all of our classes in a language we hardly know, as Pulisic did while continuing his education in Germany. While the language barrier certainly created quite the abnormal transition for an American teenager from Pennsylvania, Pulisic noted the similarities in the surroundings and the environment, which ultimately was helpful in getting the most out of his development in Germany.

Although this move is certainly huge for Pulisic and his personal career, his transfer to play for one of the best clubs in the world has people’s eyes turned toward the growth of the American game. Fellow Americans Tyler Adams and Zack Steffen also completed transfers to some talented European clubs going to Manchester City and RB Leipzig, respectively. While failing to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, the United States’ Men’s National Team was under-fire from critics saying there were going to have to be major changes to the way soccer is looked at in the United States. However, recent splashes from American’s playing in the German Bundesliga, such as Pulisic and Schalke’s Weston McKinnie, have sent some waves of interest and praise for the swift movement of American players into the world-game. Though there’s still a long way to go before the USMNT is respected on a global stage, it appears that the players are headed in the right direction.

Clemson ends season with perfect 15-0 record

By Grisha Tackett
@TheRealGrishaT8 | Staff Writer



Courtesy of Wikipedia

Fans gather in Clemson to celebrate the team’s 2019 CFP National Title win. The Tiger’s have now won the National Championship twice within the last three years.

On Monday, January 7th, the Clemson Tigers defeated first-seed Alabama Crimson Tide in the College Football Playoff National Championship. Clemson won by four scores finishing 44-16. The Tigers came into the game as the second-seeded team after a 27 point win against three-seed Notre Dame in the Cotton Bowl. After the win in the National Championship, Clemson finished the season with a perfect 15-0 record.

The last team to go 15-0 was the University of Pennsylvania in 1897. Before them, Yale went 16-0 in 1894. In 2013 North Dakota State went a perfect 15-0 but

played at the FCS level instead of FBS.

It was impossible for a team to go 15-0 for many decades under the Bowl Championship Series. Under this system, the maximum games a team could play was 14. This includes 12 regular season games, 1 conference championship, and 1 national championship. In 2013, college football introduced a new playoff system, the College Football Playoffs, eliminating the BCS. Under the College Football Playoffs, teams play 3 post-season games instead of 2 before. This allows for a team to play 15 games.

Heading into the National Championship, both Alabama and Clemson were 14-0 meaning that one team would finish 15-0, joining Penn and Yale. The Crimson Tide were predicted to win by 5.5 points going into the game. *Bleacher Report* predicted that Bama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa would lead the Crimson Tide to a 10 point win and eventually be named as MVP.

Ryan Schuetter (12) stated, “Great win by Clemson, but Nick Saban is still the greatest coach in college football.”

Early into the first quarter of the game, Clemson’s A.J Terrell intercepted Tagovailoa and returned it for a touchdown, giving the Tigers a 7-0 lead. Tua responded by throwing a 62-yard touchdown pass to star receiver Jerry Jeudy, tying the game. Clemson running back, Travis Etienne, ran for 17 yards to score again putting the Tigers back on top. At the end of the first, Clemson led the Crimson Tide 14-13 because of a missed extra point by Alabama kicker Joseph Bulovas.

Early in the second quarter, Bama took a slight lead after Bulovas chipped in a short field goal. Clemson responded with two touchdowns and a field goal to put them up 31-16 at the half. The first touchdown was another run by Etienne and the second one was a pass from quarterback Trevor Lawrence.

During the second half of the game, the Clemson defense shut down the explosive Bama offense, allowing zero points in both quarters. Tua struggled throughout the half, leading to head coach Nick Saban putting in backup Jalen Hurts late in the fourth.

Sam Krimins (12) said, “I’m so glad Clemson beat the overrated Bama team. It just shows that their dynasty is

over.”

Lawrence ended up throwing for 347 yards and 3 touchdowns winning the MVP title as a true freshman. At the beginning of the season, Lawrence took junior Kelly Smith’s starting position as quarterback, leading Smith to transfer to Missouri. He finished the year with 3280 passing yards, 30 touchdowns, and only 4 interceptions.

Over the past 4 years, Clemson has a record of 54-4, tied only with Bama. With a young elite offense including Lawrence, Etienne, and wide receiver star Justyne Ross, Clemson will be looking to continue their success.



Courtesy of Wikipedia

Coach Dabo Sweeney provided an inspirational soundbyte after the Tigers 44-16 victory over Alabama. “If anything else comes from tonight, I hope that somebody can have some encouragement and some hope. If we can do it, you know what, someone’s got to ask why can’t I?”